

FILE DESCRIPTION

PHILADELPHIA FILE

SUBJECT THOMAS L. BLACK

FILE NO. 65-4332

VOLUME NO. 14

SERIALS 740

THRU

750

## NOTICE

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File No: 65-4332Re: THOMAS CROOKDate: 10/78  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
740	7-26-50	SA TO SA MEMO	2	2	
740	7-26-50	COPIE OF MEMO SA TO SA MEMO	2	2	2 dup
741	7-27-50	SA TO SA MEMO	3	3	
742	7-26-50	NY TELETYPE TO PH, NY	1	-	SEE NY FILE 65-59181
742	7-26-50	COPIE OF MEMO NY TELETYPE TO PH, NY	1	-	SEE NY FILE 65-59181
743	7-19-50	NY TELETYPE TO PH	1	-	SEE NY FILE 65-59181
743	7-19-50	COPIE OF MEMO NY TELETYPE TO PH	1	-	SEE NY FILE 65-59181
744	7-14-50	NY TO NY, NY	6	-	SEE NY FILE 65-59181
745	7-20-50	NY REPORT TO PH	75	-	SEE NY FILE 65-59181
746	7-24-50	NY LETTER TO NY, NY	1	-	SEE NY FILE 65-59181
747	6-19-50	NY REPORT TO PH	2	-	SEE NY FILE 65-59181
748	7-25-50	NY LETTER TO NY, NY	1	-	SEE NY FILE 65-59181

File No: 65-4332

Re: THOMAS ...

Date: 10-25-78  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
749	7-26-50	NY REPORT TO HQ ...	5	-	SEE HQ FILE 65-59181
750	7-19-50	CG REPORT TO HQ ...	4	-	SEE HQ FILE 65-59181

# U. S. Department of Justice

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## FEDERAL BUREAU

of

## INVESTIGATION

*Section 14  
Serials 740 to 750  
Ref section 16*

File No. 65-4332  
Sub. Serials 740 to 750  
Section 14

See also Nos

### FIELD OFFICE FILE

DO NOT FILE IN FBI HEADQUARTERS FILES

RETURN TO FOIPA  
ROOM 6296

SAC, PHILADELPHIA

JULY 26, 1950

SA ALBERT L. PIERCE

THOMAS L. BLACK; was.  
ESPIONAGE - R

On July 21, 1950, the writer contacted Dr. PERCY A. WELLS, the Director of the Eastern Regional Research Laboratory of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Wyndmoor, Pa., as suggested in the FBI Laboratory report dated July 19, 1950.

A photostatic copy of the report obtained from a search of BLACK's residence entitled, "The Production of l-Sorbose from d-Sorbitol by Acetobacter Suboxydans", was exhibited to Dr. WELLS with the request that he advise the writer if this process for the production of l-Sorbose is practical and/or used on a commercial scale.

Dr. WELLS stated the process will work and has been used commercially in the past. However, in 1937 the process was made obsolete by the discovery that the production of l-Sorbose could be considerably increased by the use of high pressure tanks with internal agitators. Dr. WELLS explained that he wrote his Doctorate Thesis on the subject of "The Biochemistry of the Genus Acetobacter, with special reference to the Oxidation of d-Sorbitol to l-Sorbose, and the relation of l-Sorbose to Vitamin C." A copy of this thesis is available in the library of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils in Washington, D.C.

This thesis explained in detail the discoveries of Dr. WELLS and his associates in working on this problem at the Arlington Farm, Virginia, Color Laboratory of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils of the Department of Agriculture. Dr. WELLS and his associates started work at the Arlington Farm Laboratory in 1935. Their high pressure and agitation process for the production of l-Sorbose in this manner was not perfected until the Spring of 1937. They found that by using a high pressure (approximately 30 lbs. a square inch) rotary tank with various devices inside the tank to agitate and introduce air into the fermenting fluid, their yields ran up to and above 96% of the d-Sorbitol changed to l-Sorbose.

Dr. WELLS compared the high yield obtained by him and his colleagues with the 80% yield claimed in the report obtained from a search of BLACK's residence. Because of this great difference in yield obtained, Dr. WELLS did not believe that the method described in BLACK's report would be commercially feasible following WELLS' discovery.

ALP:MO'N  
65-4332

65-4332-740

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 26 1950	
FBI - PHILADELPHIA	

RW

TO SAC  
65-4332

According to Dr. WELLS, the process described in BLACK's report was a well known process similar to that used in the production of vinegar, and that it essentially was one to increase the surface of the fermenting fluid exposed to the air because the bacteria will work only in the presence of adequate supplies of oxygen. He described his new process as a submerged process as compared to the surface process as described in BLACK's report.

Dr. WELLS stated that the process was developed by him and his colleagues at Arlington Farm, Virginia, using a three liter tank. However, in the Fall of 1937, a field station of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils at the University of Iowa at Ames, Iowa, further developed this process using a 500 liter tank.

