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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CC - 1

RECORDED

20396-46

~~SECRET~~

February 21, 1947

TO: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

EX - 38

Transmit the following message to: SAC, Atlanta

URGENT

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 06-09-2010

[CODE IN FULL] (S)

TEL-MIC SURVEILLANCE, DONALD LEE WEST; IS-C. AUTHORITY GRANTED INSTALLATION  
COMBINATION TELEPHONE-MICROPHONE SURVEILLANCE RESIDENCE DONALD LEE WEST, NEW  
HERNANCE ROAD, OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY, GEORGIA, TELEPHONE CHEROKEE SIX FOUR  
AUGHT SEVEN, PROVIDED FULL SECURITY ASSURED. SUTEL TIME, DATE INSTALLATION,  
SYMBOL NUMBER AND PLANT LOCATION. (S)

HOOVER

G.I.R.-5

Class. & Ext. By SP-1 GSK/PSK  
Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
Date of Review 3/5/92 4/5/82

JDD:MJP

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

60 MAR 8 1947

SENT VIA Reletype 47

~~SECRET~~

9 20 P. M.

Per R.





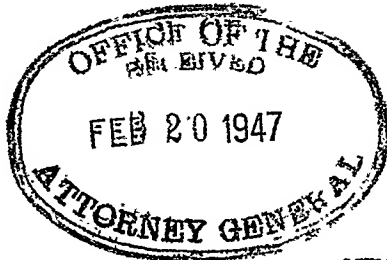
DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
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DATE 06-09-2010

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

Washington, D.C.  
February 19, 1947



IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO  
FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_



~~SECRET~~  
PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

RE: DONALD LEE WEST  
INTERNAL SECURITY-C

In view of information recently obtained reflecting unusual Communist Party activities of Donald Lee West, in conjunction with Homer Bates Chase, Communist Party organizer for the States of Georgia and Florida, and Nathan Ross, who is in charge of the southern organization for the Communist Party, your permission is requested to place a microphone-telephone surveillance on the home of Donald Lee West, Oglethorpe University, New Hermance Road, Oglethorpe University, Georgia, telephone Cherokee 6407. (S)

KEEP IN F. B. I. FILES

2/26/47 G.H.S.

Respectfully,

*J. E. Hoover*  
John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. E. A. Tamm	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Carson	_____
Mr. Egan	_____
Mr. Gurnea	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Hendon	_____
Mr. Pennington	_____
Mr. Quinn Tamm	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF *CLP*  
DATE *5/10/47*

*teletype Atlanta 2/21/47 JES*  
Class. & Ext. By *SP-1 GSK/PSK*  
Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
Date of Review *3/30/92* *3/30/82*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

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X-38

100-30396-46  
FEB 26 1947

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*10206 6/27/66 JES*



SAC, Atlanta

April 3, 1947

Director, FBI

DONALD LEE WEST, was  
INTERNAL SECURITY (C)  
Your file 100-559

Reference is made to your memorandum of March 12, 1947, in which you requested that you be furnished the identity of the informants and the sources of information concerning the subject's activities prior to 1940, which information was furnished to you in Bureau letter dated April 3, 1941.

An unknown outside source furnished information that the subject was a State Organizer of the Communist Party in Kentucky in 1936. According to the National Republican Lettergram report #46, the subject, as State Organizer of Kentucky, was a staunch supporter of the Communist Party ticket during 1936. Confidential Informant Henry S. McGuire, 804 Citizens Bank Building, Lexington, Kentucky, furnished information on September 13, 1937, that the subject had previously been a Communist Party member in Lexington.

Information was received from an unknown outside source reflecting that the subject was one of the Communist Party leaders in Kentucky in 1938 and that he attended the 10th National Convention of the Communist Party in New York City in 1938. From this same source, information was received indicating that the subject was living in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in April, 1940, at which time he was working in support of ex-Governor Benson.

The Chattanooga, Tennessee, News Free Press of November 13, 1940, carried an article reflecting the subject's activities with the Highlander Folk School, Monteagle, Tennessee. According to this article, subject wrote a parody in 1938 on "My Country 'Tis of Thee" which read in part:

"Land of mass misery  
Of thee I sing,  
Land where the workers toil,  
And bosses reap their spoil,  
Where children starve and freeze,  
From fall to spring."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/12/82 BY SP-1 CSR/PBR

Information was received from Confidential Informant [redacted] Cincinnati, Ohio, that the subject was active in the work of the American Peace Organization at Bethel, Ohio, during December, 1940.

b7D

No further information is contained in the Bureau files which has not already been furnished you concerning the subject's activities.

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

MAILED 10  
APR 3 1947 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

68 APR 10 1947 210



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: March 12, 1947

FROM : SAC, Atlanta

SUBJECT: DONALD LEE WEST, was  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
Bureau File 100-20396

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated October 25, 1946, in which it was requested that the summary report be submitted, setting forth by witnesses legally admissible evidence which would tend to prove subject's membership in the Communist Party, and having knowledge of the revolutionary aims and purposes of that organization.

Further reference is made to Bureau letter dated April 3, 1941, wherein it is set forth that from about 1936 to 1938 WEST was the State organizer for the Communist Party in Kentucky, and thereafter was associated with the Highlander Folk School, at Mont Eagle, Tennessee, and that in 1940 he was reported to be in New York City, and in April 1940 was located in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This letter further reflects subject was alleged to be active in the work of the American Peace Organization, at Bethel, Ohio, in December of 1940.

In view of the fact that the above information is not completely substantiated in the files of the Atlanta Field Division, the Bureau is requested to furnish the source of its information in this connection, so that this information may be incorporated in the summary report of WEST'S Communist activities.

GPD/ds  
100-559

RECORDED

EX - 31

15 MAR 15 1947

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/12/82 BY SP-1 GSK/PK



~~SECRET~~

FILE NO. 100-559 DLS

10-11-12

ATTACHED

3/12/92

Strictly Confidential  
 NOT INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
 WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

[illegible]

**SECRET**



Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

most effective. That he visited Scandinavia, where democracy had achieved its greatest growth and that he had traveled the highways and the dirt roads of the United States preaching and studying the problems of his own people -- the rural Southerner, the sharecropper, the tenant farmer. The article stated that in subject's own words, "The school must more than ever become the breeding-ground and brooder-house for the principles of democratic freedom. Schools must truly concern themselves with a philosophy of life built around tolerance and consideration of others."

A copy of this issue of READER'S SCOPE is being retained in the file of the Atlanta Field Division inasmuch as it quotes WEST as to his aims and views concerning democracy and facism.

T-1 further advised that subject entered the University of Georgia on April 8, 1946 to take three courses in education. He further advised that subject was writing a book, the title of which is, "Clouds Over the Earth" and it is believed to be along communistic lines.

An article in the Atlanta Constitution, dated August 30, 1946, entitled "Poet DON WEST, Here on Visit, Will Join Oglethorpe Faculty", is set forth as follows:

WEST, who was described as a young Georgia poet, whose first volume, "Clods of Southern Earth," has won nationwide acclaim for its honesty and realism, said that he is still amazed at the surprising reception his book has received. This collection of short poems broke a publishing record when 13,000 copies were sold before the book came from the press. WEST was in Atlanta as the featured author-guest of the New Georgian Book Shop, 106 Forsyth Street, N. W.

This article further disclosed that WEST plans writing a novel in the future entitled, "No Lonesome Road", and also a history of the South, in which he stated he would reveal some facts never before recorded. This article further relates that WEST stated he had been invited to join the faculty of Oglethorpe University, and will teach Sacred Literature (the Prophets of the Old Testament) and writing English.

An article in the Atlanta Journal, dated October 13, 1946, entitled, "Over 100 Adults Enroll For Oglethorpe Classes", related that 100 Atlantians have enrolled in the Oglethorpe University's Division of Adult Education classes, and that DON WEST, formerly Superintendent of Schools in Lula, Georgia, and author of "Clods of Southern Earth", is teaching students of creative literature in contemporary America.

In his column in the Atlanta Constitution, dated October 14, 1946, HAROLD MARTIN, columnist for the Atlanta Constitution, stated that his semi-book review of DON WEST'S book of poems, "Clods of Southern Earth", wherein he referred to WEST as the "New Angry Voice" of the South's sharecroppers, mill hands and laborers in all fields - caused a considerable stir in certain circles. This

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article reflects that the most outspoken blast against WEST came from H. O. TATE, of Lula, Georgia, where for a number of years WEST was Superintendent of Schools. In a strong personal attack TATE pointed out that WEST was mentioned in a book called "The Fifth Column in the South", distributed by the Constitutional Educational League of Birmingham, and that he had published a newspaper with Communistic leanings.

Mr. MARTIN'S column further stated that JOHN E. JONES, Postmaster at Lula, Georgia, came to WEST'S defense, as did Rev. Archer TORREY, of Darien, and M. FERN MADDOX, of Alpharetta.

Special Agent CLEMENT L. MCGOWAN ascertained that subject is presently employed as a professor at Oglethorpe University, Oglethorpe University, Georgia, and is residing there.

In an article from the Marietta Daily Journal, dated November 5, 1946, entitled "Woman's Club At Smyrna Hears Poet DON WEST", it was reflected that DON WEST, author of "Clods of Southern Earth", read poems from his book at an open meeting Monday night at the Woman's Club. "His poems, expressed with simplicity, revealed an understanding and compassion for share-croppers, tenants, Negroes and Georgia Crackers."

The Macon News, dated March 1, 1947, reflected that DON WEST would address a chapel assembly at Mercer University Tuesday noon, under the sponsorship of the speech and sociology departments of Mercer University.

The following information concerning subject was obtained during a surveillance of HOMER BATES CHASE, State Chairman of the Communist Party for the State of Georgia, comprising District #31 of the Communist Party, U.S.A.

On February 4, at 8:25 P.M., CHASE and DON WEST were observed by Special Agents J. TRUETT BROOKSHER, PATRICK M. RICE, CLEMENT M. MCGOWAN, JR. and the writer, leaving the Butler Street Y.M.C.A. in the 1942 Plymouth which belongs to CHASE. They were immediately followed by ROBERT E. HAWKS and JAMES E. WILLIAMS, representatives of the National Maritime Union from Savannah, Georgia, and reported Communists. It was noted that a conference of the Southern Committee of the National Religion and Labor Foundation was in progress at the Butler Street Y.M.C.A. at the time. The cars proceeded to the Francis Hotel, 343 Peachtree Street, where CHASE picked up MAX WEISS, a member of the National Committee of the Communist Party, U.S.A., and Secretary of the Education, Agitation and Publicity Department of the Communist Party, U.S.A., and also editor of "Political Affairs". Both cars proceeded to the home of DON WEST, located on New Hermance Road, Oglethorpe University. WEST, CHASE, WEISS, WILLIAMS and HAWKS entered WEST'S home.

ROBERT HAWKS, MAX WEISS and JAMES WILLIAMS remained at WEST'S home until 11:15 P.M., and HOMER CHASE remained there until 3:30 A.M., February 5, 1947.

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Atlanta, 100-559

**SECRET**

On February 6, 1947, Special Agents CLEMENT L. McGOWAN, JR., PATRICK M. RICE and the writer, observed DON WEST, MAX WEISS and an unidentified man and woman leave the Old Wheat Street Baptist Church (colored), located at the corner of Auburn Avenue and Yonge Street, Atlanta, Georgia, which is in a colored section. They departed from this address in WEST'S 1942 Nash Sedan, bearing 1946 Georgia license EX 46137. It was noted that a meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was in progress at the church at this time.

On Feb. 7, 1947, Special Agents J. TRUETT BROOKSHER and the writer observed CHASE, MAX WEISS and DON WEST together at the Federal Annex at the United States Post Office, Atlanta, Georgia, at 1:40 P.M. CHASE, WEST and WEISS proceeded, in CHASE'S automobile, to the Atlanta Municipal Airport, where they were observed in close conversation for approximately 35 minutes. CHASE AND WEST left WEISS at the Municipal Airport and proceeded to the Service Liquor Store, located at 201 Mitchell Street, Atlanta, Georgia. It is noted that this liquor store is operated by S. I. SCHEINBAUM and BURT RUBEN.

On February 14, 1947, NAT ROSS, member of the National Committee of the Communist Party, U.S.A., and WEST were observed together, and ROSS proceeded to the home of DON WEST, where it is believed he spent the night.

On February 15, 1947 CHASE and ROSS were observed together in the lobby of the Atlantan Hotel, at which time ROSS telephonically contacted an individual named BURT, and in the course of the conversation asked about SYLVIA and the kids. It is believed that this individual is Burt RUBEN, mentioned above. ROSS was also overheard to state that he was leaving in half an hour to drive to North Georgia, and shortly thereafter DON WEST appeared at the Atlantan Hotel. Shortly after this WEST and ROSS left together. It is noted that NAT ROSS married DON WEST'S sister.

On March 7, 1947 HOMER CHASE met NATHAN ROSS and MARY BOGGS SOUTHARD at the Atlanta Bus Station, and after making several stops, proceeded to the home of DON WEST. ROSS, SOUTHARD and CHASE arrived at WEST'S home about 11:50 P.M., and were still there at 3:00 A.M. March 8, 1947, at which time surveillance was discontinued. Agents conducting the surveillance were JOHN MEREDITH, LOUIS WOINODE, PATRICK M. RICE and the writer.

On February 17, 1947 Special Agent CLEMENT M. McGOWAN, JR. and the writer observed HOMER CHASE taking a number of issues of "Clods of Southern Earth" to the home of ANN and NATHAN KATZ, who are active in Communist activities in Atlanta.

