

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION
COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: MILLER, HENRY

FILE # 14-HQ-2578

DO-8

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

February 23, 1945

Walter Winchell sent attached
item to Attorney General, who
in turn sends to us.

bt

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Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. E. A. Tamm	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Coffey	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Carson	_____
Mr. Egan	_____
Mr. Hendon	_____
Mr. Mumford	_____
Mr. Jones	_____
Mr. Pennington	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Beahm	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5/18/81 BY SP-1GSK/wh

(38) 146

~~SECRET~~

copy to Boston
3/10/45

14-2578 EFB

SEARCHED INDEXED
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MAR 12 1945

We ack'd W. W. 2/26/45
1945

715 EFB

Dear Mr. [unclear]

To Mr. [unclear]

enclosing an article in which you may be interested. It concerns a phony writer named Henry Miller who has quite a following among pseudo-intellectuals in this country. He says the Nazis are very decent folk, hates the Jews and likes collaborationists. (On the personal side — he boasts that his first wife supported him by being a prostitute.) In short he's a beaut ...

I was visiting at Dartmouth College and heard Miller speak to a group of members of the Navy V-12 Program that the Germans were just the same sort of people as the Americans and that they were fighting for the same things. This happened a few weeks ago. (See the article for the exact quote, pg. 4)

I think it would be damned effective if there were a [unclear] in your column calling the attention of the Naval Intelligence to this "lecture" which Miller recently gave to me in the [unclear] uniform at Dartmouth.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5/11/00 BY SP6 BJS/STW

CONFIDENTIAL

EPB:WMJ

SAC, Boston

March 10, 1945

John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

HENRY MILLER
SEDITION

14-2578-1

RECORDED
&
INDEXED
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Information has been received at the Bureau to the effect that Henry Miller, who was described as a phony writer, recently spoke at Dartmouth College before a group of members of the Navy V-12 Program. It was alleged that Miller told the group that the Nazis were just the same sort of people as the Americans and that they were fighting for the same thing. According to our source of information, Miller has a following among pseudo intellectuals in this country, believes the Nazis are very decent people, and likes collaborationists.

From the meager descriptive data set forth above on Miller, we have not been able to identify him with any information in the Bureau's files. However, it is desired that preliminary inquiries be instituted at Dartmouth for the purpose of identifying Miller and determining the exact nature of his remarks made at a recent speech at that school. Your inquiries in this matter should generally follow the line of a sedition investigation and the Bureau should be appropriately advised of the results of your inquiries in an investigative report. It is not the Bureau's desire that an extensive investigation be conducted in this matter unless your preliminary inquiries indicate the desirability of such a course of action.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5/18/81 BY SP-1 GSK/mh

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED

MAR 10 1945

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

28 MAR 27 1945

Carson *Alvin* *EPB*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

FILE NO. **14-106 MEM**

REPORT MADE AT BOSTON, MASS.	DATE WHEN MADE 5/1/45	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 4/12, 16, 23/45	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
TITLE HENRY MILLER			CHARACTER OF CASE SEDITION

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5/18/81 BY SP-1 GSK/aw**

POINTS OF FACTS:

Bureau advised that Subject is alleged to have told a group of V-12 students at Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, that the Nazis were just the same sort of people as Americans and were fighting for the same thing. It was further alleged that the Subject believes that the Nazis are decent people and that he likes collaborationists. Inquiry at Dartmouth reflected that in November, 1944, the Subject appeared before two classes in Comparative Literature, consisting of both V-12 and civilian students but that no such statements were made by him. Indications are that

[REDACTED] is source of original complaint. Subject is a writer of considerable note and has had several books published in this country and abroad.

- C -

Bureau letter dated March 10, 1945.

REFERENCE

DETAILS:

Reference Bureau letter reflected that information had been received to the effect that HENRY MILLER, who is described as a phony writer, recently spoke at Dartmouth College before a group of members of the Navy V-12 program. It was alleged that MILLER told the group that the Nazis were just the same sort of people as the Americans and that they were fighting for the same thing. According to the Bureau's source of information, the Subject has a following among pseudo-intellectuals in this country, believes the Nazis are very decent people and likes collaborationists. From the meager descriptive data obtained from the original

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [Signature] 5-4	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
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BCS File 14-106

source of information in this case, the Bureau was unable to identify the Subject with any information in the Bureau's files.

AT HANOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

[REDACTED] advised that the Subject was recently brought to Dartmouth College by [REDACTED] professor of Comparative Literature, at which time the Subject appeared before several of [REDACTED] classes. [REDACTED] stated that the Subject is a writer of considerable note and has had several books published in this country and abroad. He stated that many of the Subject's books were not permitted to be published in this country because of the fact that the writer seemed to have absolutely no morals governing the choice of the words that he used.

[REDACTED] Dartmouth College, [REDACTED] the Subject had appeared as a guest writer [REDACTED] in Comparative Literature. The Subject had been at Dartmouth some time between November 12 and November 17, 1944. The Subject appeared for fifty minutes before each of these two classes in [REDACTED] a question-answer group discussion. Both of these classes consisted of members of the Navy V-12 program as well as civilian students.

