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FBI
~~SECRET~~

DATE: 2/17/56

Transmit the following message via AIRTEL

FROM SAC, NEW YORK (100-22129)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-
~~ASSOCIATE AGENCIES~~

DON WEST
SM - C

~~AND FIELD OFFICES~~
~~ADVISED BY ROUTING~~

~~SLIP(S) OF~~
~~DATE~~

NY 559-S* orally advised SAs BRYAN JINNETT of Newark and RICHARD H. BLASER of the NYO on 2/15/56, that he visited the office of CHARLES "BOB" COE in NYC, on 2/10/56. COE has been identified by NY 559-S* as being active in CP farm work.

While in COE's office, ED STRONG made an appearance to see informant, because it had been so long since he had seen him. DON WEST, who was in NYC on a visit, also made an appearance at COE's office. WEST and STRONG both appeared on the same problem.

- 3-Bureau (100-) (RM)
- 1-Bureau (100-15716) (RM)
- 1-Atlanta (100-) (RM)
- 2-Birmingham (100-) (RM)
- (1-Birmingham (100-) (Institute of Applied Religion)
- 3-Miami (100-) (RM)
- (1-100-) (OTIS NATION)
- (1-100-) (UCFVHA)
- 1-NY 100-66938 (CHARLES COE) (#20-11)
- 1-NY 100-20649 (ED STRONG) (#19-11)
- 1-NY 100-7413 (NAT ROSS) (#12-14)
- 1-NY 100-56579 (PHIL BART) (#12-14)
- 1-NY 100-4931 (CP, USA) (#12-14)
- 1-NY 100-30640 (Negro Question) (#12-14)
- 1-NY 100-22129)

RHB:vad(#7-4)
(20)

Mr. Belmont

RECORDED-90

EX - 121

13 FEB 18 1956

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SUBV. CONTROL

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mason
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Nease
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

Class. & Ext. By SP-1 GSK/LAK
Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
Date of Review 3/19/92

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Informant reported the following:

WEST is the brother-in-law of NAT ROSCOE, who was formerly associated with the CRC. WEST, in 1934, was District Organizer in the Carolinas and Virginia. WEST has always been some sort of a preacher. During the last few years, WEST became located in Dalton, Georgia. A church by the name of "The Church of God's Assembly" is located there and is headed by a man named PRATT. PRATT has 150 ministers in the Dalton, Georgia, area. WEST "tied up with this church" and became one of its preachers. The church published a paper called "The Southerner" which WEST edits. NY 559-38 described "The Southerner" as "the religious expression of the 'Daily Worker'". The editor of the local newspaper in Dalton, Georgia, and county prosecutor "attacked WEST" and published his record. PRATT became alarmed. The county prosecutor called a grand jury to investigate the church as a CP vehicle. Local mills began to ask their employees what church they attended and if it was "The Church of God's Assembly" they were fired. ~~(S)~~

Informant ascertained from STRONG and WEST that PRATT decided to sacrifice WEST and told the county prosecutor that he would have all his ministers present to take a loyalty oath and arranged it to be done via radio. The county prosecutor insisted that WEST would have to take his loyalty oath before the grand jury and waive his Fifth Amendment right. WEST resigned and left town in a hurry and took the mailing list of 5000 names of "The Southerner" with him. ~~(S)~~

Informant advised the CP has decided "to go into the paper feet first" because, as STRONG said, "This is one of the most important things that has happened in the South." ~~(S)~~

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PAGE THREE

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for years." STRONG told the informant that the paper must be reinstituted because it is an "essential instrument and weapon in the fight for Negro freedom in the South." (S)

STRONG was in contact with BART to determine if some money could be raised. (S)

Informant advised STRONG appears to be head of the CP, UCA Negro Commission. (S)

While STRONG was presenting the problems on the above stated situation in the South, it was pointed out that there are two other movements in the South and the question of combining all three arose. (S)

One movement is the Institute of Applied Religion and the other is the Citrus Workers Union headed by OTIS NATION in Lakeland, Florida. (S)

STRONG stated that he will work to link the three movements together but under no circumstances "can we have anything to do with Otis Nation as he is a racketeer and only interested in raising money for himself and has worked for the Texas Rangers at one time." (S)

If any of the foregoing information is used in a report or disseminated outside the Bureau, it must be paraphrased to protect the identity of the informant. (S)

[KELLY] (S)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FORM No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **ATLANTA**

~~SECRET~~

G. I. R. A

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REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA	DATE WHEN MADE 2/29/56	REPORT MADE BY 1cb
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST		CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP (S) OF DATE 3/5/56		
<p>Subject presently unemployed. WEST temporarily traveling in Florida but expected to return to his residence, Route 4, Douglasville, Ga. WEST spoke at RLIC meeting 10/24/54, Atlanta, Ga., in company with HARRY KOGER. Subject connected with Church of God of the Union Assembly, Dalton, Ga., as a minister in early 1955. WEST, while with Church of God of the Union Assembly, was editor and co-publisher of "The Southerner." "The Southerner" is a monthly publication, first issued March, 1955, and was published and edited each month thereafter until WEST was expelled from the Church of God of the Union Assembly in January, 1956. Subject in contact with EDWARD EUGENE STRONG, national Communist Party official, 12/20/55 and 2/10/56 in New York City. Subject in contact with GEOFFREY WHITE, official of New England District CP, 12/10/55. In December, 1955, WEST was alleged to have offered GEOFFREY WHITE a position on "The Southerner", Dalton, Ga. The "Worker" and the "National Guardian" carried articles concerning WEST February, 1956.</p>		
<p>0-1 AT 4-24-56 RET 3/12/56 29 RAB</p> <p>- P -</p> <p>AGENCY RAB REQ. REC'D DATE FORW. 3-15-56 HOW FORW. 0-6 BY RET kw</p> <p>Class. & Ext. By SP-1 GSK/ky Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 Date of Review 3/21/99</p> <p>ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.</p> <p>100-418268-157</p>		
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EX-126

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DETAILS:

All organizations, publications, and individuals mentioned in this report will be described in section V of this report.

All informants referred to in this report have furnished reliable information in the past unless otherwise indicated.

I. BACKGROUND

A. Residence

1. Current Residence

[Confidential Informant T-1 advised on February 23, 1956] ~~(S)~~ that WEST was in Florida visiting a relative. Informant stated that since WEST was expelled from the Church of God of the Union Assembly, Dalton, Georgia, in January, 1956, he has traveled in the United States considerably, visiting friends and contacts. Informant stated that it is his understanding that the subject is planning to return to his home at Route 4, Douglasville, Georgia..

2. Previous Residence

The subject resided at the Church of God of the Union Assembly, Dalton, Georgia, on church property on Highway 41 from early 1955 until he was expelled from the Church of God of the Union Assembly on January 13, 1956. Prior to that time, WEST resided on his farm, Route 4, Douglasville, Georgia, during 1954 and 1955.

[(T-1, 2/23/56)] ~~(S)~~

B. Employment

1. Current Employment

WEST is presently unemployed but is expected to take

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up residence on his farm near Douglasville, Georgia and be occupied as a farmer in 1956.

[T-1, 2/23/56] ~~(S)~~

2. Former Employment

WEST was employed as a minister of the Church of God of the Union Assembly from early 1955 until he was expelled by that group on January 13, 1956 when he refused to take a non-Communist oath. WEST in his connection with the Church of God of the Union Assembly edited the monthly publication entitled "The Southerner" which he and Reverend C. T. PRATT, National Moderator of the Church of God of the Union Assembly, were listed as co-publishers.

[T-1, 2/23/56] ~~(S)~~

Prior to becoming affiliated with the Church of God of the Union Assembly, WEST was employed during 1954 as a farmer at his home near Douglasville, Georgia.

[T-1, 2/23/56] ~~(S)~~

II. SUBJECT'S CONTACTS IN 1954

MIKE ROSS

[Confidential Informant T-1 advised on July 9, 1954] that MIKE ROSS, 606 North Chestnut Street, Carlsbad, New Mexico, had visited the home of the subject on July 8 and 9, 1954. According to the informant, ROSS is the brother-in-law of the subject.

[T-1, 7/9/54] ~~(S)~~

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The above captioned individual was a visitor at WEST's home in Douglasville, Georgia on August 10, 1954.

[T-1, 8/10/54] ~~(S)~~

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HARRY KOGER

KOGER was observed to be in contact with the subject on October 22, 24, and 25, 1954 at the subject's home, Douglasville, Georgia, by Special Agents of the FBI.

Confidential Informant T-2 advised on November 5, 1954 that HARRY KOGER had contacted him on October 27, 1954 and stated that he, KOGER, expected DON WEST of Atlanta to join KOGER in New York City on or about November 11, 1954. KOGER indicated that he feels WEST will be able to exert considerable influence among Communist Party leaders in New York for assistance in [redacted] in the south. (S) b7D

[T-2, 11/5/54] (S)

The "National Guardian" issue of November 8, 1954 carries an article captioned "DON WEST Talks in New York Nov. 11." This article states that DON WEST was to speak at the Church of all Nations, 9 Second Avenue, on November 11, 1954 at 8:00 p.m. This article states in part as follows: "The meeting is being sponsored by the Southern Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee which is seeking to organize the share croppers and migratory workers in the south in cooperation with the Methodist Federation for Social Action." This article goes on to state that HARRY KOGER of Houston, Texas will also speak at the above-mentioned meeting.

Rosa Lee Ingram Club

On October 24, 1954, Reverend DONALD LEE WEST and Mr. HARRY KOGER attended the Rosa Lee Ingram Club (RLIC) meeting at the Allen Temple A.M.E. Church, Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. HARRY KOGER introduced the speaker, Reverend DONALD LEE WEST, and stated the club was "very fortunate to have such an outstanding character like WEST, a man for freedom, liberty, justice, and Christianity" as a speaker. KOGER described WEST as a man without fear and stated that he has "guts and backbone enough to stand up anywhere and fight for freedom and justice." KOGER concluded his introduction

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of WEST by reading one of Mr. WEST's poems. WEST in his talk to the club stated that he had been at one time a college professor on the faculty of Oglethorpe University but is presently engaged in farming. WEST stated that he travels around the country explaining to the people his stand "for freedom to all people." WEST said that he was interested in "freedom, liberty, and justice" which the people of America had not "waken up to as of now." WEST stated that his "general theme was the common people - - not the rich and capitalist." WEST stated that "there were only a few rich people in America" and he wanted to know "why is it right for them to control America?" WEST in conclusion stated to the club that "gold and silver have I none, but such as I have, I give to thee", and with that advised the club members that he was donating some of his personal books of poetry so that they could be sold and the funds obtained to keep the club going.

[T-3, 10/27/54] ~~(S)~~

Confidential Informant T-3 advised that [redacted] of the RLIC, carried Reverend DONALD LEE WEST on the membership roster of the RLIC on October 24, 1954. Informant stated that [redacted] was quite impressed with the offer of WEST giving the club twenty-four books authored by him entitled "The Roads are Rocky" and "Clods of Southern Earth." According to the informant, [redacted] was impressed with the offer and has since carried WEST on the roster as a member of the club. However, the informant pointed out that other than the above action on the part of the subject, WEST has taken no activity in the club and is not a regular dues-paying member of the club.

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[T-3, 10/27/54] ~~(S)~~

II. SUBJECT'S AFFILIATION WITH THE CHURCH OF GOD OF THE UNION ASSEMBLY, DALTON, GEORGIA, AND "THE SOUTHERNER"

A. "The Southerner"

[Informant advised on March 5, 1955] that DONALD WEST is

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now an ordained minister of the Church of God of the Union Assembly, which church is under the leadership of one Reverend C. T. PRATT and is located at Dalton, Georgia.

(T-4, 3/5/55)

"The Southerner", volume 1, number 1, dated March, 1955, carried the following article on page two, column one. This article is captioned "The Southerner's Purpose" by Reverend C. T. PRATT and DONALD L. WEST, publishers. This article states in part as follows: "This is the first issue of The Southerner. To launch an independent journal in these times may seem foolhardy to some . . . The Southerner's purpose is to travel the road of truth and in the true American spirit. America is not a Democratic or a Republican. America is a principle - - the principle of freedom and right and justice for all regardless of race, creed, sex, or color . . . The Southerner is to be strictly independent as to politics and religion. Both of us are preachers in the Church of God of the Union Assembly, but we favor - - and The Southerner stands for - - complete religious freedom for all In politics, too, The Southerner is independent. It is not an organ for any political party. Not a Democrat nor a Socialist, not a Communist nor a Republican party paper. Neither is it a tail for any political party's kite. We want it made clear at the beginning that The Southerner is 100 percent independent...."

B. Contact of [redacted] with the Subject

On April 13, 1955, informant advised that [redacted] on April 9, 1955 had gone to Dalton, Georgia to see Reverend DONALD LEE WEST in an effort to get WEST to give some publication in his newspaper, "The Southerner", to the Rosa Lee Ingram Club in behalf of ROSA LEE INGRAM. The informant stated that according to [redacted] of the RLIC who accompanied [redacted] to Dalton, Georgia, that she and [redacted] were cordially received by DONALD LEE WEST and his wife in the WEST home.

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(T-3, 4/13/55)

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C. WEST in Newspaper Controversy, Dalton, Georgia, and
Background Regarding "The Southerner"

[Confidential Informant T-1 advised on October 7, 1955 ~~(S)~~ that WEST's background has been given considerable publication in "The Dalton News" and "The Dalton Citizen", weekly publications printed in Dalton, Georgia, since August, 1955. The informant was of the opinion that controversy in Dalton between the newspapers and DONALD LEE WEST was really a labor-management argument and stated that the Chenille Industry controls Dalton, Georgia, as well as "The Dalton News" and "The Dalton Citizen." "The Dalton Citizen" edition of August 25, 1955, page one, carries the poem written by WEST entitled "Listen, I'm a Communist." "The Dalton News" edition of August 28, 1955, page one, carries an article captioned "WEST denies writing Communist poem; offers \$100 reward for proof of it."

"The Atlanta Constitution", a daily newspaper of Atlanta, Georgia, in its edition of October 4, 1955, carried the following article on page twentynine entitled "Jury in Dalton to Investigate Red Activity."

"The Dalton News" edition of August 21, 1955, page twelve, carried an article captioned "Information From the Files of the Committee on Un-American Activities, U. S. House of Representatives." Immediately under this heading appeared the following:

"(DON L. WEST now lives in Dalton. He is editor of 'The Southerner' of which he is also co-publisher with C. T. PRATT. The following is exact information from the files of the Committee on Un-American Activities and was copied in Washington for Congressman HENDERSON LANHAN of the Georgia Seventh District.)"

The article then set forth WEST's record as reflected by the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

"The Dalton News" edition of September 11, 1955, page one, carries an article captioned "WEST says Poem Isn't Issue; Again Brings in Labor Angle."

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"The Dalton Citizen" edition of September 11, 1955, page one, carries an article captioned "Legion Condemns Front of Religion in Current Activities; Cites Need of Unity in Face of Communist Threat to Country."

"The Dalton News" edition of October 23, 1955, page one, carries a photograph of the subject and an article captioned "Jury Recesses; WEST Before Group Thursday." This article states that Whitfield Grand Jury sitting in Dalton, Georgia recessed Thursday afternoon (October 20, 1955). This article states in part as follows:

"Prior to recessing, the jury subpoenaed DON WEST Thursday afternoon. WEST, whose record from the files of the House Committee on Un-American Activities has recently been made public here, was in the jury room for more than an hour."

[Confidential Informant T-1 advised on November 14, 1955] (X) that WEST had declined to answer any questions before the Whitfield County Grand Jury on October 20, 1955 and invoked the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution as a basis for declining.

[(T-1, 11/14/55)] (X)

"The Atlanta Constitution" edition of December 31, 1955, page one, column four, carried an article entitled "Dalton Jury Urges U.S. Probe West." This article states that WEST, now a minister of the Church of God of the Union Assembly and editor of "The Southerner", a monthly publication, was subpoenaed before the Whitfield Grand Jury, which was investigating Communist activities in the Dalton, Georgia area, among other things. This article states that the grand jury sharply criticized WEST for what it said was failure to cooperate with the jury "when called in an investigation" in October, 1955. According to the article, the grand jury's report states as follows:

"We wish to state that this body recognizes the right of any person, including the editor of The Southerner, to invoke the aid of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution

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of the United States whenever any answer to a question asked by this group might tend to incriminate such person."

This article goes on to state that the jury did not receive cooperation from DON WEST, editor of "The Southerner." This article further states that the jury commended MARK PACE, editor of "The Dalton News" and "The Dalton Citizen", who called upon the jury to investigate WEST.

