Federal Bureau of Investigation

Freedom of Information / Privacy Acts

Release

SUBJECT: Silas Newton

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

This Case Originated At: NEW YORK CITY — K.C. File #65-7

Report Made At	Date When Made	Period For Which Made	Report Made By
KANSAS CITY, MO.	7/1/41	5/16 - 6/18/41	[redacted] HD

Title: [redacted] with aliases

Character of Case: ESPIONAGE - G.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: SILAS M. NEWTON is president of Kansas Western Pipeline Company, Denver, Colorado, which is a small oil company with three small producing oil wells but no pipeline. NEWTON receives on average about $200 per month from this corporation. NEWTON reportedly drilling oil well near Los Angeles, California, at present time. NEWTON believed formerly to have received financial backing from [redacted] New York City. NEWTON reportedly also associated in business with [redacted] Wyoming. NEWTON well known to [redacted] Kansas. NEWTON reportedly has made no disloyal or un-American statements in or near McCracken, Kansas. NEWTON maintains no personal bank account at Citizens State Bank, McCracken. The Newton Development Company, of which SILAS M. NEWTON is head official, maintains account at Union National Bank, Wichita, Kansas, but nothing of a suspicious nature appears concerning this account.

P.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 12-15-80 BY SP-4 BJA/PR 8/15/84 63-97 STBTJ/CC 2-16-802

b7C

Approved and Forwarded: [signature]

Special Agent in Charge

Copies
5 - Bureau
2 - New York
2 - Denver
2 - Los Angeles
2 - Kansas City

COPIES DESTROYED 372 JUL 30 1970

65-837-177 JUL 16 1941

JUL 7 1941

FIVE

66-92-3-2-42

SCR

CH-21 ICC-ONI [redacted]

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent [redacted] Los Angeles, California, dated 3/20/41.

DETAILS:

At McCracken, Kansas

[redacted] Assistant Cashier of the Citizens State Bank, McCracken, Kansas, upon interview advised that SILAS M. NEWTON was well known to him and although he did not carry a personal account with this bank, he did do business with the bank as president of the Kansas Western Pipeline Company, which company maintains an account at the Citizens State Bank at McCracken. [redacted] stated that NEWTON was the "promoter" type of individual and was more of an oil promoter. He confidentially advised that in his opinion, NEWTON [redacted] stated after referring to the records of the Citizens State Bank that no sums of money have been sent by NEWTON to [redacted] the Subject of this case, from the account of the Kansas Western Pipeline Company in the Citizens State Bank at McCracken. The only withdrawals from this account appeared to be withdrawals of from $100 to $300, in favor of SILAS M. NEWTON, and smaller sums of money payable to employees of the Kansas Western Pipeline Company who are working on the three wells located in the vicinity of McCracken. [redacted] advised that Mr. NEWTON does not receive any set salary from this company, but draws on the account of this company according to his needs. He stated that usually the checks will run between $100 and $500, and that NEWTON usually cashes these checks at the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, and the Brown Palace Hotel in Denver, Colorado.

b7C
b7D

[redacted] stated that the oil produced by the three oil wells owned by the Kansas Western Pipeline Company is sold to the Shallow Water Refining Company, a branch of the Atlantic Refining Company, and that the deposits in the account of this company at the Citizens State Bank are from the sale of this oil.

[redacted] advised after referring to the records of the bank, that the address of the Kansas Western Pipeline is 908 Equitable Building, Denver, Colorado. In addition to being affiliated with this company, [redacted] advised that Mr. NEWTON is also president of the Kansas- Wyoming Oil Company at Denver, Colorado,

of the Newton Development Company of Denver, Colorado, and is also president of an oil company the name of which [redacted] did not know, which is drilling a well in California near the ocean. [redacted] stated he believed that the location of these drilling operations is in the vicinity of Los Angeles. He stated that he had no definite information on this. According to [redacted] NEWTON formerly was connected with the Oriental Refining Company of Denver, Colorado, and also was associated in the oil business with [redacted] advised that Mr. NEWTON had been financed in some of his promotion schemes and operations through J. H. CARPENTER of New York, a financier, who he stated has been reported to him as the owner of the building in which the Columbia Broadcasting Company is located. He advised that his information at the present time is that Mr. CARPENTER is dead.

