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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: EXTRASENSORY PERCEPTION

**SUBJECT:** 

Extrasensory Perception

CROSS REFERENCE(S)

# FILE DESCRIPTION BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT_E	59
FILE NO.	3-4036
SECTION NO	
SERIALS	

## Office Memorandum • United States Government

A. H. Belmont DATE: July 16, 1957 Mr. Belmont Tol son Mr. Branigan W. A. Brandaan Nichols Mr. DeLoach SENSORY PERCEPTION Vincerrowd perception given by Mr. William Toos as American Legion headquarters in Washington, D. C. This exhibition was Informal and attended by twenty individuals, principally officials of the Veterans Administration. Mr. Foos, resident of Bichmond, Va., is a high school

Mr. Foos, resident of Bichmond, Va., is a high school graduate employed in a minor capacity with the C. and O. Railway. About two years ago he became interested in extra sensory perception (a term probably technically inaccurate) and began experimenting with members of his family. He claims to have achieved amazing success and in recent weeks has received a considerable amount of publicity in the Richmond area.

he is holding a number of exhibitions locally in an apparent attempt to create interest in his ability to teach the blind to see. He has appeared at Duke University where experiments have long been conducted on the power of extra sensory perception, and various government agencies (including the Veterans Administration) are very much interested.

Very simply, Foos claims the ability to teach the blind to see; in six months to teach a person without eyes to see sufficiently well to drive an automobile safely. He disclaims any supernatural power and, not being a scientist or physician, has no technical or scientific explanation. He merely states that a person can do what he makes up his mind to do. He claims to have taught not only members of his family but approximately 25 other individuals as well, including persons completely blind, to see with 100% efficiency.

To illustrate his ability, his daughter, Margaret Foos (about 16 - 17 years of age) was blindfolded by the observers with pads and an elastic band, thereafter reading, distinguishing color and moving about the room with complete ease. She could read

and moving about the room with complete ease. She could read
Enclosure by

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Belmont from Branigan
Re: EXTRA SENSORY PERCEPTION

minute handwriting submitted by those in attendance, accurately trace the written material and in all ways function without error as with complete vision. In answer to a question as to whether distance was a factor, Foos stated that during one recent public exhibit Margaret had distinguished colored balloons at a distance of 400 feet. In answer to another question as to whether motion would complicate the problem, Margaret played the childhood game of jacks using a small (1½ diameter) rubber ball, deftly retrieving it regardless of angle of bounce.

Mr. Foos was questioned as to his ability to teach a person to read an article covered by a pad or to see through a wall. He at that time avoided a direct answer, stating that because of the defense aspects of such a possibility he was not at liberty to discuss it. Later, however, in private conversation, he claimed that he had taught one of his students to accurately read an article completely obscured by heavy cardboard and that teaching the ability to see beyond a solid masonry wall was merely a matter of degree. He would pursue this matter no further.

inquired of Foos as to his general method of teaching - whether individual tutoring was essential. He stated that he had taught a group with equal facility. He further stated that he had found it much easier and had had greater success in teaching the physically blind rather than those with ordinary vision.

OBSERVATIONS.

Should his claims be well-founded, there is no limit to the value which could accrue to the FBI - complete and undetectable access to mail, the diplomatic pouch; visual access to buildings - the possibilities are unlimited insofar as law enforcement and counterintelligence are concerned.

As fantastic as this may appear, the actuality of extra sensory perception has long been recognized - though not to the degree of perfection claimed by Mr. Foos. It is difficult to see how the Bureau can afford to not inquire into this matter more

Belmont from Branigan
Re: EXTRA SENSORY PERCEPTION

fully. Bureau interest can be completely discreet and controlled and no embarrassment would result.

### RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the FBI make further inquiry claimed ability to teach the blind to see, bearing in mind the tremendous potential to the FBI should these claims prove well founded. Attached for approval is a memorandum for Richmond Office with copies for Mobile.



## Office Memorandum . United states government

DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: August 13, 1957

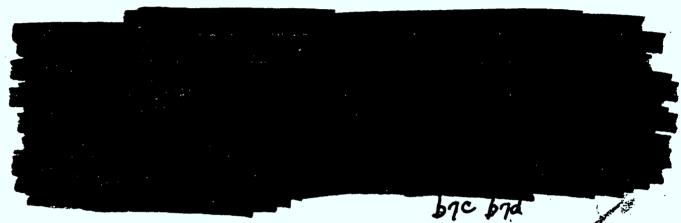
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SAC, RICHMOND (62-1269)

SUBJECT:

EXTRA SENSORY PERCEPTION INFORMATION CONCERNING

Re Bulet July 22, 1957.



The records in the library of the Richmond Times, Dispatch and the Richmond News-Leader, newspapers of Richmond, Virginia, were checked on August 9, 1957, by SA which reflected an article by K. LEWIS WARREN, date lined June 17, (1957), which related that MARGARET FOOS, a sixteen year old high school girl, had demonstrated with her father, WILLIAM FOOS, of Ellerson, Virginia, methods by which WILLIAM FOOS hoped to teach the blind to read. Cotton pads had been placed over the eyes of MARGARET FOOS, secured by a black elastic blindfold, and in that condition she had, found and read passage from a magazine furnished by a reporter and had read samples of handwriting as well as verses from the Bible by request from the audience.

The article further stated that WILLIAM FOOS did not claim to be a psychologist or to have had even elementary know-ledge of the subject; however, he claimed to have read everything possible on the subject of Extra Sensory Perception since starting his experiments some two years previous.

