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and research of John Greenewald, Jr., creator of:

# The Black Vault

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The Black Vault is the largest online Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)  
document clearinghouse in the world. The research efforts here are  
responsible for the declassification of hundreds of thousands of pages  
released by the U.S. Government & Military.

**Discover the Truth** at: **<http://www.theblackvault.com>**



October 31, 2016

John Greenewald  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Greenewald,

I am writing in further response to your Freedom of Information Act request of October 7, 2016 for records in the custody of the National Archives and Records Administration. Your request for FBI case file 100-DL-3353 on Harry Allen Overstreet was received in this office on October 7, 2016 and assigned FOIA case number 51331.

I have completed a line-by-line review of FBI case file 100-DL-3353 and released information to the greatest extent possible. The file has been redacted to protect the personal privacy of living individuals per 5 USC 552 (b)(6) and (b)(7)(C) and to protect the identities of confidential sources per 5 USC 552 (b)(7)(D). A summary of the results of this review is provided below:

FBI case file 100-DL-3353: 31 total pages; 30 pages released in full and 1 page released in redacted form.

Due to the small size of this file, I am able to enclose a complementary copy of the redacted version.

This concludes the processing of your request. If you have additional questions concerning my review of this file, please contact me directly. I can be reached by e-mail at [Danielle.DuBois@nara.gov](mailto:Danielle.DuBois@nara.gov) and by phone at (301) 837-3671.

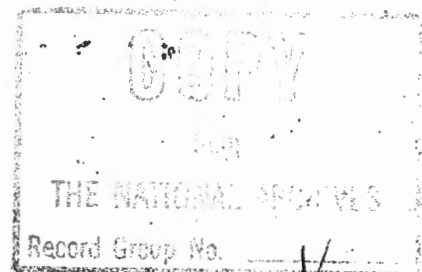
If you are not satisfied with our action on this request, you have the right to file an administrative appeal within ninety (90) calendar days from the date of this letter. Appeals must be in writing and may be delivered by regular U.S. mail or by e-mail. By filing an appeal, you preserve your rights under the FOIA and give the deciding agency a chance to review your request and reconsider its decision. If you submit your appeal by regular mail, it should be addressed to the Deputy Archivist of the United States (ND), National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, Room 4200, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001. Both the letter and envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." If you submit your appeal by e-mail, please send it to [foia@nara.gov](mailto:foia@nara.gov), addressed to the Deputy Archivist, with the words "FOIA Appeal" in the subject line. Please be certain to explain why you believe this response does not meet the requirements of the FOIA. All communications concerning this request should reference your case tracking number 51331.

If you would like the opportunity to discuss our response and attempt to resolve your dispute without initiating the appeals process, you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison for assistance:

Accessioned Executive Branch Records – Washington, DC Area

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**United States Department of Justice**

San Antonio, Texas  
March 31, 1942



Special Agent in Charge  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Dallas, Texas

RE: DR. & MRS. HARRY-A. OVERSTREET

Dear Sir: *NO*

I am enclosing herewith a report received from Col. A. W. Roffe, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, Hq. Eighth Corps Area, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, with reference to the above subjects.

The report sets out that DR. and MRS. HARRY A. OVERSTREET, writers and psychologists, are being sponsored by the Hogg Foundation of The University of Texas Community Council for Family Living, and that a reliable source has reported that MR. D. K. CALDWELL of Tyler, Texas, is probably the one most responsible for bringing the subjects to Tyler, Texas, where they have had speaking engagements. The subjects are alleged to have made the following statements:

1. If we continue to allow poverty, slums and unemployment here, will our democracy be worth fighting for?
2. All our states are not democratic anyway.
3. We must not hate the German people (Dr. OVERSTREET said, "I lived among them in Germany for a long time and I know how fine and lovable they really are. Of course at present they are in a psychopathic condition but we must not blame them too much for we, the United States, are largely responsible for conditions in Germany which led to this war").
4. Both DR. OVERSTREET and MRS. OVERSTREET said that we must not let our children hate the Germans because they will have to live with them after the war."

Inasmuch as Tyler, Texas, is within the territory covered by the Dallas field division, this matter is being referred to your office for your information and appropriate attention and no investigation is being conducted by the San Antonio office.

Very truly yours

*M. W. Acers*  
M. W. Acers  
Special Agent in Charge

100-3353
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
APR 2 - 1942
DALLAS, TEXAS
ROUTED TO

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INDEXED  
FILED

*Letter to San Antonio for report*

DALLAS, TEXAS

April 6, 1942

Special Agent in Charge  
San Antonio, Texas

Re: Dr. and Mrs. HARRY A. OVERSTREET

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter to this office dated March 31, 1942, in which it is stated in the first paragraph of your letter, that you were enclosing a report received from Colonel A. W. ROFFE, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

This is to inform that the report which you mentioned in your letter was not received with reference letter. Kindly forward same to this office.

Very truly yours,

A.P. KITCHIN,  
Special Agent in Charge.

ECW:crh  
100-3353-2

Cpy of article from Tyler Courier Times of March 11, 1942

#### OVERSTREETS TO LECTURE TONIGHT AT AUDITORIUM

Program is Sponsored by Forum, AAUW, DAR and Community Council

Dr. and Mrs. Harry A. Overstreet, writers and psychologists, will discuss in dialogue the topic, Defense Against the Attack Upon Our Minds, tonight at 8:15 o'clock in the high school auditorium. The Overstreets are brought here through the Hogg Foundation of the University of Texas in co-operation with the Tyler Community Council for Family Living.