In an article appearing in "The Southerner" edition of September, 1955, page five, columns one through five, captioned "This They Cannot Forgive" by DONALD L. WEST. The following appears in part:

".... My position is that I do not probe into a man's politics or his religion. That is none of my business. Nor do I consider it anybody's business what mine are. What people have said about me, considered me, or written about me is another matter. Regardless of where it has been written or said, I do not assume responsibility for what others say or write. And if a man is working for a good cause, I don't need an FBI file or the background on his own personal, religious, or political beliefs before I work with him. I am not a Communist.... Those who read The Southerner or have heard me speak know my public and voluntary statements that I am not a Communist.... Again I say I am not the issue. The real issue in the Dalton area is the rights of workers to organize and bargain collectively. The attack on me is only to confuse the issue...."

"The Southerner" dated March, 1955 published at Dalton, Georgia lists on its masthead Reverend C. T. PRATT and Reverend DONALD L. WEST as publishers. Contributing editors listed in part are Dr. ALVA TAYLOR, Tennessee, and AUBREY WILLIAMS, Alabama.

The December, 1955 edition of "The Southerner" lists BUFORD POSEY of Mississippi and PERRY CARTWRIGHT as contributors, as well as AUBREY WILLIAMS and Dr. ALVA W. TAYLOR.

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It is to be noted that PERRY CARTWRIGHT authored articles that appeared in the May, August, September, October, and November issues of "The Southerner."

D. "National Guardian" Welcomes "The Southerner"

In an article appearing in the "National Guardian" issue of May 2, 1955 captioned "Welcome 'The Southerner' ", the following appears:

"The Guardian is delighted to welcome with warmest good wishes a new voice of the people. It is a monthly newspaper, The Southerner, published in Dalton, Georgia by the Rev. CHARLIE PRATT, pastor of the Church of God of the Union Assembly, and DONALD L. WEST, poet and teacher."

E. CARTWRIGHT's Affiliation with "The Southerner"

[Confidential Informant T-5 advised on August 1, 1955] that he had attended a meeting of the Socialist Union of America (SUA) held at Chicago, Illinois on July 31, 1955. Informant stated that PERRY CARTWRIGHT spoke on the topic of "The South." According to the informant, CARTWRIGHT had a copy of the newspaper entitled "The Southerner" published monthly in Dalton, Georgia and stated that he had spent a lot of time with WEST while he was visiting in the south. He said he did a few interviews for the paper and wrote a few articles. According to the informant, CARTWRIGHT implied that he was thinking of going south to work with WEST.

[(T-5, 8/1/55)]

F. WEST Expelled from Church of God of the Union Assembly

"The Dalton News" issue of January 15, 1956 carries an article captioned "PRATT orders WEST to Answer Question of Jury or Leave, Has Ministers Take Oath on Communism."

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This article states that on January 13, 1956, at the quarterly session of the Church of God of the Union Assembly, Whitfield County Solicitor ERWIN MITCHELL appeared on the platform of the church at the request of PRATT and administered a special oath on Communism to all of PRATT's ministers and his supreme council. WEST was the only minister on the platform not to take the oath. This article quotes PRATT as saying:

"If any of my ministers won't swear before the grand jury or any other jury that he is not a Communist I don't want him in this church!"

"The Daily Times", Gainesville, Georgia, a daily newspaper, edition of January 15, 1956, carried an article captioned "Church Expels Rev. DON WEST." This article, bylined Dalton, reflects that DON WEST, who was recently criticized by a grand jury, had been expelled from his church at Dalton, Georgia. The church membership voted 100 per cent to oust WEST, according to this article.

The "Atlanta Journal", edition of January 15, 1956, Atlanta, Georgia, on page six, column five, carries an article captioned "WEST, Expelled From Church Leaves Dalton." This article reflects that DON WEST had left Dalton, Georgia after being expelled by the Church of God of the Union Assembly.

The February, 1956 edition of "The Southerner" carries an article on page one captioned "WEST Gives Reason for Resignation" by DON WEST, a signed statement. This article states in part as follows:

"As editor of The Southerner, I have been the subject of a terrific smear campaign in recent months. The Dalton newspapers and labor haters like ALSTON CALHOUN and EDGAR BUNDY, who were imported and put on radio, have used materials from the Committee on Un-American Activities by witnesses such as HARVEY MATUSOW and PAUL CROUCH to label me Communist."

The masthead of the February, 1956 edition of "The Southerner" reflects that C. T. PRATT and JAMES H. WILSON

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JAMES. H. Wilson

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are the publishers and that C. T. PRATT is the editor. Listed as contributing editor is HOWARD BOWLING, and HAROLD D. SOWDER and JACK GILES, staff reporters, are the only listed staff members. of "The Southerner"

GA. 1955

IV. SUBJECT'S CONTACT WITH COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICIALS

JUNIUS SCALES

At the time SCALES was apprehended in Memphis, Tennessee, November 18, 1954, the following notation was located among SCALES' effects:

"DON W. (Abercrombie Feed and Grist Mill) (know him) Douglasville"

[According to Confidential Informant T-1, WEST was a customer of Abercrombie Feed and Grist Mill, Douglasville, Georgia, and received telephone calls at that place of business while he resided in Douglasville, Georgia area.]

[T-1, 2/23/56]

PERRY CARTWRIGHT

[Confidential Informant T-5 advised on January 26, 1956] that the subject, in the company of PERRY CARTWRIGHT, spoke at a meeting of the Socialist Union of America held in Chicago, Illinois on January 22, 1956. The informant stated that WEST gave a talk about the progress of "The Southerner" and the need for such a paper. He said he had started progressive thinking among the chenille workers and two of them came to him and asked him if he could help them start a union. WEST stated that he had taken the side of the striking workers in Dalton, Georgia, and the factory owners got the other newspapers to attack him because he was on the workers' side. WEST said that Reverend PRATT had stood by him but was only interested in the religious angle of the paper. WEST stated that "big people" put the pressure on PRATT and his credit was curtailed at the local banks.

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According to informant, WEST said that the county district attorney wanted them to sign non-Communist affidavits and that WEST would not agree to this but that he would sign that he is not a Communist and added that his past was nobody's business. According to the informant, WEST stated that he has not given up or given in and that the need for a militant southern publication is stronger than ever. He said that organization of the south is of vital importance. He also said that "The Southerner" would be published again, although there may be trouble with the name and it may be necessary to call it "The New Southerner." According to WEST, this new paper will be better than ever because the burden of PRATT's heavy religious articles, which were never a positive contribution to a southern progressive newspaper, will be removed. WEST referred to AUBREY WILLIAMS, who has agreed to cooperate with him and help him start publishing again.

[(T-5, 1/26/56)]

EDWARD EUGENE STRONG and GEOFFREY WHITE

[Confidential Informant T-6, advised during January 1956, that one GEOFFREY WHITE met with EDWARD STRONG and DONALD WEST in New York City around December 20, 1955, for the purpose of discussing a future assignment of WHITE's. This informant advised that this assignment may be in Dalton, Georgia, where WEST is editor of the newspaper "The Southerner", and WEST may have offered employment to WHITE.]

[(T-6, January 1956)]

(X) [Confidential Informant T-6, previously advised in November, 1955, that ANN and GEOFFREY WHITE had met with EDWARD EUGENE STRONG, [] and MICHAEL RUSSO on November 10, 1955, at Providence, Rhode Island. The informant advised that at this meeting STRONG discussed a Communist Party]

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proposition with the WHITES of going to Dalton, Georgia where GEOFFREY WHITE could obtain a position as a writer on "The Southerner."

[(T-6, November, 1955)] ~~(S)~~

Confidential Informant T-7 advised during February of 1956 that he had obtained information that DONALD WEST and STRONG had visited Communist Party Headquarters in New York City on February 10, 1956. According to the informant, WEST had always been a preacher and that during the last three years had been affiliated with a church in Dalton, Georgia. In connection with his activities in Dalton, Georgia, WEST published a paper called "The Southerner" and became involved with local officials in Dalton who attacked WEST and published his past record. The informant stated that it was his understanding from the conversation of STRONG and WEST that PRATT, head of the church in Dalton, decided to sacrifice WEST and told the county prosecutor that he would have all his ministers take a loyalty oath. ~~(S)~~

According to the informant, WEST resigned and left Dalton, Georgia hurriedly. The informant advised that it was his understanding that the Communist Party was interested in "The Southerner" and STRONG stated this is one of the most important things that has happened in the south for years. STRONG also stated that the paper, named "The Southerner" **must be** reinstituted because it is an essential instrument and weapon in the fight for Negro freedom in the south. ~~(S)~~

[(T-7, February, 1956)] ~~(S)~~

~~(S)~~ Confidential Informant T-6 advised in January, 1956 that it was his understanding that the question regarding the use of "The Southerner" was raised at a high level Communist Party meeting in New York City. According to the informant, it was stated that efforts should be made in expanding the use of this paper and means and ways to do this was further discussed for each district.

[(T-6, January, 1956)] ~~(S)~~

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CLAUDE CLOSSIE WILLIAMS

Confidential Informant T-4 advised on January 16, 1956 that WEST visited CLAUDE CLOSSIE WILLIAMS on January 14, 1956 at the home of WILLIAMS, Route 1, Helena, Alabama. According to the informant, WEST told WILLIAMS that he was forced to leave Dalton, Georgia and resign his position as editor of "The Southerner." Informant stated that WEST plans to set up another newspaper similar to "The Southerner" and plans to utilize the subscriptions of approximately 5,000 names of persons throughout the south. According to the informant, AUBREY WILLIAMS, Montgomery, Alabama, was going to be contacted by WEST concerning publishing of a new newspaper. (S)

[(T-4, 1/16/56)]

WEST's Publicity in the "Worker"

The "Worker", edition of February 12, 1956, page seven, columns three through five carry an article captioned "Georgia Preacher Built Union Despite Mill Bosses Terror." This article carries a Montgomery, Alabama dateline and states that DON WEST, preacher, teacher, editor, and poet, had been obliged to quit his church job in Dalton, Georgia on January 12, 1956 after pressure from "textile barons" in the chenille rug industry have been too great on the Church of God of the Union Assembly, whose monthly publication, "The Southerner", WEST edited.

WEST's Publicity in "National Guardian"

The "National Guardian" edition of February 6, 1956, page three, columns one through four, carries an article captioned "He'll Dig his Roots Elsewhere, DON WEST Forced to Leave 'The Southerner' and Dalton." This article states that DON WEST, preacher, poet, and editor, drove out of Dalton, Georgia last week using his pistol to fire at the tires of his pursuers. This article relates WEST's dismissal from the Church of God of the Union Assembly headed by Reverend C. T. PRATT in Dalton, Georgia and his experiences with "The Dalton News" and "The Dalton Citizen."

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This article states in part as follows:

"In Montgomery, Alabama last week, WEST said he was hoping to start a new publication to take up where 'The Southerner' left off. He told MAUND every good fight we make, win or lose, accomplishes something."

Informant Contact

Confidential Informant T-8 advised on April 14, 1955 that the subject was looked upon by party leaders as being the type of comrade who had the facility to "straighten out" difficult party problems. The informant added the subject enjoyed contacts in the business world that Communist Party functionaries were unable to safely maintain and as a consequence, WEST was considered to be a valued comrade. ~~(S)~~

[(T-8, 4/14/55) ~~(S)~~]

Confidential Informant T-9 advised on April 1, 1955 that he first met WEST in 1936 in Charlotte, North Carolina. T-9 advised that at that time WEST attended Communist Party meetings and was accepted as a Communist Party member. He stated that he has not seen WEST since. ~~(S)~~

[(T-9, 4/1/55) ~~(S)~~]

V. DESCRIPTION OF INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND PUBLICATIONS MENTIONED IN THIS REPORT

PERRY/CARTWRIGHT

The above captioned individual was serving as a member of the Branch Executive Committee of the Chicago Branch of the Socialist Union of America on December 14, 1955, having ILL, CA been elected to that post during July, 1955.

[(T-5, 12/14/55) ~~(S)~~
(T-10, 12/14/55) ~~(S)~~]

~~SECRET~~

AT 100-559

~~SECRET~~

Civil Rights Congress

The Civil Rights Congress has been cited by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 10450.

Communist Party

The Communist Party has been designated by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 10450.

Daily Worker

The Daily Worker is an east coast Communist daily newspaper.

[redacted]
Confidential Informant T-11 advised on an unknown date that [redacted] was formerly an active member of the Communist Party in Washington, D.C., was expelled for disloyalty to the Communist Party in 1952 in Washington, D.C., and that [redacted] became angry with the local action taken against her, reporting it to BETTY GANETT, Education Director, National Communist Party, in New York City. GA.
According to the informant, [redacted] allegedly protested to GANETT concerning the action of the District of Columbia Branch of the Communist Party in not permitting [redacted] to return to active membership in the Communist Party. GANETT, according to the informant, reportedly promised to check into the [redacted] matter and if "things work out", GANETT would arrange for a transfer for [redacted] to the Communist Party in Atlanta, Georgia. (S)

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HARRY KOGER

Confidential Informant T-12 advised on September 30, 1954, that HARRY KOGER was known to the informant as a member of the Communist Party at that time and stated that KOGER had recently recruited a new member into the Communist Party. (S)

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GA.

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[redacted] Confidential Informant T-13 advised on November 10, 1955 that [redacted] was a member of the Communist Party who had recently returned from the south where she had been working on Communist Party business. (S)

Masses and Mainstream

The booklet entitled "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications" dated May 14, 1951, prepared and released by the Committee on Un-American Activities, U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., cited "Masses and Mainstream" as "the successor to New Masses, 'a Communist magazine.' ", in the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities. House Report number 1953 dated April 26, 1950.

National Guardian

The 1949 report of the California Committee on Un-American Activities cited the "National Guardian" as a publication launched in New York in 1948 aiming at national circulation, which they found to be from its inception notoriously Stalinist in its staff, writers, management and content. (1949 report of the California Senate Fact Finding Committee on Un-American Activities, page 394.)

The masthead of the "National Guardian", issue of May 9, 1955, reflects that it is published weekly by Weekly Guardian Associates, Incorporated, 17 Murray Street, New York 7, New York.

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[redacted] was interviewed on July 27, 1951 and admitted he was previously a member of the Communist Political Association and that he had been expelled as being a "deviationist." The Communist Political Association has been designated by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 10450. GA

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Reverend CHARLES T. PRATT

The "Macon Telegraph and News", a daily newspaper published in Macon, Georgia, issue of February 22, 1944, stated that a conference for Georgia Wallace for President leaders had been held in the courthouse at Macon, Georgia on February 1, 1948. According to this news article, the following committeemen had been named to make arrangements for a state-wide conference: "Co-Chairman, Reverend C. T. PRATT, Dalton, Georgia; Executive Vice Chairman, DONALD L. WEST, Atlanta, Georgia." *CHARLES PRATT*

(S) [redacted] a former member of the Communist Party, advised that the People's Progressive Party of Georgia was formed on May 8, 1948 at Macon, Georgia and canvassers in behalf of this party brought into the Georgia area to assist in the campaigning from other sections of the country were connected with Communist activities. This informant advised that Reverend C. T. PRATT, Dalton, Georgia, was the co-chairman and DONALD L. WEST of Atlanta, Georgia was the executive vice chairman. [redacted] advised that HOMER BATES CHASE, an admitted member of the Communist Party, and DONALD L. WEST were instrumental in the foundation of the People's Progressive Party of Georgia. b6 b7C

(S) In October, 1948, [redacted] advised that the People's Progressive Party was an organization dominated and controlled by members of the Communist Party in the State of Georgia. b6 b7C

[redacted] b6 b7C

See Rosa Lee Ingram Club.

Rosa Lee Ingram Club

The May 29, 1954 issue of "The Atlanta Daily World", a daily Atlanta, Georgia Negro newspaper, reflected that on May 24, 1954, the Rosa Lee Ingram Club (RLIC) was organized by a group of women meeting at the home of Mrs. OCTAVINE KYLES REID, Atlanta, for the purpose of stimulating interested in the case of Mrs. INGRAM and her sons. GA.

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It is to be noted that Mrs. ROSA LEE INGRAM and her two sons were convicted and given life sentences in the State of Georgia in 1948 for the death of a white tenant farmer.

[On November 11, 1954, Confidential Informant T-3 advised] (S) that [] on October 26, 1954 told members of the Club they should recognize the Free Rosa Lee Ingram Movement as a stand against segregation inasmuch as the imprisonment of Mrs. INGRAM and her sons was solely the result of racial prejudice.

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[Confidential Informant T-3 advised on December 27, 1954] (S) that two of the most active members of the Club at that time were [] and LEAH YOUNG WASHBURN. [] brother of [] and WASHBURN, has identified them as [] in the past. (CA)

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MIKE ROSS

(S) [Confidential Informants T-14, T-15, and T-16 advised in varying periods in 1937 to 1952] that ROSS was known to them as a member of the Communist Party. (CA) N.M.

[Confidential Informant T-17 advised on May 28, 1954] (S) that MIKE ROSS is the brother of NAT ROSS, whom informant described as a former National Committee representative of the Communist Party for the southern states and is a paid functionary of the Communist Party in the south.

NAT ROSS

See MIKE ROSS.