**SECRET**



Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

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\*Confidential informant [redacted] advised at a conference called "Georgia's Crisis", sponsored by the Southern Negro Youth Conference, was held February 28, at 8:00 P.M., at the Butler Street Y.M.C.A., with fifteen members present. It was suggested that this conference deal with the Georgia Governors' controversy and the White Primary Bill. On the following morning, Saturday, the conference was attended by twelve white delegates, including representatives from Tech, Emory, Boys High and Oglethorpe. The main figure on the program was DON WEST, who explained that when the Democracy is taken from the people then it is time to fight. He said, "You are not facing a Yankee, you are looking at a Georgia Cracker whose family has never owned a slave. I am from a poor family from the mountains, and I am in favor of a decent South, yes, a South where all men are equal. I am fighting for the mass of the people, and I will not stop until all have justice." DON WEST then read a speech which he had made over radio station WATL on February 5, 1947, entitled "Georgia's Crisis". ~~(S)~~

This speech has been reprinted in pamphlet form, and was distributed at the meeting. A copy of the pamphlet was made available to confidential informant [redacted] who furnished same to this office. It is noted that this speech attacked HERMAN TALMADGE and the ROY HARRIS machine, and the Georgia White Primary. It characterizes the Georgia White Primary as being fascist in nature and resembling the Hitler pattern, and calling for the defeat of all forms of the White Primary Bill. This speech further relates that the real enemies of the Negro people, as well as the white, are not the "wool hat boys", but the "silk hat boys", and claims that the entire economic rights of the South are being strangled by Wall Street corporation control, the "silk hat boys". On the last page of this pamphlet, comprising four pages, it is stipulated that same may be ordered from the Peoples Institute of Applied Religion, P. O. Box 1178, Atlanta, Georgia; National Office 4103 1/2 Third Avenue South, Birmingham, Alabama. ~~(S)~~

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It is noted that HOMER CHASE, while under surveillance, has been observed securing printed matter from the Superior Printing Company, 123 Luckie Street. [It is believed that these were copies of the pamphlet "Georgia's Crisis", inasmuch as it was ascertained from a reliable confidential informant, having access to the residence of HOMER CHASE, that he has a quantity of these pamphlets in his possession.] ~~(S)~~

A confidential informant, T-2, advised that he had observed HOMER CHASE addressing a quantity of envelopes in which he was enclosing a copy of the pamphlet "Georgia's Crisis".

For the information of the Bureau a copy of this pamphlet is being enclosed herewith.

Enclosure to Bureau: 1 Copy of Pamphlet Entitled  
"Georgia's Crisis"

~~SECRET~~



~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

ATLANTA FIELD DIVISION

At Atlanta, Georgia

Will ascertain the identity of the subscriber of Post Office Box 1178.

At Oglethorpe University

Will follow the activities of the subject.

~~SECRET~~



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Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

The following are identities of confidential informants mentioned in report of Special Agent GEORGE P. DELLARD, dated March 12, 1947:

T-1

[redacted] who is carried as an informant at his request.

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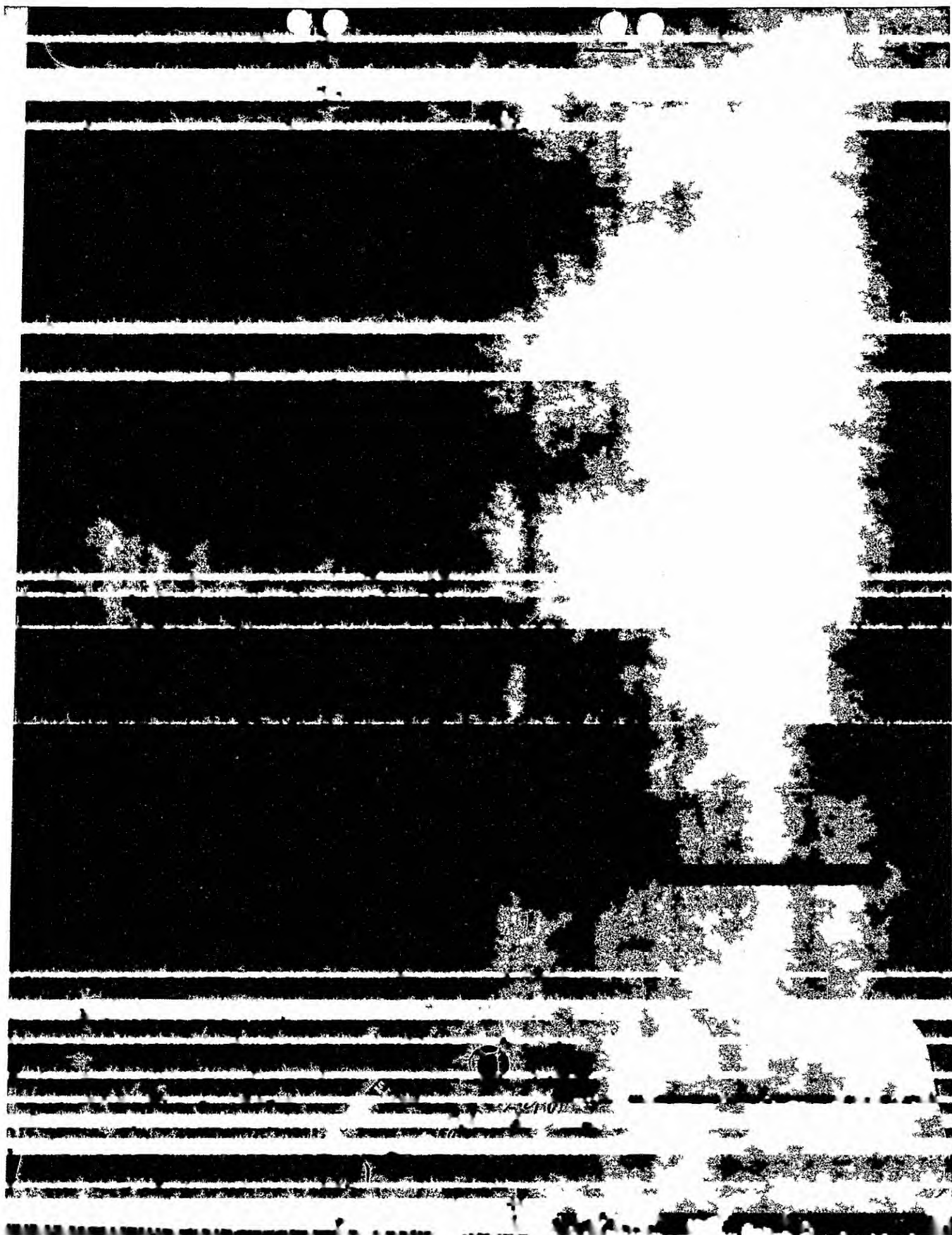
T-2

[redacted] who is carried as a confidential informant at her request.

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~~SECRET~~







# GEORGIA'S CRISIS

By DON WEST

(From a radio speech over WATL, Atlanta, Feb. 5, 1947)

## Fellow Georgians:

I speak to you as one of many thousands who have been stirred by the startling recent developments in our state. I am moved to speak up as a native Georgian who realizes that these are times when no public spirited citizen can afford to keep quiet.

We have witnessed recently, and are witnessing, no ordinary squabble of politicians, no ordinary stealing of an election in our state. And although Georgia has become the brunt of many radio and stage jokes, what is happening here is certainly no joking matter. The next few days may determine whether our great state will continue onward along the road of progress it has begun to travel under the leadership of former Governor Ellis Arnall or whether it will become the first spot in which the creeping disease of fascism takes its roots and begins to spread.

## JUST WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

First, may we ask, just what has happened to us in Georgia? Simply this: in the recent period we have witnessed an attempted nazi-like seizure of power in our state by the Talmadge forces. In 1932 I was a student traveling in Europe and I heard Hitler make a speech one day. The similarity of Hitler's program and what is now being advocated for Georgia by the Talmadge-Harris forces causes me to shiver with cold fear for the future of Georgia. Not only does this concern Georgians, but every freedom-loving citizen in the entire United States.

Hitler's speeches in 1932 put forth the same ideas against the Jews as the Talmadge-Roy Harris machine now puts forth against the Negro people in Georgia. Because I do not want to see my state and my people end up in the same manner as Germany, I urge that you think soberly and act with both wisdom and speed to prevent it.

Neither Hitler nor Talmadge had a majority of votes. Both used thugs and force to take power away from the people. Both used prejudice and hatred to split in order to divide and conquer. What has actually happened in Georgia is an attempted nazi-like putsch or seizure of power by force. I want to warn you, my fellow-Georgians, that unless we alert ourselves to the tremendous importance of what goes on, we too, will be the victims of an open fascist dictatorship!

## THE FASCIST NATURE OF WHITE PRIMARY

Already we see the fruits of this attempted dictatorial seizure of power in the proposed white primary bill, a nazi tactic to maintain power by those who illegally claim it. The result of this bill would be to turn the most important election in our state over to a little clique of power-mad politicians. It would result in disfranchising, first of all, the Negro people, and at the same time, large sections of the white people of Georgia. It already carries with it the threat of re-introducing the poll-tax, the proceeds of which would go into the coffers of a corrupt political machine closely resembling the Hitler pattern.

100-20396-48

ENCLOSURE

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DATE 3/13/82 BY SP/CSK/PSK



Hitler first attacked organized labor, then the Jews, the Catholics and Protestants — all people who failed to bow to the nazi yoke. In Georgia the Talmadge forces direct their first attack against the Negro people. They do so under the banner of the Hitler race theory.

They want to deprive the Negro people of their constitutional right to vote, a right that has been won by the sacrifice and struggle of the Negro people on behalf of American democracy in both peace and war. Thousands of Negro soldiers and sailors fought and died bravely and gallantly to defeat Hitlerism and to maintain democracy in this land.

Is their reward now to be a denial of their fundamental rights as American citizens to vote?

The conscience of the people of Georgia will not, must not, permit this to happen.

### **WHITE PRIMARY STRIKES AT WHITES AND NEGROES**

The Talmadge-Roy Harris machine claims that they only attack the Negro, that the white primary is to the interest of the white people. But let us not forget that Hitler made similar claims about the Jews in Germany. The truth is that the white primary will also steal the right to vote from the majority of white Georgians as well and will place political power in the hands of a fascist-minded machine controlled by Talmadge and Harris. Many thousands of the white people of Georgia oppose this Harris white primary bill because they simply understand that it will take the right to vote away from them. This is not only true of this particular white primary bill but is true of any and all such bills regardless of their form.

### **DEFEAT ALL FORMS OF WHITE PRIMARY**

Therefore, the only way open for the white people of Georgia to defend their democratic rights is to guarantee that all people, including Negro people, have the right to vote. For, we must realize the basic truth that democracy, like peace, is indivisible. If we choke off the democratic rights of one section of our population this will inevitably result in strangling these rights for the rest of the population. The German people learned that—but too late!

That is why, in addition to simple justice and Christian morality, it is in their own direct and immediate interest that the democratically minded white people of Georgia must take the leadership in resisting and defeating any effort to deny the Negro people the right to vote—whether by this particular Roy Harris white primary or any other type of white primary or poll tax legislation.

As one who was born and brought up in Georgia, and whose ancestors have been here from the time Oglethorpe and the original colonists landed on our eastern shore, I am thoroughly convinced that the more Georgians who vote the better state we will have, and that any form of restriction in voting weakens our forward march of progress and threatens the very foundation upon which General James Oglethorpe and our early fathers established this state.

The experience of all nations under fascist dictatorships has taught us that any attack upon a minority group endangers the entire people. The world paid for that lesson at the cost of 20 million human lives in



the recent war against Hitlerism. We must not sit idly by now and permit the same sort of thing to be foisted upon our own great state.

### **UNITY FOR A BETTER LIFE**

And what does all this mean in terms of bread and butter, of better living standards? In 1932 the German people might have asked the same thing about Hitler's program. The Talmadge machine again, after the Hitler pattern, offers no real program for raising the standards of living of our people. Again, like Hitler, a minority group is dragged out as a scapegoat, and there is certainly an implied threat against labor. But I tell you, the enemy of the White People of Georgia is not the Negro people. On the contrary, in the fight for a freer and better life, the Negro people have been and are, the best allies of the democratically minded white people. The enemy of the people of Georgia is the Talmadge-Roy Harris machine and the Wall Street backers and Georgia corporations it represents!

### **NOT THE "WOOL HAT" BUT THE SILK HAT BOYS!**

We hear a lot of twaddle about the "wool hat boys" as backers of Talmadge. But I want to say the real enemy of the Negro People is not the common laboring white man whether worker or farmer. This phrase "wool hat" is used to pull the wool over all of our eyes. The real enemies of the Negro people, as well as the whites, are the silk hat boys. Don't forget that. The entire economic life of the South is strangled by Wall Street corporation control. While the Talmadge cohorts rail against the "outsiders", the Yankees and the "furriners", they themselves serve the interest of the real outside enemy by raising false issues, by splitting and dividing our people. This weakens our march of progress and permits the railroads, the utilities, the textile interests and the Wall Street banks to continue to suck the life blood out of our state.

The late President Roosevelt, honorary citizen and beloved friend of Georgia, put forward a program which offered hope for our people. Ellis Arnall implemented and expanded this program, leading our state to some of its greatest achievements. The people of Georgia must still continue to work for and demand the expansion of these beginnings from both state and federal legislators. Such a program can be realized only by the greatest harmony, mutual goodwill and common effort of all people, both Negro and white. Such peaceful, positive, constructive progress cannot be made by preaching hatred and prejudice against any section of our population. It demands the fullest unity of all democratically minded citizens regardless of creed, race, color or political belief.

### **A PEOPLES' PROGRAM FOR GEORGIA**

It is my conviction that such a program will include the building of better schools with well paid and well trained teachers so that every Georgia child—without discrimination—will have educational advantages equal to any in the nation. It will include housing so that every family can live in decency, comfort and security—and a special housing program for the veterans. It will guarantee jobs and living wages with collective bargaining rights for all laborers. It will begin to wipe out the wide-scale farm tenancy and sharecropping which create rural slums. It will make farm ownership a reality for all those who till the soil.