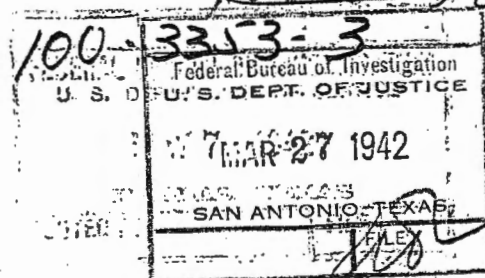
Other local sponsors of the program include the Tyler Woman's Forum, the American Association of University Women and the Mary Tyler chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

Tickets, which are free, will be available tonight at the box office of the auditorium.

Dr. Overstreet has served as professor of philosophy in the University of California and the University of New York City. He is the author of Influencing Human Behavior, About Ourselves -- Psychology for Normal People, The Enduring Quest and several other volumes. Mrs. Overstreet has gained recognition as a poetess and is the author of The Poetic Way of Release, Footsteps on the Earth and Search for a Self.

Dewey Lawrence, member of the community council, will introduce the speakers.

Copied in Office of AG of S,  
G-2, Hq. 8th CA, 3-26-42



Cpy of article from Tyler Courier Times of March 12, 1942

✓ ISOLATIONISM NOT POSSIBLE IF ALLIES ARE TO WIN WAR

Dr. and Mrs. Harry A. Overstreet, Hogg Foundation lecturers who spoke here last night at the high school auditorium, told Tylerites that national isolation cannot exist if the Allies are to win this war.

The Overstreets were brought here by the Tyler Community Council for Family Living.

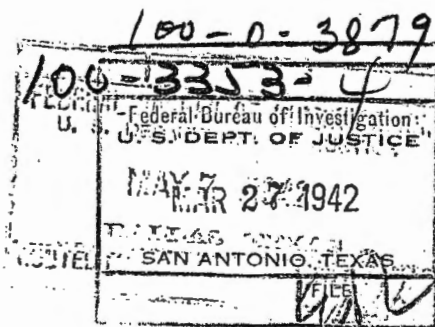
Other local sponsors included the Tyler Woman's Forum, the American Association of University Women and the Mary Tyler Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution.

The lecturers, talking in dialogue form, said that we can't win the war without hating our war enemies. They illustrated this point by telling about watching a bully beat up a helpless child. They stated that we would hate the bully because of our belief in decency.

The country is facing a grave danger which we must meet half way, Dr. and Mrs. Overstreet said. We must not go out of our way to look for danger but we develop courage and self-respect when we do the commonplace things of life in time of danger.

Mrs. Roy C. Owens presided over the meeting and introduced Dewey Lawrence, a member of the community council, who introduced the speakers.

Copied in Office of AC of S,  
G-2, Hq. 8th CA, 3-26-42



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WAR DEPARTMENT

M. I. D.

Hq. Eighth Corps Area  
Fort Sam Houston, Texas

G-2 201 OVERSTREET, Harry A. and Mrs.

AWR:COM:it

March 25, 1942

(Date)

Subject: Dr. & Mrs. Harry A. Overstreet, writers and psychologists,  
sponsored by Hogg Foundation of University of Texas Community  
Council for Family Living.

Summary of Information: This office is in receipt of the following information:

It is reported from a reliable source that Mr. D. K. Caldwell of Tyler, Texas was probably responsible for bringing the Overstreets to Tyler, Texas, where they spoke at the high school auditorium on Wednesday night, March 11th, 1942. Subjects made the following statements:

1. If we continue to allow poverty, slums and unemployment here, will our democracy be worth fighting for?
2. All our states are not democratic anyway.
3. We must not hate the German people (Dr. Overstreet said, "I lived among them in Germany for a long time and I know how fine and lovable they really are. Of course, at present, they are in a psychopathic condition but we must not blame them too much for we, the United States, are largely responsible for conditions in Germany which led to this war").
4. Both Dr. Overstreet and Mrs. Overstreet said that we must not let our children hate the Germans because they will have to live with them after the war.

Subjects advised the audience to continue all clubs and other activities as usual and not give too much time to war work because much of the war work is being created to keep up civilian morale. The audience was advised to give less time to war work and more time to planning for the next thirty years after the war. Informant is confident the entire lecture was intended to create mental confusion.

Action: For your information.

2 Incls.

Cpy of article from Tyler Courier Times of March 11, 1942.

" " " " "

Distribution:

SAC, FBI: San Antonio, Houston,

El Paso and Oklahoma City.

100-0-3880

Courier Times of March 11, 1942.

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

MAR 27 1942

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

W. HOFFE, Col. GSC

AC of S. G-2.

of source

of information

Reliable

Credible

Questionable

Undetermined

Forward this info to Dallas.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

**Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice**

San Antonio, Texas  
May 2, 1942

Special Agent in Charge  
Dallas, Texas

Re: DR. and MRS. HARRY A.  
OVERSTREET  
INTERNAL SECURITY

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter to this office dated April 6, 1942, in which you advise you did not receive the report of Colonel A. W. ROFFE, A. C. of S., G-2, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, which was indicated would be inclosed.

Please be advised that this report was inadvertently disattached from reference letter and is being inclosed herewith.

*Inclosed  
see one*

Very truly yours,

*M. W. ACERS*

M. W. ACERS  
Special Agent in Charge

RSP:CL  
SA # 100-0  
Encl.