JUNIUS SCALES

JUNIUS SCALES, former Southern Regional Director, Communist Party, United States of America, was tried in the Middle District of North Carolina for violation of the Membership Provision of the Smith Act of 1940 and was found guilty on April 22, 1955 and was sentenced to six years imprisonment.

~~SECRET~~

~~SAMUEL SILLEN~~

~~SECRET~~

The "Daily Worker", issue of December 9, 1955, page six, column three, contained an article which referred to SAMUEL SILLEN as the editor of "Masses and Mainstream." *GA*

Socialist Union of America

Confidential Informant T-18 advised on November 8, 1954 that the Socialist Union of America was formed as a result of a split from the Socialist Workers Party on November 21, 1953 at the Midwest Founding Conference, Detroit, Michigan.

T-18 stated that the primary reason for the split was that the minority group led by [redacted] also known as *Cochranites*, believed that the organization should enter into other left-wing groups, such as the Communist Party *Sympathies* with the intention of swinging these groups right or left, thereby bringing about a revolution sooner. ~~(S)~~

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The Socialist Workers Party and Communist Party have been designated by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 10450.

EDWARD EUGENE STRONG

Confidential Informant T-19 advised on December 8, 1955 ~~(S)~~ that STRONG was then a member of the National Administrative Committee of the Communist Party.

~~ALVA TAYLOR~~

ALVA W. TAYLOR

"The Dalton News" edition of September 18, 1955, page sixteen, carried an article which was taken from the files of the House of Un-American Activities Committee concerning ALVA TAYLOR. *GA* This article reflects that the House Committee on Un-American Activities lists TAYLOR as having been affiliated with, in some capacity, the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born, People's Institute on Applied Religion, American Committee for Spanish Freedom, and the National

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Council of American Soviet Friendship. All of the above-mentioned organizations have been designated by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 10450.

~~ANN WHITE~~

MRS. GEOFFREY WHITE
[Confidential Informant T-6 advised on August 31, 1955] ^(B) that ANN WHITE was a member as of August 23, 1955 of the Rhode Island Section Committee of the Communist Party and as *NY* such was responsible for Communist Party youth matter in Rhode Island.

~~GEOFFREY WHITE~~

[Confidential Informant T-6 advised on September 11, 1955] ^(S) that GEOFFREY WHITE as of that time was a member of the New England District Committee, Communist Party, United States of America, District No. 1. *NY* *GA*

~~AUBREY WILLIAMS~~

h [Confidential Informant T-4 advised on July 13, 1954 that to his knowledge, WILLIAMS has never been a member of the Communist Party. The informant stated that WILLIAMS *GA* appears to favor many Communist Party policies but is unwilling to openly espouse these policies for fear of criticism as a pro-Communist.] ~~(S)~~

The House Committee on Un-American Activities, Washington, D.C., received from unknown sources the original of four letters from the Civil Rights Congress, 205 East 42nd Street, New York, New York, and dated September 30, 1948, October 6, 1948, October 19, 1948, and November 23, 1948. These letters, on letterhead of Civil Rights Congress, mentioned AUBREY WILLIAMS as one of the national vice chairmans of the Civil Rights Congress.

CLAUDE CLOSSIE WILLIAMS

During the course of hearings held by the House Committee on Un-American Activities in New York City on July 6, 7, 8, 13, and 14, 1953, BENJAMIN GITLOW, a self-admitted

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AT 100-559

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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CLAUDE Clossie Williams

former Communist Party functionary, testified that Reverend CLAUDE C. WILLIAMS was a member of the Communist Party 1953 and the Director of the People's Institute of Applied Religion. NY The People's Institute of Applied Religion has been designated by the Attorney General as coming 641 within the purview of Executive Order 10450.

Reverend CLAUDE C. WILLIAMS advised Special Agents of the FBI on October 1, 1952 that he was a member of the Communist Party in 1934 for approximately three months.

The Worker

The "Worker" is the Sunday edition of the "Daily Worker", an east coast Communist daily newspaper.

- P -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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AT 100-559

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Fisur of HARRY KOGER and DONALD LEE WEST was conducted on October 22 and 24, 1954 by SAs [redacted] and [redacted] and on October 25, 1954 by SAs [redacted] and [redacted]

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CLAUDE CLOSSIE WILLIAMS was interviewed on October 1, 1952 by SAs JAMES L. PUGH and [redacted]

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The Bureau's attention is directed to information contained on page 13 of this report concerning GEOFFREY and ANN WHITE coming to Dalton, Georgia as furnished by [redacted] ~~(S)~~

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It is not known the number of individuals who are aware of the plans of ANN and GEOFFREY WHITE to come to Atlanta, Georgia. This information was paraphrased in an attempt not to identify or cause any suspicion upon this highly placed informant. The Bureau may wish to carefully review this information prior to any dissemination.

Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed in this report with T symbols and T symbols are used only in those instances where the identity of source must be concealed.

Identity of Source	Date of Activity And/or Description Date of Information Received	Agent to whom Furnished	File Number where Located
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T-1, [redacted]	Background of	2/23/56	[redacted] instant report
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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

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AT 100-559

~~SECRET~~

Identity of Source	Date of Activity And/or Description of Information Received	Date	Agent to whom Furnished	File Number where Located
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T-1 continued

MIKE ROSS visits 7/9/54
subject 7/9/54

C. DALLAS
MOBLEY
orally

100-559-529

b6
b7C

[redacted]
visits WEST
8/10/54

8/10/54

C. DALLAS
MOBLEY,
orally

100-559-536

Info re WEST's 10/7/55
controversy with
newspaper, Aug., 1955

[redacted]
[redacted] orally

100-559-602

WEST takes Fifth 11/14/55
Amendment
10/20/55

[redacted]
[redacted] orally

100-559-623

b6
b7C

WEST's contact 2/23/56
with Abercrombie
Feed Mills,
Douglasville, Ga.

[redacted] instant
[redacted] orally report

T-2,

[redacted]

Info re KOGER and 11/5/54
WEST

[redacted]
orally

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T-3,

[redacted]

RLIC meeting 10/27/54
10/24/54 and
subject's member-
ship RLIC

[redacted]
written

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Info re [redacted] 4-13-55
[redacted] visits
subject 4/9/55

[redacted]
[redacted] orally

b2
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Characterization 11/4/54
of RLIC 12/27/54

[redacted]
orally

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

- 25 -

~~SECRET~~

AT 100-559

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Identity of Source	Date of Activity And/or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to whom Furnished	File Number where Located
T-4, [redacted]	Info re WEST with Church of God of the Union Assembly	3/5/55	JAMES L. PUGH, Birmingham, orally	[redacted]
(S)	Subject's contact with CLAUDE C. WILLIAMS	1/16/56 1/14/56	[redacted] Birmingham, orally	(S)
	Documentation AUBREY WILLIAMS	7/13/54		
T-5, [redacted]	Info re CART-WRIGHT at SUA meeting	7/31/55	[redacted] orally	
	Info re WEST at SUA meeting	1/26/56 1/22/56	[redacted] orally	
	Characterization of PERRY CARTWRIGHT	12/14/55		
T-6, [redacted]	Info re WEST's meeting with STRONG and WHITE	1/3/56 12/20/55		
	Info re WHITE's meeting with STRONG and [redacted]	11/14/55 11/10/55		
	Info re National Textile meeting NYC	1/18/56 1/14/56	[redacted] written	
	Thumbnail ANN WHITE	8/31/55		
	Thumbnail GEOFFREY WHITE	9/11/55		

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

- 26 -

~~SECRET~~

AT 100-559

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Identity of Source	Date of Activity And/or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to whom Furnished	File Number where Located
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T-7, NY 559-S*	Info re STRONG and WEST at CP Headquarters 2/10/56	2/15/56	BRYAN JINNETT Newark RICHARD BLASSER New York Orally	
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T-8,	Info re WEST as good CP contact	4/14/55	<div data-bbox="1003 682 1458 724" style="border: 1px solid black; width: 280px; height: 20px;"></div> <div data-bbox="1003 724 1120 766" style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 20px;"></div> orally	
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T-9,	Info re CP mem- bership 1936	4/1/55	<div data-bbox="990 787 1474 865" style="border: 1px solid black; width: 298px; height: 37px;"></div>	
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T-10,	Characterization of PERRY CART- WRIGHT	12/14/55		
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T-11,	Documentation of Unknown		<div data-bbox="506 1039 792 1096" style="border: 1px solid black; width: 176px; height: 27px;"></div>	
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T-12,	Characterization re KOGER	9-30-54		
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T-13,	Thumbnail	<div data-bbox="695 1192 831 1255" style="border: 1px solid black; width: 84px; height: 30px;"></div> 11/10/55		
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T-14,	Documentation MIKE ROSS			
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T-15,	Documentation MIKE ROSS			
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T-16,	Documentation MIKE ROSS			
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former
CP member, N.C.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

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AT 100-559

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Identity of Source	Date of Activity And/or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to whom Furnished	File Number where Located
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T-17 CS [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] Tucson, Ariz.	Documentation MIKE ROSS	5/28/54 6/1/54	JOHN S. TEMPLE	PX 100-847- 798,800
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T-18, [redacted]	Documentation SUA
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T-19, [redacted]	Documentation of STRONG
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LEADS:

ATLANTA DIVISION

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Will verify subject's residence and employment upon return to Atlanta and consider recommendation for inclusion of WEST on security index.

REFERENCE:

Bureau letters to Atlanta dated 1/25/56 and 1/27/56.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

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28

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F B I

Date: 3/29/56

Transmit the following message via AIRTEL AIRMAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC, MOBILE (100-365)

To: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-20396)

DONALD LEE WEST
SM-C

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mason	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

On 3/28/56, JOE AZBELL, City Editor, Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, Alabama, advised Special Agent SPENCER H. ROBB that he had just learned from [redacted] Walker Printing Company, Montgomery, that captioned subject had had 2000 letter heads printed bearing the following data:

The New Southerner, Voice of the New South, P. O. Box 6043, Carolyn Station, Montgomery, Alabama. Editor and Publisher, DONALD L. WEST. Contributing Editors: PERRY CARTWRIGHT, WALTER E. DILLARD, MORRIS LEMMONS, BUFORD POSEY, BYRON HERBERT REECE, ALVA W. TAYLOR, AUBREY WILLIAMS. It also bore the legend "Advocating truth, hope, love, mercy, brotherhood, non-violence, and simplicity". AZBELL stated that after learning the above information, he telephonically contacted MARK PACE, Editor of a Dalton, Georgia newspaper, who told him WEST was a known Communist, that [redacted] had been associated with WEST in Dalton, and is a former professor at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, that he understands CARTWRIGHT is a CP member from Chicago, Illinois, that TAYLOR is a CP member, but doesn't know where he is from, that REECE is the Poet Laureate of Georgia, and that [redacted] is from Mississippi; no further background known to AZBELL or PACE.

AZBELL stated that he understands above publication is to be printed by the Southern Farmer Press of AUBREY WILLIAMS. Additional details will be furnished as developed.

HALLFORD

- (3) - Bureau (100-20396) (RM)
2 - Atlanta (100-559) (RM)
2 - Mobile (100-365)
SHR-Acl
(7)

Mr. Belmont

63 APR 6 - 1956

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

RECORDED-100-20396-158

7 APR 3 956

APR 3 1956

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/19/82 BY SP1 C/SK/PSKb6
b7Cb6
b7Cb6
b7C

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-20396)

DATE: 4/20/56

FROM : SAC, ATLANTA (100-559)

~~SECRET~~SUBJECT: DONALD LEE WEST, was.
SM - C
Atlanta - OO.

Key 11-1, 2

Rerep SA [redacted] Atlanta, 2/29/56;
Mobile airtel to Director 3/29/56.b6
b7C

b7D

[redacted]
State of Georgia (protect identity) advised on 4/10/56
that the subject is presently residing in Montgomery,
Alabama with AUBREY WILLIAMS.Referenced Mobile airtel states WEST has had letter-
heads printed bearing the following: "The New Southerner,
Voice of the New South, P. O. Box 6043, Carolyn Station,
Montgomery, Alabama. Editor and Publisher, DONALD L.
WEST."

b7D

[redacted] advised that WEST still maintains his home on
Route 4, Douglasville, Georgia, and stated that on
one occasion in the past month WEST is known to have
returned to his home at Douglasville, Georgia. WEST's
home was observed during the first week of April and
appeared to be unoccupied.The Mobile Office is requested to, through appropriate
sources who may have information concerning AUBREY
WILLIAMS, ascertain the current employment and residence
of the subject. In this connection, Mobile is requested
to ascertain to whom Box 6043, Carolyn Station,
Montgomery, Alabama, is registered.The above subject is not carried in the security index
of the Atlanta Office at the present time.

- 2 - Bureau (100-20396) (REGISTERED MAIL)
- 2 - Mobile (100-36514) (REGISTERED MAIL) (Encl. 1)
- 1 - Atlanta (100-559)

CPR:sbb
(5)

200AER21AE COMHOF

REC'D - FBI

RECORDED - 12

APR 23 1956

EX-103

~~SECRET~~

SUBV. CONTROL

63 APR 27 1956

FBI 7

Class. & Ext. By SP-1 GSA/HK
Reason: FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
Date of Review 3/19/92
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF 5/25/98

AT 100-559

~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~

Enclosed for the use of the Mobile Office is a photograph of WEST taken October, 1955.

Subject described as follows:

Name	DONALD LEE WEST
Aliases	Don West, Jim Weaver, Jim Webb
Born	6/6/08, Cartecay, Ga.
Height	6'2"
Weight	185 lbs.
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Brown
Complexion	Ruddy
Scars & Marks	Two fingers missing from left hand; right eye does not always focus
Occupation	Farmer and writer
Marital Status	Married
Wife	MABEL CONSTANCE WEST

MIL DO NOT LEE WEST

- 2 -

~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~

Origin: Mo-Mobile
cc- Mr. [redacted] ter

SAC, Mobile

April 6, 1956

Director, FBI

"THE NEW SOUTHERNER,
VOICE OF THE NEW SOUTH"
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Raurairtel dated March 29, 1956, captioned
"Donald Lee West, Security Matter - C" advising that
a publication known as "The New Southerner, Voice of the
New South," editor and publisher Donald Lee West, is in
operation in Montgomery, Alabama.

In view of West's communist background and
past affiliations, you are instructed to initiate and
investigation of the activities of this publication in
accordance with the provisions of Section 87 E of the
Manual of Instructions.

All pertinent data obtained by your office
as a result of this investigation must be furnished
the Bureau promptly in report form suitable for
dissemination.

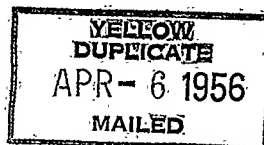
cc - Bufile (100-20396) (Donald Lee West)

MJM:ef:elg
(6)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5/5/82 BY SP-1 GSK/PK

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

2 APR 12 1956



NOT RECORDED
200 APR 9 1956

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 100 - 422714

G. I. R. - 10

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, Miami (100-3381)

SUBJECT: DONALD L. WEST
SM - C

DATE: 5/23/56

~~SECRET~~

On [redacted] made available to Special Agent MELVIN McRAE JETT, a written report dated 4/23/56. This report reads as follows: ~

"April 23, 1956
Lakeland, Fla.

WEST, DON Douglasville, Ga.