These objectives most certainly cannot be achieved by attacking the Negro people, by sowing prejudice and hatred. As a matter of fact they can only be achieved by guaranteeing them for all without discrimination against any section of the people.

### WALL STREET BACKS TALMADGE

But the Wall Street backers of Talmadge know very well that such a positive program can never be achieved as long as the negative ideas of destroying our democratic election laws are posed as the main issue.

This is why the Talmadge-Roy Harris gang would rather talk about the white primary. They would rather throw the dust of prejudice in our eyes while leading us down a blind alley to our own destruction. Hitler also raised such false issues in Germany and led the German people to disaster.

We Georgians have a great and glorious heritage. Our founding fathers fought and died for the basic principles of freedom and human decency. We are proud to be a part of that section of the nation that has produced so many stalwart defenders of human rights and freedom. But never since the day Thomas Jefferson signed that immortal document, the Declaration of Independence, has freedom in our state and nation been so dangerously threatened. And freedom, like peace and security, involves eternal vigilance against every restriction upon the rights of any section of the people. If we permit prejudice and hate to rob anyone of his democratic rights, all freedom—yes, all democracy—is threatened. Our fathers defeated the efforts of King George, and in our own day we have defeated the Hitler efforts, to destroy this freedom from the outside. Now this Talmadge machine seeks to do from the inside what King George and Hitler failed to do from the outside.

### IT'S UP TO ALL OF US

So what can we as citizens do in this critical hour? We certainly cannot afford to be disinterested. And there are things to be done, things every citizen can do. First, you can continue your organized protest against this forcible seizure of power. You can get your organizations to take action—your club, church, lodge, union. You can insist that the legally elected candidate be seated as governor and that Herman Talmadge be ousted from the office which he is attempting to seize illegally. You can express your opposition to any and every white primary bill and insist that your legislators vote against such bills.

We people of Georgia don't want to work against the Constitution and Bill of Rights of the U. S. A. We don't want to let our state become the proving ground for American fascism! Then we must play our role as loyal Georgians and true Americans by immediately stamping out this nazi effort to conquer our state!

Note: DON WEST is a teacher and writer, author of the current record-breaking best-seller book of poems, *CLOUDS OF SOUTHERN EARTH*, published by Boni and Gaer, New York. He was born and reared in Gilmer County, Georgia.

Five cents the copy, \$3.00 the hundred, \$10.00

the thousand.

Order from Peoples Institute of Applied Religion,  
P. O. Box 1178, Atlanta, Georgia.

National Office  
4103½ Third Avenue South  
Birmingham, Alabama.



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : ~~AD~~ Director, FBI

DATE: 3/27/47

FROM : SAC, Atlanta

~~SECRET~~SUBJECT: DONALD LEE WEST  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
Bureau File 100-20396

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent GEORGE P. DILLARD dated at Atlanta, Georgia March 12, 1947 in the captioned matter wherein it is set forth that subject is presently teaching at Oglethorpe University and has been in frequent contact with HOMER BATES CHASE, State Chairman for the Communist Party and that pamphlets setting forth WEST's speech, entitled "Georgia's Crisis", has been disseminated in Communist circles with the stipulation on the last page that additional copies may be ordered from People's Institute of Applied Religion, Post Office Box 1178. ~~EX~~

WEST has been observed to take mail from Post Office Box 1178, Atlanta, Georgia and reportedly has received mail in care of General Delivery at Northside Branch Post Office, Atlanta, Georgia.

Unless advised to the contrary by the Bureau within a period of 10 days, a 30-day mail cover will be placed on mail addressed to DONALD LEE WEST at the Northside Branch Post Office, Atlanta, Georgia and all mail addressed to Post Office Box 1178, Atlanta, Georgia.

100-559  
GPD:elm

Class. & Ext. By SP-1 GSK/PSK  
Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
Date of Review 3/30/92

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES

FIELD OFFICES

BY ROUTING

DATE

FILE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

RECORDED

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INDEXED

222

100-20396-49

36 MAR 29 1947

~~SECRET~~

60 APR 3 1947

216 OK



DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 06-09-2010

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Jones \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

# F.B.I. RADIOGRAM

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

~~SECRET~~

[DECODED COPY] (S)

FROM ATLANTA

[3-28-47] (S)

NR 281500

1:00 PM EST

DIRECTOR

TELEPHONE-MICROPHONE SURVEILLANCE, DONALD LEE WEST, INTERNAL  
SECURITY - C. COMBINATION TELEPHONE-MICROPHONE SURVEILLANCE  
RESIDENCE DONALD LEE WEST, NEW HERMAN ROAD, OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY,  
GEORGIA, TELEPHONE CHEROKEE 6407, INSTALLED NINE A.M. MARCH 27  
LAST. PLANT LOCATED IN ATLANTA FIELD OFFICE. FULL SECURITY  
PROVIDED. SYMBOL NUMBER AT-1324 (S)

RECEIVED:

3-28-47

1:13 PM EST

NH

Class. & Ext. By SP-1 GSK/PSK  
Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
Date of Review 3/30/82

RECORDED

INDEXED

100-20396-50

~~SECRET~~

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated  
outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in  
order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems. (S)

62 APR 12 1947

cc: Mr. Boardman



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: June 17, 1947

FROM : SAC, Atlanta

~~SECRET~~SUBJECT: DONALD LEE WEST  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Attention: SECURITY DIVISION

Reference is made to AT-1324, Mic-Tel, concerning instant subject.

This is to advise that the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company is making complete overall repairs in the vicinity of subject's home. In view of this instant installation was temporarily disconnected on June 17, 1947 and will be kept in this status until instant repairs have been made. Upon completion of instant repairs the Bureau will be advised of the re-installation of instant Mic-Tel.

JTS:hs  
66-698

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP (S) OF  
DATE

G.I.R.-5

CLASS. & Ext. By SP-1 GSK/RSK  
Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.22  
Date of Review 3/30/92 3/30/82

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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100-20396-51  
F B I  
29 JUN 19 1947

~~SECRET~~

JUL 3 - 1947



# Noted Writers Aid Don West's Fight Against Georgia Bigots

By John Hudson Jones

Now's the time to defend Don West, the poet who stuck his sharp pen into the side of Southern bigots. Author of *Clods of Southern Earth*, he is being sued by a Georgia man, Charlie Lewallen, for using the same name in a poem on Kentucky miners entitled "Harlan Coal Digger, 1934." In fact a whole campaign of vilification is being whipped up against this people's poet. The libel suit is plainly trumped up, and smells of the current assault being made on American culture and artists.

Here in the North and East, where Howard Fast and others are being attacked by the Hearst press and its literary vivisection program, Contemporary Writers actively campaigned against this "pull-out-your-gun-when-you-hear-the-word-culture" movement. Now the organization of anti-fascist writers are rallying for West with the "Committee to Defend Don West."

## JOIN COMMITTEE

Eve Merriam, brilliant winner of the Yale Poetry Award is the committee's executive secretary. Yesterday she announced that the following people had enlisted with the committee to defend Don West: William Rose Benet, poet, editor and critic; Arthur Miller, author of *All My Sons* and *Focus*; Genevieve Taggard, poet; Langston Hughes, Negro people's poet; Edwin Berry Burgum, critic and professor of English literature, New York University; Jeremiah O. Ingersoll, editor of *Salute*; Aaron Kramer, poet; Louise Maly; Jefferson School instructor; State Senator Kenneth Sherbell; Ewart Quiner, United Public Workers leader; Henrietta Buckmaster, novelist; Millard Lampell, radio writer; Arnaud D'Usseau and James Gow, co-authors of *Deep of the Roots*.

A Baptist minister, West was formerly superintendent of a school at Tula, Ga. and is now on the faculty of Oglethorpe University, The Macon (Georgia) News described the suit against him as "conceived in hatred by a few disgruntled elements in North Georgia... a con-



DON WEST

tinuation of attacks made upon him while he taught real democracy in the Tula school."

And anybody who's been down South knows that the slightest democratic idea or words brings out the Ku Klux Klan bosses. But West won't be flogged. They're trying to strangle him with a legal bull-whip.

They can't stand it when he writes, "Our people, the real southern mass majority of whites, are the ones the Negroes were taught to call 'poor white trash.' And we in turn were taught the hateful word 'Nigger.' Nice little trick isn't it? Hitler used it too. And it's still being used today by the whites from the big houses, who engineer

lynchings and make it seem the responsibility is the white workers."

And these little lines sends the white folks in the big house into hysteria:

*And one more with a fore I pass  
Out of this factory town—  
I want to see my people fine*

*To tear their misery down*

Now you can see why Don West must be defended. He's fighting the Talmadge and Klan forces right on the spot in Georgia. We're a long way off but fascism can travel fast.

Send your contributions (as little or much as you wish) to Miss Eve Merriam, Contemporary Writers, Hotel Albert, 65 University Place, New York, N. Y.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

G. I. R. 9 DATE 3/11/82 BY SP1/LSK/BJK

100-20396-4  
NOT RECORDED  
81 MAY 19 1947

This is a clipping from  
Page 11 of the  
DAILY WORKER  
Date MAY 14 1947  
Clipped at the Seat of  
Government



## Noted Authors Join Don West Defense Group

Aroused by the attempt of Georgia book-burners to punish Don West, southern poet and progressive, "The Committee to Defend Don West" was formed during the week by leading American authors.

Together with Contemporary Writers, the anti-fascist authors organization, led by Erskine Caldwell and Howard Fast, the committee includes Arnaud D'Usseau, James Gow, Henrietta Buckmaster, Millard Lampell and Eve Merriam.

In issuing a call for other writers to join the Committee it was pointed out that the alleged libel suit was "an attempt to ban the author when it is not possible to invent even the most dubious means by which to ban his book."

### FIGHT FOR PROGRESS

Don West, whose fight for progress and equality in his native Georgia is well known, is being sued for \$10,000 for having used the name "Charles Lewellan" in one of the poems appearing in his collection of verse *Clods of Southern Earth*. The name "Lewellan" is a common one in this section of the United States and while West used it in a poem dealing with Harlan, Kentucky, the suit against him is being pressed by a person of the same name in Georgia. The white supremacists, klansmen and assorted Georgian reactionaries are raising a loud cry for the conviction of West who symbolizes the growing and militant democratic movement in the South.

It is the opinion of the Committee to Defend Don West that the libel

suit, while ridiculous in its legal aspects, will be used as an attempt to still the voices of all Southern authors who see the future of the South as a progressive one. The Don West fight, the Committee points out is a part of the whole campaign against the attempt to crush the democratic rights of the entire people.

Eve Merriam, winner of the Yale award in poetry last year, is the Committee's Executive Secretary. Contributions toward the Defense of Don West can be mailed to Eve Merriam, c/o Contemporary Writers, Hotel Albert, 65 University Place, N. Y. 3.

Tonight at 8:30 p.m. the GW affair, "Writing Out Loud" will open the campaign to defend Don West. Millard Lampell, the well known radio dramatist, and Arnaud D'Usseau, co-author of "Deep Are the Roots" will address the people at the Fraternal Club House, 110 W. 48 St. where "Writing Out Loud" is being presented.

The program for the evening includes the dramatic reading of a new and unpublished short story, *Departure* by Howard Fast and the dramatization of the works of new anti-fascist writers, dancing to the Band of Jerry Malcolm, and refreshments. The show will be produced by Peoples Radio Foundation. Tickets will be available at the door.

G.I.R.-1

100-20374-A-  
INDEXED NOT RECORDED  
76 80 APR 3 1947

EX-62

*Handwritten signature*  
*Handwritten signature*

This is a clipping from  
page 11 of the  
DAILY WORKER

Date 3-28-47

Clipped at the Seat of  
Government

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/12/82 BY SP-1 GSK/RSK

63 APR 19 1947



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

FILE No. 100-55915 cbb

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA	DATE WHEN MADE 6/12/47	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 3/27; 4/22-24; 5/5-9; 6/2, 3/47	REPORT MADE BY JOSEPH T. SYLVESTER, JR.
TITLE Changed: DONALD LEE WEST, was Don Lee West, Don West, Reverend Donald L. West, Jim Webb		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C	

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

## INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

1947 CP USA card No. 96336 issued to JIM WEBB contains descriptive data that indicates subject and WEBB may be identical. Subject staunch supporter of CP election in Kentucky in 1936. Reported one of CP leaders in Kentucky in 1938. Subject active in Highlander Folk School in Tennessee in 1940. Subject presently in contact with HOMER BATES CHASE, CP Organizer for Georgia, and Dr. BODDIE, Chairman of Auburn Avenue Colored Branch, CP, Atlanta, Georgia. Subject professor at Oglethorpe University and resident of Oglethorpe, Georgia. Background information set forth.

- P -

Class. & Ext. By SP-1 GSK/PSK  
Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2.2  
Date of Review 4/7/92

REFERENCE: Bureau file 100-20396.

Report of Special Agent GEORGE P. DILLARD, dated, at Atlanta, 3/12/47.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

## DETAILS:

The title of this case is being marked changed to indicate the additional alias of subject as Jim Webb.

## RESIDENT ADDRESS AND OCCUPATION

Subject is presently a professor of sacred literature and English writing at Oglethorpe University, Oglethorpe, Georgia, and resides on New Hermene Road, Oglethorpe, Georgia.

COPIES DESTROYED 4/20/59 #16

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DATE 7/2/47	APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP (S) OF THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau 2 New York City 2 Chicago COPIES DESTROYED		COPIES IN FILE 2 Washington 2 Boston 3 Atlanta	100-20396-52 JUN 17 1947 RECORDED & INDEXED 127

54 OCT 3 1973  
58 JUN 30 1947

SECRET

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP (S) OF THESE SPACES  
DATE 5/10/89



~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

CITIZENSHIP STATUS

Subject was born at Cartecay, Georgia, June 6, 1908, the son of OLIVER WEST and LILLY MULKEY. WEST's parents were natives of Gilmer County, Georgia. Subject's grandfather, KIM MULKEY, was also a native of Gilmer County, Georgia.