Because information regarding the high pressure process in the production of l-Sorbose was published in the technical periodical "Industrial and Engineering Chemistry", Vol. 29, Page 1385, dated 1937, the process was patented by Dr. WELLS for the Department of Agriculture on June 21, 1938. Dr. WELLS furnished the writer with a copy of this patent, No. 2,121,533, which was applied for on April 12, 1937. This patent is being made an exhibit in this file. Dr. WELLS further stated that the rotary fermenter used in this process was also patented under the name R. WELBACH. Dr. WELLS did not know the patent number. He stated that as soon as this new process was published, Hoffman-LaRoche Chemical Company at Nutley, N.J., began producing l-Sorbose commercially using this patented process. Later, two other companies also started producing l-Sorbose using this patented process. They were Charles Pfizer Company, Brooklyn, N.Y., and Merck and Company, Inc., Rahway, N.J.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, PHILADELPHIA

FROM : SA ALBERT L. PIERCE

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was.  
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: JULY 26, 1950

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ALP:GMN  
65-4332

Page 1

65-4332-74

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 26 1950	
FBI - PHILADELPHIA	
<i>Wells</i>	



TO SAC  
65-4332

According to Dr. WELLS, the process described in BLACK's report was a well known process similar to that used in the production of vinegar, and that it essentially was one to increase the surface of the fermenting fluid exposed to the air because the bacteria will work only in the presence of adequate supplies of oxygen. He described his new process as a submerged process as compared to the surface process as described in BLACK's report.

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Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

SAC

DATE: 6/21/50

FROM : SA ALLAN M. OFFER

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK;  
ESPIONAGE - R.

The following items of trash were received by SE R. C. SMITH on June 13, 1950, as the result of a trash cover maintained on 1929 North 6th Street, Philadelphia, Pa., the residence address of THOMAS L. BLACK. This trash was received through the courtesy of

[REDACTED]  
at the East Montgomery Street Trash Depot, located at 1204 East Montgomery Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa.

b7d

DESCRIPTION:

ITEM I

A mutilated handwritten letter, signed "Yank," written on the reverse side of an invoice bearing the name L. COOPER, Chemical Specialities, 5935 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, Pa. The following paragraph is quoted from this item:

"This is the last month PAD is here before going to Maine. Also it is slow season, so he could probably not break in a new man anyway, but he's interested and would like to meet him. (If GENE works for straight commission we will give him products too.) He doesn't want to offend JOHN SCHWITZ. One reason JOHN isn't aggressive is that his whole family are socialists. Be warned."

It is noted that PAD mentioned above is possibly identical with F. A. DITTMAN.

AMO:JMS  
65-4332

65-4332-  
~~65-4332-51~~

65-4332-741

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_ INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED \_\_\_\_\_ FILED \_\_\_\_\_  
JUN 21 1950  
FBI - PHILADELPHIA

MEMO, SAC

6-21/50

ITEM II

Is a mutilated handwritten letter dated June 6, 1950, bearing the salutation "Dear Tom." The following paragraph is quoted from this item:

bearing the salutation from this item:

"PAD says BRINE is trying to make a sludge solvent. PAD told him what they contained."

ITEM III

One mutilated handwritten letter, signed "Yank," dated Wednesday, 5 PM, relating what is apparently the progress in establishment of a business office. The following is quoted from this item:

"I repeat that I left \$40 deposit at 2761 Kensington, and before 6 PM BROWNE will be there to give you refund, if not done already. . . . ."

"Phone was here ARMOY 4-7943."

ITEM IV

One portion of a mutilated envelope bearing what is apparently a return address, 367 Miller Avenue, Brooklyn 7, New York.

ITEM V

One mutilated letter dated June 7. . . , Worcester . . . , signed what is apparently PERSO, and bearing the salutation "Dear Tom." The following is quoted from this item:

"I have tried many times to locate EMORY RICHARDS, but so far, no success. It makes me wonder if he has cooled off. I don't care too much either way, but would like to know. I guess we will have to go right ahead with or without him. I keep on trying, and try to get his consent to use his name. I just had EMORY on the phone. Strange he has been trying to get in touch with me at the same time I was trying

LEW, SAC

5/21/50

for him. No, he hasn't cooled off even a little bit. It will be okay to use his name anywhere we want to use it. As a matter of fact, we are coming down to Paterson on June 17th to adjust whatever matters are necessary. So, if you can get everything in order by that time we should be ready to go.

He says Thorotex Chemical is a good name. He has not seen any of the men to whom he has given samples, but until we are ready to go, perhaps it is best not to go too fast. So, now, we have what we need. The last few days, I have felt that I want to leave Ierg, but then, we must not be too hasty; however, as for you, we will have to talk this over. I will bring the cash to pay for a drum, or perhaps two. I expect to go to Lowell, Mass., this coming week and will have a report on Thoronoree. I hope I have answered all your questions, and you will be in a position to go ahead.

"Have you sent the sample of Thoronoree to AGNEW? My friend will know what the score is when he sees the sample. . . ."

It is noted that the writer of this item, "PERC", is possibly identical with PERCY HELIE, who is a salesman of the C. W. Berg Laboratories in the Massachusetts area.

#### ITEM VI

One mutilated newspaper clipping, date and publication unknown, reflecting the death of Professor LEONOR MICHAELIS. This item reflects that Doctor MICHAELIS, of 325 East 79th Street, member Emeritus of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research and an outstanding medical scientist and physical chemist, died of a heart ailment in Rockefeller Hospital. This article indicated that MICHAELIS was survived by his widow, the former IRACHE FRIEDBERG; two daughters, Mrs. GUSTAV JACOBY and Mrs. MARTIN D. ALTMAN; and two grandchildren, SYLVIA and STEPHEN JACOBY.

#### ITEM VII

One mutilated map of Africa and the Arabian peninsula, compiled and drawn in the Cartographic Section of the National Geographic Society for the National Geographic Magazine. No inscription or notations were noted on this item.

The items described in this memo are being retained as a part of this file.

FILE DESCRIPTION

PHILADELPHIA FILE

SUBJECT THOMAS L. BLACK

FILE NO. 65-4332

VOLUME NO. 15

SERIALS 751

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# FEDERAL BUREAU

of

# INVESTIGATION

*Section 15*

*Serial 751 copy I & II only  
see section 16*

See also Nos. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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*1050  
4/27/7*

Sub.

