

\*LYND, ROBERT S. (continued)  
Golden Book of American Friendship  
Signer  
(Soviet Russia Today, 11/37, p. 79)

\*In Defense of the Bill of Rights  
Signer  
(In Defense of the Bill of Rights, a circular, p. 2)

\*League of American Writers  
Signer, Open Letter to Secretary CORDELL HULL  
and the Pan-American Conference  
Daily Worker 7/31/40, p 7

\*Letter protesting Ban on Communists in  
American Civil Liberties Union  
Signer  
(Daily Worker, 3/19/40, p. 4)

\*National Emergency Conference for Democratic Rights  
Signer of open letter on DIES Committee  
(Daily Worker, 5/13/40, pp 1, 5)

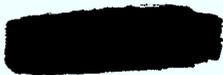
\*Open letter to American Liberals  
Signer  
(Daily Worker, 2/9/37, p. 2)  
Columbia University Professor

\*Open Letter to American Liberals  
Signer  
(Soviet Russia Today, March 1937, pp 14-15)

\*Open Letter to New Masses concerning 'American  
Committee for the Defense of LEON TROTSKY.'  
Signer  
(New Masses, 2/16/37, p. 2)"

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

(47/c)



77-3070

NEW YORK, N.Y.

JUNE 17, 1942

INDIANAPOLIS FIELD DIVISION

ROBERT STAUGHTON LYND OBM SPECIAL INQUIRY. APPLICANT WAS EMPLOYED BY THE INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS RESEARCH, FOUR NAUGHT TWO WESTERN RESERVE BUILDING, MUNCIE, INDIANA DURING TWENTYFOUR. HE IS PRESENTLY PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY COLU BIA UNIVERSITY, N.Y.C. AND AUTHOR OF FAMOUS BOOK " MIDDLETOWN". HE IS MARRIED AND WAS BORN ON SEPTEMBER TWNETYSIX, EIGHTEEN NINETYTWO AT NEW ALBANY, INDIANA. " MIDDLETOWN" IS ALLEGED TO BE SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF MUNCIE, INDIANA.

FOXWORTH

CC: BUREAU

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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(47/c)

6/7/42

77-3070

NEW YORK, N.Y.  
JUNE 17, 1942

DENVER FIELD DIVISION

ROBERT STAUGHTON LYND OEN SPECIAL INQUIRY. APPLICANT WAS EMPLOYED IN EARLY NINETEEN TWENTIES, BY THE PRESBYTERIAN HOME BOARD, ELK BASIN, WYOMING. AT THIS TIME HE WAS STUDENT OF THEOLOGY. HE IS PRESENTLY PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NYC AND AUTHOR OF FAMOUS BOOK "MIDDLETOWN". HE IS MARRIED AND WAS BORN ON SEPTEMBER TWENTYSIX, EIGHTEEN NINETEENTWO AT NEW ALBANY INDIANA.

FOXWORTH

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9 JUN 25 1942

6/7/42

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT BUREAU

NY FILE NO. 77-3070

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK CITY</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>6/26/42</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>6/10, 11, 12, 15, 19/42</b>	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]
TITLE <b>ROBERT STAUGHTON LYND</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>OFFICE FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SPECIAL INQUIRY</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** ROBERT STAUGHTON LYND was born on September 26, 1892, in New Albany, Indiana. His father was a bank president in New York City. He attended college at Princeton, N.J., being graduated with an A.B. degree in 1914. From 1914 to 1918 he was in the Editorial Department of the Publishers Weekly, New York City, at \$150 per month, and from here entered the Army. Satisfactory. Following the War he became Advertising Manager in Charles Scribner's Sons, New York City, Publishers, at \$4,000 per annum. In 1919 he went with B. W. Huebsch, New York City, Publishing House, at \$3,000 per annum, resigning in September, 1920 to enter seminary. Satisfactory. Entered Union Theological Seminary, New York City, in September, 1920, and was graduated with a B.D. degree in May, 1923. Scholastic and attitude records were satisfactory. During 1919, 1920, 1921 and 1933 he attended classes at the New School for Social Research, New York City, and attended Columbia University Graduate School, New York City, intermittently from 1921 to 1931, receiving a Ph.D. degree in Sociology in June, 1931. Employed by Commonwealth Fund, New York City, from April, 1926 to July, 1927, as Research Supervisor, at \$5,000 per annum. Satisfactory. Employed by Social Science Research Council, New York City, from November, 1927 to July, 1931, as Secretary, at \$10,000 per annum. Satisfactory. Employed by Columbia University from July, 1931 to present as Professor of Sociology, at \$9,000 per annum. Satisfactory. [REDACTED] declare him to be of excellent personal habits, exemplary character, liberal in his views,

**(4714)**

*cc State  
June 4/15/42*

APPROVED AND FORWARDED [Signature]	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <b>77-15837-6</b>
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a reformer by nature but loyal and patriotic. Wrote "Middletown", in collaboration with his wife, Professor Helen Merrell Lynd of Sarah Lawrence College. Reputed to be impractical, wishful thinker by type, and alleged radical. "Leftist" associations and activities set forth. No criminal record, New York City. Credit rating, New York City, "fair".

- RUC -

REFERENCE: Bureau letter to the New York Field Division, dated February 21, 1942.

DETAILS: AT NEW YORK CITY.