"On April 23rd, at 11 A.M. DON WEST called at the home of [redacted] Lakeland, Fla. and visited there with [redacted] until 2:15 P.M. Mr. [redacted] was not at home. (S)

"WEST asked [] why PACKINGHOUSE had pulled out from the Citrus Workers. And how things were going since. He told her about the 'speaking tour' he had made with HARRY KOGER up the East Coast and that it had been used against him all over the State. He said that the pressure was on him and his family very much and that recently the school board had informed his wife that she could not teach there again after this year. That he had been

- 2) - Bureau (RM)
1 - Mobile (RM)
1 - Atlanta (RM)
5 - Miami (100-3381)

~~Class. & Ext. By SP-1 GSK/PSK~~
~~Reason-FCIM II 1-2.4.2 2~~
~~Date of Review 3/31/92~~

- (1 - MM 100-2616 - HARRY KOGER)
(1 - MM 100-1586 - [REDACTED])
(1 - MM 100-7544 - MINELLE COOK)

MMJ:hw
(9)

b2
b7D

18 MAY 25 1956

RECORDED-31

INDEXED-31
EX-108

AT 25 1936

SUBV. CONTROL

~~SECRET~~

50 JUN 5 1956

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.~~

Director, FBI

~~SECRET~~

5/23/56

"getting out a paper called 'The Southerner' and that it had been closed down. Then he was trying again, this one being called 'The New Southerner' but had not been able to get the printing done. He said that he had been blasted as a Communist and that he could understand the hardships the NATIONS were having. (S)

"He asked her about a number of people in Florida and what she thought about them. These were

[redacted] Apopka, MINELLE COOK, Orlando;

HAWKINS, Orlando. Then they discussed a

RANDOLPH at St. Petersburg. He told her about a SPIVEY man at Sarasota whom he had just visited. This man and a friend of his at Frostproof seemed to have an acreage near Frostproof and were interested in selling it to some group to be used as a camp site, or 'something along those lines' but that it would have to be completely intergrated place, that that was the only way they would sell it. He said this Mr. SPIVEY was a 'wonderful person.' (S) F/A

"He said that he was sorry to hear about the hard feeling between HARRY KOGER and the NATIONS. He said that he felt that KOGER was not doing very much to help. He said that he was running a little grocery store somewhere out from Longview, Texas for a friend. That he was receiving \$150 to \$200. per month from the Bancroft Committee, New York. KOGER had seemed to have a 'falling out' with MALCOLM DOBBS, Houston, because [redacted] had been 'hard to get along with.' He said that DOBBS had sold his business in Houston and he did not know what he was doing at present. (S) F/A

"He discussed CLAUDE WILLIAMS, and said that KOGER was a lot like him -- that KOGER had always tried to imatiate WILLIAMS. (S) F/A

[redacted] asked him what he thought about the STALIN deal, and he said that he had never believed in a complete Dictator form of government. He says that he did not believe that we will go far under the present leadership we have here today. (In the (S)

~~SECRET~~

Director, FBI

~~SECRET~~

5/23/56
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(U.S.) He said he just didn't think they had their feet on the ground. He did not like the idea of the Co-OP Store the Citrus Workers have. Said it just would not work. (S)

"When he was ready to go, he said 'Well, you know that you are under criticism from a lot of people.' The lady became angry and told him that 'we were sent in here to do a job and we have tried to do a good one. We have had very little help from anyone and it seems to me they are the ones who are to be criticised. Why don't they come to us and discuss the problems. We have tried time and time again to get together so that we could do this and for some reason, we haven't been able to do it. It has been left almost entirely to NATION and me to make all the important decisions and if we have made the wrong ones, we are ready to try to sit down with anyone to discuss the whole thing and see what we can work out.' (S)

"He said that it was time for him to go, that he had to go visit a lady on Alamanda Ct. Lakeland for a few minutes, head for Orlando and then home. He told her, [redacted] that if things got too tough for them, that they would always welcome to come to his farm in Ga. and stay as long as they would like." (S)

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Informant also made available the April issue of the "New Southerner" which is the initial issue of this paper published by DONALD L. WEST, who is listed as Editor and Publisher. Contributing editors are listed as PERRY CARTWRIGHT, WALTER E. DILLARD, MORRIS LEMMONS, BUFORD POSEY, BYRON HERBERT REECE, AUBREY WILLIAMS and ALVA W. TAYLOR. The address listed for the "New Southerner" is listed as Post Office Box 6043, Carolyn Station, Montgomery, Alabama. This paper, which is along the same line as "The Southerner", formerly published by WEST, is being retained by the Miami Office and will be furnished to the Mobile Office at their request, if that office has not received a copy of this issue. F/A.

~~SECRET~~

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 5/31/56

FROM : SAC, Mobile

~~SECRET~~

SUBJECT: DONALD LEE WEST, was.
SM - C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/8/82 BY SP-1 CSK/PSK

Class. & Ext. By SP-1 CSK/PSK (Atlanta-00)

Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2

Date of Review 5/8/82

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Re Atlanta letter to Bureau, 4/20/56, and report
of SA [redacted] 5/31/56, at Mobile, captioned "THE
NEW SOUTHERNER," IS-C".

This report reflects all known activities of WEST
at Montgomery, Ala. during his brief stay there, except that
information contained in referenced letter. The data
concerning P.O. Box 6043, Carolyn Station, Montgomery, is
briefly set out under "Informants" on the Administrative Page

T-2 [redacted] of the station, advised
that WEST rented the box for one quarter of the year, ending
6/30/56, and that technically the box is still rented to him.
He said that the box is unused, however, in that all mail for
WEST and for "The New Southerner" is being forwarded to
Douglasville, Ga. [redacted] said that the only reference
furnished by WEST was AUBREY WILLIAMS, and that the address
of the business (the paper) was The Southern Farmer, Inc.,
Williams Printing House.

Referenced letter indicates that while in Mont-
gomery, WEST resided with AUBREY WILLIAMS, Mobile has no
source close enough to WILLIAMS to verify this, and due to
its seclusion, WILLIAMS' residence cannot be effectively
surveilled. It is apparent that WEST's occupation while in
Montgomery was publishing his paper.

It is further noted that except for the information
from T-2, all data in rerep was obtained from other divisions,
and has been furnished to Atlanta, except also the informa-
tion from JOE AZBELL and his paper, "The Montgomery Advertiser",
which AZBELL obtained from a Dalton, Ga. newspaper man, Mr.
MARK PACE of the "Dalton News".

Accordingly, Mobile is not writing a report on WEST,
it being noted Atlanta, the Office of Origin, has all necessary
information to do so, and has other corroborating information.

2-Bureau (100-20396) (REGISTERED)

2-Atlanta (100-559) (REGISTERED)

1-Mobile (100-365)

WED-vib

(5)

F147

RECORDED-11
INDEXED-11

~~SECRET~~
EX-100

25 JUN 4 1956

SUBV. CONTROL

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF ()
DATE 5/31/56

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

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To: Director, FBI

5/31/56

Re: DONALD LEE WEST, was.
SM - C

~~SECRET~~

concerning WEST's return to Douglasville, Ga., and subsequent and current activities.

Bureau was furnished with sufficient copies of referenced report so one may be placed in instant file on DONALD LEE WEST. Atlanta was furnished with two copies of referenced report. RUC

~~SECRET~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-20396)

DATE: August 22, 1956

FROM : SAC, ATLANTA (100-559)

SUBJECT: DONALD LEE WEST
SECURITY MATTER - C
(OO:AT)ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/22/82 BY SP1 GSK/PSK

[redacted] Georgia Bureau of Investigation, whose identity should be protected, advised on August 15, 1956, that he had obtained information that the subject had received mail from "OLLIE D.", Box 6054, Asheville, North Carolina, postmarked August 10, 1956, in which the sender indicated that subject had been in Asheville, North Carolina visiting the sender immediately prior to August 10, 1956. According to "OLLIE D.", he or she was sending WEST a copy of a book or pamphlet entitled "Sons of the Strange". Also indicated was information to the effect that one Dr. NOYES and the subject would be able to help "OLLIE D.". The significance of the last remark is unknown.

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The Charlotte Office is requested to identify "OLLIE D.", Box 6054, Asheville, North Carolina, and search indices concerning same. In the event any subversive references are located, Charlotte is requested to furnish Atlanta with characterization of that individual suitable for inclusion in a report.

Charlotte is further requested to advise Atlanta in the event the statement made by "OLLIE D." to the effect that subject and Dr. NOYES would be able to help "OLLIE D." is of any significance.

According to [redacted] subject returned to his residence, Rural Route #4, Douglasville, Georgia, August 13, 1956, and stated that prior to that time WEST had run an ad for farm help in a local farmer's market publication. According to [redacted] the practice in the Atlanta, Georgia area concerning employment of farm help has been to employ them in the fall after the truck farm season has been

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② - Bureau (100-20396) (RM)

2 - Charlotte (RM)

1 - Atlanta (100-559)

CPR:bmb

(5)

INDEXED-82
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EX-120
71 AUG 29 1956

SUBV. CONTROL

AT 100-559

August 22, 1956

completed, such employment lasting until the completion of the succeeding year's truck farm season. [] stated it appeared to him that WEST had planned to farm the land owned by WEST during 1957.

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DATE 10-20-2010

Report Form
FD-72 (5-12-54)~~SECRET~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REPORTING OFFICE MOBILE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MOBILE	DATE 5/31/56	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 3/26, 28; 4/2; 5/1, 23/56
TITLE OF CASE APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP (S) OF <u>Armed & Dangerous</u> <u>9/9/82</u> CHANGED DATE THE NEW SOUTHERNER		REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 15px;"></div>	b6 b7C TYPED BY ma
		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C	

SYNOPSIS:

DONALD LEE WEST was editor of "The Southerner" in Dalton, Ga. until Jan., 1956, and was a minister of the Church of God there, until public exposure of his alleged past Communist associations, and his refusal to answer questions before a county grand jury, and his invoking the Fifth Amendment then. WEST left Dalton and travelled to several northern cities, seeking financial backing to start another newspaper. He reportedly secured such backing, and persuaded AUBREY WILLIAMS, owner of the Southern Farmer, Inc., printing house at Montgomery, Ala., to print the paper. The first and only issue of the paper, called "The New Southerner", was printed at Montgomery early in April, 1956, with WEST as editor and publisher, and with PERRY CARTWRIGHT, WALTER E. DILLARD, MORRIS LEMMONS, BUFORD POSEY, BYRON HERBERT REESE, AUBREY WILLIAMS, and ALVA W. TAYLOR as contributing editors. A feature article in a Montgomery daily paper exposed WEST's alleged past Communist Party membership and activities, and indicated that TAYLOR was subject of adverse findings by the HCUA. A New Orleans daily paper article in 1954 described AUBREY WILLIAMS' past Communist Front associations. Financial backers of paper included CLAUDE CLOSSIE WILLIAMS, Director of People's

APPROVED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW
COPIES MADE: ⑦ - Bureau (RM) 2 - Atlanta (Info) (1- 105-559) (RM) 1 - Birmingham (100-654) (Info) (RM) 1 - Houston (100-7549) (Info) (RM) 1 - Memphis (Info) (RM) 1 - New Orleans (Info) (RM) 1 - Knoxville (Info) (RM) 1 - G-2, 3rd Army (RM) COPIES CONTINUED 1a		100-20396-1 NOT RECORDED 29 JUN 21 1956 INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

~~SECRET~~

52 JUN 25 1956

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP (S) OF Class 5/25/82 bp

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-418264

~~SECRET~~

COPIES MADE: (Con'd.)

- 1 - OSI, 8th DO (RM)
- 1 - ONI, 6th ND (RM)
- 2 - Mobile (100-1346)

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~~SECRET~~

MO 100-1346

Institute of Applied Religion, a cited organization. The one issue of the paper dealt with the problems of the mill workers in Dalton, Ga., and with the fight against human slavery; and advocated government seizure of oil deposits to get rid of the alleged evils of monopolistic oil and gas corporations. The paper also dealt with the farm problem, advocating no subsidy to farmers who gross more than \$15,000 annually, and attacking the subsidy of large financial corporations as farm industries. The paper also dealt slightly with racial matters. In another article on power utilities, the paper lauds Senator ESTES KEFAUVER for his fight against the Dixon-Yates plan. The article exposing WEST's past Communist affiliations came out on the day after the first issue of "The New Southerner" appeared. [] Thereafter, AUBREY WILLIAMS reportedly travelled to New York, and after conferring with associates there and on returning to Montgomery, backed out of his agreement to print the new paper. He indicated also that he had been threatened by the "White Citizens Council" and that this figured in his decision. WEST reportedly has returned to Douglasville, Ga., [] and is trying to find someone else to print his paper. [] (S)

- C -

DETAILS:

The title of this report is marked CHANGED to reflect the exact name of the subject newspaper as "The New Southerner."

This investigation was predicated on information received on March 28, 1956 from JOE AZBELL, City Editor, the "Montgomery Advertiser," a daily newspaper at Montgomery, Alabama, that a new publication was scheduled to be printed at Montgomery, called "The New Southerner." AZBELL advised that the editor and publisher of this paper is DONALD L. WEST, and advised that he had learned from another newspaperman in Dalton, Georgia, that WEST either was, or had been, a "known Communist."

The Communist Party, USA, has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

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MO 100-1346

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New York City, and to Birmingham, Alabama, to secure financial backing to publish "The New Southerner," and apparently had received promises of some financial aid from unidentified organizations in one or more of those cities, and also had received a promise of enough money from an unidentified man in Montgomery, Alabama, to put out one issue of such a paper. T-1 said that AUBREY WILLIAMS, owner of "The Southern Farmer" printing establishment at Montgomery, had agreed to print WEST's paper at his printing house. (S)

(AUBREY WILLIS WILLIAMS, owner of the Southern Farmer, Inc., Montgomery, Alabama, according to the March 19, 1954 issue of "The New Orleans States," a daily newspaper published at New Orleans, Louisiana, appeared as a witness before the Senate Internal Security Sub-Committee at New Orleans that date, and admitted having worked in the interest of the Civil Rights Congress, and having signed the Stockholm Peace Petition, but stated that he had requested that his name be removed from association with both after he learned that they were Communist inspired movements. WILLIAMS denied that he had ever been a Communist Party member, or under Communist discipline. [T-1] advised that to his knowledge, (S) WILLIAMS has never been a member of the Communist Party, but appears to favor many Communist Party policies. He said that WILLIAMS is unwilling to openly espouse these policies for fear of criticism as a pro-Communist.)

(The Civil Rights Congress has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.)

AZBELL's above described article in the Montgomery Advertiser reflects that the first issue, dated April, 1956, and numbered Volume I, Number 1, was printed on the previous day by the Southern Farmer printing plant in Montgomery.

PERSONNEL

AZBELL's above described article carries a reprint of a letterhead captioned "THE NEW SOUTHERNER, A Voice of the New South, Advocating Truth, Hope, Unity, Love, Mercy, Brotherhood, Non-Violence, Simplicity. The editor and publisher for the paper is named as DONALD L. WEST. The contributing editors listed are PERRY CARTWRIGHT, WALTER E. DILLARD, MORRIS

- 4 - ~~SECRET~~

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MO 100-1346

ORIGIN

JOE AZBELL, writing in the March 30, 1956 issue of Montgomery Advertiser, reflects that DONALD LEE WEST left Dalton, Georgia about ten weeks prior to that date, after invoking the Fifth Amendment in refusing to answer questions about his past activities before a grand jury of Dalton and Whitfield Counties, Georgia, in January, 1956. AZBELL's article reflects that WEST had been editor of "The Southerner," published at Dalton, Georgia, which, according to AZBELL's quotations from the March 26, 1956 issue of "The Militant," was a strong pro-labor and pro-union publication. This article by AZBELL further states that WEST was expelled as an ordained minister of the Church of God in Dalton, following public disclosure of alleged Communist associations, and his refusal to answer questions before the grand jury; and that this entire matter was one of great public interest in Dalton to the extent that "The Dalton News" published at Dalton, put out an "Extra" issue of the paper on January 11, 1956, bearing the banner headline, "WEST IS OUSTED; LEAVES CITY."

(AZBELL's article, in characterizing WEST, stated that the House Committee on un-American Activities lists "dozens" of references about WEST, including articles in the "Daily Worker", an East Coast Communist newspaper, reflecting (the March 13, 1934 issue) that DON WEST was a member of the Communist Party, and another issue (date not given) describing WEST as "Communist Party Organizer for Kentucky." AZBELL's article further refers to the House Committee on un-American Activities report dated June 16, 1947, which describes "DON WEST, poet," as a "known Communist Party member . . . ")

(AZBELL's article also quotes an "Atlanta Constitution" article by CELESTINE SIBLEY in which WEST is quoted as saying, "Twenty years ago, I wrote a poem which appeared in the Daily Worker. I was a Communist then. Any young person who is not a rebel is not worth his salt. I'm not a Communist now. I'm a Georgia farmer . . .") The Atlanta Constitution is a daily newspaper published in Atlanta, Georgia.

On March 26, 1956, Informant T-1, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that after leaving Dalton, Georgia, WEST travelled to Chicago, Detroit, ~~GA~~

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LEMMONS, BUFORD POSEY, BYRON HERBERT REESE, AUBREY WILLIAMS and ALVA W. TAYLOR. The address of the paper is given as Post Office Box 6043, Carolyn Station, Montgomery, Alabama.

FINANCIAL BACKING

As set forth previously in this report, T-1 advised on March 26, 1956, that an unidentified man in Montgomery, Alabama had promised WEST enough assistance to publish the first issue of "The New Southerner." T-1 advised on April 2, 1956, that WEST had secured approximately \$2,500.00 to publish this paper, most of which came from unidentified groups in "northern cities." On the same date, T-1 advised that CLAUDE CLOSSIE WILLIAMS, Director of the People's Institute of Applied Religion, was a financial backer of this newspaper. ~~CS~~

(The People's Institute of Applied Religion has been designated by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450.)

DESCRIPTION OF "THE NEW SOUTHERNER"

~~A~~ [On April 2, 1956, T-1] furnished a copy of "The New Southerner," a perusal of which reflects, in addition to that information above, the following:

The front page carries an article captioned, "Dalton Chenille Workers Bide Time," which purports to summarize and describe a union organization effort, and counteractions by mill owners in the Dalton, Georgia area. This page also carries an article captioned, "What FDR means to The South," by AUBREY WILLIAMS, along with a photograph of former President FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT. It also carries an article purporting to quote ERWIN MITCHEL, Dalton, Georgia Solicitor General, as saying that no proof or evidence was ever produced against DON WEST when he was accused of being a Communist, and as indicating that this is an example of "how quickly people become alarmed and are ready to accuse people without legal proof."