*65-4332, Section 15  
Serial 751 copy I & II*

*DESTROYED 11/20/56*

FILE DESCRIPTION

PHILADELPHIA FILE

SUBJECT THOMAS L. BLACK

FILE NO. 65-4332

VOLUME NO. 16

SERIALS 751

ONLY



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VOLUME 16

Re: THOMAS L. BLACK

Date: 10/78  
(month/year)

File No: 65-4332

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
751	7/26/50	PH REPORT to HQ	227	0	See HQ 65-59181

# U. S. Department of Justice

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## FEDERAL BUREAU

*of*

## INVESTIGATION

*Section 16  
Serials 751 copy III & IV only  
See Section 17*

Sub. 65-4332  
Serials 751 copy III & IV only  
Section 16  
D

See also Nos. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

FILE DESCRIPTION

PHILADELPHIA FILE

SUBJECT THOMAS L. BLACK

FILE NO. 65-4332

VOLUME NO. 17

SERIALS 752

to

810

## NOTICE

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U. S. Department of Justice

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FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

15-4332 Section 17

Serials 152 to 810

FIELD OFFICE FILE

DO NOT FILE IN FBI HEADQUARTERS FILES

RETURN TO FOIPA  
ROOM 6296

FBI/DOJ

See also

File No: 65-4332Re: Thomas L. BlackDate: 10/18  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
752	7/26/50	NK letter to HQ	1	1	b-1
753	7/24/50	SA to SAC <sup>w/ copy</sup> memo	1/1	1/1	dup 1
754	7/28/50	NY teletype to HQ, PH, NK <sup>w/ copy</sup>	1/1	0	see Bufile 65-59181
755	8/2/50	NK teletype to HQ, PH	1/1	0	see Bufile 65-59181
756	7/31/50	HQ letter to PH w/ copy	1/1	0	9-28-79 F2281 see Bufile 65-59181-70
757	7/27/50	Non-ident index cards	2	2	
758	8/1/50	(typed copy) PH teletype to HQ, NK	1	0	see Bufile 65-59181
758	8/1/50	(transmittal copy) PH teletype to HQ, NK	1	0	see Bufile 65-59181
759	7/28/50	NY report to HQ	7	0	see Bufile 65-59181
760	8/2/50	SA to SAC <sup>w/ copy</sup> memo	1/1	1/1	dup 1
761	8/3/50	SA to SAC <sup>w/ copy</sup> memo	1/1	1/1	dup 1
762	7/31/50	PH report to HQ <sup>capt 3rd party</sup>	3	3	

File No: 65-4332Re: Thomas L. BlackDate: 10/25/80  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
763	7/21/50	BA report to HQ (capt 3rd party)	2	2	
764	8/4/50	SE report to HQ	3	0	see Bufile 65-59181
765	8/10/50	capt 3rd party SA to SAC memo	2	0	see PH 65-4307
766	8/11/50	HQ letter to PH	1/1	0	see Bufile 65-59181
767	8/15/50	capt 3rd party MI report to HQ	4	4	
768	8/21/50	PH letter to HQ	1	0	see Bufile 65-59181
769	8/23/50	NK report to HQ	10	0	see Bufile 65-59181
770	8/21/50	WFO report to HQ	5	0	see Bufile 65-59181
771	8/28/50	HQ letter to PH w/copy	1/1	0	see Bufile 65-59181
772	8/24/50	HQ letter to PH w/copy	1/1	0	see Bufile 65-59181
773	8/31/50	FD-122 PH letter to HQ	1	0	see Bufile 65-59181
774	8/31/50	capt: third party PG report to HQ	8	8	recovered 10-1-79 SK



File No: 65-4332Re: Thomas L. BlackDate: 10/78  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
775	8/22/50	HQ letter to BA w/copy	1/1	1/1	1 dup
776	8/28/50	HQ letter to PH w/copy	1/1	0	see Bufile 65-59181
777	9/5/50	(typed copy) PH teletype to NY	1	0	see NY 65-15338
777	9/5/50	(transmittal copy) PH teletype to NY	1	0	see NY 65-15338
778	9/6/50	NY letter to PH w/copy	1/1	0	see NY 65-15338
779	9/7/50	BA report to HQ	3	0	see Bufile 65-59181
780	8/24/50	NY report to HQ	12	0	see Bufile 65-59181
781	9/13/50	PH letter to SE capt Harry Caldwell	1	0	see PH 65-4307
782	9/13/50	SA to SAC memo	2/2	2/2	2 dups
783	9/13/50	PH letter to HQ	1	0	see Bufile 65-59181
784	8/21/50	HQ letter to PH	1/1	0	see Bufile 65-59181
785	9/15/50	PH letter to HQ	1	1	b-1

File No: 65-4332Re: Thomas L. BlackDate: 10/78  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
786	9/14/50	HQ letter to BA	1	0	See Bufile 65-59181
787	9/11/50	SE letter to PH	1	1	
788	9/18/50	NY letter to HQ	1	0	See Bufile 65 59181
<del>789</del>	<del>9/11/50</del>	<del>SE letter to PH</del>	<del>1</del>	<del>1</del>	
789	9/14/50	HQ letter to BA	1	0	See Bufile 65-59181
790	9/25/50	PH letter to SE	1	1	
791	9/13/50	BS letter to HQ	1	0	See Bufile 65-59181
792	10/2/50	NY letter to PH w/copy	1/1	0	See NY 65-15338
793	8/31/50	PH FD-122 to HQ	1	0	10-1-79 F2281 See Bufile 65-59181-273
794	10/5/50	NK to HQ letter w/copy	1/1	0	see Bufile 65 59181
795	9/21/50	capt Harry Gold SE letter to HQ	1	0	10-1-79 F2281 See Bufile 65-57447-674
796	10/5/50	PH letter to HQ	2	2	
797	10/6/50	PH letter to HQ capt Oscar Lugo	2	0	See NY 100-55242