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The article further stated that FOOS was a foreman in the salvage warehouse of the C. & O. Railway on leave of absence, that he started experimenting with the children who visited his place in Hanover County, Virginia, to fish and ride his horses and later began working with friends. Further, that FOOS had recently been to Duke University where he had demonstrated for two days before Dr. JOSEPH B. RHINE, an eminent authority on the subject and other members of the Parasychology Department of the University.

The article then states that FOOS impressed the viewers as being thoroughly sincere and stated that his main interest in his project is to help the blind; however, he refused to divulge his methods of teaching, but believed he can teach other instructors in the field.

The article further set out that FOOS hoped to obtain a charter for Extra Sensory Perception Research, Inc., and listed the backers and members of the organization as HENRY CARAVATI, Richmond Public Relations Man, WILLIAM CANTOR, an auctioneer, and ROBERT CANTOR, a lawyer. Further, if the charter was granted, FOOS planned to recruit blind youngsters who would be willing to cooperate in the experiment.

The library contained another newspaper article, date lined June 22, (1957), to the effect that ESP (Extra Sensory Perception) Research, Inc., received a charter yesterday from the State Corporation Commission and will undertake clinical training for the blind. The officers and staff of the organization were set forth as follows:

WILLIAM A. FOOS, President and Director of Research HENRY L. CARAVATI, Vice-President ROBERT A. LLOYD, Vice-President SAM LOMBARDO, Vice-President ROBERT CANTOR, Secretary WILLIAM CANTOR, Treasurer MARGARET FOOS, Research Assistant RH 62-1269

The article further set forth that the staff was to leave Monday to conduct a series of demonstrations in Washington and New York and that a clinic would be opened when the staff returned.



One copy of this communication is being furnished for the information of the Charlotte Office should the Bureau care

pyc

Office Memorandum UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT H. Belmont A 184 DATE: August 9, 1957 Tic: Bélmont A. Branigan Branigan FROM 61° SUBJECT: SENSORY PERCEPTION ee 67-60527-44795 bac bad **BICBI** INDEXED - 36 61.8 63**-403**6 Enclosure

Memo Branigan to Belmont

Re: EXTRA SENSORY PERCEPTION

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that this memorandum and attachments thereto be filed for possible future reference.





# FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

<u> </u>	Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.			
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	Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.			
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## fice Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

MR. A. H. BELMON

DATE: September 6, 1957

SUBJECT:

EXTRA SENSORY PERCEPTION DEMONSTRATION BY MR. WILLIAM TOOS.

AUGUST 8, 1957

Tolson Nichols Boardman Belmont Mohr Parsons Rosen Tamm Trotter Nease. Tele. Room -Holloman

According to information furnished to the Bureau, William, Focs of Richmond, Virginia, allegedly gave a demonstration in 🕍 🧀 🎺 extra sensory perception to representatives of military intelligence and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) sometime during August, 1957. Pursuant to the request of Supervisor inquiry concerning this was made by SA Liaison Section, as this of the Assistant Chief of Stays, Intelligence (ACSI), Department DECLASSIFIED BY SP-11 Liaison Section, at the Office per sur gorny Letter doled 2-9-82 ON 2-16-88

Lieutenant Colonel John Downie, Special Operations Branch, ACSI, advised Lat a representative from his office and a representative from the Army Intelligence Center at Fort Holabird, Maryland, had attended a demonstration given by Foos held on August 8, 1957, at the Marriot Motor Hotel, U. S. Highway #1, Arlington, Virginia. Attached hereto is a copy of a memorandum submitted by George C. Blackwell, the representative from Colonel Downie's office attending this demonstration. As far as colonel Downie knew, there was no representative from CIA at this demonstration; however, it was his understanding that on August 8, 1957, another dempnstration was given by Foos to individuals unknown to Colonel Downie, not representing the Department of the Army however. (

Colonel Downie stated that Lieutenant Colonel Leroy C. Hill, the representative from the Army Intelligence Center, is making an evaluation of the demonstration; however, to date he has reached no conclusion. According to Colonel Downie, when Colonel Hill completes his evaluation he, Downie, will so advise the Bureau. Colonel Downie further advised that his office has made inquiry from others who have attended different demonstrations put on by Foos with the following results: Inquiry was made of representatives from the President's Committee on Employment of the Physically Handicapped who attended one of Foos' demonstrations. It was determined that Major General Melvin J. Maas, V. S. Marine Corps (retired), Chairman of this Committee, was of the opinion that the claims by Foos that he could teach blind persons to perceive has not been proven by his demonstration and until such time as Foos has taught persons known to be blind to perceive objects, the President's Committee will not sponsor, recommend, or associate itself with Foos.

Enclosures. <u>Relmont</u> iaison Section

CONFIXENTIAL

Memo Roach to Belmont

RE: EXTRA SENSORY PERCEPTION DEMONSTRATION BY MR. WILLIAM FOOS
AUGUST 8, 1957

According to representatives of the Blind Veterans Association, who had attended one of Foos' demonstrations, the demonstrations did not reveal any extra sensory perceiptive powers of Foos or any of his associates. That Association does not contemplate any action toward sponsoring Foos or his teachings.

Inquiry by Colonel Downie's office at the Veterans Administration reflects that the Veterans Administration, since Foos would not submit to scientific testings and since portions of the demonstration conducted with blindfolds furnished by the Veterans Administration were 100 per cent unsuccessful, concluded that the claims of Foos were without basis. The Veterans Administration contemplated no further action. Colonel Downie stated that the information from the Blind Veterans Association and from the Veterans Administration was obtained on a very confidential basis. He, therefore, requested that the Bureau not disseminate this information outside of the Bureau. Attached hereto also is a copy of a memorandum furnished by Colonel Downie relative to Dr. Henry K. Puharich, Round Table Foundation, Glen Cove, Maine. While Dr. Puharich's work is not exactly in the field of extra sensory perception, Colonel Downie stated that the Army is interested in determining the possibilities of his techniques.

