

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 7/27/60

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-

SUBJECT: MORTON SAHL
SM - C

CRITICISM OF F.B.I.

M.A. Jones

On 7/26/60, MORTON SAHL, a nationally-known TV and night club comedian, during the course of his program on KHJ-TV, Channel 9, presented a fantasy which, in part, involved the FBI. SAHL, during the course of his presentation, suggested to the TV audience that they visualize the fact that KHRUSHCHEV, during the course of a visit to the United States, toured the City of Chicago; further, the audience was requested to visualize that the FBI was charged with his safe keeping and was guarding him. While traveling Chicago streets a notorious Chicago policeman noted for writing traffic tickets for members of his own family, judges, prominent city officials, etc., endeavored to present KHRUSHCHEV with a traffic ticket. SAHL suggested the FBI, in protecting KHRUSHCHEV, prevented the policeman from serving his ticket and in so doing killed the policeman. As a result of this action the FBI was criticized for failing to cooperate with the police.

On 7/27/60, [redacted], a reliable and confidential source of the Los Angeles Office, and [redacted] advised MORTON SAHL was born in Montreal, Canada on 5/11/27; he derived U. S. citizenship through his father. According to the records of Screen Actors Guild, SAHL joined the organization on 9/11/58. He is also a member of the American Federation of TV-Radio Artists and the American Guild of Variety Artists. SAHL resides at 1372 Miller Dr., Hollywood 46, and is represented by the William Morris Agency, Beverly Hills, Calif., telephone BRADshaw 2-4111. [redacted] advised that SAHL, whose Social Security No. is 569-24-1801, is currently appearing at the Crescendo, a popular Sunset Strip night club in Los Angeles.

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- 2 - Bureau (REGISTERED)
- 2 - Los Angeles
- (1 - 100-32495, Attacks Against the FBI)

JST:jss
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No further action necessary - file 8/gem

DeLoach
SUBV. CONTROL

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SAHL was featured in a "Time" magazine article, page 42, Volume LXXVI, No. 4, dated 7/25/60, under the section devoted to show business. "Time" characterized SAHL as a "Will Rogers with fangs."

CALIF.
"Playboy" magazine for 6/60, page 99, disclosed, in part, in an article that FRANCIS ALBERT SINATRA (LA file 100-41413), a nationally-known entertainer who is now in the theatrical agency business, handles, through his right-hand man, HANK SANICOLA, the affairs of MORT SAHL, DEAN MARTIN, SAMMY DAVIS, JR., TONY BENNETT, ZSA ZSA GABOR, et al. According to [redacted] he has heard similar rumors, none of which have been substantiated.

A review of the indices of the Los Angeles Division disclose the following information concerning SAHL:

On 3/2/60, [redacted] advised she is [redacted] by PHYLLIS KIRK, an actress, who resides at 19941 Durant Dr., Beverly Hills, Calif. The informant pointed out that Miss KIRK dates and frequently writes to MORT SAHL, the comedian. [redacted]

58 m/a
The New York Office, by letter dated 6/10/60, to San Francisco, captioned LENNIE BRUCE; MORTON SAHL, advised that on 6/6/60, Mr. JACK O'BRIAN, columnist for the "New York Journal American," advised that according to a source whom he considered to be reliable and in a position to furnish information concerning BRUCE and SAHL, the two men were comedians who had originated from the San Francisco-Los Angeles area and had been receiving script and material from a source believed to be communistic.

O'BRIAN described both comedians as being what is known in the trade as "sick" comedians who capitalize on jokes that were anti-Republican, anti-Eisenhower, anti-Democratic and anti-semitic. (62-0-38094)

On 6/1/59, [redacted] furnished SA ROMNEY STEWART an announcement which disclosed that MORT SAHL was the guest entertainer at the Community Relations Conference of Southern California (formerly the Los Angeles County Conference of Community Relations) 13th annual dinner to be held on 6/10/59 at 7 p.m. at the Town and Gown, University of Southern California Campus, 666 W. 36th St., Los Angeles. In addition

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to MORT SAHL, the keynote speaker was named as STANLEY MOSK, Attorney General, State of California. [redacted]