File No: 65-4332Re: Thomas L. BlackDate: 10/75  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
798	10/11/50	FD-165 PH letter to HQ	1	0	see Bufile 65-59181
799	10/11/50	FD-122 PH letter to HQ	1	0	see Bufile 65-59181
800	10/11/50	SAC letter to SA w/copy	1/1	1/1	dup 1
801	10/13/50	capt 3rd party NY letter to HQ w/copy	1/1	1/1	dup 1
802	10/19/50	SA to SAC memo	1/1	1/1	dup 1
803	10/19/50	capt Abraham Brothman PH teletype to HQ, NY	1	0	10-1-79 F2281 see Bufile 100-365040-289
804	10/26/50	PH letter to NY	1	0	see NY 65-15338
805	10/30/50	HQ letter to PH w/copy	1/1	0	see Bufile 65-59181
806	11/2/50	HQ letter to PH w/copy	1/1	0	see Bufile 65-59181
807	11/3/50	USA letter to SAC	1	-	REFERRAL TO D.O.J.
808	11/7/50	capt Abraham Brothman PH letter to HQ	1	0	see Bufile 100-360570
809	11/10/50	PH letter to HQ	1	0	see Bufile 65-59181



TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE:

July 26, 1950

FROM : SAC, NEWARK

b-1 SUBJECT:

ESPIONAGE - R

Re Philadelphia letter to Bureau, July 17, 1950.

Mr. CHRISTOPHER NUGENT, Assistant Health Officer, Department of Health, Newark, New Jersey, has advised that the records of his office reflect no information concerning any receipt of complaint or any visit to the apartment of THOMAS L. BLACK, 17 Oxford Street, Newark, New Jersey.

WALTER F. SMITH, Rent Manager, Chellis Austin Apartments, Newark, New Jersey, advised that several complaints were received from tenants concerning THOMAS L. BLACK but that none of these complaints concerned the operation of a chemical laboratory in BLACK's apartment.

SMITH further stated that nothing in his records reflect that any complaints concerning BLACK were ever referred to the Department of Health in Newark, New Jersey. RUC.

NK 65-3906

LGT:EVL

CC Philadelphia

New York

Washington Field

NK 65-4074 (THOMAS L. BLACK)

65-4332-752

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 27 1950	
FBI - NEWARK	

Holmes PWH

TO : SAC  
FROM : SA WILLIAM H. NAYLOR  
SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK  
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: July 24, 1950

On July 21, 1950 Special Agent WILLIAM H. NAYLOR interviewed WALTER ALKUS, aka BUDDY ALKUS, who is an employee of the CHARLES BERG LABORATORIES, 1827 North 5th Street.

Mr. ALKUS was questioned regarding his knowledge as to whether or not THOMAS BLACK had ever received a telephone call from a woman during the past few months. According to ALKUS, BLACK occasionally received calls from a woman who is connected with the Franklin Institute, name unknown, and that he faintly recalls that on another occasion, BLACK received a phonecall from a woman, name unknown. According to ALKUS, he recalled this incident due to the fact that when he gave BLACK some message, the nature of which he does not recall, BLACK did not seem to have any idea who the person calling might be. He was questioned regarding the probable date of this call and as to whether or not the call might have been made in May, and upon looking at a calendar, ALKUS guessed that the call probably was made about May 17, 1950.

Mr. ALKUS was unable to furnish any information concerning the message above referred to or the name of the woman who called BLACK.

Upon being questioned as to whether or not the name WATKINS may have been used, ALKUS expressed an opinion that it seemed that the call may have come from a Miss or Mrs. WATKINS.

ALKUS stated that he would try to recall as much about the situation as he could and in the event he felt that he was in a position to furnish additional information he would communicate with the Philadelphia Office.

In connection with the above, at approximately 11:15 AM on July 21, 1950, Mr. ALKUS telephonically contacted Special Agent HOWARD A. SEARL, stating he could not recall the name of the agent to whom he had just been talking about a telephone call which he had received in May. Agent SEARL was not aware of the questioning that had been conducted by Special Agent NAYLOR at this time. ALKUS stated he now recalled that the name of the woman who made the telephone call was probably Miss WATKINS and on thinking it over, believed she was from the Franklin Institute. He said he had made a telephone call to the Franklin Institute and determined that there was a Miss WATKINS employed at that organization and could be reached through Extension 213 of the Franklin Institute.

WHN/jmf  
65-4332

65-4332-75  
Miss Ruth Applegate at F.I. says  
nobody named Watkins is  
listed in the directory

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_ INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED \_\_\_\_\_ FILED \_\_\_\_\_  
JUL 26 1950

TO : SAC

FROM : SA WILLIAM H. NAYLOR

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK  
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: July 24, 1950

On July 21, 1950 Special Agent WILLIAM H. NAYLOR interviewed WALTER ALKUS, aka BUDDY ALKUS, who is an employee of the CHARLES BERG LABORATORIES, 1827 North 5th Street.