[redacted] stated that during the time NEWTON was in Kansas he had as his [redacted] stated that [redacted] know more about NEWTON'S business and private affairs than any other individual in the State of Kansas. [redacted] stated that during the time NEWTON was in Kansas, he lived intermittently in Ness City, Kansas, at the Hotel Max . He stated his permanent address, , however, appears to be the Brown Palace Hotel in Denver, Colorado, but that he also spends considerable time at the Knickerbocker Hotel and Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles or Hollywood, California.

b7C

[redacted] stated that NEWTON is a personable and likeable type of individual, that he appears to be a good American citizen, has no accent in his speech, and has never made any un-American or disloyal or unsympathetic remarks in McCracken, Kansas, or in the presence of [redacted] which would cause him to believe that he was otherwise than a good American. He advised that Mr. NEWTON displayed considerable interest in the last Presidential election and that his political remarks during that election were in favor of the Republican presidential candidate.

[redacted] advised that NEWTON has never resided in McCracken, has never borrowed money from the Citizens State Bank, and maintains a very low balance in the bank at McCracken. He stated that the account amounts to only a transfer account, and that approximately as fast as money is taken in it is paid out to the employees of the company operating the oil wells and Mr. NEWTON. [redacted] advised

that it was about six weeks prior to May 16, 1941, that a withdrawal or deposit appeared in this account.

[redacted] stated that the Newton Development Company, of which Mr. NEWTON is president, has banking connections in Wichita, Kansas, but he was unable to recall the name of the bank that these connections were with.

At Wichita, Kansas

[redacted] Cashier of the Kansas State Bank; [redacted] Assistant Cashier of the Southwest National Bank; [redacted] Vice President of the First National Bank; and [redacted] Assistant Cashier of the Fourth National Bank, all in Wichita, Kansas, were contacted in an effort to locate the bank account of the Newton Development Company, with negative results.

[redacted] Assistant Cashier of the Union National Bank, Wichita, Kansas, upon interview advised that the Newton Development Company maintains an account at that bank. [redacted] displayed to Agent the records and account of this company at that bank, which reflected that the account was in the name of the Newton Development Company, and that S. M. NEWTON was the only individual authorized to draw on this account. The address of the Newton Development Company was given as Box 433, Ness City, Kansas, and later changed to the Broadview Hotel, Wichita, Kansas, and later to Box 3, Dodge City, Kansas, on May 12, 1936. It was subsequently changed to 908 Equitable Building, Denver, Colorado, which according to these records is the present address of this company. [redacted] stated that although the records did not reflect it, he was of the opinion that S. M. NEWTON had formerly been associated with the Moody Interests, of considerable wealth and backing at Galveston, Texas.

b7C

An inspection of the records concerning this account of the Newton Development Company reflected that there were no cancelled checks which had not been sent to the company at the Union National Bank. The records reflected that the balance in this account at the time it was inspected on June 18, 1941, was $115.97. A further inspection of this account reflected that the average balance from March 21, 1941, to May 27, 1941, was about $300. The deposits during that period were $1,675, and the largest withdrawal during this period was $350. This bank does not have a Recordack System, and it was

impossible to determine to whom the withdrawals were made in favor of. [redacted] advised that he does not recall ever having seen a withdrawal from this account made in favor of [redacted] He advised that if regular withdrawals were made in favor of this individual he would know about it.

b7C

P E N D I N G.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

KANSAS CITY FIELD DIVISION

At Topeka, Kansas, will contact [redacted] for any additional information he might have concerning NEWTON and his affiliations or association with Subject [redacted] with aliases, Subject in this case.

b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

This Case Originated At: NEW YORK CITY K.C. File #65-7

Report Made At	Date When Made	Period For Which Made	Report Made By
KANSAS CITY, MO.	7/1/41	5/16 - 6/18/41	[redacted] HD