#### ACTION:

For information.





## MEMORANDIA FOR THE RECORD:

## SUBJECT: Extra Semsory Perception Demonstration

- 1. At 1400 hours, 8 August 1957, 3/A accompanied Lt Colonel Hill to the Marriot Motor Hotel, U. S. Highery #1, Arlington, Virginia, to witness a demonstration of Extra Sensory Perception. The demonstration was given in Suite 5008 (rooms 5005, 5006, 5007, and 5006) and was conducted by Mr. William Foos of Richmond, Virginia.
- 2. Mr. Foos explained that, in February 1957, he inadvertantly discovered a method of teaching others to see through barriers and distinguish objects beyond these barriers. He explained that his hope and intentions were to use this discovery in teaching the blind to see through Extra Sensory Perception, and that in teaching his daughter, Margaret, how to perceive objects etc., beyond physical barriers, he realised that this knowneave and ability had serious and dangerous implications as well as practical value in Military and/or Diplomatic operations. For this reason, he explained, he had limited the perceptory range of his pupils.
- 3. Ur. Foos had kargaret seated at a card table and requested an ebserver to blindfold her. Two coets (cotton pade) were placed ever her eyes and held in place with a dark elastic band that fastened behind the head. So blindfolded, Margaret demonstrated ability to read, distinguish colors, locate verses in the Bible, and trace handwriting. All objects read, traced or identified were placed on the table. Margaret was not successful in identifying or reading a Trip Ticket held approximately 16st above the table.
- 4. A young man, approximate age: 17. demonstrated his ability to identify ESP and playing cards before S/A and one other unidentified observer. The demonstration was held in the same manner—is, identical blincfold and cards placed on the table. This young man was approximately 50% successful in identifying ESP cards placed face up on the table, which he was allowed to feel and flex with his hands. His success in naming cards held up before him and facing away from him even without the blindfold was very limited.
- person in the demonstration. However, feels that all demonstrations in this field.
  - 6. Persons present in the demonstration were as follows:

Mr. William Foos, Richmond, Virginia, alleged or self-styled discoverer of method of teaching ESP.

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SUBJECT: Extra Sensory Perception Demonstration

Margaret Poos, daughter and pupil of Mr. Poos, age if. Boy-Unidentified age 17 Girl-Unidentified age 17

Demonstration was sponsored or arranged by Mr. Daniel Cox Fahey Jr., 3805 Blackthorn, Chevy Chase, Md., Consultant, OS: and Vice President, Washington Industrial Research Consultants.

b7 C Special Operations Section



SUBJECT: PUHARICH, Henry N., Dr. Round Table Foundation, Glen Cove, Maine

1. On 3 September 1957, Dr. H. E. Savely, Chief, Aere Medical Division, Air Force Office of Scientific Research, Tempo "T", lith and Constitution Avenues N. W., Washington, D. C., was interviewed in his office concerning SUBJECT and stated in substance:

2. His only contact with PIHARIGH was for about two days in August 1957 when he (Savely) and Mr. William J. Frye, Professor, Electrical Engineering, University of Illinois, visited SUBJECT in Glen Cove, Maine. SUBJECT owns a 20 room mansion on a 60 agree estate at Glen Cove, Maine, where experiments in mental telepathy and mystic phenomena are performed. This work and experimentation is carried on under the organization named the "Round Table Foundation" which is a non-profit and State of Maine licensed organization with

President: Walter C. Paine Vice-President: Dr. Henry K. Pikkarich Secretary-Treasurer: Joyce Borden Balokovic Pormer Secretary-Treasurer: Alice Bouvarie - deceased

- 3. SUBJECT directs from one to fourteen employees consisting of Peter Hurkos whe was born in the Netherlands; Morey Bernstein who wrote "The Ref irm of Brid's Murphy"; and others who act as domestic help.
- 4. Dr. Savely was told by SUEJECT that the Round Table Foundation eperate on contributions which everage from 24 to \$60,000 per year. Two of the eco-tributors and Backers are Representative Bolton of Chie and Mr. W. H. Belk, department store owner from North Carolina.
- 5. SUBJECT uses various electronic equipment and drugs in his experiments and appears to be dedicated to the study of the science of transmitting measures from one person to another through mental telepathy.
- 6. Mr. PUHARICH graduated from Morthwestern University in 1948 and served his internship at Permente Hospital somewhere in California. SUBJECT served in the Army Medical Corps in 1951-1953 at the Army Chemical Center, Edgewood, Maryland.
- 7. Mr. Savely feels that SUBJECT'S work is worthwhile and that PUBLECE could do some good in this field. Source knows nothing of a derogatory nature or anything concerning SUBJECT'S political feelings or affiliations.

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Memorandum Mr. Roach to Mr. Belmont RE: EXTRASENSORY PERCEPTION INFORMATION CONCERNING

With regard to the report that a boy trained by Foos read material "through a brief case," stated that this was strictly a rumor which has been circulating around the Government and as far as he has been able to establish, there is no basis whatsoever indicating that such an act took place. Foos has made the claim that this could be done. He has also stated that a person can read beyond a wall. Foos qualifies these statements with the declaration that in order to do this, additional training is required Y U

is quite certain that Foos has not come up with any capability which could be of assistance to U.S. intelligence. He stated that CIA, nevertheless, plans to follow any additional reports concerning Foos' work. He stated that he would keep the Liaison Agent advised regarding any significant developments.