EDUCATION

15/17/1(c) [REDACTED] in the Registrar's Office of the Union Theological Seminary, 120th Street and Broadway, New York City, N.Y., made available to the reporting agent the scholastic record and personnel card of ROBERT STAUGHTON LYND while he was a student at this institution of learning. These records revealed that LYND was born on September 26, 1892 in New Albany, Indiana; his parent was listed as Mr. S. B. Lynd, and his address given as that of President of the Industrial Bank, New York City, N.Y. LYND'S prior education before entering the Seminary was given as a graduate of Princeton University, Princeton, N.J., with a degree of A.B. He attended Princeton during the years 1910 to 1914, and his degree was conferred upon him in June, 1914. He entered the Seminary on September 22, 1920, and while at the institution his scholastic record was excellent. He was described as being an enthusiastic and cooperative student. He received a degree of Bachelor of Divinity on May 15, 1923. During 1924 he was affiliated with the Institute of Social and Religious Research, at 402 Western Reserve Building, Muncie, Indiana. He was also described as having been a student at various times at the New School for Social Research in New York City. From 1914 to 1918 LYND was with the Editorial Department of the Publishers Weekly, these records further disclosed, and became the Managing Editor of this publication during the years 1916 to 1919. From this position he entered the Army, and after the War accepted a position with Charles Scribner's Sons, Publishers, New York City, as the Advertising Manager in the Book Department. After leaving this organization with a good record, in 1919 he went with the firm of B. W. Huebsch, Publishers, New York City, and from here he left to enter the above mentioned Theological Seminary.

In 1922, while still a student at Union, LYND wrote an article for Harpers Magazine, and also for the Survey Graphic of November, 1922, entitled "Crude Oil Religion". This article was followed by another one

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entitled "Crude Oil, Its Human Costs". These articles, the record further went on, were the result of his experiences in Elk Basin, Wyoming, where he spent a summer as a student minister of the Presbyterian Home Board in that region.

Mr. LYND was further described in the record as married at the present time, and his wife a Wellesley Graduate and the holder of a Phi Beta Kappa key.

It was further ascertained from the theological school records that Mrs. LYND also attended Columbia University as a candidate for a doctorate in history, and she was described as a charming individual.

LYND was always considered by Union to be worthwhile, open-minded, keenly intelligent, fearless but tactful, and forceful without being opinionated. He also was described as the author of the highly acclaimed book entitled "Middletown", which was written in collaboration with his wife, Helen Merrill Lynd. This particular work was a dissection of a typical small American city and came from the presses in 1929. It was a smashing sociological hit. Dr. LYND also wrote "Middletown in Transition", a sequel to the aforementioned book, and this reached the presses in 1937. His wife, Mrs. LYND, is a Professor of Sociology at Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, New York, it was further ascertained from these files.

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[REDACTED] in the Registrar's Office of the New School for Social Research, 66 West 12th Street, New York City, N.Y., made available to the writer LYND'S record while he was a student at the aforementioned school. These records disclosed that LYND attended courses at the school during 1919, 1920, and 1921, studying "Current Type Economic Theory and the Objective Study of Social Relations". He also attended a course in the Apprentice Theater which was given at the New School during the fall of 1933. His former employers were listed on the School records as the Publishers Weekly, Charles Scribner and Sons, and B. W. Huebsch, Inc. At the latter enterprise LYND was described as having worked on the publication "Freeman".

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[REDACTED] of the Graduate School, Columbia University, Broadway, New York City, made available to the writer LYND'S record while he was a student at Columbia University. These records disclosed that he attended Columbia from September, 1921 to June, 1922, and also during the summer session of July to August, 1922. He also took courses at this institution from September, 1922 to June, 1923, and attended summer sessions from July to August, 1929. He re-entered Columbia in September, 1929, and attended to and throughout January, 1930. During the aforementioned years LYND took courses in Sociology, and as a result of these studies received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology on June 19, 1931.

[REDACTED] New York City, N.Y., advised the writer that he has known LYND as a colleague and friend for well over twenty years. He stated that he met him soon after the first World War and while LYND was a student at the Union Theological School in New York City, N.Y. [REDACTED] stated that LYND is happily married, and that Mrs. LYND his wife is an extraordinary woman who is presently a Professor of Sociology at Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, N.Y. He stated that both Mr. LYND and Mrs. Lynd were high type persons. LYND is a Princeton graduate [REDACTED] declared, and is an individual of very tender conscience. Following the War and the terrible consequences thereof, he went on, LYND became a disillusioned individual and thought that he could help his fellow men by entering the ministry. Consequently [REDACTED] further declared, LYND left a lucrative position in the publishing business to enter a theological school. [REDACTED] stated that he did not think that LYND ever worked in a parish as a permanent minister, and he believes that LYND had left the ministry because he was dissatisfied with it and thought that he could be of better service to his fellow men in a teaching position. After he left the ministry, [REDACTED] declared, LYND took a position with the Institute of Social and Religious Research, in New York City, N.Y., and from this position, because of his ability and knowledge, he was invited to become a member of the Social Science Research Council, in New York City. This was about the year 1927 [REDACTED] went on to say, and LYND kept this position until 1931, when he resigned to accept a permanent Professorship in Sociology at Columbia University, as he recalled.

[REDACTED] stated that both the Lynds are intensely interested in the masses and how they live. He stated further that LYND is not the executive type of individual, but is more qualified in research and has an evangelical attitude on everything. When one speaks to him, [REDACTED] went on, he is very much reminded of Vice President Wallace, inasmuch as LYND and the Vice President seem to be hewn from the same type of rock. [REDACTED] stated that the Lynds have two young children, and that they are very happily married. He declared further that LYND is an individual of excellent personal habits, holds the respect of all, and enjoys an excellent reputation in New York City. As a matter of fact [REDACTED] declared, LYND is the finest character whom he knows, and as a worker has a great deal of drive and ability. However [REDACTED] declared, this drive causes LYND at times to plunge into the middle of things without the proper preparation, as he has always the end in mind to be attained and does not worry too much about the means of attaining it. His great moral courage [REDACTED] went on, causes him always to be protecting the under-dog, and whenever he sees the slightest freedom chained, he will do his utmost to relieve the situation. At the present time [REDACTED] went on, LYND teaches Sociology, and stresses family problems in his work. He declared that in this field of Sociology LYND is very well known and enjoys the highest respect of his colleagues as well as the general reading public and student bodies.