*INDEXED  
FILED*

100	3353	6
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION		
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE		
MAY 7 - 1942		
DALLAS, TEXAS		



DALLAS, TEXAS

May 13, 1942

Col. Homer Garrison, Jr., Director  
Department of Public Safety  
Camp Mabry, Texas

Dear Sir:

This office has received information from G-2 to the effect that Dr. and Mrs. HARRY A. OVERSTREET, writers and psychologists, are being sponsored by the Hogg Foundation of The University of Texas Community Council for Family Living; that it is reported Mr. D. K. CALDWELL, of Tyler, Texas, is probably the one most responsible for bringing the subjects to Tyler for speaking engagements. The OVERSTREETS are alleged to have made the following statements:

- 1 If we continue to allow poverty, slums, and unemployment here, will our democracy be worth fighting for?
- 2 All our states are not democratic anyway.
- 3 We must not hate the German people (Dr. Overstreet said, "I lived among them in Germany for a long time and I know how fine and lovable they really are. Of course at present they are in a psychopathic condition but we must not blame them too much for we, the United States, are largely responsible for conditions in Germany which led to this war").
- 4 Both Dr. and Mrs. Overstreet said that we must not let our children hate the Germans "because they will have to live with them after the war."

Will you please conduct appropriate investigation relative to the OVERSTREETS, as well as Mr. CALDWELL, and inform this office.

Very truly yours

A. P. KITCHIN  
Special Agent in Charge

100-3353-  
APK MH

7

HOMER GARRISON, JR.  
DIRECTOR  
FRED HICKMAN  
ASST. DIRECTOR  
ROYAL G. PHILLIPS  
CHIEF  
BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Camp Mabry,

Austin

May 29, 1942

SEARCH  
INDEX  
NEW INFO.  
FORWARD

HANDLED BY:

CASE# 1717

COMMISSIONER  
GEORGE W. COTTINGHAM  
CHAIRMAN  
GEORGE PRENDERGAST  
J. PRICE MADDOX  
COMMISSIONERS

Honorable A. P. Kitchin  
Special Agent in Charge  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
U. S. Department of Justice  
Dallas, Texas

Dear Sir:

Re: Dr. & Mrs. Harry A. OVERSTREET  
Alias  
Dallas FBI#100-3353  
DPS# 1717

I am attaching a report covering your request for investigation of the above entitled case.

Assuring you of our assistance and cooperation at all times,  
I am

Sincerely yours,

*Homer Garrison, Jr.*  
Homer Garrison, Jr.  
Director

HGJr/jb  
Encl.

D5-7

INDEXED  
FILED

100-3353-8  
MAY 30 1942  
DALLAS, TEXAS  
*Rump* *Price*



SEARCH  
INDEX  
NEW INFO.  
FORWARD - 7-6-42

CASE # 1717  
HANDLED BY: RGP

HOMER GARRISON, JR.  
DIRECTOR  
FRED HICKMAN  
ASST. DIRECTOR

**TEXAS RANGERS**  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Camp Mabry,

Austin

May 27, 1942.

COMMISSION  
GEORGE W. COTTINGHAM  
CHAIRMAN  
GEORGE PRENDERGAST  
J. PRICE MADDOX  
COMMISSIONERS

**RECEIVED**

MAY 27 1942

BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Fred C. Olson,  
Texas Ranger,  
Headquarters Detachment,  
Austin, Texas.

Dear Sir:

Re: Dr. & MRS. HARRY A. OVERSTREET  
Dallas FBI # 100-3353  
DPS # 1717

Having made investigation according to your instructions in the above matter, beg leave to report as follows:

On 5/23/42, I interviewed Mrs. Joe WESEENDORF, Richmond, Texas, who is Past President of the PTA of Texas, and she told me that she heard Dr. OVERSTREET on May 4th, of this year speak at San Antonio, Texas, and his subject was a Recipe for Courage in Crisis. That she listened attentively and that he did not speak of World conditions and that she heard nothing bordering on disloyalty in his talk.

On 5/19/42, I contacted Dr. R. L. SOUTHERLAND, head of the Hogg Foundation, Main Building, University of Texas, Austin, Texas, and he said that Dr & Mrs Overstreet had talked some under the auspices of the Foundation and that they had so lectured at Tyler, Texas, a short while ago.

He advises that both are well educated; that they spend about one-half of their time in New York City and the other half in California; that their New York address is 120 Haven Avenue, New York, New York; that both lectures; that they are to teach during the Summer at some College in Utah.

He also advises that Mrs. Overstreet was raised on a fruit ranch in California, her birthplace being Geyserville, Cal.; that she graduated from the University of California in 1925, after having worked her way through school; that she afterwards taught school at Bakersfield, California; that she is the author of two books of her own, and has, in collaboration with her husband, written two other books. That her field is Poetry and Literature.

That Dr. OVERSTREET was born in San Francisco, Cal., on 10/25/75; that he was the head of the Philosophy Department of the College of the City of New York for about 20 years; that he was National President of the Adult Education Conference; that his field is Psychology and Philosophy; that he is the author of about 8 different books.

That he heard him speak here in Austin and that he spoke on Local Ways and Means in Assisting in the War; that he said nothing that could be construed as being in any way disloyal.

That both subject are now probably filling speaking engagements in Chicago, Illinois, at the present time.

APPROVED

BY

COMMANING HDQ. CO. TEXAS RANGERS

NW: 15888 DocId: 70100300 Page 9

DALLAS TEXAS



# TEXAS RANGERS

HOMER GARRISON, JR.  
DIRECTOR  
FRED HICKMAN  
ASST. DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY MAY 27 1942

Camp Mabry,  
Austin

RECEIVED

COMMISSION  
GEORGE W. COTTINGHAM  
CHAIRMAN  
GEORGE PRENDERGAST  
J. PRICE MADDOX  
COMMISSIONERS

BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Pg 2- Report on Dr & Mrs HARRY A. OVERSTREET.

CORRECTION: Mrs. Wessendorf did not hear Dr. OVERSTREET, but only heard Mrs. OVERSTREET before the PTA in San Antonio.