EVIDENCE OF MEMBERSHIP IN COMMUNIST PARTY

MR. JOHN HUDSON  
Attorney at Law  
Atlanta, Georgia

HUDSON advised that he had taken an active part in the suppression of subversive activities in Atlanta in 1934 in an effort to stop communist organizations. He stated that WEST's activities in Atlanta during this time consisted of holding meetings in the houses of Negroes and poor white laborers and the distribution of communist literature. HUDSON stated that in the Daily Worker dated January 11, 1934, there was an article written about DON WEST in which it was stated that WEST had just written a small book of poems called, "Between the Plow and Hands", and that WEST was in New York City following his escape from Atlanta, Georgia, to evade the city's hunt against communists. HUDSON stated the above article also stated WEST was working on the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners. HUDSON stated that when he was Fulton County Solicitor he conducted a raid on the apartment of DON WEST and a number of pieces of communist literature were found in the apartment, among them being an outline for the Communist Party unit discussion.

Paragraph 9 of the above outline stated, "What is the structure of the Communist Party?

"The basic organization is the shop, plantation, or street unit. All the units in a said territory - say a city or half a city - are under the leadership of a section. A number of sections in a given territory (a state or several states) are under the leadership of a district. All the districts are under the leadership of the party center in New York. There is a Communist Party in every country, all of them belonging to and led by the Communist International, with headquarters in Moscow."

~~SECRET~~

LILLY WEST  
DON WEST  
LILLY WEST



~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

LOUISVILLE CITY DIRECTORY

MRS.  
The Louisville City Directory, Louisville, Kentucky, in 1937 revealed that DON WEST and his wife, MABLE WEST, were listed as being residents of 1730 Magazine Street, Louisville, Kentucky. In instant book WEST is listed as a state organizer for an organization known as the "Workers Alliance of America".

b2  
b7D

CONF. INFT. [ ]

[ ] In 1942 [ ] turned over to the Atlanta office two newspaper clippings which were taken from the Southern News Almanac, which was published in 1941 and 1942 in Birmingham, Alabama. A clipping dated June 6, 1941, under the heading, "Awakening Church", by Reverend DONALD L. WEST, disclosed that the subject, as of that date, was against war, stating it was a war of the capitalists and imperialistic nations. The clipping dated July 4, 1941, from the Pike County Journal, under the heading "Defend Democratic Ideals", by Reverend DONALD L. WEST, stated the American people should have no sympathy for Hitler and that America must never submit to Hitler domination, and, in substance, WEST advocated all-out aid for the Allies.

R. C. WIGLEY  
Kennesaw, Georgia

WIGLEY on interview in 1942 stated that DONALD WEST was a communist and had influenced the entire WEST family to become communists, that subject's sister, ELSIE WEST ROSS, was in Russia, and that another sister, DELLA WEST ROSS, was working for a communist newspaper in Birmingham, Alabama.

ROBERT LEE HOWELL  
Farmer  
Kennesaw, Georgia

HOWELL advised in 1942 that the J. L. WEST family moved to Kennesaw approximately seventeen years previously from Ellijay, Georgia, and that WEST was one of the leaders of the communists in the United States and worked all over the United States with the Communist Party. He stated the subject attended school at one time in Europe and stated the subject had influenced every member of his family to join the Communist Party.

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Atlanta, 100-559

He stated that DELLA WEST ROSS was the wife of MIKE ROSS, who is active in the Communist Party in North Carolina and that CLEITH BELL WEST was married to BART HUNTER LOGAN, leader of the Communist Party in North Carolina, that ELSIE WEST ROSS was the wife of NAT ROSS, and that she had gone to Russia and Denmark, and that NAT ROSS was an active member of the Communist Party in Birmingham, Alabama. HOWELL stated that he had followed the activities of WEST for a number of years and that WEST was at one time an agitator at the Mount Berry School located in Rome, Georgia. HOWELL made available a book entitled, "Songs for Southern Workers", prepared by WEST when he was state organizer for the Kentucky Workers Alliance in 1937.

Dr. GREEN of Mount Berry School, Rome, Georgia, advised that WEST left school in 1926, after he had attempted to persuade the pupils to strike because the school was supported by capitalistic groups and because the school demanded a small tuition from the students.

Mr. A. C. MCGAHEE  
Meansville, Georgia

MCGAHEE was interviewed in 1942 and advised he was treasurer of the Meansville Congregational Church and that he had talked to WEST when he was pastor of the church on numerous occasions. MCGAHEE stated that the subject on one occasion exhibited a moving picture in the Congregational Church which was against imperialistic England and that subject edited a small newspaper called, "The Country Parson", which was very radical in nature. MCGAHEE stated that during 1940 and 1941 the subject was always talking and advocating peace and that America stay out of the war but that after Germany declared war on Russia the subject became an active advocate of immediate participation in the war, stating it was no longer an imperialistic war and that America should assist the Allies in every way.

A. J. McCORD  
Farmer  
Meansville, Georgia

McCORD stated that during 1940 and 1941 the subject was very much against war and any possibility of America's sending any supplies to England. The subject severely criticized the Roosevelt administration, stating it was leading America into war. McCORD stated the subject

~~SECRET~~

MRS. MIKE ROSS  
MRS. BART HUNTER LOGAN  
MRS. NAT ROSS



~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

maintained this position until 1941 and since that time had been in favor of America's entering the war and sending all-out aid to its Allies.

[redacted]  
Farmer

Meansville, Georgia

[redacted] gave a signed statement on January 8, 1942, in which he stated that in January 1941 he had [redacted] WEST in [redacted] "The Country Parson" and that at this time the paper was very pro-labor in attitude and anti-war. WEST at that time was very much opposed to America's aiding the Allies in any way and strongly urged that the United States stay out of the war. [redacted] further stated that WEST printed the paper in a back room of his home in Meansville, Georgia, and told him he wanted to learn to operate the printing press so that he would be able to operate the press when the Communist Party went underground. He told [redacted] of his trip in Europe and how he was particularly impressed with the underground work of the Communist Party in Germany. b6 b7C

[redacted] stated that subject also received a great deal of literature from the Peace Mobilization Headquarters in New York City and had received several copies of "Soviet Power" by the Dean of Canterbury. b6 b7C

[redacted] stated that WEST induced him to attend a meeting of the American Peace Mobilization in New York City about April 6 or 7, 1941. He stated he had also attended the Highlander Folk School in Monteagle, Tennessee, at the instigation of DONALD WEST. [redacted] stated that WEST told him he was one of the original founders of the Highlander Folk School in Monteagle, Tennessee. [redacted] also stated that WEST told him that he had helped investigate the ANGELO HERNDON, colored, case for the Communist Party in 1934 in Atlanta, Georgia, and had later helped HERNDON write a book on HERNDON's life. [redacted] stated that on several occasions he had come to Atlanta with the subject and the subject had gone up to HARDY SCOTT's apartment, SCOTT being Secretary of the Communist Party for Georgia at that time.

[redacted] stated that it was not until sometime in May 1941 that subject felt [redacted] had been sufficiently conditioned in the Communist Party lines to introduce him to SCOTT. He stated that WEST had also introduced him to NATHAN KATZ, a Communist Party member. [redacted] stated that on the night Germany marched into Russia [redacted] WEST. Prior to that

~~SECRET~~



~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

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date WEST had been extremely against the United States going into war and of giving any aid to England but that that night, according to [ ] WEST immediately stated America would have to give all possible aid to Russia and England in order to help them defeat Germany. [ ] further stated that WEST would always be right in line with the Communist Party and would always follow it.

[ ] further stated that WEST posed as a preacher but was a profound atheist and that WEST and another communist, named CLAUDE WILLIAMS, believed that they could work through the church and convert the South to communism. He stated that WEST had founded a religion called "Institute of Applied Religion" at Little Rock, Arkansas.

[ ] advised that ALVA K. TAYLOR, Vanderbilt University, was the individual responsible for converting WEST to communism. He stated. subject also attended Berea College, Berea, Kentucky, where he met his wife, MABLE ADAMS WEST, who was also a Communist, and that they had two small children, named [ ]

b6  
b7C

[ ] also stated that subject bragged about organizing a group of volunteers in Kentucky for the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, which went to Spain and fought for the Loyalist Government, and claimed that he had persuaded thirty or more individuals to join the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and had raised several hundred dollars for it.

[ ] stated that WEST went to Birmingham, Alabama, in July 1941 with BART HUNTER LOGAN, Secretary of the Communist Party of North Carolina and brother-in-law of the subject; MIKE ROSS, brother-in-law of the subject, active in the Communist Party in North Carolina; and HARDY SCOTT, Secretary of the Communist Party in Georgia, to see ROBERT F. HALL, Secretary of the Communist Party for District No. 17.

b6  
b7C

[ ] stated that WEST spoke at the "Smash Hitler Committee" picnic in Atlanta, Georgia, in September 1941.

[ ] made available several copies of "The Country Parson" dated in 1941 and a small pamphlet entitled, "A Christian Fellowship Message", printed by WEST.

~~SECRET~~



~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

REVEREND R. G. KIMSEY  
Pastor, Baptist Church  
Cassville, Georgia

KIMSEY stated that several years prior to 1942 subject had come into the community and endeavored to organize the farmers into a union, and that at this time WEST distributed communist literature and the Daily Worker to the farmers of the community.

"STUDENT REVIEW"  
February 1934 Issue

There was found in the files of the Fulton County Solicitor's Office a February 1934 issue of the Student Review, which carried an article concerning the Southern Folk School library operated by DON WEST, subject, CLYDE JOHNSON, and WILLIE SUTTON.

In the Daily Worker in 1934 there was a column written by MICHAEL GOLD, entitled, "Change the World". In this article GOLD states that WEST is a young, southern, mountaineer boy who became revolutionary and studied Marx and Lenin for the purpose of organizing the Negro and white farmers in Georgia. GOLD further stated that WEST was born in Gilmer County, Georgia, and was educated at the Berry Schools in Rome, Georgia; at the Lincoln Memorial University in Tennessee; Vanderbilt University, and that he had studied in Denmark and Europe.

MRS. WINNIE MEEKS  
Monteagle, Tennessee

Mrs. MEEKS advised that she had heard DON WEST's parody sung at the Highlander Folk School. This parody is entitled, "My Country 'Tis of Thee", the first line of which begins: "My country 'tis of thee, land of mass misery..."

CONF. INFO

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Informant stated that he had met subject at the Highlander Folk School and that he knew the subject as a communist, that this was in 1931 or 1932.

~~SECRET~~



Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

CONF. INFT.  
NYT-352. (S)

Informant stated that the subject, to his knowledge, had made arrangements to meet CEDRIC BELFRAGE, a known communist, in New York on January 4, 1946, at 2 p.m., at 55 West Forty-second Street, New York City. (S)

FRANCIS J. GALLANT  
WALTER H. NELSON  
EDWARD W. DOOLEY  
Special Agents, FBI  
New York City  
January 1946

Surveillance conducted by the above agents reflected that the subject accompanied BELFRAGE to Room 702, 55 West Forty-second Street, that the door of instant office was marked "Distributors Guide" and was known to be the office occupied by EARL BROWDER, former head of the Communist Party, but that later the subject and BELFRAGE, accompanied by BROWDER, were observed leaving the building. (S)

NYT-352 (S)

Informant stated that MOLLY BELFRAGE on January 7, 1946, had discussed the impending appearance of subject before group meetings, at which time she stated to the informant the subject was on sabbatical leave from the school at Lula, Georgia. (S)

CONF. INFT.

NYT-350 (S)

Informant advised that the subject contacted BETTY HART, Secretary to Dr. WEINSTEIN, on January 6, 1946, and visited at the office of Dr. A. B. WEINSTEIN. (S)

CONF. INFT.

(S)

Informant advised that subject called upon her on December 29, 1943, and told her he had seen ROBERT F. HALL, Secretary of the Communist Party, District 17, in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and that HALL had instructed him to contact informant and furnish her information concerning a spy in the Communist Party in Georgia. (S)

[ ] advised that subject stated he was married and had two children and that his entire family were communists. He stated he had a sister (S)

b2  
b7D

~~SECRET~~



~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

who had just returned from the Soviet Union and was in New York City writing a book.. Informant stated subject advised that he was principal of the school at Lula, Georgia, and exerted a great deal of influence in that community and that he might be successful in organizing an active branch of the Communist Party there. (S)

J. TRUETT BROOKSHER  
PATRICK M. RICE  
CLEMENT L. McGOWAN, JR.  
Special Agents, FBI  
Atlanta, Georgia

On February 4, 1947, at 8:25 p.m., the subject was observed leaving the Butler Street Y. M. C. A. (colored) with HOMER BATES CHASE, District Organizer for the Communist Party, District No. 31, State of Georgia, that they were immediately followed by ROBERT E. HAWKS and JAMES E. WILLIAMS, representatives of the National Maritime Union from Savannah, Georgia, and reported communists, that they proceeded from there to the Frances Hotel, 43 Peachtree Street, where subject and CHASE were joined by MAX WEISS, a member of the National Committee of the Communist Party of the U. S. A. and Secretary of the Education Agitation and Publicity Department of the Communist Party, USA, also editor of "Political Affairs". Both cars proceeded to the home of the subject. MAX WEISS and WILLIAMS remained at WEST's home until 11:15 p.m. and CHASE remained there until 3:30 p.m., February 5, 1947.

On February 6, 1947, the above agents observed subject, MAX WEISS, and an unidentified man and woman leave the Old Wheat Street Baptist Church (colored) at Atlanta, Georgia. It is to be noted that at this time there was a meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in progress at the church.