Mr. ALKUS was questioned regarding his knowledge as to whether or not THOMAS BLACK had ever received a telephone call from a woman during the past few months. According to ALKUS, BLACK occasionally received calls from a woman who is connected with the Franklin Institute, name unknown, and that he faintly recalls that on another occasion, BLACK received a phonecall from a woman, name unknown. According to ALKUS, he recalled this incident due to the fact that when he gave BLACK some message, the nature of which he does not recall, BLACK did not seem to have any idea who the person calling might be. He was questioned regarding the probable date of this call and as to whether or not the call might have been made in May, and upon looking at a calendar, ALKUS guessed that the call probably was made about May 17, 1950.

Mr. ALKUS was unable to furnish any information concerning the message above referred to or the name of the woman who called BLACK.

Upon being questioned as to whether or not the name WATKINS may have been used, ALKUS expressed an opinion that it seemed that the call may have come from a Miss or Mrs. WATKINS.

ALKUS stated that he would try to recall as much about the situation as he could and in the event he felt that he was in a position to furnish additional information he would communicate with the Philadelphia Office.

In connection with the above, at approximately 11:15 AM on July 21, 1950, Mr. ALKUS telephonically contacted Special Agent HOWARD A. SEARL, stating he could not recall the name of the agent to whom he had just been talking about a telephone call which he had received in May. Agent SEARL was not aware of the questioning that had been conducted by Special Agent NAYLOR at this time. ALKUS stated he now recalled that the name of the woman who made the telephone call was probably Miss WATKINS and on thinking it over, believed she was from the Franklin Institute. He said he had made a telephone call to the Franklin Institute and determined that there was a Miss WATKINS employed at that organization and could be reached through Extension 213 of the Franklin Institute.

WHN/jmf  
65-4332

65-4332-752

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 26 1950	
FBI - PHILADELPHIA	

Black, Thomas Lessing  
Black, Tasso Lessing  
Wright, Tom  
Williams, George  
Jonas, Tom  
Jones, Harold

1907 5-8  
121  
212  
10 1 U III 11  
S 1 U III

1-A  
135  
No

--- FBI Philadelphia 7-19-50

A search of the fingerprints on the above individual has failed to disclose prior criminal data.

65-4332

J. Edgar Hoover  
DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

S

Black, Tasso Lessing

1907 5-8

1-A

121  
212  
10 1 U III 11  
S 1 U III

--- FBI Philadelphia

Black, Thomas Lessing

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J. Edgar Hoover  
DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

S

Wright, Tom

1907 5-8  
121  
212  
10 1 U III 11  
S 1 U III  
Wright

1-A

121  
212  
10 1 U III 11  
S 1 U III

--- FBI Philadelphia

Black, Thomas Lessing

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J. Edgar Hoover  
DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

S



Williams, George

W 1907 5-8 1/2

1-A

121

212

10 1 0 III 11

3 1 0 III

--- Phila Pa

Black, Thomas Lessing

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J. Edgar Hoover  
DIRECTOR

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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W 1907 5-8 1/2

1-A

121

212

10 1 0 III 11

3 1 0 III

--- Phila Pa

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J. Edgar Hoover  
DIRECTOR

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Jones, Harold

W 1907 5-8 1/2

1-A

121

212

10 1 0 III 11

3 1 0 III

--- Phila Pa

Black, Thomas Lessing

A search of the fingerprints on the above individual has failed to disclose prior criminal data.

J. Edgar Hoover  
DIRECTOR

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC

FROM : HERBERT F. GREATHOUSE, SA

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was  
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: August 2, 1950

Re memo SA JAMES E. HELMER, captioned as above, dated July 7, 1950, re surveillance of THOMAS L. BLACK on June 28-29, 1950.

The writer reviewed the photographs of NICHOLAS CHASE on July 31, 1950, and it was determined that CHASE is identical with the individual who met BLACK in the Philadelphia City Hall corridor on June 28, 1950 as BLACK was en route to the Philadelphia Office for interview.

HFG:ebn  
65-4332

65-4332-760

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>llc</i>	FILED <i>llc</i>
AUG 2 1950	
FBI - PHILADELPHIA	

SAC

August 2, 1950

HERBERT F. GREATHOUSE, SA

THOMAS L. BLACK, was  
ESPIONAGE - R

Re memo SA JAMES R. REIMER, captioned as above, dated July 7, 1950, re surveillance of THOMAS L. BLACK on June 28-29, 1950.

The writer reviewed the photographs of NICHOLAS CHASE on July 31, 1950, and it was determined that CHASE is identical with the individual who met BLACK in the Philadelphia City Hall corridor on June 28, 1950 as BLACK was en route to the Philadelphia Office for interview.

HFG:cmh  
65-4332

65-4332-760

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>HL</i>	FILED <i>HL</i>
AUG 2 1950	
FBI - PHILADELPHIA	

*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC

FROM : SA WILLIAM B. WELTE, JR.

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was  
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: 8/3/50

On 7/19/50, the subject was interviewed by SAS ROBERT W. HOLMES and WILLIAM B. WELTE, JR. During the course of this interview with the subject, BLACK stated that he had received a letter from JACOB FASS wherein FASS had told BLACK of his interview with Agents of the FBI. BLACK consented to turning this over to the Agents. The letter from FASS is being maintained as an exhibit in instant file.

wbw/rac  
65-4332

65-4332-761

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>ll</i>	FILED <i>ll</i>
AUG 2 1950	
FBI - WASHINGTON	

*ll*

8/3/50

SAC

SA WILLIAM B. WELTE, JR.