ACTION:

None. For your information.

63, National Security act 1947 CIA ACT 1949



-2-

FROM

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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## OFFICIAL INDICATED BELOW BY CHECK MARK

Mr. Tolson(4	
Mr. Parsons(	
Mr. Belmont	7
Mr. Callahan	)
Mr. DeLoach	·
Mr. Malone(	
Mr. McGuire(	$\mathcal{S} \sim \mathcal{A}$
Mr. Rosen	What there
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ENCLOSURE 63-4036-

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UNITED STATES CANMENT emoranaum



D. J. Parsons

DATE: June 16, 1960 1 - Parsons

1 - Belmont

A. H. Belmont FROM

1 - Branigan

- Laboratory

- Lee

SPYING BY MIND-READING!" SUBJECT: /

ARTICLE IN "NEW YORK JOURNAL AMERICAN"

MISCELLANEOUS - ESPIONAGE - R 11-5-81

Extrasensons Percenterin

This memorandum is in response to the Director's inquiry concerning a newspaper column relating to the use of mental telepathy by the Army Intelligence Service.

The "New York Journal American" on 6-14-60 carried a column by Ruth Montgomery "Spying by Mind-Reading!" in which she stated the Army Intelligence Service was conducting research experiments in mental telepathy. She speculated that the ultimate achievement would be to develop a method whereby U. S. spies could "receive" thoughts of plotters in the Kremlin. The Director asked, "Is there anything

beiselfed per arry letter & -9-82 Lieutenant Colonel Lee Martin, Chief of Investigations, Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, U. S. Army, advised liaison agent that the Army is conducting no such project as described in the article. He did state that the U. S. Air Force had a contract in 1958 and 1959 with the Bureau of Social Science Research, Washington, D. C. which did research in the many phases of mental problems raised by the Korean War, with particular emphasis on brainwashing. This research did incidentally include mental telepathy or extra sensory perception; however, the results were inconclusive.

Our Laboratory experts advised that informed scientific opinion at the present time is that there is no basis in science for the validity of extra sensory perception as described in this article. It is true, of course, there are some areas and activities of the human mind which have not been explored or completely understood. In recent years serious scientific study has been undertaken by psychologists for the purpose of explaining these little-understood functions of the mind.

In 1957 one William Foos, Richmond, Virginia, claimed that he could teach blind persons to see through the use of extra sensory perception. He claimed he could teach people to read a paper which was

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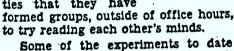
## Spying by Mind-Reading!

By RUTH MONTGOMERY

WASHINGTON: The Army Intelligence Service is beginning to delve into an unknown reach of the mind which—should it eventually prove successful—could make spying the least hazardous branch of defense.

A number of top intelligence agents are conducting research experiments in mental telepathy, a fascinating phase of extra sensory perception.

The project receives expert guidance within the department, but many of the officers have become so fascinated by the possibilities that they have



have proved enormously successful, with the average of correct responses far surpassing that which could be achieved by hit-and-miss guessing.

The Intelligence Service hopes to develop enough "sensitive" agents, and to perfect their technique to such an extent that they could actually pick up thought waves emanating from the Cold War "enemy" camp.

The ultimate achievement would be to develop a method whereby American spies could actually "receive" the thoughts of Soviet plotters meeting in the inner reaches of the Kremlin.

The 20th Century has witnessed such fantastic advances in other realms of science that this project may not be as wild as it seems at first glance.

How many in the 19th Century believed that man could fly, not only above the clouds, but at a speed exceeding that of sound? Who at the turn of the century thought that by turning a dial in his living room, he could hear a symphony concert in New York, or a news commentator speaking from Tokyo?

Only 20 years ago, would you have believed it possible to sprawl on your own couch, while watching a ball game in St. Louis, or a political convention in Los Angeles? For that matter, did you think man could send a monkey into orbit around the earth or moon?

This age is surely the most fascinating that the world has ever known, but perhaps the most neglected phase of science is the probing of the subconscious mind, and the possibilities of thought transmission.

Military intelligence for some time has been delving into the possible utilization of hypnosis in spying. This correspondent reported several years ago that intelligence agents were being sent on delicate missions; then brought back and queried in the normal manner about what they had observed.

Afterwards, they were hypnotized, and while in trance were again questioned about the layout of the room they had been assigned to visit. Under this condition they were able to supply every detail, even down to the number of slats in the venetian blinds.

The drive to develop other techniques for espionage has been heightened, since the U-2 incident.

Think what a joke it would be on Nikita if, as a result of his tantrums, America was spurred to develop a new and fool-proof technique for espionage. It would be pleasant to think that U. S. spies seated comfortably in Washington could pick up the dastardly plots that Communist big-wigs were hatching behind locked doors in the Kremlin.

At least we can dream, can't we?

(Mearst Meadline Service)

LACIOSIRE 63. 4030

UNITED STATES GOVERNOT Mohr

Memorandum

To :Mr. Tamm

FROM :B. J. White

Subject: EXTRASENSORY PERCEPTION (ESP)

SYNOPSIS:

Director has commented about studies in extrasensory perception at Duke University. Experimental work in Parapsychology Laboratory there reported since 1934. Research has covered "supernormal faculties" not recognized by modern psychological and physiological methods. Various forms "supernormal cognition," telepathy, clairvoyance and precognition have been investigated using special ESP card decks. Experiments devised for purpose eliminating pure chance as causative factor of evidence supporting ESP. Scientists generally critical of evidence and methods. Belief in ESP has gained little acceptance among psychologists and fails test of common experience.

