

Agency Information

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

San Francisco, California
June 10, 1941

Handwritten notes and signatures in the top right corner, including a signature that appears to be "H. Kanstad".

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED BY *SP8 Mac/ade*
ON *9-23-94*
(JFK)

RE: JOHN PITTMAN
INTERNAL SECURITY (C)

Dear Sir:

Attached is a custodial detention memorandum
prepared on the above named subject.

Very truly yours,
M. J. L. Pieper
N. J. L. PIEPER *as*
Special Agent in Charge

OAE:GC
100-1465
Enc.

Handwritten: ENCL 6
Large handwritten: CH-21
Small handwritten: 114

RECORDED
100-30067-2
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
7 JUN 23 1941
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Handwritten initials and signatures over the stamp.

CUSTODIAL DETENTION MEMORANDUM

JOHN PITTMAN
1667 Hyde Street
San Francisco, California

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-23-94 BY SP8 mai/jde
(JHL)

COMMUNIST
U. S. Citizen
S. F. file 100-1465

The name of the above individual is being submitted to the Bureau for consideration for custodial detention in the event of a national emergency. The following information is summarized from the San Francisco file:

Name, address, and nationalistic tendency are given above.

JOHN PITTMAN, colored, is employed as Foreign Editor of the PEOPLES WORLD, West Coast Communist newspaper, 583 Market Street, San Francisco. He is probably a U. S. citizen, reportedly born in Georgia. Investigation on this point is being conducted.

Confidential Informant SF-296 reports that as a member of the Communist Party from September 1936 to February 1937, he had occasion to view the records of the Newspaper Guild Fraction of the Communist Party, and among the names listed was the name of the subject, who is identified as holding a position at the PEOPLES WORLD newspaper, a Communist organ. According to this informant, subject attended Communist Party meetings of the Newspaper Guild Fraction during the time from September 1936 to February 1937 while this informant was a member of the Party. Confidential Informant SF-296 further advises that subject's wife, MERLE PITTMAN, is believed to be white, and quit her position at the CIO to accept a position at the state headquarters of the Communist Party, 121 Haight Street, San Francisco.

Confidential Informant SF-2 advises that subject associates with BILL SCHNEIDERMAN, secretary of the 13th District of the Communist Party for the State of California, and that he met with JAMES W. FORD, Vice-Presidential candidate for the Communist Party in Los Angeles, California in October 1940.

The San Francisco Police Department under date of March 7, 1941 reports that subject spoke at a mass meeting held in the Mission Turnvere Hall in May 1935, and under date of October 4, 1937 the WESTERN WORKER carried an article stating he was elected as a member of the Executive Board of the San Francisco County Council Committee of the Communist Party. This report reflects he is a member of the Northern California Newspaper Guild, and active in organizing negroes in trade unions; also that he was registered as a Communist from San Francisco in 1938. Subject writes a daily column in the PEOPLES WORLD, and it is to be noted that he is outspoken in his opinion in upholding Russia.

100-30069-2