Both of these subjects are written up in "WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA", page 1690, Vol 22 of this book, which gives a very good and comprehensive background of these subjects' lives.

Dr. SOUTHERLAND, while not saying so in plain words, indicated that he had heard some criticism of the lecture at Tyler, Texas.

On 5/25/42, I contacted Miss Dallis Maberry, employee of the Citizens National Bank of Tyler, Texas, and she said that she heard Dr and Mrs. OVERSTREET lecture there; that it was a great disappointment; that a great many people left the Hall before the lecture was over.

That she recalls that the Dr. said that "we should not hate the German people; that he had lived among them for some time and that he knew how lovable they were in character, and that we are largely responsible for their present condition"- this is the substance as she recalled it. She also heard them say that she should not let our children hate the German people.

On 5/25/42, I also contacted Prof. F. M. Mathis, Principal of one of the City Schools there, and he recalled about the same thing that Miss Maberry did; he also said that he left before all was over; that he just didn't like the lecture and what they were saying.

On 5/26/42, I also contacted Mr. EWEEL C. WILLIAMS, Assistant Chabier of the Citizens National Bank of that place, and he recalled that Dr. OVERSTREET said that we should not hate the German people, nor should we allow our children to do so, because he had lived with them for several years and knew how lovable they were in character, and that they were not altogether responsible for their present condition. That the present condition there is due to a few leaders and not to the masses, and he, at least intimated, that the United States was partly responsible for their present condition.

On 5/26/42, I also contacted Attorney DEWEY LAWRENCE, office in Peoples Bank Building, Tyler, Texas, and who introduced subjects at this lecture, and he states that Dr. OVERSTREET did say that we should not hate the German people nor should we allow our children to do so.

On the same day, I interviewed Mr. Tom Ramey, an attorney, in Citizens National Bank Building, and President of the School Board, and he admitted that the people were very much disappointed with the lecture; that he doesn't recall anything particularly disloyal; that Dr. Overstreet did mention that we ought not to hate the German people; that the conditions there were due to only a few and not the masses;

NW: 15888 DocId:37010030 Page 10

On the same day I also talked to Mr. HARRY D. SHUFORD, of the Moore Wholesale



# TEXAS RANGERS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Camp Mabry,

Austin

HOMER GARRISON, JR.  
DIRECTOR  
FRED HICKMAN  
ASST. DIRECTOR

COMMISSION  
GEORGE W. COTTINGHAM  
CHAIRMAN  
GEORGE PRENDERGAST  
J. PRICE MADDOX  
COMMISSIONERS

Page 3- - Report on Dr & Mrs HARRY A. OVERSTREET-

Gocery Company, Tyler, Texas, and he says that the whole lectures was not satisfactory to him; that it didn't have the ring of loyalty to him.

That, after the main lecture was over, the subjects then permitted those in the audience to ask them questions, and that he asked Dr. OVERSTREET, in substance, "if he didn't believe that the first concern of the United States now is to make an "ALL-OUT" efforts for offense and defense"? That the Dr. replied that he certainly did not believe that was the most important thing at the present time, but that the subject of Rehabilitation after the war is over is the most important. Mr. Shuford also stated that some one else in the audience also amplified the question at that time and that the Dr. was still of the opinion that Rehabilitation was more important than an "all-out" effort at this time.

On the same day, I also interviewed Mr. W. J. GAULT, of Beer & Company, Stock Market, Peoples Bank Building, and he recalled that Mr. Shuford had asked the Dr., in substance, the question set out in the foregoing paragraph. He also stated that he, himself, then spoke up and told the Dr. OVERSTREET that the thought perhaps he had misunderstood the question propounded by Mr. SHUFORD; that he was of the opinion that Mr. SHUFORD was asking him if he didn't believe that the first thing we should do is to do everything that we can to win the War and then let the Rehabilitation take care of itself after the War is won, and that Dr. OVERSTREET replied that the other gentleman had just reprimanded him for his opinion, but that he still was of the opinion that the subject of Rehabilitation was the most important subject at this time.

My information is that Dr & Mrs HARRY A. OVERSTREET spoke there under the auspices of the HOGG FOUNDATION, but were brought there by the Tyler Family Educational Council, composed of several citizens.

With reference to Mr. D. K. CALDWELL, he is a member of this Council; is a bachelor about 50 years of age; an oil operator; is intensely interested in Junior Colleges; has helped several worthy boys and girls through school, and is a very reputable citizen.

Trusting my actions meet with your approval, I am,

Respectfully,

RMB-s

RECEIVED

MAY 27 1942

BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

*R. M. Briggs*  
R.M. Briggs,  
Senior Criminal Investigator,  
Texas Rangers,  
Headquarters Detachment.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **DALLAS, TEXAS**

FILE NO. **100-3353**

REPORT MADE AT <b>Dallas, Texas</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>6-17-42</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>6-4-42</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>R. A. GUMP</b>
TITLE <b>Dr. and Mrs. HARRY A. OVERSTREET</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - G</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Subjects, during lecture, stated that an all-out war effort not primarily important at the present time and that the German people were kind and loveable. Dr. OVERSTREET was formerly a professor at the City College of New York.

