Federal Bureau of Investigation

Freedom of Information / Privacy Acts

Release

SUBJECT: Silas Newton

OPCA-24 (11-1-97)

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(This Form Is To Be Maintained As The Top Serial Of The File, But Not Serialized.)

MR. A. H. BELMONT August 6, 1951

[redacted]

SILAS M. NEWTON:

[redacted]

SECURITY MATTER - X

98-1

PURPOSE:

(1) To advise you of the details concerning an inquiry from the Office of the Attorney General, California Department of Justice, concerning Silas M. Newton [redacted] (2) to incorporate pertinent information concerning Newton [redacted] into the main case file for future reference; (3) to recommend that the attached letter be forwarded to former SA [redacted] who is presently attached to the Office of the Attorney General, State of California. [redacted]

BACKGROUND:

On May 1, 1951, an inquiry was received at the Bureau from the Office of the Attorney General, State of California, in a letter dated April 25, 1951, pointing out that Silas M. Newton, FBI #635861, had been cited as an authority for a book entitled "Behind the Flying Saucers," which was published by one Frank Scully in 1950. The gist of the book is that the so-called flying saucers are manifestations of secret scientific research being conducted by the Government.

The letter from the Office of the Attorney General further advised that Silas M. Newton had an arrest record which was known to the Office of the Attorney General of the State of California and requested the Bureau to furnish the Office of the Attorney General with any additional information other than his arrest record which might be available in the Bureau files.

WAA:dh

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The letter was signed by Arthur H. Shery, Chief Assistant Attorney General, for Edmund G. Brown, Attorney General for the State of California.

By letter dated May 3, 1951, to the Attorney General, State of California, the Bureau advised that no investigation of Newton pertinent to the inquiry from the Office of the Attorney General had been conducted. A summary of information concerning the book "Behind the Flying Saucers" was set forth as an addendum and this summary reflects that ONI, Washington, D. C., advised that the assertions in the book are "hogwash." Time Magazine stated that "the scientific ability of the book was below that of a comic book. Scully claimed that the information in the book was furnished to him by an unidentified lecturer at Denver University and by a [redacted] Neither of these persons were identified by Scully. (100-8244-6)

With respect to Silas M. Newton, Bureau files reflect that he is a wealthy speculator and that he was arrested by the New York Police Department on September 25, 1936, for grand larceny. (95-1589)

Newton was formerly married to [redacted] with aliases, the subject of an Espionage - G investigation in July of 1939 [redacted] (65-837)

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Subsequent to the above inquiry, a letter was received from the Office of the Attorney General [redacted] the State of California dated June 14, 1951, signed by N. O. Robinson, Deputy Director, Department of Justice, State of California, requesting that the Bureau furnish any information which might further identify [redacted] According to Mr. Robinson's letter, [redacted] mentioned above as a source of technical information in connection with the publication on flying saucers. A check of the Bureau files failed to reflect any identifiable information concerning [redacted]

By letter dated June 22, 19 1, Mr. Robinson was advised that Bureau files fail to reflect any information identifiable with this individual. A copy of the reply to Mr. Robinson was furnished to the Phoenix Office for information.

By letter dated June 27, 1951, the Phoenix Office advised that [redacted]

[redacted]

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With respect to Mr. B. G. Robinson, who prepared the letter of inquiry from the Office of the Attorney General, State of California, under date of June 14, 19 1, [redacted]

Robinson, a former Special Agent of the Bureau who entered on duty as a Special Agent (A) in March of 1934 and resigned on April 23, 1941. His resignation stated that he felt that he had progressed as far as he could in the Bureau's employ and no derogatory information appears in the file concerning him.

A news item submitted by the San Francisco Office dated December 3, 1950, which appeared in the San Francisco News, reflected that Robinson was to be appointed director of investigation for Attorney General-elect Edmund G. Brown, present Attorney General for the State of California, and that Robinson was formerly connected with the Senate Investigations Committee in Washington and that prior to that time he was associated with the Truman Committee. (67-33298)

OBSERVATION:

In view of the fact that it has now come to the attention of the Bureau that Lee Gebauer is identical with Lee Julius Arnold Gebauer, FBI Number 3094424, it is felt that as a matter of cooperation with the California authorities, the Bureau might desire to refer the California authorities to the public record of Gebauer's conviction since that conviction is a matter of public record.

RECOMMENDATION:

If you approve, it is recommended that the attached letter be forwarded to the Office of the Attorney General for the State of California, pointing out that Lee Gebauer, concerning whom an inquiry was received, may be identical with Lee Julius Arnold Gebauer who was convicted in Federal Court at Tucson, Arizona, on February 23, 1944.

A current check of the Identification Records of the Bureau does not reflect an arrest for Lee Julius Arnold Gebauer subsequent to 1944.

The letter setting forth the above information is attached herewith.

Tolson
Ladd
Clegg
Glavin
Nichols
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Tracy
Mohr
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