The paper is eight pages, in tabloid form. Page three contains an editorial captioned, "ALVA TAYLOR -- MAN FOR HUMANITY." On this page there is also quoted a portion of a column by WILLIAM J. MAHONEY, JR., from the Alabama

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Journal, Montgomery, dated March 20, 1956, pertaining to a bus boycott by Negroes. Page five contains an article by LUKE LARMON captioned, "The Sacred Lie," which describes the historic fight against human slavery, and indicates that the lie "that human slavery is right and therefore ought to be," is behind the acquittal of the "murderers" of EMMET TILL, and is behind the operations of the "Klansmen." Page six contains a review of a book, "The Empire of Oil," written by HARVEY O'CONNOR, which, according to the review, shows "how a handful of giant monopoly corporations completely dominate the (oil and gas) industry and take us for a ride." This article also states that the money which financed the Dixiecrats was supplied by the oil companies, and attributes this information to the "Atlanta Constitution." The article continues that the answer to this "monopoly ridden industry" is for the government to "reclaim the oil deposits and utilize them for public benefit rather than the enrichment of a few corporations." An article beginning on page one, and continuing to page eight, captioned, "Farmers Getting Desperate -- More Articulate," discusses the farm problem, by criticising the government's program of subsidizing all farmers. It states that in the opinion of the paper, no farmer who grosses \$15,000.00 or more should receive government subsidies. It asks, "Why should the government subsidize the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company as a farm business? Why should the Bank of America be subsidized in farming?" The last page features a large photograph of Senator ESTES KEFAUVER, and a short article which applauds his fight against the power corporations, specifically in his stalling and defeat of the "Dixon-Yates deal." This last page also reprints an article by JANETTE C. CARMICHAEL, Editor and Publisher, "The Light," Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, which urges the granting of public rights to all citizens of Mississippi, regardless of race.

CAUSES OF THE DEMISE OF "THE NEW SOUTHERNER"

As reflected previously in this report, JOE AZBELL's article on DON WEST and on "The New Southerner" contained a considerable amount of unfavorable information bearing upon the loyalty of DON WEST. Without being specific, this article also contained statements indicating that ALVA W. TAYLOR was the subject of adverse findings by the House Committee on un-American Activities. This article featured

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a photograph of a portion of the "Daily Worker," of March 13, 1934, containing a poem by DON WEST which is entitled, "Listen, I Am A Communist," and which begins with the lines:

"I am a Communist
A Red
A Bolshevik!"

The last two lines of this poem are:

"I am DON WEST, too,
The poet."

This photograph also shows, beside it, an article featuring a photograph of a leader of the "Proletarian Red Army," and a favorable article about him and other leaders of that organization.

T-1 advised on May 1, 1956, that AUBREY WILLIAMS had backed out of his agreement to print WEST's paper, and had indicated that pressure and threats by the "White Citizens Council" at Montgomery had figured in his decision. T-1 said that according to information he had received, AUBREY WILLIAMS first made a trip to New York, and conferred with his associates there in the larger printing organization of which his printing plant is a part, and upon his return to Montgomery, packed up the remaining three thousand copies of "The New Southerner" at his plant, and delivered them to WEST at Douglasville, Georgia. T-1 said that since the first week in April, WEST has been residing at his home in Douglasville and has been making trips to various southern states, trying to find someone else to print his paper. ~~LS~~

~~LS~~ [Informant T-2] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on May 23, 1956, that in April, 1956, DONALD L. WEST indicated that he was returning to Douglasville, Georgia.

~~SECRET~~

MO 100-1346

~~SECRET~~

ADMINISTRATIVE

Sources of information were concealed in this report only after full consideration, and a decision that the use of T-symbols was necessary.

Copies of this report are sent to Atlanta, Birmingham, Houston, Knoxville, Memphis and New Orleans for information, inasmuch as T-1 indicated that WEST is travelling in various southern states trying to find someone else to print his paper, and he may turn up in one of the above territories; and in view of WEST's current residence in the Atlanta Division. ~~EX~~

An extra copy of this report is designated for the Bureau so that one copy may be available for the file on DONALD LEE WEST, Bufile #100-20396.

In view of WEST's own extensive Communist background, and in view of the relative insignificance of the personnel of this paper other than WEST and AUBREY WILLIAMS, it is deemed unnecessary to obtain documentation of others who might have been documented, it being noted that Mobile Office files do not contain information to show Communist connections on their part.

INFORMANTS

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity And/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Agent to Whom Furnished</u>	<u>File No. Where Located</u>
T-1 is [redacted] b2 b7D	Origin of WEST's paper, and background	3/26/56	JAMES L. PUGH	[redacted] (S)
	Financial backing of subject paper, and copy of paper	4/2/56	JAMES L. PUGH b2 b7D	100-1346-1A1, and [redacted]
	AUBREY WILLIAMS backed out. Demise of paper	5/1/56	JAMES L. PUGH	[redacted]

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

~~SECRET~~

MO 100-1346

~~SECRET~~

INFORMANTS (Con'd.)

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity And/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Agent to Whom Furnished</u>	<u>File No. Where Located</u>
T-2 is [redacted] Carolyn Sta., U. S. Post Office, Montgomery, Alabama	Information that P. O. Box 6043 rented to WEST, for The New Southerner, and that change of address filed to Douglasville, Georgia, April, 1956, and box unused	5/23/56	[redacted]	This report

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~~(S)~~

REFERENCES

Bureau letter to Mobile, 4/6/56 captioned, "The New Southerner, Voice of the New South, IS-C."

Mobile airtel to Bureau, 3/29/56, captioned, "DONALD LEE WEST, SM-C."

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

~~SECRET~~

SAC, Atlanta (100-559)

September 6, 1956

RECORDED - 4

Director, FBI (100-20396)

DONALD LEE WEST
SECURITY MATTER - CALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/22/82 BY SP1 GSK/PSK

Reurairtel August 30, 1956, advising that subject is being recommended for inclusion on the Security Index and requesting advice as to whether a supplemental summary report or a regular investigative report should be submitted.

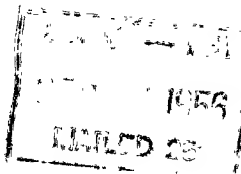
Inasmuch as a summary report in this case was submitted April 21, 1953, it will not be necessary to submit a supplemental summary report at this time. You should submit a regular investigative report bringing subject's activities up to date. This report should include pertinent information concerning subject which is contained in the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated May 31, 1956, at Mobile, entitled "The New Southerner, Internal Security - C."

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NOTE ON YELLOW:

Subject self-employed as farmer and recently was editor and publisher of procommunist publication entitled "The New Southerner." Subject was former minister of the Church of God, Dalton, Georgia, until public exposure of his past communist activities and his refusal to answer questions before a county grand jury at which time he invoked the Fifth Amendment (1956). Subject identified as CP member as early as 1934. He was deleted from SI in 1955 because he did not then meet SI criteria.

Tolson _____
Nichols _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Mason _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

RET: bew
(4)JFB
Em
R

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

8/30/56

Transmit the following Teletype message to: A I R T E L - A

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-20396)

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (100-559)

DONALD LEE WEST
SM - C

Re O-1 Form dated 8/23/56.

For the information of the Bureau, the Agent to whom this case is assigned has been recently assigned to a long complicated SGE investigation which has required extensive investigation.

More recently this Agent has been assigned to establishing the reliability of [redacted] per Bureau instructions and the coverage of a "Feast" held in Atlanta by the MCI, 8/25-26/56, in which [redacted]

A report will be submitted at an early date and will be accompanied with a recommendation to include WEST in the Security Index. In this regard, the Bureau should advise in the event a supplemental summary report is necessary or a regular investigative report will be submitted. Subject was previously included on the Security Index and a summary report submitted.

MUMFORD

END

3 - Bureau (100-20396)
1 - Atlanta (100-559)

CPR:sbb

AIRTEL ☒

TELETYPE ☐

A. M. ☒

A. M. S. D. ☐

SPEC. DEL. ☐

REG. MAIL ☐

REGISTERED ☒

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mason	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/22/82 BY SP-1 GER/PSK

RECORDED - 4

100-20396-163

23 SEP 1 1956

SUBV. CONTROL

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

to : Director, FBI (100-20396)

DATE: 9-7-56

~~1~~ FROM : SAC, Charlotte (100-2392)

SUBJECT: DONALD LEE WEST
SM - C
(OO: Atlanta)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/22/82 BY SP1 GSK/PSK

ReBulet to Charlotte, 6-13-55; "HCUA Hearings, Charlotte Office."

Between 3-12-56, and 3-14-56, the House Committee on Un-American Activities held Hearings in Charlotte, N. C.

During one session of these Hearings, witness GEORGE DAVID VAN CAMP was asked by Committee Counsel if he knew DON WEST. VAN CAMP replied by stating that he refused to answer that question on the basis of the First and Fifth Amendments to the Constitution.

CHARLES BENSON CHILDS testified at this Hearing that he had been a member of the Communist Party between 1950 and April 1955. During this period, he provided information to the FBI concerning Party activities in N. C. He stated that he was a student at the University of N. C., Chapel Hill, N. C., at the time of his testimony. (CHILDS is former [redacted]) b2

CHILDS testified that he had known GEORGE DAVID VAN CAMP as a Communist Party member in Winston-Salem, N. C.

The above information is not new information and previous investigation concerning DON WEST has been conducted by the FBI.

Under Bureau instructions, if subject is still in the Atlanta area, the Atlanta Office should advise the Bureau if this subject is a Security Index Subject and submit recommendation concerning the advisability of an interview with him. If not in the Atlanta area, the Atlanta Office should appropriately advise the office covering his present whereabouts and relay Bureau instructions regarding him.

- 2 - Bureau (100-20396) (RM) **RECORDED - 60**
2 - Atlanta (100-559) (RM)
2 - Charlotte (100-2392; 100-8894) x

GHC:hks
(6)

SEP 10 1956

1956

SUBV. CONTROL

61 SEP 13 1956

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-20396)

DATE: October 15, 1956

FROM : SAC, ATLANTA (100-559)

SUBJECT: DONALD LEE WEST
SM - C

Re Charlotte letter to Bureau 9/7/56,
cc Atlanta, and Bulet to Charlotte 6/13/55 captioned
"HCU Hearings, Charlotte Office".

The following information is being
submitted to the Bureau per referenced Charlotte
letter:

DONALD LEE WEST continues to reside in
the territory covered by the Atlanta Office and is
not maintained on the Security Index of the Atlanta
Office. Subject has been interviewed and found to be
generally uncooperative. It is not believed an inter-
view of WEST at this time would be productive.

2 - Bureau (100-20396) (RM)
1 - Atlanta (100-559)
CPR:bmb
(3)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/22/82 BY SP-1 GSK/PSK

RECORDED - 91

100-20396-165

OCT 15 1956

EX-120

SUBV CONTROL

OCT 22 1956

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-20396)

DATE: 10/24/56

FROM: SAC, CHARLOTTE (100-2392)

REGISTERED MAILSUBJECT: DONALD LEE WEST
SM - C

(OO: Atlanta)

Re Atlanta letter to Bureau dated 8/22/56,
with copy to Charlotte.b6
b7C

On October 5, 1956, [redacted] Asheville, North Carolina (use T symbol) advised SA [redacted] that Post Office Box 6054, Asheville, is located at the Biltmore Sub-Station, Asheville, and that it is the box of Mrs. OLIVE DARGAN.

The 1955 Asheville City Directory lists Mrs. OLIVE DARGAN as residing at 58 Balsam Avenue, Asheville, North Carolina.

The significance of the remark mentioned in referenced letter to the effect that one Doctor NOYES and the subject would be able to help "OLLIE D." is unknown to this office. The files of the Charlotte Office contain information concerning Mrs. OLIVE T. DARGAN which is being set forth below:

The files disclose that on August 1, 1940, Mrs. OLIVE T. DARGAN, Balsam Avenue, Asheville, North Carolina, who was at that time reported to be between the age of sixty and sixty-five, was reported to be a communist, and was reported to be active in communist activities in Asheville, North Carolina. It was reported that Mrs. DARGAN had written several books under the name of FIELDING BURKE, and that the names of two of those books were "The Stone Came Rolling" and "Call Home The Heart". These books were said to be communist propaganda. Investigation by this office revealed that Mrs. OLIVE T. DARGAN is a writer who uses the pen name of FIELDING BURKE, and who has lived in Asheville, North Carolina, for at least thirty years.

The investigation further disclosed that Mrs. DARGAN had reportedly associated with members of the Communist Party and with Communist Party sympathizers. However, the investigation failed to disclose that she was a member of the Communist Party, and confidential

CC: ② - Bureau (100-20396) (RM)
2 - Atlanta (100-559) (RM)
1 - Charlotte (100-2392)

CMM:jnt
(5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/22/82 BY SP-1 GSK/JSK

1-D

RECORDED-116
INDEXED-116

100-20396-166

6 OCT 25 1956

SUBV CONTROL

50 OCT 30 1956

informants in the Charlotte Office who are familiar with Communist Party activities in this division have never actually identified Mrs. DARGAN as a member of the Communist Party. The files of this office contain no information to the effect that Mrs. DARGAN is a member of the Communist Party.

By letter dated September 19, 1950, the Miami Division advised in the case entitled, Mrs. OLIVE DARGAN, SM - C" that on August 8, 1950, PAUL CROUCH, 10421 N. W. 33rd Avenue, Miami, Florida, was interviewed relative to a box he had in his possession containing approximately 400 or 500 cards bearing the names of subscribers to the newspaper, "Southern Worker" formerly published at Chattanooga, Tennessee. CROUCH said that the "Southern Worker" was merged into the Communist publication, "New South" in 1938 and that he served as Editor of the "New South" from 1938 until 1940. CROUCH stated that while he was editor of the "New South", it was financed by the Communist Party and the office space for the newspaper was paid for by the Communist Party of Alabama. CROUCH advised that one of the individuals whose name appears in the box of subscribers to those publications was Mrs. OLIVE DARGAN, Balsam Avenue, Asheville, North Carolina. Mr. CROUCH stated that Mrs. DARGAN, although not a Communist Party member, was a close sympathizer with members of the Communist Party. He stated that she was a poet and a novelist when he last saw her in 1947, and that she was writing under the name of FIELDING BURKE.

It is noted that PAUL CROUCH is an admitted former organizer for the Communist Party in North Carolina during the 1930s.

The Charlotte file reveals that by letter dated January 9, 1945, under the caption, "VIRGINIA LEAGUE FOR PEOPLE'S EDUCATION, IS - C", the Richmond field division furnished a mailing list containing the names of persons residing in North Carolina. This list contained the name of OLIVE DARGAN, Asheville, North Carolina. This list was secured as a result of a trash coverage maintained on the apartment of ALICE BURKE, President of the V. L. P. E. The original of this list is being maintained in the exhibit envelope of the Charlotte file 100-485.

The Communist Political Association, its sub-divisions, subsidiaries, and affiliates, including the V. L. P. E., have been

GE 100-2392

cited by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

By letter dated December 8, 1949, the New York Division furnished an exhibit obtained by N. D. 426 on October 12, 1949, bearing the initials of SA [redacted] and SE [redacted] who can testify to the legally admissible character of the exhibit. This exhibit comprised a list of the subscribers to the "Daily Worker" located in the Charlotte Division. This list included the name FIELDING BURKE, Balsam Avenue, Asheville, North Carolina. The entire list comprising this exhibit is located in Charlotte file 100-4479 entitled, "FREEDOM OF THE PRESS CO., INC."

b6
b7C

In September, 1954, an [redacted] of the Civil Rights Congress, 205 E. 42nd Street, New York, dated June 5, 1951, indicated that \$1.00 was received from OLIVE T. DARGAN, 58 Balsam Avenue Asheville, North Carolina. This receipt was made available by [redacted] no date given.

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The C. R. C. has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450. A copy of material reflecting the names of the contributors to the C. R. C. is retained as an exhibit of New York file 100-80675.

By letter to the Bureau dated September 11, 1956, from Pittsburgh with copies to Charlotte and Atlanta entitled, "COMMITTEE TO END SEDITION LAWS Aka. NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO END SEDITION LAWS, COMMITTEE TO END SEDITION ACTS, IS - C; INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950." It was also set forth that on July 18 and 19, 1956, an anonymous source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, made available to the Pittsburgh Office certain 3 X 5 index cards maintained by the Committee to End Sedition Laws, Pittsburgh Division, Room 212, Forbes Building, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The name OLIVE DARGAN, Box 6054, Asheville, North Carolina, was on one of the cards.

Atlanta refer to above mentioned Pittsburgh letter dated September 11, 1956, for additional documentation regarding this committee.