-P-

**DETAILS:**

This investigation is predicated upon a letter from the San Antonio Field Division dated March 31, 1942, enclosing a report received from Colonel A. W. ROFFE, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. This report is quoted as follows:

"Copy of article from Tyler Courier Times of March 11, 1942

**OVERSTREETS TO LECTURE TONIGHT AT AUDITORIUM**

Program is Sponsored by Forum, AAUW, DAR and Community Council

Dr. and Mrs. Harry A. Overstreet, writers and psychologists, will discuss in dialogue the topic, Defense Against the Attack Upon Our Minds, tonight at 8:15 o'clock in the high school auditorium. The Overstreets are brought here through the Hogg Foundation of the University of Texas in co-operation with the Tyler Community Council for Family Living.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 2 - New York - <i>RS 8-17-42</i> 2 - Dallas - <i>10-19-42</i>		<i>100-3353-9</i>	
		<i>fg</i>	

NW: 15888 DocId: 70100300 Page 12 <sup>fg</sup>

DALLAS # 100-3353

R. A. GUMP

6-17-42

"Other local sponsors of the program include the Tyler Woman's Forum, the American Association of University Women and the Mary Tyler Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

Tickets, which are free, will be available tonight at the box office of the auditorium.

Dr. Overstreet has served as professor of philosophy in the University of California and the University of New York City. He is the author of Influencing Human Behavior, About Ourselves -- Psychology for Normal People, The Enduring Quest and several other volumes. Mrs. Overstreet has gained recognition as a poetess and is the author of The Poetic Way of Release, Footsteps on the Earth and Search for a Self.

Dewey Lawrence, member of the community council, will introduce the speakers."

- - - - -

"Copy of article from Tyler Courier Times of March 12, 1942

#### ISOLATIONISM NOT POSSIBLE IF ALLIES ARE TO WIN WAR

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The Overstreets were brought here by the Tyler Community Council for Family Living.

Other local sponsors included the Tyler Woman's Forum, the American Association of University Women and the Mary Tyler Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution.

The lecturers, talking in dialogue form, said that we can't win the war without hating our war enemies. They illustrated this point by telling about watching a bully beat up a helpless child. They stated that we



DALLAS # 260-3353  
R. A. GUMP  
6-17-42

would hate the bully because of our belief in decency.

The country is facing a grave danger which he must meet half way, Dr. and Mrs. Overstreet said. We must not go out of our way to look for danger but we develop courage and self-respect when we do the commonplace things of life in time of danger.

Mrs. Roy C. Owens presided over the meeting and introduced Dewey Lawrence, a member of the community council, who introduced the speakers.

It is reported from a reliable source that Mr. D. K. Caldwell of Tyler, Texas was probably responsible for bringing the Overstreets to Tyler, Texas, where they spoke at the high school auditorium on Wednesday night, March 11th, 1942. Subjects made the following statements:

1. If we continue to allow poverty, slums and unemployment here, will our democracy be worth fighting for?
2. All our states are not democratic anyway.
3. We must not hate the German people (Dr. Overstreet said, "I lived among them in Germany for a long time and I know how fine and lovable they really are. Of course, at present, they are in a psychopathic condition but we must not blame them too much for we, the United States, are large responsible for conditions in Germany which led to this war").
4. Both Dr. Overstreet and Mrs. Overstreet said that we must not let our children hate the Germans because they will have to live with them after the war.

Subjects advised the audience to continue all clubs and other activities as usual and not give too much time to war work because much of the war work is being created to keep up civilian morale. The audience was advised to give



DALLAS # 100-3353  
R. A. GUMP  
6-17-42

less time to war work and more time to planning for the next thirty years after the war. Informant is confident the entire lecture was intended to create mental confusion."

By letter dated May 13, 1942, this case was assigned to the Department of Public Safety of Texas for investigation and their report was received on May 30, 1942. This report is as follows:

"On 5/23/42, I interviewed Mrs. Joe WESSENDORF, Richmond, Texas, who is Past President of the PTA of Texas, and she told me that she heard Dr. OVERSTREET on May 4th, of this year speak at San Antonio, Texas, and his subject was a Recipe for Courage in Crisis. That she listened attentively and that he did not speak of World conditions and that she heard nothing bordering on disloyalty in his talk.

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He advised that both are well educated; that they spend about one-half of their time in New York City and the other half in California; that their New York address is 120 Haven Avenue, New York, New York; that both lecture; that they are to teach during the Summer at some college in Utah.

He also advises that Mrs. Overstreet was reared on a fruit ranch in California, her birthplace being Geyersville, Cal.; that she graduated from the University of California in 1925, after having worked her way through school; that she afterwards school at Bakersfield, California; that she is the author of two books of her own, and has, in collaboration with her husband, written two other books. That her field is Poetry and Literature.

That Dr. OVERSTREET was born in San Francisco, Cal., on 10/25/75; that he was the head of the Philosophy Department

DALLAS # 100-3353  
R. A. GUMP  
6-17-42

of the College of the City of New York for about 20 years; that he was National President of the Adult Education Conference; that his field is Psychology and Philosophy; that he is the author of about 8 different books.

That he heard him speak here in Austin and that he spoke on Local Ways and Means in Assisting in the War; that he said nothing that could be construed as being in any way disloyal.

That both subjects are now porbably filling speaking engagements in Chicago, Illinois, at the present time.

CORRECTION: Mrs. Wessendorf did not hear Dr. OVERSTREET, but only heard Mrs. OVERSTREET before the PTA in San Antonio.

Both of these subjects are written up in 'WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA', page 1690, Vol. 22 of this book, which gives a very good and comprehensive background of these subjects' lives.

Dr. SOUTHERLAND, while not saying so in plain words, indicated that he had heard some criticism of the lecture at Tyler, Texas.

On 5/25/42, I contacted Miss Dallis Maberry, employee of the Citizens National Bank of Tyler, Texas, and she said that she heard Mr. and Mrs. OVERSTREET lecture there; that it was a great disappointment; that a great many people left the Hall before the lecture was over.

That she recalls that the Dr. said that "we should not hate the German people; that he had lived among them for some time and that he knew how lovable they were in character, and that we are largely responsible for their present condition"-this is the substance as she recalled it. She also heard them say that she should not let our children hate the German people.