THOMAS L. ELACK, was  
ESPIONAGE = R

On 7/19/50, the subject was interviewed by SAS ROBERT W. HOLMES and WILLIAM B. WELTE, JR. During the course of this interview with the subject, BLACK stated that he had received a letter from JACOB FASS wherein FASS had told BLACK of his interview with Agents of the FBI. ELACK consented to turning this over to the Agents. The letter from FASS is being maintained as an exhibit in instant file.

wbw/rac  
65-4332

65-4332-761

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
AUG 2 1950	
FBI - PHILADELPHIA	

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **Philadelphia**

NH FILE NO. **65-1340** **rs**

REPORT MADE AT <b>New Haven</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>7/31/50</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>7/20, 21/50</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>JOHN W. POWELL</b>
TITLE <b>FERDINAND PHILIP HELLER, was</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE - R</b>

ADMINISTRATIVE

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Mrs. RHEA STEIN, Boston Post Road, Guilford, Ct. stated she resided with Mr. and Mrs. ALBERT DEW at 510 Hudson St., New York City, for a few months in summer of 1934. Recalls a woman whose name she does not recall living on first floor who invited her to attend Communist Party meetings. This woman's apartment later occupied by SYLVIA and DAVE whose last name she does not recall and with whom HELLER later roomed. She knew HELLER casually during this period and has kept up friendship with him since although she rarely sees him. Does not know any pertinent activities engaged in by HELLER during this period. Recalls she rented room from woman whose name she does not recall but who she believed to be a Communist and who she knew fought continuously with HELLER.

RUC

**DETAILS:** Mrs. RHEA STEIN, who resides at and operates the Chicken Inn on the Boston Post Road, Guilford, Ct., stated that she had been born RHEA KLAPPERSACK in Branford, Ct. and had gone to New York City in approximately 1925 where she worked for various companies, principally in the clothing area. She stated that in what she believed was the summer of 1934, she separated from her husband, SAMUEL GREENBERG, and while awaiting a divorce, went to live with her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. ALBERT DEW, at 510 Hudson St., New York City. She stated that Mr. DEW at that time ran a sign-painting business on Carmine St., in the immediate vicinity and that she resided with them in a small attic apartment at 510 Hudson St. She said that as far as she could recall, during this period, there was a bakery shop on the ground floor at 510 Hudson St. and the next floor was occupied by a woman whose name she did not know but who was commonly known in the household

<p>APPROVED AND FORWARDED:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE</p>	<p>DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">65-4332-762</p>
<p>COPIES OF THIS REPORT</p> <p>5 - Bureau</p> <p>3 - Philadelphia (3 for 65-4348 1 for 65-4332 1 for 65-4356)</p> <p>1 - New York (FYI)</p> <p>1 - Los Angeles (FYI)      2 - New Haven</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p style="text-align: center;">SEARCHED SERIALIZED INDEXED FILED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JUL 31 1950</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FBI - NEW YORK</p> </div>

65-1340

JHP:rs

as a Communist.

She stated that she did not recall the source of any of this information but that she knew that what she believed to be Communist Party meetings were held in this woman's apartment and this woman had approached her on several occasions to go to Communist Party meetings and intimated that she would like to have her join the Communist Party. Mrs. STEIN said that she did not go to any of these meetings and has always been opposed to Communism. She described this woman as in her early thirties, about 5 ft. 4 in., with reddish blond hair, a rather attractive face and of medium build. She stated that about the same time that she left 510 Hudson St., this woman also departed and her apartment was taken over by a young couple who had recently been married named SYLVIA and DAVE whose last name she could not recall. She stated that she believed that DAVE was a school teacher but she did not know where he taught. She said that during this period, she struck up a casual acquaintance with the subject whom she knew as FERN HELLER and that during this period, he resided on the second floor under the DEW's apartment with a woman whose name she could not recall. She stated that HELLER rented the front room of the apartment from this woman and she believed her to be a Communist. Mrs. STEIN said that this woman had approached her on several occasions to go to meetings which she described as social meetings but which Mrs. STEIN felt were C.P. meetings. She said that this woman had a very objectionable personality and spent most of her time typing in her apartment. She stated that she did not know what this woman did for a living but she did know that she and HELLER fought continuously and eventually HELLER moved out of the apartment and it was her understanding that he lived with SYLVIA and DAVID on the first floor for a few months. Mrs. STEIN said that she believed that the woman who rented a room to HELLER may have been jealous of his attentions to other women and his disinterest in her and therefore branded him as effeminate, which resulted in HELLER's disliking her, and many arguments. Mrs. STEIN said that her acquaintanceship with HELLER during this time was limited to a casual movie with him or a meal and she emphasized that she even paid her own way on these occasions because HELLER was very poor.

She stated that she recalled that HELLER during this time was working as a chemist for some company in New Jersey and commuted daily to New Jersey via the tube trains. She said that to the best of her knowledge he did not belong to any organizations at that time but seemed to spend most of his time engaging in his favorite hobby of dancing at Roseland Ballroom in New York City. She said that on most occasions when he went to Roseland to dance, he brought one of the hostesses home with him after the dance "to continue dancing until morning". Mrs. STEIN said that she did not recall any discussions that she had with HELLER regarding Communism or Russia and did not have any reason to believe that he was a member of the Communist Party or in any way disloyal to this country. Mrs. STEIN pointed out however, that her acquaintanceship with HELLER was a very casual one and that she was quite young at that time and was not cognizant of Communism as she is at this time. She stated that after leaving 510 Hudson St. in the late summer of 1934, she visited the DEW's quite often for a period of time and therefore knew a little of what HELLER and the others residing at 510 Hudson St. were doing. She said that in 1938 she remarried and in 1939, came to Guilford, Ct. to her present address where she and her husband, Mr. A. B. STEIN, have managed a chicken farm.