#### DETAILS:

The Director has noted, "I have been told that at Duke University some work is being done in the field of extrasensory perception," on a memorandum responding to his inquiry about the article "Spying by Mind Reading," THE NEW YORK JOURNAL AMERICAN, dated June 14, 1960.

Studies on extrasensory perception, often referred to as ESP, have been made at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, since 1934.

of the Parapsychology Laboratory, this University, has reported considerable experimental work in the field of psychical research. His experiments give the impression of psychological sophistication but have received continuous and severe criticism in learned circles since publication.

Psychical research in parapsychology encompasses the experimental study of "supernormal faculties," real or supposed of human personality, supernormal being an equivalent for "not recognized by general scientific opinion." The function of this research is to collect and weigh all available evidence for and against such faculties, either for acceptance by general scientific opinion, or rejection.

The theory supporting this investigation is completely opposed to results of research in experimental psychology which has not revealed other sensory mechanisms than those described in modern textbooks of psychology and physiology.

63-4036 JUL 1 9 1960 JLG: DW **REC-32** 

5 JUL 14 1960

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Memorandum to Mr. Tolson from L. B. Nichols Re: Extrasensory Perception, Information Concerning

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Numerous questions were asked of Mr. Foos following the demonstration and was most blunt in his questioning in attempts to find out if there were any "gimmicks" involved. Mr. Foos was quite evasive in his answers and refused to discuss his methods of instruction. He also refused to allow a demonstration of the young boy reading documents enclosed in a briefcase or reading through the walls of a room. He claimed, however, that this could be done and that he would be willing to have this act performed at a later date. Mr. Foos spoke continually of learning the principles of extrasensory perception through constant reading of the Bible. He claimed, however, to be an atheist in his beliefs. Mr. Foos has appeared before medical officials at Duke University, the Veterans Administration, Washington, D.C., various medical associations in New York City, and before various groups in Richmond, Virghia. He has never charged admission. He is, however, according to his own explanation, attempting to initiate interest so that funds will be subscribed for a clinic for the blind in Richmond, Virginia, which he hopes to head.

Mr. Foos. during the above-mentioned demonstration, requested that sign a statement indicating that his daughter could not see during the demonstration. This invitation was refused for obvious reasons. Mr. Foos did not know at the time that was employed by the FBI.

Foos may, of course, be attempting to commercialize on a 'fake trick" he and his daughter and the young boy have perfected. On the other hand, there is a possibility that Foos does have extrasensory perception abilities. This, of course, is something we cannot afford to overlook in our work but we should not, however, under any circumstances allow Foos the privilege of indicating to outsiders the FBI is interested in his work. He should be given no opportunity to use the FBI in any manner which would further his own interests. It is believed advisable, however, to have checks made with CIA and the Intelligence Division of the Army to determine what reaction those agencies had after witnessing the demonstration as put on by Foos, his daughter, and the young boy traveling with them.

## ACTION:

As indicated above, the Domestic Intelligence Division, Liaison Section, should attempt to obtain further information from the Army and CIA relative to this matter.

| Matter | Matter

## Office Menorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

H. Belmont DATE: September 17, 1957 Mr. R. R. Roach EXTRASENSORY PERCEPTION INFORMATION CONCERNING Reference is made to a memorandum Mr. Nichols to Mr. Tolson dated September 6, 1957, concerning William A. Foos who has claimed to have a special ability in the field of extrasensory perception. The Liaison Agent has been in contact with Miller the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) for the purpose of obtaining that agency's comments or observations concerning demonstrations which Fobs has given in the Washington, D. C., area. On September 16, 1957, of CIA advised Agent that he had been designated by his agency to coordinate all information developed concerning Foos' demonstrations and to follow any reported developments of significance. stated that as far as his agency is concerned Foos has not come up with any new or revolutionary development and his claims to certain performances in the field of extrasensory perception definitely have not been supported by fact or evidence. According to Foos has used his daughter in demonstrating her ability to as a certain amount of reading while blindstated that Foos has insisted on using a particular type folded. of blindfold which raises a question regarding the possibility that Foos is using nothing more than a trick by cleverly permitting his daughter to see by 'pinpoint vision." is of the opinion that Foos is using a blindfold material which permits his daughter to have a considerable area of vision through a tiny aperture in the blindfold stated that it was interesting to note that Foos has refused to permit anybody to place any kind of a shield between his daughter's eyes and the document being read. He further stated that the daughter is able to read to certain extent while the blindfold is on her eyes but when the same material is placed face down on the document she is unable to read anuthing. (1) // DECLASSIFIED BY she is unable to read anything. (1) (1) DECLASSIFIED BY
DIE 13, Notional Security act 1947, Classified ON 2-16 for Func he has conducted some research in this field // According to and stated that with proper training a person can have a large field of vision looking through a small hole or even along the sides of a blindfold or disks which might be placed over the eyes. also remarked that although Foos claims to have an ability of training others in the field of extrasensory perception, he himself is unable to do any of the things which his proteges can do. W. L. 3. Wellow Security at 1947, CIA ac (7)Mr. Nichols RECORDED - 16 14 SEP 24 1957 Relmont Liaison Section

Memorandum to Mr. Tamm Re: EXTRASENSORY PERCEPTION 63-4036

two per cent responses expressing an opinion that ESP is an established fact, and seven per cent that it is a likely possibility. Ninety-one per cent answered that ESP is a remote possibility, impossible or an unknown. However, the most valid objection against belief in ESP powers is that common experience does not produce evidence for telepathy, clairvoyance and precognition. For example, stock investments should prove most profitable ventures for anyone gifted with these so-called powers.