On 5/25/42, I also contacted Prof. F. M. Mathis, Principal of one of the City Schools there, and he recalled about the same thing that Miss Maberry did; he also said that he left before all was over; that he just didn't like the lecture and what they were saying.

DALLAS # 100-3353

R. A. GUMP

6-17-42

On 5/26/42, I also contacted Mr. EWELL C. WILLIAMS, Assistant Cashier of the Citizens National Bank of that place, and he recalled that Dr. OVERSTREET said that we should not hate the German people, nor should we allow our children to do so, because he had lived with them for several years and knew how lovable they were in character, and that they were not altogether responsible for their present condition. That the present condition there is due to a few leaders and not to the masses, and he, at least intimated, that the United States was partly responsible for their present condition.

On 5/26/42, I also contacted Attorney DEWEY LAWRENCE, office in Peoples Bank Building, Tyler, Texas, and who introduced subjects at this lecture, and he states that Dr. OVERSTREET did say that we should not hate the German people nor should we allow our children to do so.

On the same day, I interviewed Mr. TOM RAMEY, an attorney, in Citizens National Bank Building, and President of the School Board, and he admitted that the people were very much disappointed with the lecture; that he doesn't recall anything particularly disloyal; that Dr. OVERSTREET did mention that we ought not to hate the German people; that the conditions there were due to only a few and not the masses; that these people were really lovable in character.

On the same day I also talked to Mr. HARRY D. SHUFORD, of the Moore Wholesale Grocery Company, Tyler, Texas, and he says that the whole lecture was not satisfactory to him; that it didn't have the ring of loyalty to him.

That, after the main lecture was over, the subjects then permitted those in the audience to ask them questions, and that he asked Dr. OVERSTREET, in substance, 'if he didn't believe that the first concern of the United States now is to make an 'all-out' effort for offense and defense'? That the Dr. replied that he certainly did not believe that was the most important thing at the present time, but that the subject of Rehabilitation after the war is over is the most important. Mr. Shuford also stated that some one else in the audience also amplified the question at that time and that the Dr. was still of the opinion that Rehabilitation was more important than an 'all-out' effort at this time.

DALLAS # 100-3353

R. A. GUMP

6-17-42

On the same day, I also interviewed Mr. W. J. Gault, of Beer & Company, Stock Market, Peoples Bank Building, and he recalled that Mr. Shuford had asked the Dr., in substance, the question set out in the foregoing paragraph. He also stated that he, himself, then spoke up and told the Dr. OVERSTREET that he thought perhaps he had misunderstood the question propounded by Mr. Shuford; that he was of the opinion that Mr. Shuford was asking him if he didn't believe that the first thing we should do is to do everything that we can to win the war and then let the Rehabilitation take care of itself after the war is won, and that Dr. OVERSTREET replied that the other gentleman had just reprimanded him for his opinion, but that he still was of the opinion that the subject of Rehabilitation was the most important subject at this time.

My information is that Mr. and Mrs. HARRY A. OVERSTREET spoke there under the auspices of the Hogg Foundation, but were brought there by the Tyler Family Educational Council, composed of several citizens.

With reference to Mr. D. K. CALDWELL, he is a member of this Council; is a bachelor about 50 years of age, an oil operator, is intensely interested in Junior Colleges; has helped several worthy boys and girls through school, and is a very reputable citizen."

It is noted that Dr. OVERSTREET is reported to have been a professor at the City College of New York City for a period of 20 years. Therefore, a lead is being set out for the New York City Field Division to obtain Subject's reputation at the time he was connected with that College.

P E N D I N G

DALLAS # 100-3353

R. A. GUMP

6-17-42

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEW YORK CITY FIELD DIVISION

At New York City: Will conduct investigation at the City College of New York City to determine Subject's reputation at the time he was a professor at that College in the Philosophy Department.

Dallas, Texas

January 16, 1943

SAC, New York City

RE: Dr. and Mrs. HARRY A. OVERSTREET;  
INTERNAL SECURITY - G.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent R. A. GUMP, dated at Dallas, Texas, June 17, 1942, wherein there is a lead set forth for your office to conduct investigation at New York City.

Will you please expedite this investigation, in order that this case may be brought to a logical conclusion?

Very truly yours,

R. G. DANNER  
Special Agent in Charge

ECW:FB  
100-3353- /6

RS 3-3-43

1200 Tower Petroleum  
Dallas, Texas

March 20, 1943

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

RE: Dr. and Mrs. HARRY A. OVERSTREET  
INTERNAL SECURITY - G

Dear Sir:

A review of instant file reflects the absence of a specific complaint against subjects and reflects that the subjects are people of apparent prominence. It is deemed expedient to close this case and therefore, it is being placed in a closed status and the undeveloped leads at New York will be disregarded.

Very truly yours,

R. G. DANNER  
Special Agent in Charge

CWN:MWS  
100-3353  
cc: New York

INDEXED  
FILED *Eek*



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **DALLAS, TEXAS**

NY FILE NO. **100-27487 MCH**

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK, N.Y.</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>5/7/43</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>3/22/43</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>JOSEPH W. RICHMOND</b>
TITLE <b>DR. AND MRS. HARRY A. OVERSTREET</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>CUSTODIAL DETENTION - G</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Subject, **HARRY A. OVERSTREET**, appointed Professor of Philosophy at City College of NY in 1911; retired 9/1/39. Investigation fails to reveal any pro-Nazi sympathies.

-RUC-

**REFERENCE:**

Report of Special Agent R. A. Gump, dated June 17, 1942 at Dallas, Texas.