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LYND'S loyalty to this country [redacted] went on, is unquestioned. As a matter of fact, he declared, LYND is very critical of people because they do not live up to the true democratic ideas and, although he loves this country thoroughly, he is always striving to make it better and a better place for people to live in. He has absolutely no Fascist tendencies whatsoever, [redacted] went on, and as far as he knows has never been a member of the Communist Party and is not the type to join such an organization. He wants the country [redacted] stated, to get down to the original democratic principles of our founders, and as a result he is always defending the under-dog, such as the negro in the South and the Poles in Louisiana. He is a violent critic of the Dies Committee [redacted] went on, because he believes that the methods of this organization are undemocratic and thinks that they accuse people without giving them a chance to defend themselves. In his zeal to better conditions in this country [redacted] went on, he is strictly a reformer, and demands the proper rights for all people. Probably due to his theological background, [redacted] further declared, LYND is always preaching righteousness, and this leads him at times to be intemperate and impatient of other people. However, [redacted] stated in conclusion, in his estimation LYND is a loyal and patriotic citizen of this country, and has a genuine interest and sincere desire to help others.

[redacted] New York City, N.Y., advised the reporting agent that he has known ROBERT LYND for ten years or more as a friend. He declared that in his estimation LYND is the "salt of the earth". He declared that LYND is a prominent Sociologist on the Staff of Columbia University, is very liberal in his views on things, but is not a "radical or red". He declared, however, that LYND to many people gives the impression of being a radical, but to be truthful he is merely a fair minded individual who wants to be fair to all people and give them all the rights and freedom which they deserve. He declared that he is a strong defender of freedom of speech and will not tolerate any restraint of this democratic freedom. This love for freedom and his defense of other individuals, [redacted] went on, often has given LYND the above mentioned reputation of being Communistically inclined, and as a result of this he has signed petitions protesting against all curtailments of life and liberty. He is a competent sociologist, [redacted] went on, solid in his background and very capable as a field man. As an individual [redacted] declared, LYND is a high type person of excellent character and personal habits, and his family life is free from the slightest tinge of derogation. Mrs. Lynd herself [redacted] went on, is a Professor of Sociology at Sarah Lawrence College and, although he does not know too much about her, he went on, Mrs. Lynd also has a reputation of being a "liberal".

In spite of his extremely liberal views on things, however, [redacted] stated, LYND is definitely not a Communist, and as far as he knows has had no connection with the Communist Party or any so-called fronts of this organization. Rather than that [redacted] stated, LYND is a loyal,

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100 percent American who firmly believes in the Constitution of the United States although he believes that it is to be interpreted in a liberal fashion.

[redacted] repeated the statement that many people might believe that LYND was a "red", but as a matter of fact he is not. LYND has a distinct emotional side to himself. [redacted] further declared, and as a result of this and his desire to prevent the crushing of freedom of Russians, LYND has signed things, never realizing what the connection of these petitions might have with subversive organizations in this country.

[redacted] stated that at no time has LYND been in any difficulties with the Faculty of the University, and that they consider him capable, intelligent, and a valuable asset to the Faculty.

[redacted] declared, in conclusion, that he would recommend Dr. LYND for a position with the Federal Government because of his reputation, personal character, and loyalty to the United States, and declared that he might best describe LYND as a "defender of freedom".

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[redacted] New York City, N.Y., advised the reporting agent that he has known Dr. ROBERT S. LYND since approximately 1926, as a friend and associate. He declared that he had [redacted] and that LYND had been employed by the aforementioned organization from November, 1927 to July, 1931, at a salary of \$10,000 per annum. [redacted] stated that in his estimation LYND was the best man on earth, and that LYND wants the whole world to be reformed. As a result of this tendency on his part [redacted] stated, LYND is impractical in his views because he sees things in too big a light. At the time that LYND came with [redacted] declared, he had just finished his review of "Middletown" and was getting the book ready for publication. [redacted] stated that this famous book, "Middletown", was written by LYND in collaboration with his wife, Professor Helen M. Lynd, of Sarah Lawrence College. Mrs. Lynd as well as the Professor himself [redacted] declared, is an extraordinary woman. They are both liberal and visionary in their views, he stated, but not what would be considered radical. As a [redacted] stated, LYND was very satisfactory, and he left [redacted] to accept a position as a permanent Professor at Columbia University and for no other reason. While with the [redacted] he went on, LYND planned and stimulated research, and granted fellowships to deserving students in many fields of scientific research. [redacted] declared that LYND himself is very interested in housing and research along these lines, and others of a social nature. LYND speaks too much, however, [redacted] went on, and is too good to people, and wants all life to be sweetness for everybody in this world. He stated further that LYND has no use for radical Communists as such, and in his estimation has no un-American leanings.

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LYND has never been connected with the Communist Party. [redacted] went on, and is not the type to stand for such an organization. [redacted] stated that in his estimation LYND is another Charles A. Beard, and is just like him in the opinion of very many people. His staunch moral qualities [redacted] stated, have made LYND always sympathetic for the under-dog. [redacted] declared that LYND is not the aggressive or executive type and is strictly in the field of the mind and not in that of action.

[redacted] further stated that he does not know why Professor LYND left the ministry, but one of the reasons that he might advance for such action was that Mrs. Lynd is a very brilliant woman and maybe the Doctor himself could not see her as a minister's wife. [redacted] declared that the LYNDs have two children, a boy of around ten years and a daughter of eight. Dr. LYND'S reputation as a man, it was further ascertained from [redacted] is excellent, and he is well thought of as a Sociologist among students of this science. He is too solid, hearty and genuine to be a member of a subversive organization. [redacted] stated, although it is possible that he might have joined groups of organizations which proved to be "fronts" for subversive groups. LYND is strictly an idealist. [redacted] went on, in his thinking and is intelligent and an excellent public speaker. Among the many books which LYND has written [redacted] went on, are "Middletown", "Middletown in Transition", and "Knowledge for What?", which dealt with what was wrong in the social science and consisted of a series of lectures delivered at Johns Hopkins University.