Title: [redacted] with aliases

Character of Case: ESPIONAGE - G.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: SILAS M. NEWTON is president of Kansas Western Pipeline Company, Denver, Colorado, which is a small oil company with three small producing oil wells but no pipeline. NEWTON receives on average about $200 per month from this corporation. NEWTON reportedly drilling oil well near Los Angeles, California, at present time. NEWTON believed formerly to have received financial backing from J. H. CARPENTER, New York City. NEWTON reportedly also associated in business with [redacted] NEWTON well known to [redacted] NEWTON reportedly has made no disloyal or un-American statements in or near McCracken, Kansas. NEWTON maintains no personal bank account at Citizens State Bank, McCracken. The Newton Development Company, of which SILAS M. NEWTON is head official, maintains account at Union National Bank, Wichita, Kansas, but nothing of a suspicious nature appears concerning this account.

b7C

DATE 12-15-80 6-3-97

P.

Approved and Forwarded: [signature]

Special Agent in Charge: [signature]

Copies
5 - Bureau
2 - New York
2 - Denver
2 - Los Angeles
2 - Kansas City

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

This Case Originated At: NEW YORK CITY K.C. File #65-7

Report Made At	Date Made	Period	Made by
KANSAS CITY	8-9-41	8-1-41	[redacted] RM

Title: [redacted] with aliases

Character of Case: ESPIONAGE - G.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: [redacted] interviewed and [redacted] SILAS M. NEWTON [redacted] Describes NEWTON as [redacted] States NEWTON is [redacted] SILAS M. NEWTON, [redacted] May have necessary information concerning possible marriage of NEWTON to subject [redacted] NEWTON has done banking with the Citizens Bank, McCracken, Kansas. [redacted] associated with NEWTON, and [redacted] may be source of information. NEWTON alleged to have been married twice. [redacted] When last known of by [redacted] NEWTON had [redacted] traveling with him. [redacted]

- P -

b7C
b7D

INDEXED
mm

RECORDED

Approved and Forwarded: [signature] Special Agent in Charge

65-837-190

Copies:
5 Bureau
2 Asst. Director E. J. Connelley
New York
2 Denver
2 Los Angeles
2 Kansas City

CC-ONI [redacted] AUG 11 1941

13-1-42

CH-22

COPIES DESTROYED

FIVE

CONTAINED
12-15-80 SP/GSK/BA/PB
8/15/84 SP6 BA/PB 246802
63-97 9733 TJ/RC

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] Kansas City, Missouri dated 7-1-41.

DETAILS: At Topeka, Kansas:

[redacted] was interviewed, and requested to furnish confidential information concerning his knowledge of SILAS M. NEWTON. [redacted] SILAS M. NEWTON [redacted] and in his opinion SILAS M. NEWTON [redacted]

[redacted] stated that he has never heard of SILAS M. NEWTON being associated with a woman by the name of [redacted] but stated that he believed NEWTON had been married at least twice and that approximately three years ago NEWTON [redacted] stated he later learned that SILAS M. NEWTON's wife had allegedly left a sizeable estate in stocks, bonds, and jewelry, but that NEWTON was unable to get possession of them after her death and was very much disappointed.

[redacted] also stated that SILAS M. NEWTON [redacted] and if approached properly might furnish some information concerning SILAS M. NEWTON. [redacted] also advised that NEWTON had done business with the Citizens Bank at McCracken, Kansas; that he is known to do business with the following banks: The United States National Bank of Denver, Colorado, The Union National Bank of Wichita, Kansas under the name of the Newton Development Company. [redacted] states that the account at the Union National Bank in Wichita is used by NEWTON [redacted] stated that he is well aware of the fact that MR. J. H. CARPENTER, deceased, formerly of New York City loaned large sums of money in the past for SILAS M. NEWTON in the oil business. [redacted] states that Mr. J. H. CARPENTER at one time called on him at Newton, Kansas and told him that he anticipated turning over three or four hundred thousand dollars to NEWTON for investment, stating that he was obligated to NEWTON through past business experiences with NEWTON; had been the cause of him receiving some large profits.

b7C
b7D

furnished additional information to the effect that SILAS M. NEWTON frequently making long distance telephone calls when unnecessary, and stated that he traveled almost exclusively by air.