On 7/24/59, [redacted] furnished information to SA JOHN S. TEMPLE which disclosed that BILL WELCH, director of fund raising for publicity in defense of JOHN and SYLVIA POWELL and JULIAN SCHUMAN, in an organization known as the Powell-Schuman Freedom of the Press Committee, aka, had been in touch with SAHL at Malibu, California on 7/19/59. According to the informant, SAHL allegedly agreed to appear at a benefit for the Powell-Schuman Defense Fund if arrangements could be cleared through SAHL's manager. Otherwise, SAHL suggested that someone else be contacted in his place. Informant was unable to furnish any additional information concerning this contact. [redacted]

On 7/25/60, [redacted] furnished SA H. RAWLINS OVERTON an invitation issued by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Southern California, entitled "Salute to Mort Sahl...the funnybone in the American body politic... a satirist who has scuttled a herd of sacred cows...a trail blazer for the freedom to sound-off." The invitation disclosed that a cocktail party would be held for the benefit of the ACLU on 5/15/60 in the Sunset Room of the Ambassador Hotel. Admission was \$5 per person donation to the ACLU. The entertainment, according to the announcement, would consist of MORT SAHL, PHYLLIS KIRK and JAMES WHITMORE. CALIF
[redacted]

The "Open Forum," published monthly by the ACLU of Southern California, Volume XXVII, No. 6, June, 1960, page 2, column 5, published an article which disclosed that a women's committee to serve as a fund-raising arm of the Southern California ACLU, would be formed on 6/9/60. The group would be composed of local community leaders who will stage a series of social events to advance special ACLU projects, according to the article. The article concluded by stating that the formation of the committee was spurred by the successful cocktail party which honored MORT SAHL in May, 1960, which was attended by more than 1,000 persons.

According to reliable sources of the Los Angeles Division, familiar with personalities in the entertainment world, SAHL is a vicious, outspoken, "sick" comedian. Accordingly, it is felt that an interview with him concerning his televised skit on 7/26/60 would be of no avail and could result in embarrassment to the Bureau. No further action is being taken in this matter UACB.

APPENDIX

POWELL-SCHUMAN DEFENSE FUND (PSDF), aka.,
Powell-Schuman Defense Committee (PSDC)

Mr. EDWIN H. HELMER, 995 Market Street, San Francisco, California, advised on September 25, 1956, that JOHN WILLIAM POWELL in August, 1956 had informed him that the PSDF had recently been organized to collect money to defray the expenses for himself, SYLVIA POWELL and JULIAN SCHUMAN in connection with their forthcoming trial for violation of the Sedition Laws of the United States.

The records of the United States District Court, San Francisco, reflect that on April 25, 1956, the Federal Grand Jury, San Francisco, returned an indictment charging JOHN and SYLVIA POWELL of San Francisco, and JULIAN SCHUMAN of New York, with violation of a sedition statute and/or conspiracy to violate the sedition statute. The indictment charged that the POWELLS and SCHUMAN, while associated with the "China Monthly Review", Shanghai, China, from 1950 to 1953, caused to be printed in this magazine false statements which, among other things, accused the United States of conducting germ warfare in Korea.

On January 26, 1959, the defendants were brought to trial in United States District Court, Southern Division, Northern Judicial District of California, San Francisco, on the above charges. On January 30, 1959, a mistrial occurred in this case, following which the United States Attorney, San Francisco, filed with the District Court a criminal complaint accusing all three defendants of treason in connection with their activities mentioned above. A Federal Grand Jury in San Francisco is presently hearing evidence relating to the treason charge. No trial date has been set in connection with the sedition indictment outstanding against the defendants.

A source advised on May 7, 1959, that the 1959 officials of the Powell-Schuman Defense Fund, aka., Powell-Schuman Defense Committee, are ESMOND COLEMAN, Chairman, and CHARLES MATTOX, Treasurer.

Another source advised on September 16, 1957, that ESMOND COLEMAN had been dropped from the Communist Party (CP).

A third source advised on April 11, 1944, that CHARLES MATTOX was then a member of the Echo Park Branch, Midtown Section, Los Angeles County CP.