65-1340  
JWP:rs

She said that since leaving New York, she usually receives a Christmas card from HELLER and he has stopped in to see her about 3 or 4 times but that she has had no close contact with him.

A copy of this report is being sent to the New York and Los Angeles Offices for their information inasmuch as they have leads to interview other residents of 510 Hudson St., New York City. No lead is being set out to interview Mr. and Mrs. ALBERT DEW presently residing at 222 South Jessup St., Philadelphia, Pa. inasmuch as it is believed that the Philadelphia Office has undoubtedly interviewed the DEWs. Mrs. STEIN mentioned that she did not believe that the DEWs had been involved with the Communist Party while in New York City and further mentioned that they were presently vacationing until the middle of August at Saranac Lake, New York but she did not have their exact address there.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

REFERENCE: Report of SA Howard A. SEARL dated July 6, 1950 at Philadelphia.



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **PHILADELPHIA**

FILE NO. **65-1766**

REPORT MADE AT <b>BALTIMORE, MARYLAND</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>7/21/50</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>7/11/50</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>JOSEPH C. TRADON</b>
TITLE <b>FERDINAND PHILIP HILLER, was.</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE - R</b>

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: **Subject unknown to WHITTAKER CHAMBERS.**

-SEC-

DETAILS: **At Westminster, Maryland**

**J. DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS**, self-confessed former Soviet espionage agent, was interviewed by the writer at his residence at Westminster, Maryland, on July 11, 1950. At this time photographs of the subject were displayed to him.

Mr. CHAMBERS stated that the subject is completely unknown to him and that he cannot identify the photographs. He said that he has never heard of HILLER and therefore could furnish no information regarding him.

1 - Bureau, 1 - Philadelphia, 1 - Baltimore, 1 - New York, 1 - Washington, D.C.

**65-4332-763**

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; margin: 0;"><b>65-4332</b></p> <p style="margin: 0;">RECEIVED</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;"><b>JUL 25 1950</b></p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; margin: 0;"><i>Welte</i></p> </div>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		
<p>5 - Bureau</p> <p>1 - New York (Info.)</p> <p>5 - Philadelphia (65-4328; cc <b>65-4332</b>)</p> <p>2 - Baltimore</p>		

65-1764

ADMINISTRATIVE

A copy of this report is being furnished to New York for information, inasmuch as that office is conducting active investigation in this case.

REFERENCE: Philadelphia letter to Baltimore dated 6/19/50.

Report of SA HOWARD A. SPARK, Philadelphia, dated 7/6/50.

FD-72  
(-10-49)

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

FILE NO. 65-2382

REPORT MADE AT <b>MIAMI, FLORIDA</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>8-8-50</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>8-8-50</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>J. RICHARD BUTTS JRB:egh</b>
TITLE <b>FERDINAND PHILIP HELLER, was.</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE - R</b>	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

SOLOMON LEWIS BELL, aka Saul Bell, Miami Beach, Fla., states he became acquainted with BLACK in 1928 at which time they were both employees of American Cynamid Co., Linden, N.J. BLACK and BELL remained fairly close friends until 1938. BELL claims he has never seen BLACK nor corresponded with him since that time. BELL was aware of BLACK's CP membership and activities but claims he had no knowledge of his espionage activities. BELL denies knowing HELLER but thinks it possible HELLER was one of party with whom he and BLACK made an auto trip from Newark to Philadelphia in early 30s. BELL claims to have never been CP member but states his siter, FRANCES, is "probably" a CP member as she is married to FRANK CHANDLER of Newark who BELL knows to be CP member.

- RUC -

DETAILS: AT MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA.

Mr. SOLOMON LEWIS BELL was interviewed August 8, 1950, at his place of employment, the Mount Sinai Hospital. BELL advised that he works and lives under the name SAUL BELL. He resides at 226 Jefferson Avenue, Miami Beach, Florida, with his wife and one child. He is now employed as head X-ray technician at the Mount Sinai Hospital.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
		65-4332-767
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED AUG 10 1950 FBI - PHILADELPHIA
5 - Bureau 3 - Philadelphia (65-4332) 2 - Miami		

NY 65-2382

BELL stated that he was employed by the American Cynamid Company of Linden, New Jersey, in 1928, as a laboratory technician. He at that time was also attending the Newark, New Jersey, Technical School. It was at this time, according to BELL, that he became acquainted with BLACK whom he knew as TASSO LESSING BLACK. BLACK was also employed at that time by the American Cynamid Company as a chemist. BELL stated that because of their similar intellectual likes he and BLACK became quite friendly and thereafter from 1928 until sometime in 1938 he and BLACK maintained fairly close social relations. BELL stated that he had been a visitor at BLACK's apartment on many occasions. He stated that he recalls BLACK's apartment as having been located in a large housing project somewhere east of Broad and Market Streets. He, BELL, at that time was living at 541 Linden Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

BELL stated that he was quite aware of BLACK's membership in the Communist Party inasmuch as BLACK had attempted to persuade him to join the Party on many occasions. BELL stated that he never did join the Party but that he and BLACK had numerous conversations and discussions concerning Communism and he was not at all surprised to learn that BLACK had been engaged in espionage in behalf of the Soviet Union. BELL maintained, however, that at no time was he ever aware of the fact that BLACK was engaged in such espionage activities. BELL stated that he was also aware of the fact that BLACK later became associated with the Socialist Workers Party, but had no pertinent information to offer regarding BLACK's activities therein.