He added that the only woman who he knew NEWTON to be and that when last known to him NEWTON had been traveling about 2½ years. He stated that when last known to him NEWTON was staying at the Arlington Hotel, Ness City, Kansas, and that He stated that that NEWTON contended carried as he was suffering some physical ailment.

b7C

furnished information that who is reported to be in the at the present time working for NEWTON, NEWTON. NEWTON and may be able to furnish information if properly approached.

- P E N D I N G -

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE DENVER FIELD DIVISION:

At Denver, Colorado, will endeavor to locate and discretely interview [redacted] concerning the possible marriage of SILAS M. NEWTON to subject [redacted]

Will endeavor to locate and interview [redacted] of SILAS M. NEWTON is order to ascertain in a discreet manner whether NEWTON is married to subject [redacted]

Will make investigation at the United States National Bank to ascertain in a discreet manner whether or not SILAS M. NEWTON is now, or has been in the past, writing checks payable to [redacted] under that name, or known aliases.

THE LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION:

At Long Beach California, will discretely interview [redacted] an employee of NEWTON, with a view to ascertaining whether or not NEWTON is married to, or associated with, [redacted]

THE KANSAS CITY FIELD DIVISION:

b7C

At McCracker, Kansas will interview officials of the Citizens Bank to obtain information concerning SILAS M. NEWTON, with specific view to ascertain whether or not checks written by NEWTON have cleared the bank, marked payable to [redacted] under that name or known aliases.

At Wichita, Kansas, at [redacted] employed by SILAS M. NEWTON from that establishment [redacted] and if possible will ascertain her present address and such information as may be pertinent to this case.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK CITY

FILE NO 65-44

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.	8/28/41	8/26,27/41	[redacted] Cl.M

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
[redacted] with aliases	ESPIONAGE - G

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Information received that a [redacted] is presently employed by the Newton Development Company, Denver, Colorado. [redacted]

AGENCY [illegible] DIST OFF 4
REQ. REC'D 12-2-55
REP'T. FORW 12-13-55
BY [illegible]

AGENCY [illegible]
REQ. REC'D [illegible]
REP'T. FORW [illegible]

-P-

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] Kansas City, 8-9-41.
Report of Special Agent [redacted] Newark, 8-11-41.

DETAILS:

The following report was received by the Los Angeles Office from the Long Beach Police Department, Long Beach, California:

"Officers have checked all sources of information and are unable to locate a [redacted] as mentioned in your communication, however we have learned that a [redacted] is employed by the Newton Development Company located at 9[illegible]8 [illegible] Equitable Building, Denver, Colorado, and that [redacted]

b7C

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: R B Hood
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

65-837-183

INDEXED
RECORDED

COPIES OF THIS REPORT
5 - Bureau
2 - New York
2 - Newark
2 - Denver
2 - Kansas City
2 - Los Angeles

CC - O.N.I.
[redacted]
12-1-42

SEP 2 1941

FIVE

CH-1

CONTAINED
6-3-57
GSK/BO 108
12-15-80
8/14/84 SP6 [illegible]
246802

66-D-2-3-2-[illegible]
9/8

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 7-[illegible]

"We understand that Mr. SILAS M. NEWTON, living in an unknown hotel in Los Angeles had to apply for a permit and post a bond with the State Oil and Gas Division located in the Bankers' Building, Sixth and Hill Streets, Los Angeles. Possibly information can be obtained from that division as to where [redacted] is living. Another source of information would be to contact [redacted] Our informant stated that he did have the address of the hotel [redacted] but at the present time is unable to remember the name of the hotel."

b7C

[redacted]

PENDING

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE DENVER FIELD DIVISION:

At Denver, Colorado, will discreetly interview [redacted] who is reportedly employed by the Newton Development Company, 908 Equitable Building, with a view to ascertaining whether SILAS M. NEWTON is married to or associated with [redacted]

THE NEWARK FIELD DIVISION:

At Paterson, New Jersey, will interview [redacted] for such information as he may possess regarding [redacted]

b7C

THE LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION:

At Los Angeles, California, will discreetly check with the State Oil and Gas Division located in the Bankers' Building, Sixth and Hill Streets, Los Angeles, relative to any information which they may possess concerning [redacted] and SILAS N. NEWTON.