APPENDIX

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson	_____
Sullivan	_____
Mohr	_____
Bishop	_____
Brennan, C.D.	_____
Callahan	_____
Casper	_____
Conrad	_____
Felt	_____
Gale	_____
Rosen	_____
Tavel	_____
Walters	_____
Soyars	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holmes	_____
Gandy	_____

TO : Mr. Gale *JMG*

DATE: 12/15/70

FROM : W. V. Cleveland *WVC*

SUBJECT: HARRY LEE
 DEPARTMENTAL APPLICANT
 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE
 EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

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Confused

This is to advise that the investigation of Harry Lee, who is under consideration for appointment as United States Magistrate, Eastern District of Louisiana, has been completed with the exception of agency checks.

Lee, aged 38, was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, is married and has one daughter. He graduated from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 1956, with a BS degree, and from Loyola Law School, Loyola University, New Orleans, Louisiana, with an LLB degree in 1967, which degree was revised to a JD degree in 1968. He served honorably in the United States Air Force from 1956 to 1959 when discharged as a First-Lieutenant. He has been a member of the Louisiana Air National Guard from then to date, and his present rank is Major. He was employed from 1959 to September, 1967, as Manager, House of Lee Restaurant, Metairie, Louisiana, and as an attorney, Gretna, Louisiana, from that time to date.

References, social acquaintances, local and Federal judges recommend, as do attorneys from other than opposing political party. Two attorneys and United States Attorney, all of opposing political party, feel applicant not qualified from lack of experience or maturity, but do not speak unfavorably as to character, loyalty, or associates. Civil Rights leaders recommend; church leaders recommend or don't know; Negro employees and acquaintances recommend; Commanding Officer, Louisiana Air National Guard recommends.

- Enc.
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
 - 1 - Mr. Bishop
 - 1 - Mr. Rosen
 - 1 - Mr. Gale
 - 1 - Mr. Cleveland
 - 1 - Mr. Connell
 - 1 - Mr. Gandy

JMC:mg

REC-13

77-115622-31
 NOT RECORDED

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CONTINUED - OVER

EX-112

58 JAN 13 1971

Memorandum to Mr. Gale
RE: HARRY LEE

Lee, Calif.

Calif. Youngest sister of applicant Margaret ~~Lee~~ ^{new} ~~Sahl~~, who is also known as China Lee, and Mrs. ~~Mort~~ ~~Sahl~~, left New Orleans approximately eight years ago and married ~~Mort~~ ~~Sahl~~ (TV personality) in October, 1970. Mort Sahl in the past has ridiculed the FBI, law enforcement, and high public officials, beyond the bounds of good humor. On a nationally televised show during March of 1969, he made some remarks concerning the Director and the FBI which were not in good taste. The Director noted that "Sahl is a very sick man." Applicant's sister, Mort Sahl's wife, was featured as China Lee in the August, 1964 issue of Playboy Magazine (see attached). *Returned to Mr. Brittain on 12/16/70 Rem 7612 to be returned to him.*

Investigation disclosed that applicant has had little association with Margaret Lee Sahl since she left home. Members of the Lee family in New Orleans have had no association with Sahl.

Lawyer with whom Lee shared office space for two and a quarter years until February, 1970, is presently under indictment for violation of the Interstate Transportation of a Stolen Motor Vehicle Statute. Lee states he knows nothing of this involvement.

Credit and identification checks of applicant and family negative or favorable.

ACTION:

Reports of investigation being sent to the Office of the Deputy Attorney General. Outstanding agency checks being expedited.

JJ *Wade* *WEL* *WEL*

JMC:kjd 12/15/70

W.V. CLEVELAND TO MR. GALE

HARRY LEE

Lee recommended by references social acquaintances local & Federal judges & attorneys of other than opposing party, also by civil rights leaders, church leaders, Negro employees & acquaintances for position as US Magistrate, Eastern District of Louisiana. Youngest sister married Mort Sahl (TV personality), 1970. Sahl critical of FBI in past. Director stated "Sahl a sick man." Younger sister featured in 8/64 Playboy Magazine. Lee has had little association with her and Sahl. Reports sent DAG.