[redacted] went on to state that LYND is a reformer, and is always striving for the eradication of poverty and disease from the United States, although in his estimation he desires them to be abolished along democratic lines. He is a firm believer in our form of government. [redacted] went on, and he would recommend him without reservation for a position with the Federal Government because of his character, ability, affability, and his knowledge of Sociology.

Mrs. LYND [redacted] stated, is just like Professor LYND himself, although is more tough headed in her ideas, especially along intellectual lines.

[redacted] stated, in conclusion, that he might describe LYND as a New Dealer, although he desires to go farther than the present administration with his social reform. He is the type, he further stated, that is always out to help people and to right abuses if he possibly can.

#### EMPLOYMENT

[redacted] of the Publishers Weekly, and the R. R. Bowker Company, 62 West 45th Street, New York City, N.Y., advised the reporting agent that ROBERT STAUGHTON LYND had been an employ e of Publishers Weekly from approximately 1914 to 1918, and received as a salary around \$150.00 per month. [redacted] stated that he knew LYND while he was an employ e of the organization, although at the present time there are no records indicating this employment. At this time [redacted] went on, LYND was a young fellow just out of Princeton University, and was in charge of making up the

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magazine, assembling it, and checking the stories which were then inserted. He was a very intelligent young man [redacted] stated, and from this time on has become a prominent figure in New York [redacted] declared that LYND'S father, S. B. Lynd, was President of a New York bank, and from a financial standpoint was a very successful man. In 1916 [redacted] stated, LYND was promoted to the position of Assistant Editor of the Weekly, and remained in this position until 1919, when he volunteered for the United States Army during the War. He declared that LYND had a fine personality in those days, was affable, good in his appearance, and an individual of excellent personal habits and reputation. [redacted] stated that he was unable to state anything concerning LYND at the present time, inasmuch as he has not seen him for over seven years.

[redacted] of Charles Scribner's Sons, 597 Fifth Avenue, New York City, N.Y., advised the reporting agent that at the present time there are no records of LYND'S employment with that organization. He stated, however, that [redacted] had hired LYND as Advertising Manager [redacted] Book Department during 1919, at a salary of approximately \$4,000 per annum. [redacted] stated that prior to the War LYND had received experience in this line as one of the Editors of Publishers Weekly, and that when he came to Scribner's was rather accomplished in this line. He stated LYND had an excellent personality, was affable, pleasant, and intelligent. Years ago [redacted] stated, many of the "oldsters" thought that LYND was rather frank in his ways because he thought many of the methods used by the firm were passé. In those days of extreme conservatism [redacted] declared, LYND was considered to be a "leftist", and many of the older business men thought that he was rather radical in his views on things. LYND was a good talker [redacted] went on, a clear thinker, and in his estimation is thoroughly loyal and a patriotic American. He stated that he has not seen LYND for years, however, and he does not know if LYND'S liberal attitude on things has persisted during recent years, as their contacts have been very infrequent. [redacted] stated that he would recommend LYND for any position, on the basis of his employment with them, as they found him to be an excellent employee, very alert in his manner, although he was rather impatient with many of the methods.

[redacted] of the B. W. Huebsch Publishing Company, 18 East 48th Street, New York City, N.Y., advised the reporting agent that he had no record presently in his offices of LYND'S employment. He stated, however, that [redacted] during 1919 as an Assistant in the publishing business, at a salary of approximately \$3,000 per annum. He declared that at that time LYND had an excellent position with Charles Scribner's Sons, but as [redacted] firm was rather small LYND believed that he could learn more about the publishing business as [redacted] assistant than he could as a member of a large publishing house. As a result [redacted] stated, LYND came to him and he "taught him the ropes of the business". While with him [redacted] went on, LYND'S position was to speak to authors and go over their manuscripts with him. At this time [redacted] went on, LYND'S father was a banker in New York City, and as he recalls the family came from someplace in the midwest, either from Kentucky

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or Indiana [redacted] stated that LYND remained with [redacted] until September, 1920, when LYND told him that he desired to enter the ministry as he thought this was the best calling in which to serve mankind and society. As a result of this [redacted] stated, he accepted LYND'S resignation, and since this time has been associated with him on a casual basis.

[redacted] stated that LYND is liberal in his views on things, is a person of excellent habits and character, and of unquestioned loyalty to the United States. [redacted] stated that he would recommend LYND for a position with the Government, from a standpoint of his character and loyalty as he knows it.

A check by the reporting agent at the office building located at 370 Seventh Avenue, New York City, N. Y., which formerly housed the defunct Institute of Social and Religious Research, met with negative results concerning any information as to this organization. Dr. LYND was allegedly employed by this Institute from 1923 to 1926. [redacted] of the building, stated he had no remembrance of the Institute and no knowledge as to when they went out of business.

(6)(7)(C) [redacted] and [redacted] of the Blockton Realty Company, 565 Fifth Avenue, New York City, N.Y., advised the reporting agent that they [redacted] of the building located at 370 Seventh Avenue, New York City, but that their files failed to disclose any information concerning the Institute of Social and Religious Research or Mr. Galen M. Fisher, who was the Director of the Institute.

[redacted] of the Commonwealth Fund, 41 East 57th Street, New York City, N.Y., advised the reporting agent that a check of his record revealed that ROBERT S. LYND had been employed by the Fund from April, 1926 to July, 1927, as a Research Supervisor, at \$5,000 per annum. [redacted] stated that LYND was hired to work on an educational research project, and as such supervised educational research and study of the methods of teaching. His work [redacted] went on, was very satisfactory, and he resigned from the Fund on completion of the project. [redacted] stated that he had found LYND to be very intelligent, well educated, and an individual of good personal habits. He stated, however, that his contact with LYND was purely professional, but as such he had found LYND to be a solid citizen of good personality, and more the theoretical type than practical. [redacted] stated that he knew nothing concerning the political and sociological views of LYND, but as he recalls, LYND was rather liberal in the days when he knew him.