On February 7, 1947, Special Agent BROOKSHER observed CHASE, WEISS, and the subject together in the Federal Annex of the U. S. Post Office, that they proceeded to the Municipal Airport and WEISS was left at the Municipal Airport.

On February 14, 1947, NAT ROSS (brother-in-law of subject), member of the National Committee of the Communist Party, USA, was observed with subject and proceeded to his home where he remained for the night.

On March 7, 1947, CHASE, NATHAN ROSS and MARY BOGGS SOUTHARD, writer for the Daily Worker and member of the Communist Party in Birmingham,

~~SECRET~~



~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

Alabama, proceeded to subject's home at 11:50 p.m. and remained there for the night.

On February 17, 1947, Special Agent McGOWAN observed HOMER CHASE taking a number of copies of "Clods of Southern Earth", a book written by the subject, to the home of ALAN and NATHAN KATZ, active members of the Communist Party, Atlanta, Georgia.

Confidential Informant [ ] advised that the subject was the main speaker at a conference called "Georgia's Crisis", sponsored by the Southern Negro Youth Congress and held February 28, 1947, at the Butler Street Y. M. C. A. (colored), at which conference there were fifteen members present. He stated that the subject said at this meeting: "When democracy is taken from the people, it is time to fight. You are not facing a Yankee; you are looking at a Georgia Cracker whose family has never owned a slave. I am from a poor family from the mountains, and I am in favor of a decent South, Yes, a South where all men are equal. I am fighting for the mass of the people, and I will not stop until all have justice." Subject then read a speech which he had delivered over radio station WATL on February 5, 1947, entitled, "Georgia's Crisis".

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T-1 stated that HOMER BATES CHASE, District Organizer, CP, USA, District No. 31, Atlanta, Georgia, had a 1947 membership card in the Communist Party, USA, No. 96336, in the name of JIM WEBB, Atlanta, Georgia. The descriptive data from instant source revealed that WEBB might be identical with subject. The following description appears on instant party membership card:

Club:	Atlanta at large
Section:	Atlanta
County:	Fulton
State:	Georgia
(S) Sex:	Male
Race:	White
Employment:	Employed
Age:	37
Time in Party:	15 years
Trade or Occupation:	Teacher
Industry:	College
Union Affiliation:	None

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Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

Mass Organiza-  
tion:

Southern Conference for  
Human Welfare

Membership:  
National Origin  
of Self or  
Parents:

Southern Conf. for Human Welfare

American

~~(S)~~ Confidential Informant T-2 advised that on May 1, 1947, the subject had paid to MARGARET FISHER \$4.00 by check. It is noted that this check was endorsed "MARGARET FISHER, Committee of Georgia".

NATIONAL REPUBLICAN LETTERGRAM  
Report No. 46

Instant lettergram stated that subject was state organizer of the Communist Party in Kentucky in 1936 and was a staunch supporter of the Communist Party ticket during 1936.

Information received from an unknown source reflected that subject was one of the Communist Party leaders in Kentucky in 1938 and that he had attended the Tenth National Convention of the Communist Party in New York City in 1938.

HENRY S. McGUIRE  
804 Citizens Bank Building  
Lexington, Kentucky

McGUIRE advised September 13, 1937, that subject had previously been a Communist Party member in Lexington, Kentucky.

GEORGE G. WARD  
642 Central Avenue  
Atlanta, Georgia

WARD advised that in 1941 the subject had spent an evening at his home and had left two suitcases. Upon opening the suitcases he had found they were full of Communist literature. WARD stated that subject had been a pacifist before the German invasion of Russia but that shortly thereafter WEST had changed and advocated United States intervention into the war, that he had questioned WEST concerning this, and WEST had stated

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Atlanta, 100-559

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that prior to Russia's entry into the war it had been an "imperialistic war" but that since Hitler had attacked Russia it was now a "workers' war".

EVIDENCE OF OTHER COMMUNITY PARTY CONNECTIONS

The Daily Worker dated March 20, 1947, had an article entitled, "DON WEST Benefit Performance Friday". This article stated that the People's Culture Union of America was holding a benefit preview performance to raise money to help DON WEST, author of "Clods of Southern Earth", who was being sued for \$10,000 in a trumped-up libel charge by reactionary forces in the South.

The Daily Worker of March 27, 1947, carried an article entitled, "Writers Party to Aid DON WEST", which stated, in substance, that the Writing Out Loud literary and dance affair sponsored by the Contemporary Writers would be key noted by the opening gun to defend DON WEST, Southern poet, whose anti-Fascist activities in Georgia had brought down the wrath of klansmen and other reactionaries.

The Daily Worker dated May 18, 1947, revealed an article entitled, "Committee Organized to Aid Fighting South", which stated, in substance, that this committee was to be a permanent body and was engaged to raise \$10,000 by June 1 to help the 10,000 striking tobacco workers of Winston-Salem, North Carolina; to aid the Southern Negro Youth Congress in its battle against the white primary and for the right of citizenship for the Negro people; to assist the defense of DON WEST, Georgia poet, against a trumped-up libel suit, as well as to provide funds for other civil cases. BENJAMIN J. DAVIS and MILLARD LAMPELL led this organization and funds were to be sent to PAUL M. CAIN, 3 Leroy Street, New York 14, New York, with checks made payable to Dr. JAMES J. JONES.

[Confidential Informant T-3 advised] that DIANA and THOMAS MASON had, during the month of April, spent a weekend with the subject. THOMAS and DIANA MASON are active members of the Communist Party in Atlanta, Georgia, having recently transferred from Savannah, Georgia.

LITERARY WORKS AND RECORDINGS OF SUBJECT

The following is a list of literary works and publications made by the subject and is set forth in chronological order pursuant to date, with certain excerpts quoted therefrom to show subject's party line:

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Atlanta, 100-559

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1. "Songs for Southern Workers", prepared by DON WEST, State Organizer, Kentucky Workers Alliance, May 1937. The following is quoted from instant book:

"My country 'tis of thee  
Land of mass misery,  
Of this I sing.  
Land where the workers toil  
And bosses reap their spoil  
Where children starve and freeze  
From fall 'til spring.

"My native country thee,  
Our fathers fought to free  
You from a king.  
And in their steps we tread,  
Fighting for meat and bread,  
Workers, lift up your head--  
Let freedom ring!

"The union now, you see--  
Our hope for liberty,  
Of it we sing!  
Let Southern voices sound  
With union all around  
The mountain side rebound  
With songs we sing!"

2. "Toil and Hunger", poems by DON WEST. This book was published in 1940. On the fly leaf of instant book is noted, "His poems are clods of southern earth flung in the face of reaction", from the People's World. One of these poems is entitled, "Listen, I Am an Agitator". The first line of this poem begins: "Listen...! I am an agitator -- They call me 'Red', the color of blood and -- 'Bolshevik'!"
3. "The Span", issue of April and May 1941, one of whose editors was the subject. Under an article entitled "The Awakening Church", by the Reverend DONALD L. WEST, subject, in substance, stated that the United States of America should keep out of war, that "Just like in 1917 there are two rival groups fighting for empires, colonies, and profits".

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Atlanta, 100-559

4. A newspaper entitled "The Country Parson", edited by the subject. Copies for January, February, March, and April of 1941 reveal that the subject was definitely against the United States entering into World War II.
5. A pamphlet entitled "A Christian Fellowship Message", by Reverend DONALD L. WEST, the subject, which JOEL MATTHEWS advised was printed in the first of 1941, with subheadings, "We Don't Want War", "Do We Want to Repeat 1917?", a portion of which stated, "In the name of Christ, and in the interest of the great common people of our land, may we all keep calm and cool in the face of the mighty barrage of propaganda. In the name of Christ, we don't want war!"
6. A pamphlet entitled, "Blessed Are the Peacemakers" (an urgent appeal to the peace lovers of the South), by Reverend DONALD L. WEST, the subject; date of printing unknown. This particular pamphlet is against the war, one of the subheadings of which reads, "Another Imperialistic War for Plunder".
7. Articles in the Southern News Almanac written by the subject under the title, "The Awakening Church".

The first article appearing on February 21, 1941, under above title, in substance, preaches that the United States should keep out of war.

Article dated April 3, 1941, in substance, advises big business should not be allowed to lead us into war.

Article under news date line of Thursday, April 14, 1941, in substance, stated we should not enter World War II.

Article under news date line of Thursday, June 26, 1941, urges that people should write letters and wires into Washington against convoys.

Article dated Thursday, July 17, 1941, is quoted, in part, as follows:

"Get out your pencil and paper. Write your Congressman and President in Washington. Tell them what the American

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Atlanta, 100-559

people want - all aid to the fight against Fascism, against Hitler and Hitlerism, all aid to the struggling Chinese Republic but a complete embargo against Fascist Japan."

8. An editorial, "Defend Democratic Ideals", written by DONALD L. WEST, in the Pike County Journal, dated July 4, 1941, which stated, in part, "Make no mistake - America must never submit to Hitler domination", and, in substance, is a change of subject's former policy of pacifism and anti-war to anti-fascism.
9. A pamphlet entitled, "Educate for Victory", excerpts from speech of March 19, 1943, by D. L. WEST, Superintendent, Lula, Georgia, Schools. This pamphlet contains in it an article entitled "1943 Demands a Real Second Front in Europe".
10. The book entitled, "The Lula Scrapper", put out by the senior class of Lula High School in 1942 and 1943, with an opening article by the subject, a portion of which reads as follows: "The most challenging frontiers are yet to be explored--the frontiers of human relations and betterment. Keep an open, questioning mind. Be willing to learn new ways and ideas of life. Keep an undying love for the common folk down in your heart--the kind of folk that made America a great, warm-hearted land--and you can't go wrong!...Some of our Senior Class will soon be far away in the armed forces. They, with millions of others will be giving their all to rid the earth of fascist slavery."

It is to be noted in instant book that the class motto was "Lula Scrappers--scrapping to wipe all traces of fascism from the earth."

11. A pamphlet entitled, "Georgia's Crisis", from a radio speech given February 5, 1947. Instant pamphlet is a fight against the White Primary Bill and HERMAN TALMADGE, which ends as follows:

"We people of Georgia don't want to work against the Constitution and Bill of Rights of the U. S. A. We don't want to let our state become the proving ground for American fascism! Then we must play our role as loyal Georgians and true Americans by immediately stamping out this nazi effort to conquer our state!"

12. Book of poems entitled "Clods of Southern Earth".

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Atlanta, 100-559

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Copies of publications noted above are being retained in the Atlanta file.

(S)  
[T-4 advised] that the following individuals were in communication with subject through Post Office Box 1178, Atlanta, Georgia:

Miss LUCILLE ROBINSON  
Post Office Box 502  
Canton, Georgia

Technographic Publication  
509 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York

BARRY  
315 West Seventy-fourth Street  
New York, New York

J. KRENWINKLE  
7635 North Rogers Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois

BACKGROUND

The subject was born at Cartecay, Georgia, June 6, 1908, the son of OLIVER WEST and LILLY MULKEY. He first attended school at the Berry Schools in Rome, Georgia. He also attended Lincoln Memorial University, Hannegate, Tennessee, 1925 to 1929, receiving an A. B. degree; Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, 1929 to 1932, receiving a degree of Bachelor of Divinity; Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, Georgia, 1937 to 1944, receiving a Master's Degree; University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, 1944 to 1944, taking special courses; summer school at the University of Chicago in 1945; the International Peoples College, Elsinore, Denmark, 1933 to 1934, pursuing special courses; and Teacher's College, Columbia University, September 1945 to January 1946, pursuing courses in Guided Professional Development and a university seminar on rural life.

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Subject was married December 14, 1928, to MABLE ADAMS of Middlesboro, Kentucky, and [redacted] by his marriage, [redacted]

[redacted] age eight. The subject was superintendent of schools at Lula, Georgia, 1942 and 1943 and was formerly a

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Atlanta, 100-559

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minister of the Gospel in various churches located throughout Georgia for several years. [Subject at the present time is teaching at Oglethorpe University and AT-1324 advised that the subject has been conducting an open forum once a week, which a number of teachers and students attend, and the subject arranges for various speakers from the local unions and Negro schools to address the forum on public affairs of current interest to the South. AT-1324 also advised that the subject has been in constant touch with HOMER BATES CHASE, Communist Party Organizer for the State of Georgia, Dr. ELWOOD GRANT BODDIE, Chairman of the Auburn Avenue Branch of the Communist Party in Atlanta, Georgia, and WILLIAM STAFFORD, Organizer for the United Public Workers Alliance, CIO, who has also been in contact with CHASE. STAFFORD has given a speech before this open forum on the need for unionization of public works and it has been reported that WILLIAM MILTON BROOKS, a Negro Communist, gave a speech before instant group.] (S)

AT-1324 stated that the subject intends to run and operate a summer camp in Northern Georgia for children of union laborers, that he was present when WEST talked to BILL STAFFORD, CIO organizer for the United Public and Allied Workers, and that WEST requested the address of JOHN K. FINDLY, Unitarian Work Camp, 9 Park Street, Boston, Massachusetts, and that WEST was going to ask FINDLY for assistance in establishing this camp and seek ideas on the operation of same. (S)

WEST has the following relatives:

Mother:

Mrs. LILLIE E. AKINS,  
Cartersville, Georgia

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Brothers:

CHARLES SPURGEON WEST,  
Marietta, Georgia, Route 5

Sisters:

Mrs. BELLE LOGAN,  
High Point, North Carolina,  
(married to BART HUNTER LOGAN,  
former District Organizer for  
the Communist Party in N. C.)  
Mrs. DELIA ROSS, better known  
as AIN WEST ROSS and BUDDY ROSS,  
wife of MYRON HOWARD ROSS, alias  
Mike Ross, Winston-Salem, N. C.,  
organizer for the CIO and former  
Communist Party functionary

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Atlanta, 100-559

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Sister:

Mrs. ~~ELSIE~~ ROSS, aka Janet  
West Ross, Janet Weaver,  
Janet Cohan, Johnnie West Ross,  
wife of NATHAN ROSS, member of  
the National Committee of the  
Communist Party, USA, in charge  
of southern organized activities  
for the Communist Party.