It is noted that in referenced Atlanta letter to the Bureau dated August 22, 1956, it was set forth that "OLLIE D." was

CE 100-2392

sending subject WEST a copy of a book or a pamphlet entitled, "Sons of the Strange."

In May of 1952 [redacted] who was residing at that time at the home of Mrs. OLIVE DARGAN at 58 Balsam Avenue, Asheville, North Carolina, advised SA [redacted] that Mrs. DARGAN had written a book entitled, "Sons of the Stranger", which book she stated dealt with the poor working conditions of the laborers in different mining areas. [redacted] further advised that on one or two occasions, while she was residing at Mrs. DARGAN's residence, Mrs. DARGAN commented that Communism has some good points and it was her opinion that the Russian people wanted peace. She stated that Mrs. DARGAN had also expressed the opinion the United States was the aggressive country rather than Russia.

b6
b7c

Mrs. MARR stated that she had known Mrs. DARGAN for many years and that she had no information to the effect that Mrs. DARGAN was a member of the Communist Party or that she was a member of any organization which might be considered disloyal to the United States.

There is no further information in the files of the Charlotte Office for any further documentation of the publications, organizations, or individuals which have been described above. RUC.

Office Memorandum

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-20396)

DATE: October 23, 1956

FROM : SAC, ATLANTA (100-559)

SUBJECT: DONALD LEE WEST, was.
SECURITY MATTER - C

56589

REFERENCE

Atlanta letter to Bureau, 6/10/55; Bulet to Atlanta 6/24/55, and report SA CHARLES PAUL ROSE, 10/23/56, Atlanta.

SUCCINCT RESUME OF CASE

Referenced Atlanta letter contains a resume of case prior to 6/10/55 and is not being incorporated in this letter.

WEST was the subject of an article appearing in the "Worker", 2/12/56, and the "National Guardian", 2/6/56, both papers carrying photographs of WEST. On October 20, 1956, WEST was subpoenaed before the Whitfield County Grand Jury, Dalton, Georgia, and questioned concerning his past communist connections. WEST, according to GEORGE P. DILLARD, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, State of Georgia, on November 14, 1955, declined to answer questions, invoking the Fifth Amendment. WEST at that time was a minister of the Church of God of the Union Assembly, Dalton, Georgia, and was publishing "The Southerner". He was expelled from the church in January 1956 after his refusal to take an oath at a public meeting that he was not a communist, according to the "Dalton News", a daily newspaper, Dalton, Georgia.

[redacted] advised on November 14, 1955, that GEOFFREY WHITE had stated on November 13, 1955, that he had considered coming to Dalton, Georgia, to work for the newspaper "The Southerner", but did not wish to give up his present position. [redacted] on January 3, 1956, advised that subject had met with GEOFFREY WHITE and EDWARD STRONG in New York City for the purpose of discussing future assignment of WHITE. The informant stated that the assignment of WHITE may be to Dalton, Georgia, where WEST is editor of the newspaper "The Southerner" and stated WEST may have offered WHITE employment. [redacted] on November 14, 1955, advised WHITE had met with EDWARD EUGENE STRONG, [redacted] and MICHAEL RUSSO, all Communist Party.

2 - Bureau (100-20396) (Encls. 7) (RM)

1 - Atlanta (100-559)

GPR:bmb

(3)

RECORDED-74

INDEXED-74

28 OCT 26 1956

ENCLOSURE

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CONTROL

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-20396)
AT 100-559

~~SECRET~~

October 23, 1956

officials, and at this meeting STRONG discussed WHITE's going to Dalton, Georgia, as a writer on "The Southerner".

[redacted] on February 15, 1956, advised DON WEST and EDWARD EUGENE STRONG had visited Communist Party Headquarters in New York City. The informant advised that it was his understanding the Communist Party was interested in "The Southerner" and STRONG stated that this is one of the most important things that has happened in the South for years. STRONG also stated that the paper, named "The Southerner", must be reinstituted because it is an essential instrument and weapon in the fight for Negro freedom in the South. (S)(u)

[redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on January 18, 1956, that at the National Textile Meeting, CP, held in New York City January 14, 1956, that the question of "The Southerner" was raised, and it was stated that efforts should be made in expanding the use of this paper, and means and ways to do this were further discussed for each district. It is to be noted that [redacted] advised that GEOFFREY WHITE and his wife were to be assigned in Georgia as colonizers. WHITE was arrested during May 1956 in Chattanooga and returned to Boston to face Smith Act charges. b2 b7D

[redacted] WEST visited [redacted] Knoxville, Tennessee, around April 14, 1956, who according to [redacted] and [redacted] is a dues paying Communist Party member. According to GEORGE P. DILLARD, State of Georgia, NELLIE DeSCHAAF, a writer for the "Worker" in Chicago, is a contact of WEST and was planning in August 1956 to have a rally to raise money for WEST's paper, in which rally PAUL ROBESON and [redacted] would be used for entertainment. [redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised NELLIE DeSCHAAF held a fund raising dinner and party in Chicago on July 27, 1956, for WEST. (S)(u)

According to [redacted] and [redacted] both having furnished reliable information in the past, WEST was at an SUA meeting in Chicago on January 22, 1956. [redacted] on February 10, 1956, advised that PERRY CARTWRIGHT, a member of the SUA, gave a report at an SUA meeting on February 5, 1956, at Chicago, in which he stated that the "cream" of (u)

~~SECRET~~

100-20396-167

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-20396)
AT 100-559

~~SECRET~~

October 23, 1956

the Chicago radical movement was present at an affair honoring DON WEST held February 29, 1956. WEST received \$500.00 in contributions, and the Chicago SUA Branch voted \$25.00 for WEST.

[redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, on July 3, 1956, advised WEST was introduced at a fund raising party in behalf of the ECLC in New York City on July 1, 1956.

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FARRELL DOBBS, SWP candidate for President, advised in a closed SWP meeting in Detroit, April 4, 1956, that he had talked to WEST, presumably in Montgomery, Alabama, and WEST had offered to take him on a tour through Georgia, which DOBBS indicated he would accept, according to [redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past. (S) (u)

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b7D

[redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, on August 27, 1956, advised that at a meeting of the SWP in Chicago on August 5, 1956, it was mentioned that either DON WEST or PERRY CARTWRIGHT was up for expulsion from the SUA. PERRY CARTWRIGHT is listed as a contributing editor for "The New Southerner", and according to [redacted] and [redacted] was a member of the Branch Executive Committee of the Chicago Branch, SUA, in December 1955. (S) (u)

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NY 1286-S* furnished information on July 3, 1956, that ISIDORE GIBBY NEEDLEMAN was contacted by an unknown concerning fund raising activity in behalf of WEST, and NEEDLEMAN was asked for suggestions. The same informant advised on February 20, 1956, that NEEDLEMAN was in contact with BOB COE, CP-USA, New York, and stated that DON WEST was in town. COE replied that he was aware of that and had been in touch with WEST. NEEDLEMAN was a member of the Communist Party prior to 1950, according to [redacted] and was formerly attorney for ANTORG and was a suspected Soviet agent. COE, according to [redacted] is a member of the Eastern Regional Farm Commission, CP-USA. (S) (u)

b2
b7D

RECOMMENDATION

Include in the Security Index.

- 3 -
~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~
DIRECTOR, FBI (100-20396)
AT 100-559

October 23, 1956

No membership information has been developed that would indicate WEST was active in any basic revolutionary organization, in accordance with the M of I criteria for placing in Security Index; however, WEST has been active in attending meetings of the SUA and has had contact with officials of the SUA, SWP and CP. WEST was known to speak at an SUA meeting on January 22, 1956, Chicago, and later appeared at an ECLC meeting July 1, 1956, New York City.

Reliable informants reported that GEOFFREY and ANN WHITE, both Communist Party members, were, or had considered coming to Dalton, Georgia, to work on WEST's newspaper. After WEST was dismissed from the Church of God of the Union Assembly and removed from his position on the paper, WHITE stated that he was still headed for the South, but the original deal had fallen through. WHITE was subsequently arrested in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and returned to Boston on Smith Act charges.

In view of this subject's lengthy history of Communist activity and his continued contact with highly placed Communist officials and their obvious support of him financially, it is believed that WEST is undoubtedly a trusted Communist sympathizer, if not a CP member. It is the Atlanta Office recommendation that this individual be included on the Security Index. (S)(u)

DETCOM TABBING

1. The subject is not tabbed for DETCOM.
2. Subject has not been approved for DETCOM tabbing.
3. WEST is not being recommended for DETCOM tabbing.

Submitted herewith as enclosures are 5 copies of report SA Atlanta, 10/23/56, and 2 copies FD 122. b6 b7C

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

SECRET

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-20396)

DATE: October 23, 1956

FROM : SAC, ATLANTA (100-559)

Class. & Ext. By SP-1 GSK/PSKSUBJECT: DONALD LEE WEST, was.
SECURITY MATTER - C

Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2

Date of Review 3/22/923/22/82ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.Card Filed
NOV 15 1956X It is recommended that a Security Index Card be prepared on the
above-captioned individual.The Security Index Card on the captioned individual should be
changed as follows: (Specify change only)NAME DONALD LEE WESTALIASES Don West, Jim Weaver, James Allen Weaver, Jim Webb (S)(4)DECLASSIFIED BY 60267 NLS/EP/MA
ON 3/12/82NATIVE BORN X NATURALIZED ALIEN COMMUNIST X SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST LEAGUE MISCELLANEOUS (Specify) TAB FOR DETCOM TAB FOR COMSAB RACE W SEX MDATE OF BIRTH June 6, 1908 PLACE OF BIRTH Cartecay, Ga.BUSINESS ADDRESS (Show name of employing concern and address) Farmer and writer, Route 4, Douglasville, GeorgiaNATURE OF INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS (Specify from Vital Facility List) **ENCLOSURE**RESIDENCE ADDRESS Route 4, Douglasville, GeorgiaRECORDED 74 100-20396-167

2 - Bureau (100-20396) (RM)

1 - Atlanta (100-559) (RM)

CPR:bmb

(3)

OCT 26 1956

SECRET
SUBV. CONTROL
95060.0*Handwritten signature*

CONFIDENTIAL

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP (S) OF Amended e/s
DATE 9/9/82 SP

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SECRET

REPORTING OFFICE ATLANTA	OFFICE OF ORIGIN ATLANTA	DATE 10/23/56	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 8/28; 9/19, 21, 24, 25; 10/5/56
TITLE OF CASE DONALD LEE WEST, was.		REPORT MADE BY [redacted]	TYPED BY bmb
Class. & Ext. By <u>SP-1 CSK/PSK</u> Reason-FCIM I, 1-2.4.2.2 Date of Review <u>4/8/92</u>		CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.	

SYNOPSIS:

WEST presently residing Route 4, Douglasville, Ga. and employed at same address as farmer. WEST also writing and attempting to publish his paper called "The New Southerner". WEST believed to have resided in Montgomery, Ala. during April and May 1956 while publishing "The New Southerner". April 1956 edition of this paper printed by AUBREY WILLIAMS, Montgomery, Alabama. After publication, WILLIAMS refused to print additional copies and WEST returned to Douglasville, Ga. during June 1956 and subsequently published a "Summer Edition". Since January 1956, WEST has traveled extensively in northern and eastern sections of U. S. attempting to obtain financial backing for his publication. WEST has had periodic contact with the Socialist Union of America in Chicago and various other groups and individuals under Communist influence in an attempt to raise funds for the publication of his paper. WEST obtained \$2,300.00 from an unknown source during February 1956, which money has been the principal support of instant paper.

ENCLOSURE

APPROVED

SPECIAL AGENT
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPIES MADE:

- 5 - Bureau (100-20396) (RM)
(1 cc 100-The New Southerner)
2 - New York (RM) (100-22129)
4 - Atlanta (100-559)
(1 cc 100-5631)

COPIES DESTROYED 4/22/59

100-20396-167 RECORDED-74

OCT 26 1956

INDEXED - 74

up to pt 19

INDEXED - 53

EX-110

AGENCY ICC RAB
REQ. REC'D
DATE FORW. 11-6-57
HOW FORW. ad
BY RT/gub

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED BY 60267/ARS/EP/MS
ON 3/11/02

SECRET

AT 100-559

~~SECRET~~

DETAILS:

All organizations, publications, and individuals mentioned in this report will be described in Section IV of this report.

All informants referred to in this report have furnished reliable information in the past unless otherwise indicated.

I. BACKGROUND

A. Residence

1. Current Residence

[On April 10, 1956, informant advised WEST still maintained his home on Route 4, Douglasville, Georgia, and periodically visited his home. Informant stated WEST did not reside on Route 4, Douglasville, Georgia, at that time.] (S) (u)

[(T-1, 4/10/56)] (S) (u)

[The informant advised on June 18, 1956, that the subject had returned to his home on Route 4, Douglasville, Georgia, and apparently was making it his permanent residence.] (S) (u)

[(T-1, 6/18/56)] (S) (u)

[On September 19, 1956, informant advised WEST continues to reside at Route 4, Douglasville, Georgia.] (S) (u)

[(T-1, 9/19/56)] (S) (u)

2. Previous Residence

On March 26, 1956, informant advised that after leaving Dalton, Georgia, subject traveled to Chicago, Detroit, New York City and Birmingham, Alabama, prior to going to Montgomery, Alabama. (S) (u)

[(T-2, 3/26/56)] (S) (u)

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

B. Employment

1. Current Employment

[Informant advised on August 15, 1956, that subject was residing on his farm at Douglasville, Georgia, and stated he was planning to operate the farm in the fall. He stated that WEST had run an ad for farm help in a local Farmers Market publication. According to the informant, the practice in Georgia concerning employment of farm help has been to employ such help in the fall after the truck farm season has been completed, such employment lasting until the completion of the succeeding year's truck farm season. In view of this ad, informant surmised WEST intended to operate his farm until at least October 1957.] (S) (u)

[T-1, 8/15/56] (S) (u)

Informant stated WEST is presently employed as a farmer and is attempting to publish "The New Southerner".

[T-1, 9/19/56] (S) (u)

2. Former Employment

Informant advised during March 1956 that he had ascertained WEST had visited Chicago, Detroit and New York City during the last several weeks and had secured the promise of financial backing from what he referred to as "functioning committees" and also stated that he had received a promise from an unknown man in Montgomery, Alabama to pay for the cost of publishing one issue of his paper. (S) (u)

[T-2, 3/26/56] (S) (u)

WEST, during June 1956, was unemployed but was in the process of trying to obtain backers for his publication "The New Southerner". WEST was not known to have any income.

[T-1, 6/18/56] (S) (u)

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

WEST, during April 1956 was engaged in publication of "The New Southerner" and was located in Montgomery, Alabama.

[(T-1, 4/10/56)] ~~(S)~~

II. SUBJECT'S ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH "THE NEW SOUTHERNER"

During March 1956, WEST was in contact with Reverend CLAUDE CLOSSIE WILLIAMS, Route 1, Helena, Alabama. WEST informed WILLIAMS of his plans for publishing a monthly newspaper and stated that he had made arrangements with AUBREY WILLIAMS, editor of the Southern Farmer in Montgomery, Alabama, to publish this paper in tabloid form. WEST advised WILLIAMS he had visited Chicago, Detroit and New York City in the last several weeks where he secured the promise of financial backing from what WEST referred to as "functioning committees" in each of these cities. He also stated to WILLIAMS he had received a promise from an unknown individual in Montgomery, Alabama to pay for the cost of publishing one issue of the paper and stated that on the basis of present promises, he can now publish approximately six monthly issues of his newspaper. It is believed that WEST will utilize the name "The New Southerner" for his paper. WEST made it clear that he will be the owner and editor of this paper, and will retain in himself complete control of the editorial policy of the paper. WEST stated that the paper will follow a moderate policy with regard to racial and labor union questions. WEST referred to the paper as an "educational paper" and stated it will reflect a liberal Southern viewpoint. WILLIAMS was to contribute each month a "sermon outline", and WILLIAMS planned to purchase 200 copies of the first issue and mail them at his own expense. ~~(S)~~

WEST planned to go to Montgomery, Alabama during the latter part of March 1956, where he would be engaged in completing preparations for the first issue of his newspaper, which he expected to get out early in April 1956. ~~(S)~~

[(T-2, 3/26/56)] ~~(S)~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~b6
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On March 28, 1956, JOE AZBELL, City Editor, Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, Alabama, a daily publication, advised that he had obtained information from [redacted] of the Walker Printing Company, Montgomery, that the subject had had two thousand letterheads printed bearing the following data: "The New Southerner, Voice of the South, P. O. Box 6043, Carolyn Station, Montgomery, Alabama, Editor and Publisher Donald L. West". AZBELL further advised that he had ascertained that this publication was scheduled to be printed at Montgomery and stated he had learned from another newspaperman in Dalton, Georgia, that WEST either was or had been a "known Communist". AZBELL, writing in the March 30, 1956 issue of the Montgomery Advertiser, states WEST left Dalton, Georgia, about ten weeks prior to that date after invoking the Fifth Amendment and refused to answer questions about his past activities before a Grand Jury of Whitfield County in Dalton, Georgia, January 1956. AZBELL's article stated WEST had been editor of "The Southerner", published at Dalton, Georgia, which according to AZBELL's quotations from the March 26, 1956, issue of "The Militant" was a strong pro-labor and pro-union publication. This article by AZBELL states WEST was expelled as an ordained minister of the Church of God in Dalton, Georgia, following public disclosure of alleged Communist associations and refusal to answer questions before the Grand Jury. According to AZBELL, this matter was of some public interest in Dalton. (S) (u)

AZBELL's article stated that the House Committee on Un-American Activities listed "dozens" of references about WEST including articles in the Daily Worker, reflecting that DON WEST was a member of the Communist Party, and another issue of the Daily Worker described WEST as "Communist Party Organizer for Kentucky". AZBELL's article further refers to the House Committee on Un-American Activities' report dated June 16, 1947, which, according to AZBELL, describes "DON WEST, Poet" as a "known Communist Party member.....".