[redacted] to the Social Science Research Council, 230 Park Avenue, New York City, N.Y., advised the writer that Dr.

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LYND had been Secretary and Executive Director of the Council from 1927 to 1931. She stated that he resigned to accept a Professorship at Columbia University, and that everybody on the Staff of the Council was sorry to see him go. She stated that he had originally been elected to the position of Secretary by many learned citizens throughout the country which make up the Research Council. [redacted] went on to say that LYND was an administrator of the Council, head of Personnel, and supervised various projects which were being conducted by the Research Council. She declared that she knew him as an employee and found him to be very pleasant, very easy to get along with, and very professional in his make-up.

[redacted] of the Department of Sociology, Columbia University, New York City, N.Y., advised the reporting agent that Professor LYND had become a member of the Staff at their University in July, 1931, from a position as Secretary of the Social Science Research Council in New York City. [redacted] stated that LYND is a permanent member of the Staff at the University, and draws a salary of \$9,000 per annum. [redacted] further declared that LYND had been invited to become a member of the University Faculty on his recommendation, as he had heard of him for years and known him to be an excellent Sociologist. Since this time [redacted] declared, he has got to know LYND very well as both a friend and colleague. He declared that LYND gets along with people very well, is clear-cut in his manner, forthright and straight forward in all his views. LYND never soft pedals anything. [redacted] went on, and tells people exactly what he thinks when he discusses problems with them, however in a manner which is affable and which does not harm his association with other people. LYND is a forceful and graphic individual. [redacted] further stated. Mrs. Lynd, Professor [redacted] went on, is also a very forceful and extraordinary person, and makes an excellent wife for Professor LYND. [redacted] further stated that LYND is a very busy individual and "a veritable whale for work", thinking it almost immoral to take a day off. Most of LYND'S work, he went on, is within the limits of group behavior and its "spring", and his specialty is habits of consumption, social ways of spending money, and problems of the consumer. He stated further that LYND is not interested so much in the theoretical problems of sociology as he is in the practical application of those in everyday life. Furthermore [redacted] stated, LYND is of unquestioned loyalty to the United States of America, and is not a Fascist, Communist, or other subversive person. He is independent in his views [redacted] stated, but is thorough, and has a genuine, warm kind of attitude towards downtrodden people. [redacted] also stated that LYND has reforming tendencies, and wants to better the conditions of the working man, and especially the young. He is characteristically American. [redacted] went on, and he knows of no un-American connections which LYND might have with Fascistic or Communistic groups. Were it to come to a desperate choice between these two forms of ideologies [redacted] stated, LYND would probably become a Communist, he is so opposed to Fascism and all which it stands for.

[redacted] advised the writer that LYND'S personal habits are beyond the shadow of reproach, as he never drinks and "scorns delights" and lives laborious days. [redacted] declared that LYND has had no trouble

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(L) [ whatsoever with the authorities of the University, although he has been very critical at times of things happening around the University. For instance, he was the champion whenever freedom of speech was denied students who wished to orate on particular abuses. [redacted] did not state any particular instances of the above. He is definitely a champion of the cause of our civil rights and liberties. [redacted] stated, and his temperament is to prevent any abuse of these freedoms.

[redacted] stated, in conclusion, that he would recommend LYND as a consultant with the Federal Government because of his character, reputation, loyalty and knowledge.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

From confidential informant T-1 it was ascertained that LYND is a wishful thinker, and at the present time many of his ideas on how to improve the condition of people are impossible. Informant was not able at this time to give the reporting agent any example of these impossible views on LYND'S part. As a result of this, confidential informant doubts LYND'S judgment to achieve his ends. He declared that in his desire for social reform LYND seems to strive for impossible ideals and situations.

Confidential informant T-2 stated that LYND is definitely a "left wing liberal". He declared that LYND sees many good things in Soviet Russia, especially the aid which this power gives to the young students and the opportunities which the Soviet lays before them.

Informant T-2 went on to state that there was a time when LYND used to sign many petitions of so-called "front" organizations and other groups defending a particular freedom, but he does not sign them as promiscuously as he did at one time. T-2 stated, however, that at no time in his estimation would LYND sign anything unless he was very sure of it, as he is too intelligent an individual and too cognizant of what he is doing at all times.

Confidential informant T-2 further declared that LYND'S desire for perfectness might lead him at times to annoy a fellow colleague, but this would be only on rare instances and is not his general attitude.

Confidential informant T-2 stated that LYND had left the ministry because he was not Orthodox in his views and had different ambitions than the theological field afforded him.

From confidential source T-3 the following information was received concerning ROBERT LYND: During his days in Elk and Wolf Basin, Montana, while a theological student, LYND worked, pick and shovel, with the laborers in the northwestern oil camps in order to reach their hearts and minds and preach to them on the same level.

On April 10, 1939 he published a book entitled "Knowledge for

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What?". This book stated that accumulation of wisdom should be used to better the condition of man and used to solve the economic difficulties of the time. In 1929 LYND, in collaboration with his wife, Helen M. Lynd, published the well known book entitled "Middletown", which created a sensation in the sociological world and which has become a classic in that field. This book was a dissection of a typical midwestern community which is believed to be that of Muncie, Indiana, although the original source has never been revealed. In 1937 Professor LYND came out with his book entitled "Middletown in Transition". Here again he analyzed the people of Middletown, and certain questions were asked by him as to the changes in the city during the ten years. It deals with the labor situation, the growth of class feeling, and other subjects.

In May, 1937 ROBERT S. LYND was elected an officer in the Consumers National Federation, which was an alleged establishment to act as a clearing house and coordinate activities to protect the consumer. In October, 1937 he signed an open letter made public by the American Friend to Aid Spanish Democracy, charging that a pastoral letter of the Catholic Hierarchy showed "open hostilities towards the principle of popular government, freedom of worship, and the cooperation of Church and State, and attempted to justify a military rebellion against a legally elected government."