- PENDING -

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Atlanta, 100-559

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UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE BOSTON DIVISION

At Boston, Massachusetts:

Will endeavor to ascertain whether or not JOHN K. FINDLY, Unitarian Work Camp, 9 Park Street, Boston, Massachusetts, is actively connected with the Communist Party, USA. Will supply any information you may be able to obtain concerning subject WEST's affiliation or connections. (S)

THE CHICAGO DIVISION

At Chicago, Illinois:

Will endeavor to ascertain whether or not J. KERWINKLE, 7635 North Rogers Avenue, is a functionary or connected with the Communist Party, USA. Will endeavor to ascertain his connection or affiliation with subject WEST.

THE NEW YORK DIVISION

At New York City:

Will advise the Atlanta Division of the identity of BARRY, 315 West Seventy-fourth Street, New York City, if identity can be ascertained, and determine whether or not he or the Technographic Publication, 509 Madison Avenue, New York City, is affiliated or connected with the Communist Party, USA. Will endeavor to ascertain the affiliation of instant individuals, if possible, with subject.

THE WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION

At Washington, D. C.:

Will check with the State Department and obtain any information in their files concerning instant subject. It is noted that subject allegedly attended the International Peoples College, Elsinore, Denmark, from 1933 to 1934, pursuing special courses.

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Atlanta, 100-559

Will determine, if possible, from their files whether or not subject has been fingerprinted so a check can be made through the Identification Division.

THE ATLANTA DIVISION

At Atlanta, Georgia:

Will follow and report activity of subject through sources of information and confidential informants.

- PENDING -

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Atlanta, 100-559

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SOURCE OF INFORMATION

~~(S)~~ T-1: A highly confidential source which made available the effects of HOMER BATES CHASE to Special Agents CLEMENT L. McGOWAN, Jr., a and GEORGE P. DILLARD.

T-2: [redacted] Atlanta, Georgia.

It is to be noted that subject [redacted]  
with the [redacted]

T-3: [redacted] Atlanta, Georgia, [redacted] ~~(S)~~

T-4: Mail cover placed on subject DON WEST at the Buckhead Branch of the United States Post Office.

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United States Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Post Office Box 1850  
Atlanta 1, Georgia

May 20, 1947

JUSTIFICATION FOR CONTINUATION OF TECHNICAL  
OR MICROPHONE SURVEILLANCE

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO  
FILE NO. **66-698**

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS
Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Pennington

**SECRET**

RE: Title **DONALD LEE WEST**

Class. & Ext. By **SP-1 GSK/PSK**  
Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2.2  
Date of Review **4/15/92**

Character of Case **INTERNAL SECURITY - C**  
Field Office **CONF, INT. ATLANTA**  
Symbol Number **AT 1324**  
Type of Surveillance: (Technical or  
Microphone) **Mic-Tel**

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

1. Subject's name and address:

Donald Lee West, Oglethorpe University  
New Hermance Road  
Oglethorpe University, Georgia

2. Location of technical operation: **Atlanta Office**

**G. I. R. - 5**

3. Dates of initial authorization and installation:

Initial authorization March 21, 1947  
Installation March 27, 1947

4. Previous and other installations on the same subject (with dates and places):

None

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP (S) OF **clear**  
DATE **5/22/59**

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

**100-20396-53**  
**19 JUN 25 1947**

5. Specific valuable information obtained since previous report with indication of specific value of each item and what use was made of each item of information involved: **Information was developed from above installation which definitely showed that WEST was in constant contact with HOMER BATES CHASE, organizer for District No. 31, Communist Party, U.S.A. On three occasions instant installation**

(See Page 4)

COPIES DESTROYED **4/22/59 #105**

**58 JUL 8 1947**

**100-20396**

**SECRET**



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6. Could above information have been obtained from other sources and by other means?

No

7. Has security factor changed since installation?

No

8. Any request for the surveillance by outside agency (give name, title and agency):

No

9. Manpower and costs involved;

Up until the present time there has been no cost involved in instant installation. However, it is necessary to maintain two special employees in the Atlanta Office to handle information coming from instant installation.

It is anticipated that instant installation will cost approximately \$17 per month for ten miles of leased wire.

10. Remarks (By SAC):

In view of the pertinent information obtained from installation and because of the further fact that the state of Georgia has been changed into a new district of the Communist Party and active organization is now going on to strengthen the party in Georgia, it is recommended that instant installation be continued.

11. Remarks (added at Seat of Government):

A review of the files reflects sufficient information to warrant continuation of this installation.

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12. Recommendation by Assistant Director:

I recommend continuation of this installation.

*gh*

13. Recommendation by the Assistants to the Director:

*OK ✓  
EAL*

~~SECRET~~



5. Continued

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

(S) enabled Agents through surveillance to observe places of contact by WEST and CHASE. It is to be noted that this information could not have been obtained if instant installation was not in force except by constant twenty-four hour surveillance of WEST. The installation further revealed that WEST was in constant contact with WILLIAM STAFFORD, organizer for the CIO, United Public Workers Alliance, and that numerous viewpoints concerning Communist Party lines were discussed between WEST and STAFFORD, also numerous names of individuals and the contacts between WEST, CHASE, STAFFORD and DR. ELWOOD GRANT BODDIE (colored) were developed which saved numerous Agents' days in ascertaining identifies of unknown individuals who would have contacted WEST. (S)

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STANDARD FORM NO. 64

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: July 3, 1947

FROM : SAC, Atlanta

SUBJECT: DONALD LEE WEST;  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Atlanta Office, AT-1324;

Type of Surveillance - MIC-TEL

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Reference is made to my letter of June 17, 1947.

This is to advise that repairs being made by the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company were completed on July 2, 1947 and at 3:30 P.M., instant installation was reinstalled.

Class. & Ext. By SP-1 GSK/PSK

Reason: FCIM II, 1-2.4.2.2

Date of Review 9/30/92

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

JTS: SL

RECORDED

32 JUL 7 1947

60 JUL 8 - 1947

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

FILE NO. **100-7192**

REPORT MADE AT <b>CHICAGO, ILLINOIS</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>7/1/47</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>6/19/47</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>MAURITZ E. CAHLON</b> <b>MEG:BPA</b>
TITLE <b>DONALD LEE WEST, was.</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b> <i>KE noted</i>
<p><b>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</b> <i>yes</i> <b>JULIA CEDER KRENWINKLE, was.</b> is resident of 7635 North Rogers Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, who corresponded with subject. KRENWINKLE subject of Security Matter file, Chicago, and is a reported Communist. She is active in American Federation of Teachers and has done educational work for CP.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- R U C -</p> <p><b>REFERENCES:</b> Bureau File No. 100-20396 Report of Special Agent JOSEPH T. SYLVESTER, JR. dated 6/12/47 at Atlanta, Georgia.</p> <p><b>DETAILS:</b> <b>AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS:</b></p> <p>Reference report requested that it be determined whether or not the individual named J. KERNWINKLE, 7635 North Rogers Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, is affiliated with the Communist Party and this person's connection with subject WEST.</p> <p>Investigation at this address determined that J. KRENWINKEL occupies an apartment in that building.</p> <p>The Chicago files contain a Security Matter file for JULIA CEDER KRENWINKLE, wa. JULIA KRENWINKEL. This file reflects that this woman was born on February 16, 1905, at Rock Falls, Illinois, and resides at 7635 Rogers Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. She has been a subscriber to the Daily and Sunday Workers and has been a guest lecturer at the Abraham Lincoln School, which is a successor to the Workers School and a reportedly Communist controlled school. She was reported by one informant during</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>R. M. Sullivan</i>		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES DESTROYED <i>4/29/59 #16</i>		<b>100-34316-55</b> <b>RECORDED &amp; INDEXED</b> <b>EX-74</b>	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 3 - Atlanta 2 - Chicago <i>5/22/59</i> <i>J. P. ...</i>		<b>32 JUL 8 1947</b> <i>IN 13 II</i>	

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 9/11/02 BY SP1/ASK/BJK



Chicago File No. 100-7192

1944 who had been on a committee of the professional section of the Communist Party. She has served as President of Local 2460 in Evanston of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL. Informants have advised that she has been a close contact of Communist Party members and particularly with WILLIAM L. PATTERSON, who, in 1945, was the Assistant Director of the Abraham Lincoln School.

Inasmuch as there is no further investigation to be conducted in this territory, this case is RUC to the office of origin.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **ATLANTA**

FILE NO. **100-18793**

REPORT MADE AT <b>WASHINGTON, D.C.</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>7-23-47</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>6-25; 7-16-47</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>GLYDE D. NICOLL dmh</b>
TITLE <b>DONALD LEE WEST, was</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** Subject issued passport No. 377666 on May 8, 1931, for travel to France, Germany, Denmark, Norway and Sweden. File failed to reflect any record of subject's having been fingerprinted.

-RUC-

**REFERENCE:** Bureau file No. 100-20396.  
Report of Special Agent JOHN T. SYLVESTER, JR., at Atlanta, dated June 12, 1947

**DETAILS:** ~~CONF. INFO.~~ AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

The files of the Passport Division, Department of State, made available by [redacted] known to the Bureau, reflect that DON L. WEST was issued passport No. 377666 on May 8, 1931. Subject stated he was born at Cartecay, Georgia, June 6, 1906; resided at Hindman, Kentucky; was a teacher by occupation; and desired a passport for France, Germany, Denmark, Norway and Sweden for the purpose of study. He intended to depart from the port of New York on May 20, 1931, via the SS Aquitania. The file contains a refusal notice, dated September 26, 1940, the reason for its posting being that subject was reported to be engaged in Communist activities in the southern part of the United States. The files of the Passport Division failed to disclose any information concerning subject's alleged travel to Denmark in 1933, or that he was ever fingerprinted. The file reflects that subject is 6'2" tall; has black hair and blue eyes, and the thumb and two first fingers are missing on his left hand.

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REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES: <b>SB 14</b>
COPIES DESTROYED <i>4/10/59 + 16</i>	<b>100-20396-56</b>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT: <b>5-Bureau</b> <b>2-Atlanta (100-559)</b> <b>2-Washington Field</b> <i>cc: OR 9-22-47</i> <i>And [unclear]</i>	<b>RECORDED</b> <b>INDEXED</b> <b>EX-40</b>



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: July 30, 1947

FROM : SAC, Atlanta

SUBJECT: MIC-TEL SURVEILLANCES  
DONALD LEE WEST  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C~~SECRET~~

ATTENTION: SECURITY DIVISION.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. E. A. Tamm	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Egan	_____
Mr. Gurnea	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Pennington	_____
Mr. Quinn	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

Reference is made to my letter dated June 17, 1947, regarding  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ AT-1324, Mic-Tel, concerning instant subject. ~~(S)~~

This is to advise that subject has temporarily vacated his residence on New Hermance Road, Oglethorpe University, Georgia, and is spending the month of August at Skyland Camp in the North Georgia mountains at Sautee, Georgia. ~~(S)~~

Accordingly the instant Mic-Tel surveillance has been temporarily discontinued. ~~(S)~~

Class. & Ext. By SP-1 GSK/PSK  
Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2.2  
Date of Review 3/30/92 3/30/02

WHW:mos  
66-698

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

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32 AUG 1 1947

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF Class  
DATE 5/16/82

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58 AUG 8 1947 976



SAC, Atlanta

September 15, 1947

Director, FBI

DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Reurlet August 6, 1947. The Bureau approves of your designating the subject as a top functionary in your Field Division.

In view of this designation, you are instructed to leave this case in a pending status at all times and to submit to the Bureau reports on a periodic basis.

RECORDED 100-20396-58

EX-50 JEM:IGS  
JES

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/11/82 BY SP-1 GSK/RSK

SEP 16 9 54 AM '47

SEP 16 5 23 PM '47

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Pennington
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 11  
★ SEP 16 1947 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

*Eata* *gpc* *JM*

107-107 R-141



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, Atlanta

SUBJECT: DONALD LEE WEST, was  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

DATE: August 6, 1947

~~SECRET~~10  
6-21

Reference is made to SAC letter number 44, series 97, and SAC letter 98, series 97, concerning top functionaries.

It is recommended that instant subject be considered a top functionary of District number 31, Communist Party, USA, Atlanta, Georgia, and have continuous active investigative attention.

Subject is a professor at Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, Georgia, and the author of numerous poems and books which tend to set forth the national trend and thought of the Communist Party, USA.

Subject is believed to be the only member at large in the Atlanta Division of the Communist Party, USA, and is a constant consultant with HOMER BATES CHASE, District Organizer, District number 31, and other key figures of the Communist Party in the Atlanta Division. Subject is attempting to operate a summer camp, and because of his position as professor at Oglethorpe University is in an enviable position to disseminate the Communist Party throughout the State of Georgia.

Subject is an active consultant with party organizers and policy leaders in Alabama as well as Georgia, and subject's wife is a sister of NAT ROSS, an organizer and policy maker for the Alabama Communist Party Division.

Subject, while acting as professor at Oglethorpe University, conducts open forums which enable him in discussion to obtain information that will assist in setting up the policies of the Communist Party, USA, in the south.

G. I. R. -9

JTS:ea  
100-559

Class. & Ext. By SP-1 GSK/PSK  
Reason FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
Date of Review 4/7/92

cc: 100-873  
100-4051

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WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE. RECORDED  
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100-20396-58

37 AUG 15 1947

Letter Atlanta  
9-15-47 Jem

EX-68

~~SECRET~~

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP (S) OF  
DATE 5/20/82



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, BOSTON

SUBJECT: DONALD LEE WEST, was  
Internal Security-C

DATE: August 12, 1947

~~SECRET~~

Reference is made to Atlanta report of Special Agent JOSEPH T. SYLVESTER, Jr., dated June 12, 1947 at Atlanta, Georgia, in the above-captioned case, in which the Atlanta Office requests information of Boston regarding JOHN K. FINDLY, Unitarian Work Camp, 9 Park Street, Boston, Mass.