[REDACTED] stated that he was quite certain that the source of the original complaint in this particular case was [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] apparently hated the Subject for some reason or other prior to his meeting Subject at Dartmouth on this occasion. [REDACTED] attempted throughout the entire discussion to "bait" the Subject [REDACTED]

b7C
b7D

Several weeks after this incident, [redacted] received a letter [redacted] enclosing an article which appeared in a Jewish publication and which was later reprinted in the DAILY WORKER. According to [redacted] this article was a vicious attack made [redacted] on the subject [redacted]. The article stated that the Subject had attempted to spread vicious propaganda among the Navy V-12 students at Dartmouth and because of this, should be the subject of an investigation by Naval Intelligence. It further stated that because the Subject appeared to be friendly with [redacted] that [redacted] should be investigated also. According to [redacted] this article had absolutely no basis of truth [redacted].

[redacted] was unable to locate the above-mentioned article nor was he able to recall the Jewish publication in which it had originally appeared.

[redacted] stated that the Subject at no time made any statements concerning the fact that the Nazis were very decent people and that he liked collaborationists. In fact, there was nothing which could be considered subversive or un-American mentioned by the Subject [redacted].

[redacted] He stated [redacted] apparently felt that the Subject in some of his previous writings had indicated an anti-Semitic attitude, and for this reason, had deliberately gone out of his way to attempt to get the Subject to make statements which would indicate this anti-Semitism.

It is to be noted that [redacted] According to [redacted] the discussions had between Subject [redacted] were concerned primarily with creative writing and were definitely non-political. Most of the questions asked by the students were concerned with the source material of the books and articles written by the Subject.

The Subject was described [redacted] as being an ultra-modern type of writer who went to such an extreme in the use of certain words that many of his books were not allowed to be published in this country. He stated, however, that the Subject has a substantial following among military groups in this country and is considered by many critics to be one of the foremost American writers at this time.

[redacted] stated that he has known the Subject for many years but has only actually met him on two different occasions. He stated that the Subject is strictly the artist type and could very easily be called "screwball" by people who didn't understand or appreciate his writing. The Subject apparently has no substantial source of income, his chief income being obtained through gifts from several of his followers who have considerable wealth. [redacted] stated that one of these individuals is [redacted] of Washington, D. C., who is listed in "Who's Who" as [redacted] residing at [redacted]

[redacted] stated that if further information concerning the Subject's background was desired, [redacted] would be a logical source for this information. He further stated that most of the writings of the Subject are non-political and that none of them at all reflect that the Subject is in any way subversive or un-American. He stated that the Subject is considered somewhat of a pacifist as is the case with practically all of the true artists. At the present time, the Subject makes his home at Big Sur, California.

[redacted] the two classes before which the Subject appeared and the writer was able to obtain the names of students who had listened to the Subject talk.

AT DARTMOUTH COLLEGE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

[redacted] advised that the Subject had given a talk before a Comparative Literature class of which he was a member and that at no time during this talk or the resulting discussion was any mention made of the Nazis or other problems involving current international politics. He stated that the discussion was principally a question-answer affair, in which the students questioned the Subject principally concerning the source of the subject matter and material which the Subject had employed in many of his books and writings. Another Subject which was discussed was a comparison of the ethics and morals of the United States with those of many of the countries in which the Subject had travelled.

According to [redacted] there was no one present during the discussion by the name of [redacted] and nothing was said by the Subject that could be

construed as being subversive or un-American.

[REDACTED], advised [REDACTED] one of the classes before which the Subject appeared. He stated that [REDACTED] had announced at the beginning of the discussion period that the questions were to be absolutely non-political and were to concern themselves with creative writing and also concerning the writings of the Subject. Most of the questions which were put to the Subject were concerning source material for his books and also concerning the ethics and morals of countries in which the Subject had travelled, in comparison with those in this country.

[REDACTED] stated that there was a guest present by the name of [REDACTED] who at one point attempted to dominate the entire discussion and that it was necessary for [REDACTED] to advise [REDACTED] that the Subject was the guest speaker and requested [REDACTED] to refrain from asking so many questions. According to [REDACTED] apparently became angered at some statement which the Subject had made, which he thought had been directed toward him personally and from then on until he was repulsed by [REDACTED] had attempted to "heckle" the Subject.

[REDACTED] said that there was absolutely nothing said by the Subject which could be construed as being un-American or subversive and that no mention was made of the Nazis being decent people at that time such as the Americans.

[REDACTED] advised that he was present [REDACTED] at the time the Subject appeared before them. [REDACTED] furnished in substance much of the same information previously furnished by [REDACTED]. He also stated that there was no mention during the Subject's discussion with the class of current international political problems and that there was nothing said by the Subject which could be construed as being un-American or subversive.

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In view of the fact that the allegation furnished to the Bureau concerning the Subject appears to be without basis, no further investigation is being conducted and this case is being closed on the authority of the Special Agent in Charge.

- C L O S E D -