Professor LYND was further described by confidential source T-3 as a former member of the N.R.A. Consumers Board. He was also a member during May, 1939 of the National Emergency Conference, which opposed the Allen Bill of 1939, then pending, as "constituting a threat to the civil rights of native and naturalized Americans as well as foreigners".

In January, 1939 a statement was made public by the College Teachers Union of New York, wherein LYND commented on the charges made against the Union to the effect that they are dominated by Communists. LYND stated that members of the Union should be "more active in widening the base of its democratic action" to prevent such charges. This situation came about when three professors resigned from the Union because they claimed it was Communist dominated. LYND declared that this was no time to resign, but proposed the above mentioned remedy instead of resignation.

In December, 1939 LYND denounced a report published by J. B. Matthews, Investigator of the Dies Committee, wherein some consumer groups were described as "Communist transmission belts".

In December, 1939 a letter was signed by Robert S. LYND and other University professors, addressed to the Faculty Committee on Student Affairs in the City College of New York. This letter requested that Earl Browder, then Secretary of the Communist Party, be permitted to speak at the College Civil Liberties Forum. The Faculty Committee later refused permission. Ten prominent members of the American Committee for Democracy and Intellectual Freedom had urged permission also for Browder to speak at the above described place.

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From confidential source T-4 the following information was received concerning ROBERT STAUGHTON LYND:

His father and mother were born October 30, 1869 in Cincinnati, Ohio, and September 17, 1870 in New Albany, Indiana, respectively. His wife, Mrs. Helen Merrell Lynd, was born March 17, 1896 at LaGrange, Illinois.

ROBERT S. LYND, Professor of Sociology, Columbia University, was a signer of an open letter dated February 22, 1937, addressed to "American Liberals", persons approached to join the "American Committee for the Defense of Leon Trotsky". This letter asked individuals if they wanted to ally themselves with a group which has supported the progressive movement undertaken by the Soviet Union under the Five-Year Plan and the Soviet Foreign Policy of Peace and International Understanding, and other achievements respected by Liberals throughout the world.

In 1938 ROBERT S. LYND, Professor of Sociology, Columbia University, was listed as a member of the Board of Directors and the Advisory Board of the Institute for Propaganda Analysis, Inc., 132 Morningside Drive, New York City.

On February 16, 1938 ROBERT S. LYND, Professor at Columbia University, was listed as an officer of The American Council on Public Authorities, 20 Besey Street, New York City.

On March 4, 1938 LYND was the signer of a letter published in the Daily Worker, to Borough President, Stanley M. Isaacs, complimenting him for his "courageous action" in standing by his appointment of S. W. Gerson, formerly a Daily Worker reporter, to a post on his staff. This letter further endorsed Mr. Isaacs' action in refusing to dismiss Gerson from a public service merely because of his membership in a political party.

In 1940 ROBERT S. LYND was one of sixty-two signers of a pamphlet entitled "In Defense of the Bill of Rights". This pamphlet protested the fact that serious efforts are being made by the United States Government to silence and suppress the Communist Party. In this same year a leaflet entitled "In Defense of Civil Rights" was distributed around the campus of the University of Washington, devoted to the defense of the Communist Party and to condemn the Government for indicting Earl Browder and Sam Dosey. One of the signers of this pamphlet was ROBERT S. LYND, Columbia University.

The name of Dr. ROBERT S. LYND, Professor of Sociology, Columbia University, appeared in the October 7, 1940 issue of the Communist paper, "Daily Worker", as one of eight Columbia University professors who challenged President Butler, of that University, in his "support war or get out" edict.

ROBERT S. LYND is a member of the Executive Committee of the "Portland, Oregon Emergency Council for Democratic Rights". On December 4, 1940 this organization protested by a public letter when Harold Spring, a

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well known Communist, was arrested by the Portland, Oregon Police Department.

On December 6, 1940 Professor ROBERT S. LYND was listed as a sponsor of the meeting of the American Committee for Friendship with the Soviet Union, with headquarters at 75 Fifth Avenue, New York City, N.Y.

The December 23, 1940 issue of the Daily Worker listed Professor ROBERT S. LYND, Columbia University, as a member of the Board of the "American Committee for Democracy and Intellectual Freedom".

In February, 1941 Dr. and Mrs. ROBERT LYND were listed as members of the "New York Conference for Inalienable Rights".

In March, 1941, from a reliable confidential source, it was learned that ROBERT LYND was connected with the "Twentieth Century Fund". He was a signer of the "Golden Book" prepared by the Communist Party containing eulogies to the Soviet Union on its Twentieth Anniversary in 1927. He was a supporter of the Consumers Union, and a supporter of S. W. Gerson.

In this same year Professor ROBERT LYND, of New York City, was listed as a sponsor of the "National Conference of Cultural Liberties in America".

ROBERT STAUGHTON LYND was listed as a sponsor of the "National Committee for Academic Freedom".

A reliable confidential source, who was well acquainted with ROBERT STAUGHTON LYND, considers him as being "Leftist" in his views, and would definitely label him as a "fellow traveler".

From Confidential Source T-5 it was learned that ROBERT S. LYND, Professor of Sociology, was listed as a member of the Board of Directors of the Institute of Propaganda Analysis, Inc., 132 Morningside Drive, New York City. The money to finance this Institute was provided by the Good Will Industries, Inc., a charitable organization financed by the late Edward A. Filene,

ROBERT S. LYND wrote the forward to the book entitled "Revolt against War", by H. C. Engelbrecht, who also wrote the book "Merchants of Death". This book concerns the causes, conduct, and results of modern warfare as well as the agitation and propaganda in connection with war.

From this same source it was learned that some officials of the Institute for Propaganda Analysis, Inc. have been described as being given to "Leftist tendencies".