For the information of the Atlanta Office, the files in the Boston Office failed to reveal any association between JOHN K. FINDLY and DONALD LEE WEST. The indices of the Boston Office do show that JOHN K. FINDLY served as Chairman of the Publicity Committee of the Penobscott Inter-Racial Forum at Bangor, Maine, in January, 1945.

The indices of the Boston Office further revealed that a report of Special Agent ALVIN F. KOWALSKI, dated January 11, 1944, at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in the file entitled "Marie Josephine Reed", the name of JOHN K. FINDLY, 22 Dartmouth Street, Somerville, Mass. appears in the address book of MARIE JOSEPHINE REED. The REED woman is identified as a member of the Communist Party.

The Boston Office indices further disclosed that the name JOHN FINDLY, Page Hall, city not stated, was contained in a list of names and addresses obtained from a trash cover maintained on the residence of HY GORDON, who was formerly trade union secretary for the Communist Party, District #1.

The 1946-1947 Unitarian Yearbook publication of the American Unitarian Association, discloses that JOHN K. FINDLY is a member of the Unitarian Service Committee, and that he has been employed in the office of the Unitarian Youth of the American Unitarian Association.

No further investigation is being conducted in this office regarding JOHN K. FINDLY, and this case is being referred upon completion to the office of origin.

RD:MFA  
100-20549

Cc Atlanta Field Office

Class. & Ext. By SP-1 GSK/PSK  
Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
Date of Review 7/22/92

100-20549-59  
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31 AUG 14 1947

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EX-50  
G. I. R. -9 2.2~~SECRET~~

83 AUG 20 1947

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8/1/82 BY SP-1 GSK/PSK

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP (S) OF Amended L/S  
DATE 7/22/82



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, F.B.I.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE: September 26, 1947

FROM : SAC, Atlanta

~~SECRET~~SUBJECT: MIC-TEL SURVEILLANCE ~~EX~~ ATTENTION: SECURITY DIVISION  
DONALD LEE WEST  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Remylet July 30, 1947, advising that AT-1324 was being temporarily discontinued because subject had left his residence on New Hermance Road, Oglethorpe University, and was spending the month of August at Skyland Camp, at Sautee, Georgia. ~~EX~~

Subject WEST has now returned to his residence, and is teaching at Oglethorpe University. Coverage through AT-1324 was resumed at 11:30 A.M., September 25, 1947. ~~EX~~

DBC/ds  
66-698 ~~EX~~

Class. & Ext. By SP-1 GSK/RSK  
Reason-FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2 2  
Date of Review 3/30/82

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP (S) OF Recommended R/S  
DATE 7/22/88 ~~EX~~

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1 SEP 29 1947

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
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DATE 5/26/82 ~~EX~~

EX-41

62 OCT 4 1947

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~~SECRET~~

EJF:SL

Atlanta File 100-559  
Bureau File 100-20396

RE: DONALD LEE WEST, was;  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

COMMENTS:

This case is delinquent, it being noted that the last investigative report was submitted June 12, 1947. WEST has been designated a top functionary by the Atlanta Office and of all cases under investigation by your office, this type of case should be kept current in every respect. It is noted from reviewing the file that it is receiving investigative attention. However, because of the nature of this type of investigation, it should not be allowed to become delinquent and this is considered an error of substance.

SAC FOLTZ:

This matter is receiving attention through technical surveillances and investigation. It is to be noted, however, that DON WEST was vacationing for a period of two months at Sky Lake Camp in Northern Georgia and there was no indication by investigation that he was actively engaged in Communist Party activities during this time. However, I agree with the Inspector, and every effort will be made to keep this matter in current condition. (S)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/14/82 BY 591 GSK/PSK

Class. & Ext. By SP-1 GSK/PSK  
Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
Date of Review 3/5/92

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

100-20396  
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SELF-INSPECTION REPORT  
ATLANTA OFFICE  
SAC FOLTZ  
AUGUST 27, 1947

SEP 23 1947

~~SECRET~~



Ref 94-1-3200

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 3/15/82 BY SP-1 GSK/DSK

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100-20396-A

62 OCT 6 1947  
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## SCHW & Commy's Writings

This newspaper has long been a critic of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare. The organization has been suspect here since it opened offices in New Orleans last fall. It has twice been called a Communist front organization by congressional committees.

This newspaper today is prepared to prove that the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, through its pamphlet, The Southern Patriot, promotes the writings and ideology of a man who admits that he is a Communist.

This man is Don West, a poet and professor at Oglethorpe university. The March 13, 1934 issue of the Daily Worker, Communist party newspaper, carried a poem entitled "I Am a Communist," and written by Don West. The poem's last verse reads:

*"And do you hear me?*

*I'm speaking*

*I, the poet,*

*Don West,*

*Communist*

*Bolshevik*

*Red*

*Working Man,*

*Southern Toller,*

*You will hear me*

*and you'll believe me*

*Because I am you*

*And We—*

*Power."*

It's not much of a poem, but it's rather revealing as a confession of a way of life.

On March 3, 1947, the Daily Worker, carried an article on Don West and the libel suit filed against him by Charles Lewellan of Georgia in connection with a book of poems called "Clods of Southern Earth." The Daily Worker identified West as a faculty member of Oglethorpe, and said of the libel suit:

"This is a major issue. It dramatizes the current pattern of attack on democratic writers. The defense of Don West requires our utmost support."

On May 14, 1947, the Daily Worker tells of the formation of "anti-Fascist writers" into an organization known as the "Committee to Defend Don West."

The Daily Worker of June 22, 1937, refers to Don West as a Communist party organizer in Kentucky.

Now for the tie-in.

In its November, 1946, issue of the Southern Patriot, edited at New Orleans, the SCHW offers one free copy of "Clods of Southern Earth," identified as Don West's new book of verse, for three \$1 subscriptions to the Southern Patriot.

In its April, 1947, issue, the Southern Patriot carries a notation that Don West's radio speech, "Georgia's Crisis," can be ordered in bundles of 1000 for \$10, 100 for \$3 or \$1 for 25, and the conference advises:

"Use them in your church, union, club or professional group."

"Georgia's Crisis" was issued in pamphlet form under the imprimatur of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare for distribution. It was an attack by West on February 5, 1947, aimed at the white primary law. It mentions Hitler or derivatives such as Hitlerism, 16 times; Fascism, six, and Nazism, five. It attacks totalitarianism and dictatorship, but makes no mention of Communism, which is the usual Communist line.

The Southern Conference for Human Welfare has denied, and will deny, that it is a Communist front organization. But the conference CANNOT DENY that it promoted the writings of a self-confessed Communist through its pamphlet, the Southern Patriot.

The Southern Conference for Human Welfare CANNOT DENY that it caused to be printed, over its name, the ideology of an avowed Communist, Don West, a man who wrote "I Am a Communist" for the Daily Worker, purveyor of Communist propaganda and party tactics.

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Mumford  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Gandy

*Handwritten signatures and initials, including "Gandy" and "Clegg".*

*Handwritten initials "G" and "C".*

New Orleans States  
8-28-47 (A. H. Fitzpatrick, Editor)

Bureau



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

FILE No. 100-559

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA	DATE WHEN MADE 11/18/47	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 9/13, 19; 10/1/47	REPORT MADE BY DONALD B. CLEGG :hs
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject designated top functionary Atlanta Division 9/15/47. Is teaching at Oglethorpe University and giving adult classes at O'Keefe High School, Atlanta. NATHAN ROSS, Southern Organizer for CP and brother-in-law of subject, was in Atlanta 10/10-15/47. Spent night of 10/13 at home of subject. Latter has been in frequent contact with HOMER B. CHASE, CP Organizer for Georgia, PETER PRICE, Organizer for Southern Negro Youth Congress, and WILLIAM STAFFORD, Head of UPWA-CIO, Atlanta. Has also been active in Southern Conference for Human Welfare, especially in arranging for speaking engagements in Atlanta on 11/20/47 by former Vice President HENRY A. WALLACE.

-P-

REFERENCE: Bureau File No. 100-20396.  
Report of SA JOSEPH T. SYLVESTER, JR., Atlanta, 6/12/47.

DETAILS: By letter dated September 15, 1947 the Bureau authorized the designation of subject as a top functionary in the Atlanta Division.

## ADDRESS AND EMPLOYMENT

DONALD LEE WEST continues to reside at an unnumbered house on New Hermance Road, just off the Oglethorpe University Campus, DeKalb County, Georgia. He is a Professor of Sacred Literature and English Writing at Oglethorpe.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [Signature]

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

### COPIES OF THIS REPORT

- 5 - Bureau
- 1 - Birmingham (Info.)
- 1 - New York (Info.)
- 2 - Atlanta

190-20396-61  
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According to information received from Confidential Informant T-1, subject spent part of July and all of August, 1947 with his family at Skyland Camp, Sautee, White County, Georgia.

On September 21, 1947 an article appeared in the Atlanta Constitution to the effect that the Oglethorpe University Division of Adult Education would offer courses for the fall and winter terms at O'Keefe High School, Bass High School and on the Oglethorpe Campus. It was stated that DON WEST, author of "Clods of Southern Earth", would teach a class in southern folklore at O'Keefe High. Information received from T-1 confirms the fact that subject is conducting classes for adults at O'Keefe High School a few evenings each week.

According to T-1 on 10/2/47 an individual identifying himself as NEIL BAXTER contacted subject. BAXTER appeared to be a member of the class which WEST is teaching at the O'Keefe High School. As far as could be determined by the informant, this class is composed of a number of school teachers and their meetings are held at around five or six o'clock two or three evenings each week. The Atlanta City Directory shows a NEIL BAXTER as a teacher at the Central Night High School in Atlanta. BAXTER told WEST he had received some information to the effect that a Mrs. J. W. WRIGHT, 22 Anniston Avenue, SE, had complained to a member of Atlanta School Board that WEST was teaching Communism in his classes. BAXTER indicated that he had been questioned about the classes by Dr. STANLEY M. HASTINGS, Principal of O'Keefe High School. WEST stated that he did not know who Mrs. WRIGHT was and he knew of no grounds on which anyone could make such an assertion against him. He did recall that about the second time the class met there had been a woman who came up to him and had advised him that although she was not a member of the class she would like to sit in on it that night. He had told her that she would be welcome. BAXTER did not know who Mrs. WRIGHT was. BAXTER indicated that he had attended all of the classes except the first one and that he had heard nothing during the classes which might lead any intelligent person to believe that Communism was being taught.

BAXTER and WEST discussed the fact that there is presently a great deal of hysteria about Communism and that probably some "crackpot" might misinterpret the things that were being taught by WEST and might brand them as Communist teachings. BAXTER pointed out that this Mrs. WRIGHT lives in a section of town where the Columbians had been active and that possibly she might be a plant of the Columbians. BAXTER also stated that some of the school officials had been upset because of the fact some of them did not know anything about the classes that were being conducted by WEST and the Office of the Atlanta Board of Education had had little information about the fact that the classes were being held. BAXTER



~~SECRET~~

and WEST agreed that it would be good for WEST to mention the incident to the next class in a sort of joking way and to ask the class if any of them had gotten the impression that Communism was being taught. BAXTER also stated that he would see what he could do to fully inform the school officials and also the officials of the Atlanta Board of Education about the classes in order that the classes would not be discontinued. They both seemed a bit apprehensive that school officials might refuse to allow them to use the class room any more for the classes. (S)

Subsequent information provided by T-1 indicates that the classes are still being held at O'Keefe High School.

#### PARTY ACTIVITY

Informant T-1 has advised that subject has been in touch with HOMER BATES CHASE, Communist Party Organizer for District No. 31, and other Party officials and members during the past few months. (S)

According to T-1, on 9/28/47 CHASE was in contact with WEST and told WEST that the convention from which he had just returned was very good. (CHASE had just returned to Atlanta from Macon, Georgia, where he had attended the State CIO Convention.) CHASE said that he would like to meet WEST again later that night when he would have time to tell WEST all about the convention. They made arrangements to meet at about 9:20 PM on the same night. (S)

T-1 stated that CHASE was again in contact with WEST on September 30, 1947, at which time he told WEST that he had received news from WEST'S "relative". It is believed that CHASE was referring to NATHAN ROSS, CP Organizer for the South and a brother-in-law of subject. According to informant, WEST and CHASE then had considerable discussion about the plans which were being made for the appearance of former Vice President HENRY A. WALLACE in Atlanta. WEST told CHASE that a "preacher friend" from Birmingham was coming over to Atlanta on the following day and was going to spend the night at the West home. This "preacher friend" was to be en route to Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where he was being "pulled in for some special work". WEST stated that he had told his "preacher friend" that it seemed to him that there should be more concentration on work in Georgia and that the organization should be thinking about getting more people in this state. (S)

It was determined on the following night by the writer, through a surveillance on the home of subject, that the "preacher friend" referred to is CLAUDE WILLIAMS, Head of the People's Institute of Applied Religion in Birmingham. (S)



~~SECRET~~

In a letter from Birmingham to Atlanta dated April 7, 1947 it was stated that CLAUDE WILLIAMS was the Director of the People's Institute of Applied Religion, a Communist front organization with National offices at 4103 1/2 3d Avenue, South Birmingham. It was also stated that Birmingham informants advised that WILLIAMS travels considerably endeavoring to establish branches of his organization, particularly in southern states. It was further stated that a review of the file maintained on WILLIAMS by Birmingham indicated that WILLIAMS and DONALD L. WEST have been close personal friends since they attended Vanderbilt School of Religion at Nashville, Tennessee during 1927, 1928 and 1929.