Will also check the Retail Merchants Credit Association at Los Angeles for any information concerning the above-named men.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

FILE NO. 65-44

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.	11/28/41	10/20,21/41; 11/5,10/17/41	[redacted] Cl.M

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
[redacted] with aliases	ESPIONAGE - G

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

SILAS M. NEWTON [redacted] presently residing at the Hollywood Knickerbocker Hotel, Hollywood, California. [redacted] advised that NEWTON has resided in the hotel for years, has always been alone, and has never indicated in any way that he is married. [redacted] is attending NEWTON. In view of existing circumstances, it is not considered advisable to interview [redacted] regarding NEWTON. Information secured concerning [redacted] for Newton Development Company, knows nothing regarding NEWTON'S marital status.

-RUC-

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent [redacted]
Los Angeles, March 20, 1941.
Report of Special Agent [redacted]
Kansas City, Missouri, August 9, 1941.
Report of Special Agent [redacted]
Newark, New Jersey, August 11, 1941.

DETAILS:

[redacted] advised that the only record she possesses relative to instant matter is a request for a permit which was filed on April 29, 1941, by the Newton Development Company, 908 Equitable Building, Denver, Colorado, for [redacted] that at the time of filing this request, Mr. SILAS M. NEWTON, head of the Newton Development Company,

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [signature] SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

65-837-193

RECORDED

INDEXED

COPIES DESTROYED

COPIES OF THIS REPORT

5 - Bureau
2 - New York
1 - Denver (Information)
1 - Kansas City (Information)
2 - Los Angeles

CC-ONI

[redacted]

DEC 1 1941

FIVE

U S GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 7—8084

was reportedly residing at the Hollywood Knickerbocker Hotel, Hollywood, California, and had authorized [redacted] to conduct all business with the State Oil and Gas Division for the Newton Development Company. [redacted] advised that she has no record of [redacted]

On October 21, 1941, [redacted] of the Hollywood Knickerbocker Hotel, 1714 Ivar Avenue, Hollywood, California, was recontacted, and, in addition to the information which he had previously furnished to the Los Angeles Office and which is contained in the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated March 20, 1941, in instant case, further advised that SILAS M. NEWTON is presently residing at the Hollywood Knickerbocker Hotel and has been a guest at the hotel since March 1941; that for years NEWTON has made it a practice to reside at the Knickerbocker when in Los Angeles, but that he has always lived alone at the hotel and has never been accompanied by a wife, and has never indicated in any way that he is married. [redacted] stated that NEWTON has never discussed his marital status insofar as informant knows. Continuing, [redacted] advised that at the present time Mr. NEWTON [redacted] Informant stated that [redacted]

b7C

He advised that NEWTON is connected in some way with the petroleum business and is associated with [redacted] In view of this situation, it was not considered advisable to attempt to discreetly interview [redacted] relative to NEWTON'S marital status or his relationship with subject [redacted]

Special Agent [redacted] discreetly contacted [redacted] regarding the marital status of NEWTON and was advised that [redacted] SILAS M. NEWTON. [redacted] stated that he was cognizant of the fact that NEWTON was or had been married, but stated that he never saw NEWTON'S wife, did not know her name, and did not know whether she was living or dead. [redacted] was of the opinion that NEWTON [redacted] volunteered the information that none of the Newton drillers or riggers working for the Newton Development Company knew anything about NEWTON'S marital status, because this subject had come up in a discussion one day, but no one was able to furnish any information concerning NEWTON'S domestic affairs.

The records of the Los Angeles Retail Merchants Credit Association were checked with regard to SILAS M. NEWTON, with negative results.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

No Duplication Fees are charged for Deleted Page Information Sheet(s).

Total Deleted Page(s) ~ 1
Page 19 ~ b2, b7C, b7D