ROBERT S. LYND and his wife signed an open letter to President Roosevelt urging democratic rights for foreign born in January, 1941, under

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the letterhead of the American Committee for Protection of the Foreign Born, 79 Fifth Avenue, New York City. This letter protests the Hobbs Concentration Camp Bill, the denying of jobs to Americans of foreign birth, the activities of the Department of Justice in needlessly arresting and detaining without bail non-citizens whose status the Department itself pledged itself to remedy, deficiencies in our naturalization processes, the action of the Department of Justice in acting to secure cancellation of naturalization for political attitudes, and inflammatory statements from official quarters tending to connect the foreign born with "Fifth Column activities".

ROBERT S. LYND was listed as one of the sponsors of a meeting held under the auspices of the American Committee for Friendship with the Soviet Union on November 15, 1940, for "American Soviet understanding", in New York City.

ROBERT S. LYND was listed as a member of the "American-Russian Institute for Cultural Relations with the Soviet Union, Inc." This organization was formerly known as the "American Society for Cultural Relations with Russia (USSR)", organized in the United States on December 12, 1926. This organization has worked, and apparently still works closely with the Soviet Union Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, Moscow, Russia.

The names of ROBERT S. LYND were found in the New York office of the National Federation of Constitutional Liberties.

Confidential source T-5 further revealed the names of Dr. and Mrs. ROBERT S. LYND, of Central Park, West, New York City, N.Y., were given as subscribers to the fund known as the McAvoy Fund. This fund was for Clifford McAvoy, and was sponsored by the New York Conference for Inalienable Rights. McAvoy is Vice-President of this Conference, which has for its alleged purpose National equality, protection of foreign born, civil rights of Communists, rights of labor, etc. Prior to the Russian invasion by the German Army on June 22, 1941, this group demanded legislation to safeguard the rights of men in the Armed Forces, and advocated legislation to protect the peace of the United States. After the invasion it advocated increase of defense efforts for the defeat of Hitlerism.

Helen Merrell Lynd was a signer of the 1939 call of the Third Congress of American Rights, an alleged Communist dominated group. She also signed the call of the Fourth Congress of this group in 1941, at New York City.

From confidential informant T-6 it was ascertained that the LYND family have the reputation of being "reds and Communists", among the other individuals in the house where they live. Informant T-6 stated that although she has never heard Mrs. Lynd or her husband Professor LYND say anything which

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might be considered un-American, it was the general impression of all that they were Communistically inclined. She stated that during a strike by the elevator operators of the house during which time the elevator was being run by the Management, Mr. and Mrs. LYND refused to use the elevator at all, but insisted on walking up to their apartment.

Confidential informant T-7 stated that he has known the LYNDS for approximately a year. He declared that one day while he and Professor LYND were talking about Russia, he, informant, declared that he didn't want to have anything to do with Russia or any form of dictator or totalitarian government. On his saying this, informant declared, LYND began to speak more about Russia, stating what an excellent country it was and how the workers and the people who lived there were very happy under the Soviets.

NEIGHBORHOOD

6/7/49  
[REDACTED] of 75 Central Park, West, New York City, N.Y., advised the reporting agent that the LYND family has lived at that address since 1929. She stated that there are four members in the family, the Professor, his wife, and two children, respectively, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] stated that the LYNDS are very high type people, and no complaints have ever been lodged against them. They are individuals of good personal habits, she stated, and at present Professor LYND is a Professor at Columbia University. He is pleasant, easy going, and enjoys the confidence of all [REDACTED] states, as far as she knows [REDACTED] stated that although the LYNDS are a friendly sort of people, they never fraternize with the other tenants of the house at all, as both of the LYNDS are working all the time, going out early in the morning and returning late at night. She stated that they seldom entertained in their home, and pay their rent for the most part on time.

CREDIT AND CRIMINAL

A check of the records of the Credit Bureau of Greater New York by Special Agent [REDACTED] of the New York Field Division, revealed that the LYNDS enjoy a credit rating of "Fair" in New York City.

A check of the records of the New York City Police Department by Special Agent [REDACTED] of the New York Field Division, failed to reveal any prior criminal record for ROBERT S. LYND in that city.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

NY 77-3070

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE INDIANAPOLIS FIELD DIVISION

AT MUNCIE, INDIANA

Will attempt to verify the employment of ROBERT STAUGHTON LYND at the Institute of Social and Religious Research, 402 Western Reserve Building, Muncie, Indiana, during 1924. This confirms the teletype lead transmitted to Indianapolis from New York City under date of June 17, 1942.

THE DENVER FIELD DIVISION

AT ELK BASIN, WYOMING

Will attempt to verify the employment of ROBERT STAUGHTON LYND during the early part of 1925 by the Presbyterian Home Board, of this same community. This confirms teletype lead transmitted to the Denver Field Division from New York City under date of June 17, 1942.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The identify of the persons designated as confidential informants in this report is as follows:

Confidential informant T-1 [REDACTED] of Columbia University, New York City, N. Y.

Confidential informant T-2 [REDACTED] of Columbia University, New York City, N. Y.

Confidential source T-3 — THE MORGUE OF THE NEW YORK TIMES, 229 West 43rd Street, New York City, N.Y.

(S/T/14)  
Confidential source T-4 — MEMORANDUM to the New York Field Division dated February 21, 1942, from the Bureau, setting out information contained in the files of the Bureau concerning ROBERT S. LYND.

Confidential source T-5 — FILES of the New York Field Division.

Confidential informant T-6 [REDACTED] 75 Central Park, West, New York City, N.Y.

Confidential informant T-7 [REDACTED] 75 Central Park, West, New York City, N.Y., the [REDACTED]

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **BUREAU**

FILE NO. 77-597

REPORT MADE AT <b>INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>6/29/42</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>6/24, 25/42</b>	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]
TITLE <b>ROBERT STAUGHTON LYND</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>OFFICE FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SPECIAL INQUIRY</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Lynd leased space from now defunct Western Reserve Life Insurance Company, Muncie, Indiana, in 1925. Was here but a few months according to recollection of [REDACTED]. Purpose was for research and writing on a "typical" American town. Muncie chosen due to small percentage of foreign element. Activity and conduct in residence hotel satisfactory. Credit and criminal negative, Muncie, Indiana.