Mrs. MARY DAVIS GIBB, a teacher at the Rabun County High School, on June 9, 1947 advised SA THOMAS O. DAVIS, Atlanta, that she had received through the mail on May 29, 1947 a mimeographed letter with the heading "People's Institute of Applied Religion, Post Office Box 1178, Atlanta, Georgia" signed "Rev. CLAUDE WILLIAMS". The letter began "Dear Teacher" and read in part, "In appreciation of your service in building the vision and character of Georgia youth, DON WEST has chosen you to receive a gift copy of his 'Clods of Southern Earth'". A copy of the book, "Clods of Southern Earth" written by DON WEST and a pamphlet entitled "Something New in the Book World" issued by the People's Institute of Applied Religion were forwarded also. Mrs. GIBB advised that she did not request this book and had no other information concerning DON WEST, CLAUDE WILLIAMS or the People's Institute of Applied Religion.

Inquiry at the Atlanta Post Office developed that Post Office Box 1178 is rented in the name of The People's Institute of Applied Religion and that DONALD LEE WEST has been paying the box rent.

On 10/1/47 subject was observed by the writer having lunch with HOMER BATES CHASE at the Iris Garden Restaurant in the Atlantan Hotel.

According to T-1, WEST and CHASE met again at about midnight on October 1 in downtown Atlanta and apparently spent most of the time together discussing plans being made by the Southern Conference for Human Welfare for the Wallace meeting in Atlanta. (S)

T-1 further advised that on 10/8/47 EUDICE TONTAK talked to WEST at considerable length concerning the Southern Conference for Human Welfare and the Wallace meeting. This woman is in very frequent contact with HOMER CHASE and is the Acting Secretary of the Atlanta Chapter of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare. (S)

According to T-1, NATHAN ROSS, Southern Organizer for the CP and brother-in-law of subject, arrived in Atlanta on October 10, 1947 and was invited to the WEST home for supper. ROSS was in Atlanta from (S)

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~~SECRET~~

October 10 to October 15 and it is known through surveillances conducted by Special Agents CHARLES T. HAYNES, GEORGE P. DILLARD, CLEMENT L. MCGOWAN, JR. and the writer that ROSS spent the night of October 13 at the home of subject.

Through T-1 it was also learned that on the night of 10/10/47 an individual named PETER PRICE contacted subject and stated that he had just arrived in town and would be in Atlanta for several months. He stated that he had been sent to stay in Georgia and that "FLORENCE" was to stay in Alabama. WEST said that he was glad to hear this but that it was hard to believe that "they" had finally come through. PRICE said that subject's brother-in-law was to arrive soon. (Apparently referring to NATHAN ROSS, brother-in-law of subject.) Subject replied that his brother-in-law had already arrived in town. PRICE advised WEST he was staying at the home of Mrs. W. E. WARREN, 442 Houston Street, and subject stated he would give this information to anyone who wanted to get in touch with PRICE. ~~(S)~~

In a letter from Birmingham to Atlanta, dated March 6, 1947, it was stated that information had been received from a highly confidential source indicating that ARTHUR G. PRICE alias PETER PRICE, a Negro, who was a United States Army Captain, had been active in Macon and Atlanta, Georgia attempting to organize units or chapters of the Southern Negro Youth Congress in those cities. ~~(S)~~

In the report of SA PATRICK M. RICE, dated at Atlanta March 19, 1947 entitled "Southern Negro Youth Congress", it was stated that Confidential Informant [ ] had made available a publication entitled, "Monthly Bulletin of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, 526-528 Masonic Temple Building, Birmingham, Alabama". This bulletin was listed as Volume 1, Number 1. In this bulletin the name of PETER PRICE was listed as the new Special Projects Director for the Southern Negro Youth Congress. ~~(S)~~

T-1 has also stated that on the night of 10/10/47 Subject WEST was contacted by HOMER BATES CHASE and CHASE arranged with WEST for them to have lunch with NATHAN ROSS on 10/11/47. CHASE also asked WEST if he had seen the article in the Atlanta Journal concerning "that public worker thing" in North Georgia. (These comments apparently referred to publicity which had appeared in Atlanta papers about trouble which the town officials of Dalton, Georgia were having with some of the town employees, who were members of the UPWA-CIO.) Subject WEST told CHASE that he had seen the articles and had found them to be interesting. CHASE made the comment that "wherever we are able to work, we get results". ~~(S)~~

b2  
b7D

T-1 has advised that he was present on 10/15/47 when PETER PRICE contacted WEST at the latter's residence and stated that he had just ~~(S)~~

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~~SECRET~~

returned to Atlanta. WEST said he supposed PRICE would begin work on something in the near future and PRICE replied in the affirmative. WEST then made arrangements to see PRICE later the same night because he had a number of things to discuss with PRICE. (S)

According to T-1, HOMER CHASE was again in contact with subject on the night of October 15 and indicated that he would be leaving town the following night for New York. CHASE stated that he had a big problem on his hands but thought that he had about resolved it. He stated that late in the day he had begun having reservations about "the fellow we are planning to put on". (It is believed that CHASE was referring to JOEL JORDAN, a Negro, since there had been indications that CHASE was working on an arrangement whereby JORDAN would take over an important part in the organization of the Communist Party in Georgia and would be working fulltime for the Party.) CHASE told WEST that his ideas had not gone over with the other members and that he had been in error by not consulting them first in a less formal manner. CHASE stated that the kind of position which he had contemplated for JORDAN should really be an elective one and not an appointive one and that a person should actually get the position as a result of an election by a district or state convention. T-1 further indicated that during this same conversation WEST told CHASE that "our other friend" (evidently meaning PETER PRICE) was looking for him. CHASE said that he would try to see the friend before he left on his trip to New York. (S)

T-1 has further advised that CHASE was again in contact with WEST on 10/30/47 and told WEST that "the relative" had been in town for a short time on his way west. CHASE stated that "the relative" felt that there was no chance of PCA coming south. CHASE also indicated to WEST that he had told "the relative" of the developments within the Southern Conference for Human Welfare and some of the difficulties that were being experienced in arranging for the Wallace meeting and also about some of the friction existing among various factions within the Southern Conference for Human Welfare. (S)

It was also learned through T-1 that on the afternoon of 10/30/47 an individual giving his name as VICTOR SULA--(phonetic) was in touch with Subject WEST and indicated that he had just arrived in town. WEST invited SULA to his home. Later on the same evening WEST endeavored to contact WILLIAM STAFFORD, Head of the UPWA-CIO in Atlanta. STAFFORD was not at home and WEST told STAFFORD'S wife that some friends had arrived in town from Washington, that they had known STAFFORD in Washington and wanted to see him while they were in Atlanta. WEST then contacted HOMER EATES CHASE and advised him that there were some friends in town that he would like for CHASE to meet. WEST indicated that there were two individuals and that they would be here a short time. He further indicated (S)

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that SULA was from Yugoslavia and that SULA and his companion were interested in getting information about the south. CHASE then mentioned that they should certainly be told about the "story down in Dodge County", which he said was a "terrific story with international implications". CHASE was evidently referring to editorials which had appeared in the Atlanta Journal on October 27, 1947 concerning local election in Eastman, Georgia, where the votes of both Negroes and white persons had been openly bought and sold. WEST stated that this was what "he" was looking for and would like to "get those types of stories". WEST indicated that he would ask SULA to call CHASE later. ~~(S)~~

T-1 advised that he was present when WEST was again in contact with CHASE on 10/31/47 and CHASE said he had never received the call from SULA. WEST stated he had given CHASE'S number to SULA and CHASE replied that probably he had called when he, CHASE, had been away from home. WEST indicated that SULA'S companion had returned to Washington, but that SULA had left Atlanta for Mexico City, where he would attend the UNESCO meetings. WEST indicated that SULA was a remarkable fellow and had told him many interesting things about what went on in "his country" during the war. He said that SULA had been in the Partisan Forces and had been a prisoner of the Germans for a period of six years. WEST also indicated that SULA had asked about the possibility of having WEST'S book translated "over there". WEST said that he would certainly grant them his permission to translate and publish his book and that he was not interested in any royalties. WEST further indicated that he had told the visitors about the Walton County lynchings, the killing of convicts at Brunswick, Georgia by convict guards, recent instances in Atlanta where the homes of Negroes have been burned and also about the recent events in Dodge County during the local election. WEST stated that the visitors had been very interested in the south and had compared it with "their country", which is also agrarian. He stated it was remarkable to hear what had been done, how they had split up the big landed estates into individual farms. ~~(S)~~

The indices of the Atlanta Office were negative as to VICTOR SULA. A letter has been written to the Bureau and Washington Field asking for information which might identify this individual. ~~(S)~~

ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH SOUTHERN  
CONFERENCE FOR HUMAN WELFARE

T-1 has furnished the following information concerning subject's activities in connection with the Southern Conference for Human Welfare and its sponsorship of a Wallace meeting in Atlanta on 11/20/47. ~~(S)~~

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On September 25, 1947 CLARK FOREMAN, President of the SCHW, while in Atlanta, contacted the home of Subject WEST. The latter was not at home and FOREMAN advised the wife of subject that he would like to leave a message to the effect that he was sure that they could obtain the \$1500 needed to arrange the Wallace meeting. FOREMAN indicated that this amount could be obtained in Atlanta. He further stated that he would probably see Mr. WALLACE in New York on 10/29/47 and would write WEST so that WEST could make arrangements to reserve the Atlanta Civic Auditorium or some other meeting hall. FOREMAN stated that the hall should be reserved in the name of the Committee for Georgia of the SCHW. FOREMAN also said that the lawyers with whom he had talked about the meeting had stated that because of a local ordinance the organization might be fined \$100 but that otherwise everything would be OK. It is believed that FOREMAN was referring to a local ordinance which prohibits mass meetings attended by colored and white people where the races are not segregated. FOREMAN also stated that there was some possibility that someone might try to break up the meeting. Mrs. WEST informed that they should be able to get quite a gathering from a place the size of Atlanta and it would be difficult to break up such a large meeting. (S)

Later on the same day, according to T-1, WEST informed HOWER B. CHASE of FOREMAN'S conversation with his wife and said that FOREMAN wanted WEST to start making arrangements for a meeting hall. Since that time T-1 advises subject has been in contact with a number of individuals active in arranging for the Wallace meeting. He has taken a leading part in getting the arrangement committee organized and has attended most of the preliminary meetings in connection with the affair. CLARK FOREMAN, while in Georgia during the latter part of September, 1947, was supposed to have made arrangements with Reverend JOSEPH RABURN to act as General Chairman for the Committee for Georgia, SCHW, in planning the Wallace meeting. RABURN is a minister who formerly had a church in McRae, Georgia, which is the home town of the late EUGENE TALMADGE. RABURN broke with his congregation on the White Supremacy question and left McRae. He arrived in Atlanta on or about 10/1/47 from Valdosta, Georgia. Subject tried to contact him a number of times to talk to him about the Wallace meeting. Subject was not able to talk to RABURN until October 5. At that time it appeared that RABURN had begun to have some reservations about tying in with the SCHW on the Wallace meeting. It later developed that RABURN turned down the position as chairman and apparently plans to have nothing to do with the SCHW or the Wallace affair. (S)

T-1 says that Subject WEST had been in frequent contact with Mrs. LESLIE ALAN FALK, 790 Clemont Drive, NE. She is the wife of Mr. LESLIE ALAN FALK, an assistant surgeon of the United States Public (S)

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Health Service, who has been assigned to the Department of Agriculture in Atlanta since January, 1947. According to information received in Atlanta from the Bureau, its files indicate that Mrs. FALK allegedly was a member of the 11th A.D. Club of the Communist Party in New York City in January, 1944. She was said to have been active in the distribution of Party literature in 1943. Her husband has also been reported as having been a member of the 11th A. D. Club of the Communist Party in New York City in 1944. (S)

Mrs. FALK was active in trying to obtain a place to hold the Wallace meeting. It was thought at first by subject and Mrs. FALK that the City Auditorium in Atlanta could be used. However, she determined that this would not be possible because of previous bookings. She also made some effort to obtain the auditorium of the Wesley Memorial Methodist Church for the meeting. However, it was finally decided by the persons involved that the Wheat Street Baptist Church, large Negro church, would be more satisfactory. It has now been officially announced by the SCHW that Mr. WALLACE will speak in Atlanta on the night of November 20, 1947. (S)

According to T-1, on 10/18/47 WILLIAM STAFFORD, Head of the UPWA-CIO, Atlanta, talked to WEST concerning the SCHW and the Wallace meeting. During the conversation it was indicated that there appears to be a great deal of friction among members of the SCHW in Georgia and it seems that the Committee for Georgia is a rather unwieldy organization. WEST and STAFFORD discussed the possibility of organizing an Atlanta chapter which would affiliate directly with the national organization and would not be under the Committee for Georgia. (S)

On 10/21/47 while talking to a man whom T-1 did not know, WEST mentioned the fact that former Austrian Premier KURT VON SCHUSCHNIGG was going to speak at Agnes Scott College in Decatur within a few days. WEST remarked that it was a pity that people would bring over a former dictator who had been a Red "baiter" and sponsor his speeches in Atlanta while such a "ruckus" could be raised about a former Vice President of the United States making a speech here. During this conversation WEST said he had received an official letter from the President of Oglethorpe University instructing him not to act as chairman of the WALLACE meeting. (S)

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AT 100-559

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UNDEVELOPED LEADS

BIRMINGHAM

A copy of this report is being sent to Birmingham for information purposes because of the information contained therein concerning Reverend CLAUDE WILLIAMS and [REDACTED] (S) X

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NEW YORK

A copy of this report is being sent to New York for information because of the information contained therein about NATHAN ROSS.

ATLANTA

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Will continue to follow and report activities of subject through sources of information and confidential informants.

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AT 100-559

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Confidential Informant T-1:-

~~(S)~~ CONF. INFT.

AT-1324, whose identity is  
known to the Bureau.

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