ACTION:

None. For information only.

6/30 pr pr



# FILE DESCRIPTION BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT\_ESP

FILE NO. 62-29734

SECTION NO. SERIALS A

Memorandum Belmont to Parsons Re: "SPYING BY MIND-READING!" ARTICLE IN "NEW YORK JOURNAL AMERICAN" JUNE 14, 1960

covered or to see through a wall. Recognizing the value of such activity to our counterespionage work, we thoroughly checked the claim and had to conclude that his alleged powers had no scientific basis. Other Government agencies such as Veterans Administration, Central Intelligence Agency and Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence also checked on Focs and were highly skeptical of his work.

ACTION:

For information.

6/17 ba/67c

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of extra sensor

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# FILE DESCRIPTION BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT_ES	<b>P</b>
FILE NO. 94-3	3-4
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SECTION NO.	
SERIALS 36.5  ONLY	•
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190-19266-16

'UNITED STATES GOY NMENT

Memorandum

DATE: 10-5-60

STATEMENT, BY DIRECTOR

PERCEPTION IN SOLVING CRIMINAL CASES

By letter to Director 9-27-60, attached, Edwin D. Krell, midwest correspondent for Dell Publishing Company, advised he is planning to do an article concerning parapsychology in criminal investigation. He noted that much has appeared in newspapers on this topic in recent months, but in checking into the situation he found no evidence to support the contention that mediums have aided police in solving crimes. Krell feels the public is entitled to this information and requested a statement from the Director on this matter for use in the article.

Krell mentioned Gerard Croiset, a Dutch medium, who reportedly related what happened to Judge Joseph Crater, who vanished in New York in 1930. Krell also made reference to Peter Herkos, also from Holland, who in June, 1960, made headlines while working on the Carroll Jackson family murder case. Krell noted that Hurkos' work led to the arrest of a suspect (John Atwell Tarmon) who was later released when the actual killer (Melvin Davis Rees, Jr.,) was caught by the FBI.

In conducting research in this matter, Krell advised he contacted a Dr. F. Brink, Dutch police official and attorney, who sent Krell an article he had written in which he stated: "Neither in the Netherlands, nor in any other country, is it possible to obtain reliable information which would justify the conclusion that the judiciary authorities and the police derive any benefit from the intimations of clairvoyants." Dr. Brink also quoted a letter from Scotland Yard: "So far as the London Police are concerned, we completely ignore anything put forward by clairvoyants in the course of criminal investigation."

information in Bufiles:

94-3-4-228-365

We have had cordial relations with Dell Publishing Company since the 1930's, and they have carried numerous favorable stories relating to the work of the FBI. Dell publishes well-known fashion, beauty, detective and juvenile magazine We have enjoyed favorable relations with Krell and he has written some excellent articles about Bureau cases based upon material furnished to him. His articles appear in the Dell publications, "Inside Detective" and "Front Page Detective."

**(94-3-4-228)** 

Enclosure 5 ----

1 - Miss Gandy

1 - Mr. Rosen

17 OCT 14 1960

Jones to DeLoach Memo
Re: Statement by Director Concerning
Extrasensory Perception

There is no information in Bufiles concerning Gerard Croiset, reportedly a Dutch medium. Bufiles reflect that in April, 1952, Captain Filippus Brink, an attorney and member of the de Bilt, Holland, police force, toured the Bureau in connection with a visit to the United States to study law enforcement methods in this country. There is no derogatory information in Bufiles concerning Brink.

Bufiles reflect that Peter Hurkos, whose true name is Peter Cornelius Van Der Hurk, was born 5-21-11, in Dordrecht, Netherlands. He is alliged to have extrasensory perception and it has been claimed in many news and magazine articles that he has assisted police departments in many countries in solving crimes as a result of his ability. Bufiles contain no information to substantiate any of the claims made by Hurkos concerning the solution of crimes.

On 5-25-60, Dr. Francis Regis Riesenman, psychiatrist on the staff at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington, D. C., advised the Virginia State Police (VSP) that he planned to bring Hurkos to Virginia and Maryland to observe the sites where the bodies of the Jackson family were found. He requested that the VSP allow Hurkos the opportunity of examining the clothing and other physical evidence in the case. VSP felt they would be subjected to public criticism whether they agreed or declined to participate and finally decided to allow Hurkos to examine the material. The Director noted: "I am amazed that the VSP would participate in any such circus."

Riesenman and Hurkos contacted the VSP on 6-7-60, and spent about a week working on the Jackson case, as a result of which the Director commented: We should be sure Hurkos isn't injected in any case in which we have jurisdiction. He is a complete fraud."

The 6-9-60, issue of "The Washington Daily News" carried an article entitled "Telepathist Says He Can 'See' Killer" which related that Hurkos stated he knew what the murderer looked like and hoped "soon" to turn over to police information that would solve the case. Mr. Tolson commented: "This screwball is connected with the great Interpol." The Director noted: "Just how silly can one get." (79-27510-2174)

The 6-14-60, issue of the "New York Journal American" had an article entitled "Spying by Mind-Reading?" which dealt with experiments by the Army Intelligence Service in mental telepathy and extrasensory perception. The Director inquired: "Is there anything to this?" Our Laboratory looked into the matter and defermined there is no basis in science for the validity of extrasensory perception as described in the article.