**DETAILS:**

At New York

Mrs. **HELEN BEYER**, Payroll Division of the City College of New York, advised that **HARRY A. OVERSTREET** had been appointed full Professor of Philosophy at the college in 1911 and retired on September 1, 1939. According to the record, he received a sabbatical leave from September 1925 to January 1, 1926 for travel and study. He was made head of the Philosophy Department at the City College of New York on July 1, 1937. The record reflected he was born on October 25, 1875.

Professor **ABRAHAM EDEL** of the Philosophy Department at C.C.N.Y. stated he had known Professor **OVERSTREET** since 1931 and, in fact, received his appointment through Professor **OVERSTREET**. He had the greatest respect for the latter's ability, integrity and Americanism and stated that **OVERSTREET** had always been an opponent of the totalitarian philosophy and had strongly emphasized the traditional American values. He, however, stated that Professor **OVERSTREET** was very open-minded and had the philosophic patience to find out the elements of value and disvalue in a given doctrine. He stated that the subject had traveled widely and at one time had taught at the University of

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau ② Dallas 2 New York		100-135531-12 <b>FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION</b> U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE <b>MAY 10 1943</b> DALLAS, TEXAS ROUTED TO
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NY 100-27487

California in San Francisco. He stated that the subject's wife shared his attitude in philosophic and political matters.

DEAN MORTON GOTTSCHALK of the City College of New York, advised that the subject was a graduate of the University of California and was a Rhodes scholar in the early years when Rhodes scholarships were first introduced. After studying at Oxford University in England, he taught at California and came to C.C.N.Y. in 1911. DEAN GOTTSCHALK stated that the subject was a Californian by birth. He pointed out that the subject was interested in adult education and during his later years with the university, spent less and less time on academic philosophic problems, devoting more time to adult education and lectured to women's groups. He has written a number of popular books on this question. DEAN GOTTSCHALK advised that the subject was decidedly opposed to the Nazi philosophy and, in fact, his sympathies were quite the contrary. The Dean advised that the same was true of subject's wife. He further pointed out that if anything, the subject might be accused of Communistic leanings although this likewise was not the truth. Such an accusation will result from subject's innocent participation in such groups as a result of his liberal viewpoints. Subject has constantly discussed and fought for the rights of Negroes and at one time was connected with the Committee to Aid Loyalist Spain.

-REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN-

Dallas, Texas  
November 19, 1954

MEMO TO SAC:

Re: Dr. and Mrs. HARRY OVERSTREET  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

At 4:15 PM this date, Mrs. HARRY OVERSTREET, who is residing at the Highlander Hotel in Dallas, Texas, telephonically advised that she and her husband had just arrived in Dallas, Texas, where her husband had been scheduled to give a lecture before the Dallas Health Museum Guild. She stated that although her husband had been booked for this lecture, they were notified last Tuesday or Wednesday that the lecture was being cancelled, inasmuch as the sponsoring club had received information indicating that Dr. OVERSTREET was pro-Communist.

Mrs. OVERSTREET advised that she had talked telephonically with Mr. NICHOLS of the Bureau on Tuesday of this week, from Detroit, and stated that Mr. NICHOLS had advised her to contact you upon her arrival in Dallas.

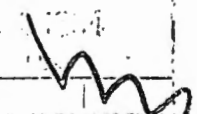
Mrs. OVERSTREET advised that she and her husband would like to come to the Dallas Office on Monday next, November 22nd, at 1:00 PM, and talk with you concerning this matter, in connection with Mr. NICHOL's suggestion.

SA W. R. JENKINS

WRJ:bjb  
100-3353

100-3353-13

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 22 1954	
FBI - DALLAS	



DIRECTOR, FBI

11-24-54

SAC, Dallas (100-3353)

DR. and MRS. HARRY A. OVERSTREET  
SECURITY MATTER - C

ATTENTION: Mr. L. B. NICHOLS  
Assistant to the Director

On 11-19-54 Mrs. HARRY OVERSTREET, residing at the Highlander Hotel, Dallas, Texas, telephonically advised that she and Dr. OVERSTREET had just arrived in Dallas, where they had been scheduled to give a lecture before the Dallas Health Museum Guild; however, they had only recently received notice that the lecture was being cancelled and were given the nebulous reason that it had been cancelled due to information received that Dr. OVERSTREET was "pro-Communist".

Mrs. OVERSTREET stated she had brought the matter to the attention of Mr. L. B. NICHOLS of the Bureau and it had been suggested that she report the matter to the Dallas Office.

Dr. and Mrs. OVERSTREET came to the Dallas Office at 1:00 P.M. 11-22-54, at which time they produced a letter sent by E. L. BRISTER, Attorney, Wilson Building, Dallas, Texas, dated 11-6-54, addressed to the Walden Programs, Inc., Algonquin Hotel, 59 West 44th Street, New York City, advising that their lecture on mental health before the Museum Guild of the Dallas Health Museum, scheduled for 11-19-54, had been cancelled. No reason was given, however, for the cancellation. Dr. and Mrs. OVERSTREET stated they had endeavored through officials of the museum guild to determine the official reason for the cancellation, and finally had determined it was on the basis of an American Legion listing that they had appeared before the House Committee on Un-American Activities for questioning concerning donations and possible memberships in organizations under investigation by that body. They mentioned that there had been a nebulous reference to the fact that the cancellation was due to information received from the FBI. They said they realized that such information was totally unfounded, but they desired to have it reiterated that the Bureau furnishes no information to anyone not legally entitled to same. They were given this very definite assurance, and specifically in their instance.