AZBELL continues by quoting an article appearing in the Atlanta Constitution, a daily newspaper of Atlanta, Georgia, in which WEST is quoted as saying "Twenty years ago I wrote a poem which appeared in the Daily Worker."

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"I was a Communist then. Any young person who is not a rebel is not worth his salt. I am not a Communist now. I am a Georgia farmer.....".

AZBELL'S article contained a photograph of a portion of the "Daily Worker" of March 13, 1934, containing a poem of DON WEST which is entitled "Listen, I am a Communist". The photograph of the 1934 "Daily Worker" also shows an article featuring a photograph of a leader of the "Proletarian Red Army" and a favorable article about him and other leaders of that organization.

AZBELL's article carried a reprint of a letterhead captioned "The New Southerner, A Voice of the New South Advocating Truth, Hope, Unity, Love, Mercy, Brotherhood, Non-Violence, Sympathy". The editor and publisher for the paper was named as DONALD L. WEST; contributing editors listed were PERRY CARTWRIGHT, ~~WALTER E. ADILLARD~~, ~~MORRIS LEMMONS~~, BUFORD POSEY, BYRON HERBERT REESE, AUBREY WILLIAMS and ALVA W. TAYLOR. The address of the paper is given as P. O. Box 6043, Carolyn Station, Montgomery, Alabama.

A review of the April 1956 "The New Southerner" substantiates the above with the exception of the words "Unity", "Love", and "Mercy". The personnel listed on page two of "The New Southerner", April Edition, is identical to that listed in AZBELL's column.

Informant advised on April 2, 1956, that WEST visited the home of CLAUDE CLOSSIE WILLIAMS, Route 1, Helena, Alabama, and delivered WILLIAMS 500 copies of "The New Southerner", which paper was published at Montgomery, Alabama, and was printed by AUBREY WILLIAMS. According to the informant, WILLIAMS accepted 500 copies which he planned to personally mail himself at his own expense. Informant stated WEST had paid WILLIAMS \$100.00 to assist in publishing the paper, but WILLIAMS was not satisfied with the paper and stated he considers it to be poorly written and poorly published. According to WILLIAMS, he considered subject had made "a mess" of the first edition of the paper and gave too much front page space to the problems of the chenille workers in Dalton, Georgia, and not enough to the racial question which WILLIAMS considered to be pertinent. According to ~~(S)~~

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WILLIAMS, WEST is too emotional and visionary to get out an effective paper, and WILLIAMS does not feel the paper will be successful. WILLIAMS stated to the informant WEST had raised approximately \$2,500 to publish the paper, that money coming from groups in northern cities. WILLIAMS also stated to the informant that WEST planned to see some individuals in Texas in an attempt to secure Communist Party support for his paper. (S)(u)

[T-2, 4/2/56] (S)(u)

T-2 on May 1, 1956, stated he had obtained information that subject had recently contacted CLAUDE CLOSSIE WILLIAMS and advised him that AUBREY WILLIAMS has refused to publish anymore editions of "The New Southerner". WEST stated that AUBREY WILLIAMS did not mail three thousand copies of the newspaper which he had printed for WEST and advised that AUBREY WILLIAMS had made a trip to New York City to see some "big fellows" in his own printing organization, and upon returning to Montgomery took three thousand copies of the paper which had been prepared for mailing and took them to Douglasville, Georgia and turned them over to the subject. WEST allegedly stated that AUBREY WILLIAMS did not wish to be bothered by the White Citizens Councils which apparently had threatened him and for that reason was not going through with his contract to print "The New Southerner". According to CLAUDE CLOSSIE WILLIAMS, AUBREY WILLIAMS printed at least 7,500 copies of "The New Southerner". (S)(u)

[T-2, 5/1/56] (S)(u)

Informant advised on February 20, 1956, that ISIDORE GIBBY NEEDLEMAN was in contact with BOB COE in NYC and stated to COE that DON WEST was in town. COE stated he was aware of that and had been in touch with WEST. (S)(u)

[T-3, 2/20/56] (S)(u)

T-3 advised on July 3, 1956, that he was in the presence of ISIDORE GIBBY NEEDLEMAN when contacted by an unknown individual who asked NEEDLEMAN if anyone had contacted him about DON WEST. NEEDLEMAN stated that (S)(u)

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no one had contacted him about WEST and further stated that he, NEEDLEMAN, is not at Hampton Bays this summer but knows the set up there and stated he knows DON WEST. This unknown individual stated to NEEDLEMAN that WEST was in New York City for several days and is raising funds to get his paper "down there" going. This individual advised NEEDLEMAN that WEST would try to get out an issue during the summer of 1956. The unknown individual stated the questions for NEEDLEMAN's judgment are: (1) Would there be any possibility at this late date of NEEDLEMAN talking to "the group out there", and (2) Would there be any possibility of making an arrangement whereby WEST's paper would come in for a share of the proceeds this summer? NEEDLEMAN replied that this is a possibility and suggested that WEST go "up there" and speak to some of the people. NEEDLEMAN suggested that WEST see MOSES B. SHERR, 243 W. 70th St., New York City. (S)(u)

(T-3, 7/3/56) (S)(u)

Informant advised on August 28, 1956, that (S)(u) he had obtained information that the subject as DON WEST was issued a cashier's check for \$2,300.00 on February 17, 1956, which check was drawn on the Second National Bank, Washington, D. C. According to the informant, this check was deposited at the Bank of Austell, Austell, Georgia, in the account of "The New Southerner" by WEST.

(T-1, 8/28/56) (S)(u)

(S) T-4, who had access to reliable information, on September 27, 1956, stated he was unable to identify the purchaser of the cashier's check issued to WEST on February 17, 1956, drawn on the Second National Bank, Washington, D. C.

(T-4, 9/27/56) (S)(u)

T-2 on July 12, 1956, advised subject had recently published a "Summer Issue" of "The New Southerner". Informant stated he did not know who had printed or published the paper but advised that according to CLAUDE CLOSSIE WILLIAMS, WEST has a brother who operates a country newspaper in Georgia, and it is believed that he (S)(u)

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WEST's brother, has a secret interest in the paper. It was WILLIAMS' belief that the summer issue of the paper may have been published by WEST's brother. (S)(u)

(T-2, 7/12/56) (S)(u)

A review of the Summer 1956 edition of "The New Southerner" fails to reflect the editorial staff or the publisher; however, on the masthead, the following appears: "Published by cooperative labor". The place of publication does not appear.

III. ACTIVITIES OF SUBJECT INDICATING CONNECTION WITH COMMUNIST PARTY, COMMUNIST GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS HAVING CONNECTIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY

[Informant, during May 1956, furnished information that the name and address "Reverend DONALD L. WEST, care of The Southerner, Dalton, Georgia" appeared in the records of the Committee to End Sedition Laws, 3619 Forbes Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. (S)(u)]

(T-5, May 1956) (S)(u)

Informants advised, according to TOM LUDWIG, on April 14, 1956, DON WEST had visited [redacted] for two nights recently in Knoxville, Tennessee. (S)(u)

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(T-6 and T-7, 4/19/56) (S)(u)

Informant advised on April 23, 1956, that he had obtained information that the subject had visited the home of O. G. NATIONS at Lakeland, Florida, on April 23, 1956. According to the informant, WEST stated he was trying to get out a paper after the original paper called "The Southerner" was closed down. WEST stated he was having trouble getting the printing done as he "had been blasted as a Communist". (S)(u)

(T-8, 4/23/56) (S)(u)

(S)(u) [Informant T-9, who has access to reliable information, advised on May 1, 1956, that the subject as DON WEST was given a \$150.00 check drawn on the account

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of the United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers of America, Local 475, located at 160 Montague Street, Brooklyn, New York. According to the informant, this check was deposited in the Austell Bank, Austell, Georgia, on April 27, 1956.

(T-9, 5/1/56) (\$)(u)

(u) (S) Informant advised on June 18, 1956, that the subject's name as DON WEST, without an address, appeared on a list of individuals who were to be invited to attend a conference on the South, scheduled to be held June 30, 1956, at the Jefferson School of Social Science in New York City. According to this informant, DOXEY WILKERSON, Director of Faculty and Curriculum at Jefferson School of Social Science, was preparing the invitation list and would attempt to determine the address of the subject, as well as other individuals appearing on the invitation list.

(T-10, 6/18/56) (\$)(u)

(S) Informant advised on July 3, 1956, that DONALD L. WEST, the editor and publisher of a newspaper printed in Montgomery, Alabama, known as "The New Southerner" was introduced at a fund raising party in behalf of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, which was held in the residence of [redacted] New York City, on July 1, 1956.

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(T-10, 7/3/56) (\$)(u)

On July 25, 1956, informant advised that NELLIE DeSCHAAF was planning to hold a party for the subject on July 27, 1956. Informant stated that DeSCHAAF advised him DON WEST's daughter, HETTY WEST, is in Chicago taking a six weeks course at the Art Institute. According to DeSCHAAF, HETTY WEST was to take part in the program on July 27, 1956. Informant also advised that there was a party held for DON WEST last Saturday Night (7/20/56) in the Hyde Park area of Chicago. According to the informant, this affair was run by PERRY CARTWRIGHT at the home of Dr. [redacted] and approximately \$235.00 was raised.

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(T-11, 7/25/56) (\$)(u)

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[] Informant advised on August 28, 1956, [] that NELLIE DeSCHAAF had been in contact with WEST in August 1956, and had discussed tentative and possible plans of having a rally for "The New Southerner" in the near future. DeSCHAAF indicated that PAUL ROBESON and [] may be used for entertainment purposes.

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According to the informant, DeSCHAAF stated that she did not have much to do and that she had two weeks to get up her article for "The Worker".

(T-1, 8/28/56) (\$)(u)

Informant advised on July 27, 1956, that invitations were distributed to hear DON WEST on July 27, 1956, at Vilnis, 3116 S. Halstead St., Chicago, Illinois, and the invitations bore the typewritten name of NELLIE DeSCHAAF. No sponsoring organization was mentioned. (\$)(u)

(T-11, 7/27/56) (\$)(u)

On July 30, 1956, informant advised that a dinner party was held by NELLIE DeSCHAAF on July 27, 1956, in honor of DON WEST prior to the affair held at "Vilnis". According to the informant, the affair at "Vilnis" started at about 9:00 P.M. with approximately 37 people present. Informant stated that NELLIE DeSCHAAF opened the meeting by introducing HETTY WEST and stated that she had won a music scholarship at the age of 12 in Jackson, Mississippi. Informant stated WEST spoke and also read some of his poetry. WEST stated that his father was a sharecropper and that he never had a chance to own his own land. WEST stated that he, himself, owned a farm near Atlanta, Georgia, and that his wife teaches school in that area. WEST related he started "The Southerner" in Dalton, Georgia, and stated there were fourteen issues of this paper printed with the assistance of a small church group who helped finance the paper. WEST related that since leaving Dalton, Georgia, he has started "The New Southerner" and that funds are needed to get this into all the Southern States so the people can know the truth. WEST stated that in the past five or six months, he had driven over sixty thousand miles and had attended White Citizens' Council meetings everywhere. He stated that most of these meetings were held secretly, without any publicity, and stated that he has a trunk full of data which he has gathered at these various meetings. WEST related (\$)(u)

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that in Dalton, Georgia, an American Legion official has said the Negroes intend to "take over" and that they are smuggling in complete arsenals. According to WEST, they are planning all kinds of filthy meetings to incite the white people. He stated that if any of the white people sympathize with the Negroes, all their credit is cut off. WEST stated that since he came to Chicago he has been notified that his insurance has been cancelled. WEST continued stating that he was pleased to note that when he was in Montgomery, Alabama recently the buses still go by empty while cars pull up at corners and small quiet groups of Negroes get in. He stated that when he had to publish his paper, he went to Montgomery, Alabama, and was aided there by AUBREY WILLIAMS. WEST continued stating the people in Chicago have been very responsive, and that he spoke twice last night at meetings in Chicago (place unknown). (\$)(u)

According to the informant, PERRY CARTWRIGHT also spoke and stated that he first read about DON WEST in the "Guardian" and that he went to see WEST to find out how he could help him. Informant stated CARTWRIGHT made the collection speech which amounted to approximately \$42.50. (\$)(u)

Informant stated that during the course of the evening HETTY WEST stated in conversation that the FBI had called on her mother and stated that the principal of the school where Mrs. WEST taught called the trustees together as a result of this FBI contact. According to HETTY WEST, the principal told them that Mrs. WEST is the best teacher they have ever had. (\$)(u)

[(T-11, 7/30/56)] (\$)(u)

West's Contact with Socialist Union of America (SUA)

On January 25, 1956, informant advised she attended a showing of "Salt of the Earth", which was held January 22, 1956, at Shockwell Hall, 55th and Blackstone Streets, Chicago, Illinois. Informant advised DON WEST, editor of "The Southerner" was present. (\$)(u)

[(T-12, 1/25/56)] (\$)(u)

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[On January 26, 1956, informant advised] there was a meeting held at Socialist Union of America headquarters, 208 N. Wells St., Chicago, on January 22, 1956. According to the informant, most of the members came to the meeting directly from the showing of the film "Salt of the Earth" on the Southside, which film was sponsored by the Socialist Union of America. According to the informant, DON WEST, editor of "The Southerner" was present and spoke. According to the informant, WEST spoke concerning the progress of "The Southerner" and the need for such a paper. WEST stated that he had started progressive thinking among the Dalton, Ga. chenille workers, and stated two of them came to him and asked if he could help them start a union. WEST stated that he replied he was not in the union organizing business but told them to contact a union headquarters in the North which would send an organizer to the Dalton area. He said this was done, and the organizer was sent to Dalton but encountered considerable trouble. WEST stated that his efforts and those of the organizer were opposed. WEST further stated that he had taken the side of the striking workers in Dalton, and the factory owners got their newspapers to attack him because he was on the worker's side. WEST stated that "hooligans" broke the windows of his newspaper office and his distributors were harassed and people were incited against him. WEST stated that Reverend PRATT had stood by him but PRATT was only interested in the religious angle of the paper. WEST described PRATT as a man of honest convictions who, although he did not know much about labor, could see that WEST was right. WEST stated that the "big people" put the pressure on PRATT and his credit was curtailed in the local banks. WEST continued, stating that the County District Attorney wanted them to sign non-Communist affidavits, and they were opposed to this on principle until PRATT said he had a "vision" that they should comply. WEST stated he agreed and stated that they all went to a civic hall and were ready to be sworn, but the District Attorney stated he would give the oath to everyone but WEST and stated WEST should "come down" for questioning about his past associations and history. WEST then stated that he would not agree to this but that he would sign that he was not a Communist. He stated his past was nobody's business and stated that he had been informed that a warrant was being sworn out

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for him, so he left Dalton, Georgia. WEST continued, stating that he has not given up or given in, and the need for a militant Southern publication is stronger than ever. He stated that organization of the South is of vital importance. He stated that to be of lasting and strong effect in the South, such a movement must be indigenous to the South and that people from New York and other areas cannot do the job. WEST stated to the group that "The Southerner" will be published again although there may be trouble with the name, and it may be necessary to call it "The New Southerner". He stated that the paper will be better than ever because the burden of PRATT's heavy religious articles, which were never a positive contribution to a Southern progressive newspaper, will be removed. He stated that AUBREY WILLIAMS, a publisher in a Southern city, would assist him in this publication.

Informant advised that at this meeting some envelopes were addressed to be used in mailing leaflets which had not been prepared but which leaflet was to be an announcement of a meeting to be held on January 29, 1956, and was to be a fund raising social for "The Southerner".