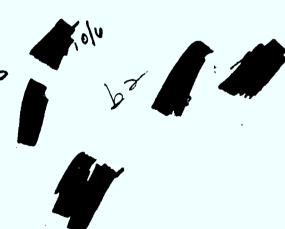
Jones to DeLoach Memo
Re: Statement by Director Concerning
Extrasensory perception

The Director noted: 'I have been told that at Duke University some work is being done in the field of extrasensory perception." The Laboratory determined that Duke has been conducting experiments involving extrasensory perception since 1934, and that their research covered "supernormal faculties" not recognized by modern psychological and physiological methods. Further, that scientists generally are critical of the evidence and methods, and the belief in extrasensory perception has gained little acceptance among psychologists, and fails the test of common experience. (63-4036-10)

### RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached letter by the Director be sent to Krell, enclosing the Director's statement concerning extrasensory perception in the solution of criminal cases.





# Cop-Sees ESP on Way To All Police Departments

#### By WILLIAM McFADDEN

In the not too distant future, every police department in the land will have extra-sensory perception consultants, perhaps even extra-sensory perception bureaus. New York Police Lt. John J. Cronin said today

A veteran of 38 years on the force, he plans to retire Christmas Day, his 64th birthday.

For 18 years—longer than any other man in the history of the department—he headed the Missing Persons Bureau.

"After I retire, I might write a book on ESP," he said. "It has provided much information on police cases that is so-

## MISSING GIRL

the of the fantastic cases he was that of a 10-year-old patinnore girl who was missing ast July.

"A B altimore police surgeant visited Mer Florence Sternfels of Edgewater, N. Row he calls herself a psychometrist. On her advice, when he got back to Baltimore he dug in a neighbor's cellar. The body of the girl was found two feet under the dirt floor.

Et. Cronin also noted that Gerard Croset, the Dutch elairvoyant, is credited with finding 400 missing children.

"Right new, ESP is a hit and miss proposition. It's in an elementary stage, the stage, the stage electricity was in when Ben Franklin flew his kile," I4. Cropin said,

#### METHOD OF FUTURE

But it does exist it is a kind of sixth sense that primitive man possessed but has been lost through the agen. It's bot supernatural, mind you. And it will be the mothed di the futine



LT. J. J. CRONIN ESP in Police Work?

contific shape, it will help have contain crimes that have been baffling them.

The Cronin said he believes most persons run away because of money or love problems, with school problems the spur to child runaways.

#### RIVERFRONT SQUAD

After ending his career in Missing Persons Bureau in 1961, he worked in the riverfront squad and now is in the office of the Chief of Detectives.

He lives at 4880 Virco-ave., Bronz, with his wife, Alice.

Stressing that ESP will grow in police use, he said:

In Europe some of the EST people have been qualified to edve tentimony in sourt: It will



Times Herald

The Washington Daily News

The Evening Star

New York Herald Tribune

New York Journal American

New York Mirror

New York Daily News

New York Post

The New York Times

The Worker

The Worker

The Wall Street Journal

The National Observer

People's World

Date

The Washington Post and

Memorandum to Mr. Tamm
Re: EXTRASENSORY PERCEPTION
63-4036

The principal lines of investigation in parapsychology are directed for the most part in studying—"supernormal cognition," that is knowledge shown by a "percipient" (receiver) of matter concerning which he has no natural means of knowing. These include such debatable phenomenon as: telepathy, supernormal knowledge derived from anothers mind; clairvoyance, all manifestations of supernormal knowledge, not in the mind of another person, without the intermediary of sensory information; and, precognition, supernormal knowledge of future events that can neither be percieved sensorily, inferred rationally or brought about deliberately. Because these modes of perception arise spontaneously from life experiences of certain persons only, the elimination of fraud, collusion and other sources of error are uncontrolled and uncontrollable. The devising of objective experimental techniques to establish reality of these mental phenomena presents difficulties not met in accepted psychological research.

Laboratory experiments have been made as follows:

Clairvoyance Tests: A special ESP card deck of five cards each of five different symbols is used (cross, circle, star, wavy lines and a square). The probability for correct guesses of cards is five in twenty-five. If subject consistently averages above one in five, results are not explainable by mere chance.

- (1) Open Matching Test: One ESP card of each symbol placed face up in a row. Complete ESP deck is shuffled. Before top card is dealt, subject decides which symbol matches symbol on top card of deck. Top card is then dealt and placed below guessed symbol, and so on through the deck.
- (2) Blind Matching Test: Like above except five key cards are face down during test.
- (3) Single Card Calling Test: Subject guesses symbol on top card of shuffled ESP pack, and so on through the deck.
- (4) Pack Calling Test: Subject makes twenty-five consecutive calls, directed at a shuffled but unbroken ESP deck.

Success at these tests that is, consistent averages above one in five, allegedly demonstrates capacity of subject to have supernormal knowledge concerning the ESP symbols in a shuffled deck.

Memorandum to Mr. Tamm
Re: EXTRASENSORY PERCEPTION
63-4036

### Telepathy Tests:

- (1) Pure Telepathic Method: No cards used. Subject holds a random choice ESP symbol in mind. Recipient attempts to read sender's thoughts.
- (2) General ESP Test: Sender shuffles and cuts ESP deck. Concentrates on face of successive cards while receiver attempts to read sender's mind, and so on through the deck.
- (3) Distant Telepathy Test: Above tests conducted at distances of several rooms or miles.