WAM:FB

100-3353-14

(DL 100-3353)

Dr. and Mrs. OVERSTREET advised that they appeared before a group of interested patrons of the museum guild at a specially called meeting the evening of 11-22-54, at which time they explained to this particular group the issue involved and the fact that they had received letters from the State Department and Mr. HAROLD VELDE of the House Committee in which they had been cleared of any previous stigma which might have been placed upon them by virtue of their appearance before the HCUA.

Both Mrs. and Dr. OVERSTREET expressed their deep appreciation of the opportunity of discussing this matter with the Dallas Office and were particularly appreciative of the courtesies extended to them by Mr. L. B. NICHOLS of the Bureau.

Mrs. OVERSTREET stated that it was her intention in the near future to communicate with Mr. LEE PENNINGTON of the American Legion, suggesting that it would be desirable for the Legion to bring up to date its list of individuals whom the Legion may suspect of UnAmerican inclinations and particularly to remove from such list those who have been given clearance by the HCUA and the State Department.

# The Woodner

SIXTEENTH AND SPRING ROAD, NORTHWEST  
WASHINGTON 10, D. C.

April 27, 1955

HUDSON 3-4400

Dear Mr. Murphy,

We will be coming back to Dallas this weekend for several days of work -- with the Methodist Church and Southern Methodist University; and as the time draws near, we find ourselves thinking how much we would like to have another visit with you. This time, we would hope, it could be a visit not centered on any personal problems of ours. While we keep our fingers crossed, we have had no intimations -- so far -- of trouble there. So we would just like to drop in, if we may, and talk with you about other matters that are more happily on our minds -- and some of which have been put there by Mr. Nichols. A two-hour talk with him, a couple of weeks ago, has left us full of what we might call creative perplexities.

Monday will be fully occupied with institute sessions at the Church; but we will try to get a chance to phone you to ask for an appointment for Tuesday -- any time Tuesday. So won't you make room for us that day if you can?

We both look forward to another interval in your office. It proved a peculiarly healing place last time. This time, may we use it as a thinking place?

Cordially,

*Bonnie Christ*  
Mrs. H.A.

*Mrs. Harry Christ*  
*100-3353\**

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FBI - DALLAS	

*WJ*



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

December 15, 1955

Mr. Francis E. Crosby  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
102 U. S. Court House Building  
Phoenix, Arizona

Dear Mr. Crosby:

Re: Dr. Harry A. Overstreet  
Bonaro W. Overstreet

100-3352\*

B. H. Overstreet 87-539\*  
N.I.

As a result of the recent luncheon engagement which you had with the Overstreets, the Bureau has received numerous letters protesting your action on the grounds that this represented approval of the Overstreets and as a result the Bureau has been injected into needless controversy. While it is true that the Overstreets have been in touch from time to time with Mr. Nichols of the Bureau and Mr. Nichols informed you of the Overstreets' visit to Phoenix, the fact remains that we must be exceedingly cautious to avoid placing ourselves in a position wherein public comment can be made which reflects unfairly upon the Bureau.

I do not mean for one moment that we should take a stand either for or against the Overstreets nor anyone else, but in the future, should the Overstreets contact either you or the Special Agents in Charge at Dallas and Los Angeles, with whom they have previously been in contact, it would be highly undesirable for you to have social contacts with the Overstreets. There is no objection, of course, to the Overstreets calling upon any office of the Bureau where they should be received courteously. However, we

*Longley*  
*with file*  
*W. H. Overstreet*

100-3353-16

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FBI - DALLAS	

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Mr. Francis E. Crosby

December 15, 1955

should avoid placing ourselves in any position wherein charges can be made, regardless of their being unjustified or not, which inject the Bureau into matters of open controversy.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

cc - SACs, Dallas ✓  
Los Angeles

- 2 -

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, DALLAS (100-3353)

DATE: 1/28/65

FROM : JOE A. PEARCE

SUBJECT: DR. HARRY A. OVERSTREET;  
BONARO OVERSTREET (wife)  
SM - C

On the above date at 9:50 a.m. Mrs. Dorothy M. Curtis, residing at the Highlander Apartments, Apartment 201, phone number unknown, 4217 Loma Alto, Dallas, Texas, telephonically contacted this office and advised that she had five pages of documented evidence that subjects were connected with communist front organizations.

Mrs. Curtis began her conversation with the statement "This is not a crack pot call". This same statement was made numerous times during the conversation.

Mrs. Curtis stated he wanted someone to come to her apartment today and obtain the above mentioned pages concerning subjects. Subjects were in Dallas only three days ago and gave a lecture; ~~at~~ place unknown. Mrs. Curtis stated subjects were both definately Communists and should not be allowed to make speeches in Dallas or this country.

ACTION: Reopen case and have two SA's contact Mrs. Curtis.



100-3353-17

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FBI - DALLAS	

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, DALLAS (100-3353) (C) DATE: 2/17/65  
(ATTN: JOE A. PEARCE)

FROM : SA THOMAS J. CARSON

SUBJECT: DR. HARRY A. OVERSTREET;  
BONARO OVERSTREET (wife)  
SM - C

Re memo of IC JOE A. PEARCE, 1/28/65.

On 1/28/65, an attempt was made by above agent and SA WALLACE R. HEITMAN to contact the complainant in re memo at the Highlander Apartments, Apt. 201, 4217 Loma Alto, Dallas, Texas. The complainant, Mrs. DOROTHY M. CURTIS, advised the switchboard operator that she was ill and did not wish to see any agents that day.

[redacted] confidentially advised that same date that Mrs. CURTIS [redacted]

[redacted] is in the habit of calling different persons and agencies and making different complaints and allegations.

[redacted] no attempt will be made to recontact her concerning the complaint in the re memo.

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100-3353-18  
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