(ul) [(T-13, 1/26/56)] (\$)(u)

(ul) (\$) [On February 10, 1956, informant advised] a meeting was held at the Socialist Union of America headquarters in Chicago on February 5, 1956, in which PERRY CARTWRIGHT gave a report on the affair honoring DON WEST which was held January 29, 1956. CARTWRIGHT stated that the "cream" of the Chicago radical movement was present, and the affair was very successful. WEST received over \$500.00 in contributions, and the Chicago SUA branch voted \$25.00 for WEST. CARTWRIGHT stated WEST will try to raise \$5,000.00 in the North and \$5,000.00 in the South.

[(T-13, 2/10/56)] (\$)(u)

On February 8, 1956, informant furnished information concerning a meeting held at the SUA Headquarters, Chicago, February 5, 1956, in which (\$)(u)

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PERRY CARTWRIGHT furnished a report concerning the financial success of a recent meeting held for WEST. According to the informant, WEST was going to Detroit and New York and planned to raise \$5,000.00 in the North and \$5,000.00 in the South to re-publish his paper. (S)(u)

(T-14, 2/8/56) (S)(u)

(u)(S) West's Contact with Individuals
Connected with Socialist Workers
Party (SWP) (S)(u)

On March 10, 1956, informant advised that he attended a meeting of the Detroit Branch of the SWP on March 9, 1956, at which time he obtained information from an individual who had gone to Montgomery, Alabama as a reporter for "The Militant". Informant stated that this individual stated that the subject, who was described as a "great big red-necked cracker" from Dalton, Georgia, had recently gone to Montgomery in connection with the racial disturbances there. WEST was reported to have left Dalton, Georgia, under pressure and WEST reportedly had been mixed up with a church group while in Dalton, Georgia. WEST reportedly had gone to New York recently and had a conference at the SWP Headquarters with the "Militant" staff, and from there was going to Montgomery. Informant stated that according to his source, the activities concerning WEST were not made clear as to whether the above contact had taken place or was to take place. (S)(u)

(T-15, 3/10/56) (S)(u)

Informant advised on May 1, 1956, that on April 4, 1956, he had attended a special membership meeting of the Detroit Branch of the SWP in Detroit, Michigan. Informant stated that this was a closed membership meeting in which FARRELL DOBBS reported, among other things, that he had talked to DON WEST, Southern radical and former editor of a church paper in Dalton, Georgia. According to DOBBS, WEST was chased out of Dalton, Georgia, by a crowd of people. According to DOBBS, WEST had offered to take him on a (S)(u)

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tour through Georgia, which offer was accepted and will be carried out as soon as possible. Informant stated that DOBBS presumably talked with WEST in Montgomery, Alabama. (\$) (u)

[T-15, 5/1/56] (\$) (u)

On August 27, 1956, informant advised there was a meeting of the SWP held in Chicago on August 5, 1956. Informant stated that he had obtained information that "Militants" were distributed at a meeting held previously for DON WEST. He also stated that it was mentioned at this meeting that either DON WEST or PERRY CARTWRIGHT was up for expulsion from the Socialist Union of America. (\$) (u)

[T-16, 8/27/56] (\$) (u)

IV. DESCRIPTION OF INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS MENTIONED IN THIS REPORT

PERRY CARTWRIGHT

Tll. The above-captioned individual was serving as a member of the Branch Executive Committee of the Chicago Branch of the Socialist Union of America on December 14, 1955, having been elected to that post during July 1955. (\$) (u)

[T-13, 12/14/55] (\$) (u)
[T-14, 12/14/55] (\$) (u)

THE COMMUNIST PARTY

The Communist Party has been designated by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 10450.

BOB COE

It is to be noted that BOB COE is an alias of CHARLES COE. Informant advised in March 1956, that CHARLES COE is a member of the Eastern Regional Farm Commission of the Communist Party, USA. (\$) (u)

[T-17, March 1956] (\$) (u)

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COMMITTEE TO END SEDITION LAWS

[T-18 advised on February 3, 1955,] that the Committee to End Sedition Laws (CESL), was established in November 1954 at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, by ALLAN D. McNEIL, District #5, Communist Party member. Informant stated that the main objective of this committee was the abolition of all state sedition laws. (\$)(u)

[T-18 advised] that because of the small leadership click involved, all of whom are District #5, Communist Party members, the CESL was undoubtedly Communist Party sponsored and dominated. (\$)(u)

(u) [T-19 advised on March 13, 1956,] that ALLAN D. McNEIL continues to function as Secretary of the CESL. (T-18, 2/3/55) (\$)(u)

(T-19, 3/13/56) (\$)(u)

NELLIE DeSCHAAF

(u) [Informant stated on August 28, 1956,] that NELLIE DeSCHAAF was a writer for "The Worker". (\$)(u)

(T-1, 8/28/56) (\$)(u)

FARRELL DOBBS

FARRELL DOBBS is the presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party for the 1956 presidential election. mch

(The Militant, issue 9/24/56)

EMERGENCY CIVIL LIBERTIES COMMITTEE (ECLC)

The "Daily Worker", an east coast communist daily newspaper, issue of October 8, 1951, page 1, columns 4 and 5, in an article entitled "150 Notables Form Emergency Civil Rights Committee," reflected that the formation of the ECLC had been announced on October 7, 1951. It was shown that the purpose of the organization would be to help mobilize public opinion in support of the traditional American constitutional guarantees of

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civil liberties and to render aid to victims of abridgment of these liberties in politics, education and the professions. The founders, according to the article, included more than 50 members of the clergy and many educators and professionals.

T-20, who was in a position to furnish reliable information, on October 21, 1955, furnished information reflecting that the Communist Party (CP) felt that help should be extended in building a "united front civil liberties organization" in the United States which, while not led by the "left", would contain labor, liberal and "left forces" within it in a commonly agreed program, including defense of the rights of communists. (S) (u)

The information further indicated that the CP felt that this aim can best be achieved by helping the ECLC to become a national organization with local chapters operating on the basis of its program. (S) (u)

The headquarters of the ECLC is located at 421 7th Avenue, New York City.

[T-20, 10/21/55] (S) (u)

JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

It is to be noted that the Jefferson School of Social Science has been designated by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 10450.

TOM LUDWIG

^{TENN}
TOM LUDWIG is described as a past dues paying member of the Communist Party and a person who is still in sympathy with the Communist Party and associates with Communist Party members and sympathizers. (S) (u)

[T-6 and T-7, 4/19/56] (S) (u)

ISIDORE GIBBY NEEDLEMAN

Informant advised on an unknown date prior to 1950 that NEEDLEMAN had been a member of the CP, New York City since the early 1930's. (S) (u)

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[T-21, unknown] (S) (u)

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HELEN PARSONS

Informants described [redacted] on April 19, 1956, as a dues paying member of the Communist Party, who has for the past two or three years collected CP membership dues from members in East Tennessee. (S)(u) b6 b7C

[redacted] (T-6, T-7, 4/19/56) (S)(u)

11/19 [redacted] was interviewed on July 27, 1951, and admitted he was previously a member of the Communist Political Association and that he had been expelled as being a "deviationist". The Communist Political Association has been designated by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 10450. b6 b7C

PAUL ROBESON

(S)(u) Informant advised in June 1950 that PAUL ROBESON was known to him prior to 1945 as a concealed Communist.

[redacted] (T-22, June 1950) (S)(u)

SOCIALIST UNION OF AMERICA (SUA)

T-23, on November 8, 1954, advised that the SUA was founded by a minority group which broke away from the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) primarily because the minority group believed that the organization should enter the Communist Party (CP) and other left-wing groups with the intention of swinging these groups right or left, thereby making a revolution possible in a shorter time. The SUA was formally founded at what was called the Midwest Founding Conference held November 21, 1953, at Detroit, Michigan. (S)(u)

The SWP and CP have been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

[redacted] (T-23, 11/8/54) (S)(u)

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SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY.

The Socialist Workers Party has been designated by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 10450.

ALVA TAYLOR

Alva W. Taylor

A/A

"The Dalton News", a bi-weekly newspaper of Dalton, Georgia, edition of September 18, 1955, page 16, carried an article which was taken from the files of the House Un-American Activities Committee, concerning ALVA TAYLOR. This article reflects that the House Committee on Un-American Activities lists TAYLOR as having been affiliated with, in some capacity, the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born, Peoples Institute on Applied Religion, American Committee for Spanish Freedom and the National Council of American Soviet Friendship.

All of the above-mentioned organizations have been designated by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 10450.

THE DAILY WORKER

The Daily Worker is an east coast communist daily newspaper.

THE WORKER

The Worker is the Sunday Edition of the Daily Worker.

CLAUDE CLOSSIE WILLIAMS

During the course of hearings held by House Committee on Un-American Activities, New York City, July 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 1953, BENJAMIN GITLOW, a self-*A/A* admitted former CP functionary, testified concerning Communist infiltration of religious institutions. GITLOW related that Reverend CLAUDE CLOSSIE WILLIAMS was a member of the Communist Party and the Director of the Peoples Institute of Applied Religion (PIAR). The PIAR has been cited by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

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THE MILITANT

[T-24 advised] ~~(S)~~ (u) on April 27, 1956, that "The Militant" is staffed, controlled and published as a weekly newspaper of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP). ~~(S)~~ (u)

[T-24, 4/27/56] ~~(S)~~ (u)

VILNIS

In the booklet entitled Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications, dated 5/14/51, prepared and released by the Committee on Un-American Activities, U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, D. C., the following information is noted:

1. Vilnis ("The Surge"), a Lithuanian labor daily, is among publications found "to be Communist initiated and controlled, or so strongly influenced as to be in the Stalin solar system."
(California Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, 1948, p. 225.)
2. A Lithuanian daily which the Communist Party admits is under Communist influence. Address: 3116 South Halstead Street, Chicago, Ill.
(Massachusetts House Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, 1938, p. 280.)

AUBREY WILLIS WILLIAMS

~~WILLIS~~ *W. A. Aubrey Williams*
AUBREY ~~WILLIS~~ WILLIAMS, owner of the Southern Farmer, Inc., Montgomery, Alabama, according to the March 19, 1954 issue of "The New Orleans States", a daily newspaper published at New Orleans, Louisiana, appeared as a witness before the Senate Internal Security Sub Committee at New Orleans that date and admitted having worked in the interest of the Civil Rights Congress and having signed the Stockholm Peace Petition, but stated that he had requested that his name be removed from association with both after he learned that they were Communist inspired movements. WILLIAMS denied that he had ever been a CP member or under Communist discipline.

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AT 100-559

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T-2, on July 13, 1954, advised that to his knowledge WILLIAMS has never been a member of the Communist Party. Informant stated WILLIAMS appears to favor many Communist Party policies but is unwilling to openly espouse these policies for fear of criticism as a pro-Communist. (\$) (U)

[(T-2, 7/13/54)] (\$) (U)

UNITED ELECTRICAL RADIO AND
MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA

The "Directory of Labor Unions in the U. S." for 1953, U. S. Department of Labor Bulletin #1127, on page 5, states that the United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers of America is a labor union which was expelled from the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO), on charges of Communist infiltration on November 2, 1949.

- P -

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b2
b7D

New York letter to the Director dated July 12, 1956, captioned CP-USA, District #3, Eastern Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Field Division, IS-C, NY file 100-34927, contains information attributed to [redacted] According to information received from this informant on July 6, 1956, an individual named JOE ROBERTS was working out of CP Headquarters in NY organizing farmers in Pennsylvania. Last paragraph, page 3 of this letter reflects the following: (S) (a)

"With respect to ROBERTS, the informant advised that in addition to ROBERTS' duties in Eastern Pennsylvania, HAL SIMON and DON WEST of the CP-USA prior to the steel strike, assigned ROBERTS to make a number of trips with respect to CP organizational activities in the event the steel strike should occur " (S) (a)

It is noted that in the report of SA JOSEPH V. WATERS dated 7/20/56, at New York, entitled CP-USA, pages 126 and 127 mentioned JIM WEST reported to the National Trade Union Commission on June 6, 1956, in which he spoke of the steel industry.

DON WEST has not been known to hold such position or be of such influence in the CP-USA that he would be in a position to assign anyone duties.

Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed in this report and T symbols were utilized only in those instances where the source must be concealed.

The files of the Atlanta Office fail to reflect any material that could be used for a documentation concerning [redacted] b6 b7C

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

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AT 100-559

INFORMANTS

~~SECRET~~

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity And/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Agent to Whom Furnished</u>	<u>File No. Where Located</u>
T-1 is [redacted] [redacted] Attorney Gen. State of Ga., Atlanta, Ga. (requested)	Information concern- ing residence and employment, 4/10, 6/18, 8/15, 9/19/56. Re receipt of \$2300.00 check 3/20/56.	SA [redacted] [redacted] SA [redacted]	100-559- 673, 684, 706, instant report 100-559-697

b7D

b6
b7C

Subject's contact with
DeSCHAAF, August 1956

100-559-697

Documentation NELLIE
DeSCHAAF, 8/28/56

b6
b7C
b2
b7D

T-2 is [redacted] (u)

General information,
employment and residence
of subject 3/26/56

Information re "The New
Southerner", 4/2/56

b2
b7D

Information re "The New
Southerner", 5/1/56

Information re WEST's brother
as printer of paper, 7/12/56

Characterization of
AUBREY WILLIAMS.

T-3 is (u)
NY 1286-S*

NEEDLEMAN's contact of
BOB COE re subject,
2/20/56.

NEEDLEMAN acquainted with
subject, 7/3/56.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

~~SECRET~~

AT 100-559

INFORMANTS (CONT'D)

~~SECRET~~

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity And/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Agent to Whom Furnished</u>	<u>File No. Where Located</u>
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T-4 is

[REDACTED]

Negative info re
check dated
2/17/56

100-559-
705

Second National
Bank, Wash.,
D. C. (requested)

T-5 is

CS PG 132-S(u)

Subject's name
appeared in CESL
Pittsburgh, Pa.
5/3/56

100-559-
676

T-6 is

[REDACTED] (u)

West visited home
of [REDACTED] prior
to 4/14/56

100-559-
683

Documentation of TOM
LUDWIG and [REDACTED]

T-7 is

[REDACTED] (u)

Documentation of TOM
LUDWIG and [REDACTED]

T-8 is former

[REDACTED] (u)

WEST at home of OTIS
NATIONS, 4/23/56

T-9 is

[REDACTED]

UE Local 475 check to
subject April 1956

100-559-
681

Chemical Corn
Exchange Bank,
50 Court St.,
Brooklyn, N. Y.
(requested)

T-10 is

[REDACTED] (u)

Invitation to Jefferson
School, NYC, 6/18/56

WEST at ECLC meeting
7/1/56

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

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AT 100-559

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INFORMANTS (CONT'D)

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity And/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Agent to Whom Furnished</u>	<u>File No. Where Located</u>
T-11 is [redacted] (u)	Party held for WEST 7/27/56, Chicago		[redacted]
	Meeting held for WEST 7/30/56, Chicago		
T-12 is [redacted] (u)	WEST at Chicago SUA meeting 1/22/56		100-559- 664
T-13 is [redacted] (u)	SUA meeting 1/22/56		[redacted]
	WEST honored at Chicago meeting 1/29/56.	b2 b7D	
	Documentation of PERRY CARTWRIGHT 12/14/55		[redacted] (\$)
T-14 is [redacted] (u)	Info re meeting for WEST, Chicago, 1/29/56		
	Documentation of PERRY CARTWRIGHT 12/14/55		
T-15 is [redacted] (u)	Info re WEST from SWP reporter 3/9/56		
	WEST mentioned at SWP meeting, Detroit, Michigan April 4, 1956		
T-16 is [redacted] (u)	WEST mentioned at SWP meeting Chicago 8/5/56		[redacted]
T-17 is [redacted] (u)	Documentation of CHARLES COE		
T-18 is [redacted] (u)	Documentation of CESL		

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

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AT 100-559

INFORMANTS (CONT'D)

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<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity And/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Agent to Whom Furnished</u>	<u>File No., Where Located</u>
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T-19 is [redacted] (u)

Panel Source used to document CESL

T-20 is NY 1317-S (u) Used to document ECLC

T-21 is [redacted] (u) Documentation of ISIDORE NEEDLEMAN

T-22 is LOUIS BUDENZ (u) Documentation of PAUL ROBESON

T-23 is [redacted] former of America Documentation Socialist Union

T-24 is [redacted] (u) Documentation of "The Militant"

LEADS

NEW YORK:

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Will recontact [redacted] to ascertain if information furnished by that informant July 6, 1956, applied to DON WEST or JIM WEST. Will identify MOSES B. SHERR, 243 W. 70th St., New York City. (u)

ATLANTA:

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Will ascertain WEST's present activities concerning "The New Southerner" and locate place and identify publisher of same.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

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AT 100-559

LEADS (CONT'D)

~~SECRET~~

ATLANTA: (CONT'D)

Will follow activities of WEST.

Will follow Bureau authorization for recommendation of inclusion of subject on security index.

REFERENCE

Report of SA [REDACTED] Mobile, 5/31/56,
entitled "The New Southerner".

b6
b7C

Report of SA [REDACTED] 2/29/56, Atlanta.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

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