Precognition Tests: Subject makes guesses with intention to have them correspond to order of ESP deck after it is shuffled by experiments. Also subject may decide beforehand which face of a die or combination of dice faces he desires to appear in successive casts.

The scientific criticism of ESP experiments emphasizes several factors which have led to considerable false evidence for extra chance scores using the above methods:

- (1) Possibility of unconscious and other sensory cues.
- (2) Choices made are dictated by mental habits of subjects and not by random chance.
- (3) Errors due to suggestibility of experimenter in recording results of guesses.
- (4) Criticism of statistical methods; although it is generally agreed that the statistical methods properly applied are valid.

#### COMMENT:

In general, belief in extrasensory perception has gained little acceptance by informed scientists. Thus, replies to questions sent to members of the American Psychological Association recorded only



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

·/_	Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements; where indicated, explain this deletion.
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	Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies), was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.
	Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.
<del></del>	Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):
	For your information:
×	The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  63-4036 - attachment to serial (

XXXXXX XXXXXX XXXXXX

SAC, Richmond (Orig & 1) Director, FBI



EXTRA SENSORY PERCEPTION Information concerning

On 7-15-57 a Ur. William Foos (ph.), resident of Richmond, Virginia, gave a private exhibition of extra sensory perception. Very briefly, it is his claim that he can teach the blind to see with 100 per cent efficiency; In six months to be able to teach a person without eyes to drive an automobile safely. He slaims that distance and motion are no greater factors than in ordinary vision and hints of the possibility of seeing beyond a covering paper or solid wall. His daughter, largaret, was blind = !
folded and assisted in the exhibition, reading written and printed material, tracing, catching a bouncing ball, and valking about with apparent ease.

William Foos is said to be a high school graduate employed in a minor capacity with the C. and O. Railway. It is reported that about two years ago he became interested in extra sensory perception and began experimenting with members of his family, achieving amazing success. recent weeks he has been publicized in the Richmond area and is now apparently attempting to interest various government agencies in his claimed ability to teach the blind to a

Although there is considerable skepticism conicerning these claims and the Bureau has not been in a position to check as to their authenticity, many acientists have long recognized the general principles of extra sensory perception. Should the claims of William Focs be well-founded, the possibilities are unlimited insofar as law enforcement and counterintelligence are concerned. Consequently, the Richmond Office is requested to advise

of the a commond virile or otherwise readily available.

ve borne in mina and no action taken which might indicate / Bureau interest or be interpreted as Bureau sponsorship in any promotional scheme. If it is the bureau sponsorship in りりと

cc - 2 - Mobile

FBI - JUSTICE KEU'U BOLHUM!

Memo prepared Belmont to Boardman b2/6147-16-57 by re same subj.

Boardman Belmont Maxon Mohr Rosen Tamm Nease . Vincerro wd

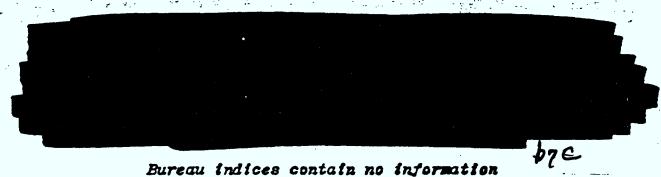
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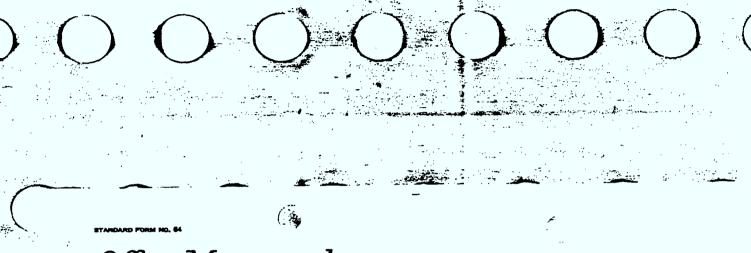
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to SAC, Richmond



Bureau indices contain no information identifiable with William Foos.



## Office Memorandum • United States Government

TO

DIRECTOR, FBI

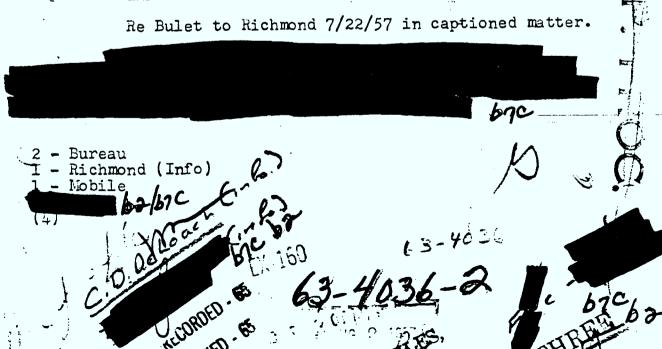
DATE: 7/31/57

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SAC, MOBILE (62-0)

SUBJECT:

EXTRA SENSORY PERCEPTION INFORMATION CONCERNING



## Office Memorandum . UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

ro : W. A. Bra	in igan
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DATE: August 9, 1957

FROM :

SUBJECT:

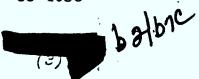
EXTRA SENSORY PERCEPTION WIL IALT JOS)

Tol son Nichols Boardman



RECOME I DATION:

It is recommended that this memo be filed for possible future reference. 63-4036



Ticklers: Mr. Branigan

E.S. Muching

63-4036-3 RECORDED - 34

INDEXED - 34

F. l. O Polis

6 U AU \$ 16 1957