-RUC-

**REFERENCE:**

Teletype, dated June 17, 1942, from the New York Field Division addressed to the Indianapolis Field Division.

**DETAILS:**

**AT MUNCIE, INDIANA.**

[REDACTED] Muncie, Indiana, former [REDACTED] of the Western Reserve Life Insurance Company, and [REDACTED] of the Western Reserve Building in 1924 and 1925, stated that he remembers LYND well and that he was intimately acquainted with him at the time he was here and stated that he had seen him on occasion since he had gone.

[REDACTED] recalled LYND as having come to Muncie to carry on research. The purpose of his mission was

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>J. M. Lohrey</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <b>77-5837-7</b>	RECORDED
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77-597

to study various cities and towns in the state of Indiana for the purpose of selecting one which would be more nearly a typical American town.

For this Muncie was chosen and subsequently, for several months [redacted] stated, LYND did his research and writing in Muncie, writing up his sociological study of the town. LYND obtained his office quarters from [redacted]

According to the latter, Muncie was chosen as the typical American town because it was believed at the time to have, on the whole, the smallest foreign element (3 per cent) for its size of any city in the United States.

[redacted] characterized Mr. LYND as an intelligent, high type individual. It was his opinion that LYND had previously come from Louisville, Kentucky, and that his family background was unquestionable in every respect.

At the time of his occupying space in the Western Reserve Building, Muncie, Indiana, for the purposes of his research and writing, Mr. LYND was connected with Scribner's Magazine in New York City and [redacted] was of the opinion that he was still affiliated with the magazine firm.

[redacted] could not question the Americanism and loyalty of Mr. LYND, believing him to be one hundred per cent American in every respect.

[redacted] of the Muncie, Indiana Chamber of Commerce, stated that he knew "BOB" LYND well, that in his recollection he had been in Muncie on two occasions for the purpose of writing.

The first time LYND wrote "Middletown", and "Middletown in Transition" was written the second time, about ten years later [redacted] said that both works were sociological studies of Muncie, Indiana. So far as [redacted] knew there was not the slightest question in his mind regarding the character, Americanism and loyalty of Mr. LYND. In his opinion he was a "nice fellow". Information filed at the Chamber of Commerce regarding the facts and figures of Muncie disclosed that "Muncie was selected as the most typical American city of its size and classification by the Institute of Social and Religious Research of New York, in 1925". This is the result of LYND's work.

[redacted] of the Roberts Hotel, in Indiana, stated, on June 25, 1942, that he remembered Mr. LYND but that so far as he knew there was nothing about his living in and around the hotel which would indicate that he was other than of the high type, good character individual. He stated that if there was anything derogatory about Mr. LYND it certainly had not come to his attention.

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10/2/4

[REDACTED] of the Roberts Hotel, Muncie, Indiana, stated on June 24, 1942, that she remembered Mr. LYND as having lived at the Hotel Roberts during part of his stay in Muncie. She recalled that she knew nothing of a questionable nature about Mr. LYND whatsoever and that so far as she knew, he was a loyal American, of high type nature, and one whom the government could well have in its employ.

[REDACTED] of the Muncie Credit Bureau, advised a search of the files of the credit bureau on June 24, 1942, and no record was found.

Officer [REDACTED] of the Criminal Records Division of the Muncie Police Department made a check of the records of his division on June 24, 1942 and found no record on the name of LYND.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

BUREAU

FILE NO. 77-407

REPORT MADE AT <b>DENVER, COLORADO</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>6-25-42</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>6-18-42</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b>
TITLE <b>ROBERT STAUGHTON LYND</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SPECIAL INQUIRY</b>	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

No record of a Presbyterian Home Board at Elk Basin, Wyoming.

- R U C -

**DETAILS:**

This report is predicated upon a teletype from the New York City Field Division concerning applicant which stated that applicant was employed in the early 20's by the Presbyterian Home Board at Elk Basin, Wyoming. At this time he was a student of theology.

The following persons were contacted by Agent and advised that they knew nothing of a Presbyterian Home Board at Elk Basin, Wyoming and had never heard of any such organization:

(6/17/42)

- Reverend [REDACTED] Presbyterian Minister, Cheyenne, Wyoming;
- Reverend [REDACTED] Presbyterian Minister, Denver, Colorado;
- Presbyterian Headquarters, Denver, Colorado;
- FRANK BLACKBURN, Sheriff, Cody, Wyoming;
- Postmaster of Elk Basin, Wyoming.

Due to the fact that investigation failed to reveal any record of a Presbyterian Home Board at Elk Basin, Wyoming, this case is being referred upon completion to the office of origin.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <b>77-15837-8</b>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - BUREAU 2 - DENVER <b>18 JUL 6 1942</b>	RECORDED <b>[REDACTED]</b> <b>(6/17/42)</b>

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 1 1942

FBI WASH DC 7-1-42 11-57 PM NH  
SAC, INDIANAPOLIS  
CARD. ROBERT STAUGHTON LYND, OEM, EMPLOYEE INVESTIGATIONS. ADVISE  
WHETHER INVESTIGATION COMPLETED AND WHEN REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED.  
HOOVER  
END  
OK FBI INPLS RSH V

WTG:eb

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JULY 1, 1942

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION. INDIANAPOLIS

Transmit the following message to: ROBERT STAUGHTON LIND, <sup>0</sup>CEO, EMPLOYEE INVESTIGATIONS. ADVISE WHETHER INVESTIGATION COMPLETED AND WHEN REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED.

HOOVER

*6/7/42*  
*12-562*

**77-15837-9**

RECORDS INVESTIGATION

JUL 3 1942

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**RECORDED**

INITIALED IN DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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*SA*

*Det*

SENT VIA

11:57 P.M.

Per

*Det*

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