BELL was questioned concerning any of BLACK's former friends or associates whom he could recall. He stated that he recalls BLACK having had a roommate during the time he visited with him at the aforementioned apartment project and to the best of his recollection this roommate's name was similar to "JOHNEL". BELL said he never knew this roommate.

BELL stated that during the times he visited BLACK in his apartment he at no time met any persons whom he thought might have been native Russians and, furthermore, BLACK at no time mentioned to him anything concerning his having attempted to obtain a position within the Soviet Union. BELL also said that BLACK never mentioned having any connection with AMTORG.

BELL stated that he recalls that BLACK went to work for the National Oil Products Company in New Jersey after leaving the American Cynamid Company. He stated that he last saw BLACK in 1938 and since that time he has neither seen him nor corresponded with him.

ME 65-2382

Upon being questioned concerning any knowledge on his part of FERDINAND PHILIP HELLER, BELL claimed that the name was totally unfamiliar to him. BELL stated that it is quite possible that HELLER might have been a friend of BLACK's whom he met briefly but that he is sure he never had any lengthy contact with him.

BELL recalled, however, that in the early 1930s he and BLACK, together with two or three other young men made an automobile trip from Newark to Philadelphia for pleasure. BELL stated that it is possible that HELLER might have been one of these other young men who accompanied him and BLACK but he can not say for certain.

BELL stated that he was born January 20, 1909, in Berdichev, Russia. His father's name is ISHAC BRELETESCOFSKY, his mother's name is SARAH and his parents reside at this time at 762 Eaton Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey. BELL stated that he was brought to the United States by his parents when he was about three years old and he obtained derivative citizenship through his father who was subsequently naturalized.

As stated before, BELL denied ever having been a member of the Communist Party himself or having attended any meetings of the Communist Party. BELL did state, however, that his sister, FRANCES, is married to a man named FRANK CHANDLER whom he, BELL, knows to be a member of the Communist Party. BELL stated that they reside somewhere in Newark, New Jersey, but he is not aware of the street address.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION  
TO THE  
OFFICE OF ORIGIN

NY 65-2382

REFERENCE: Report of SA PAUL R. ALKER, Newark, 7-28-50.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Originated At PHILADELPHIA

File No. 65-1342

Made At PITTSBURGE	Date 8/21/50	Period 7/3, 5, 18, 21, 24; 8/14/50	Made By J. EDWARD MADVAY
Title FERDINAND PHILIP HELLER, was.		Character ESPIONAGE - R	

SYNOPSIS:

[REDACTED]

This group, in which subject was known to be active in 1932 and 1934, discussed and openly advocated the advancement of Communism in the U. S. since it was the mode of the era. Subject described as having a flexible and malleable type of personality, easily persuaded. [REDACTED] no questionable activities between subject and T. L. BLAKE. Subject's residence at and telephone calls emanating from the Penn-Beaver Hotel, Rochester, Pa., listed in detail.

- R U C - *b7d*

DETAILS:

AT PITTSBURGE, PENNSYLVANIA

[REDACTED]

*b7d*

[REDACTED]

group of "Columbia intellectuals."

*b7d*

65-4332-774

Approved & Forwarded	SAC	Do Not Write In These Spaces	
Copies		SEARCHED	INDEXED
5 - Bureau		SERIALIZED	FILED
2 - New York		AUG 24 1950 FBI - PHILADELPHIA	
① - Philadelphia (65-4348)			
2 - Pittsburgh		[initials]	
ds			
other 2 copies in 65-4348			

PG 65-1342

who considered it the mode of the era to discuss Communism and its inspiring ideology. During this period, [REDACTED] Former President HOOVER was in office and the country was involved in a period of depression, and Communism was fast becoming known as the form of government that would save the American people from utter ruin. Because of this, there was a great deal of talk about Communism and its advancement in the United States. b7d

[REDACTED]

VERA was considered by most men who met her as being a beautiful, interesting, cosmopolitan type of woman with a magnetic personality. b7c,d

Because of VERA KANE's effervescent personality and the romantic surroundings of the apartment, many people visited VERA and HELLER at VERA's apartment, and during these gatherings would discuss the intellectual aspects of Communism, the oppression of the workers and other problems of the era.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] learned to know HELLER quite well and also learned that VERA exerted considerable influence over HELLER. [REDACTED] HELLER and VERA were always together and, due to HELLER's flexible and malleable personality, he was undoubtedly dominated and lead by VERA. b7d

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] HELLER was the type of an individual who was so convinced that the workers were being oppressed and held down that, if it was suggested to him that he join in a picket line b7d



with other pickets, he would immediately take up a placard and march with the pickets.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] was the type of fellow who could be led into having the same sympathies as the pickets and this, coupled with his theory that the workers should better themselves, led him into various types of labor activities in which he had no particular interest other than a general interest in the working class.

b7d

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] looked for the address of KANE and HELLER in the New York City Telephone Directory and found that these two individuals had two separate listings.

b7d

With regard to THOMAS L. BLACE, known [REDACTED] as TASSO LESSING BLACE, she stated that she met him only once.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] She recalled that her impression of BLACE was that he appeared to be the "heavy weight" or "brains" of the entire group [REDACTED] BLACE appeared to possess a dominating personality—definitely a leader and not a follower. [REDACTED] although she knew BLACE and HELLER were very close friends, if any suggestions were to be made and carried out, BLACE would be the instigator of such suggestions; HELLER would be the one who would probably carry out the suggestions since he was easily led.

b7d

[REDACTED] knew of no activities in which BLACE and HELLER might have been involved other than those mentioned above. [REDACTED] never known of their working together in any respect other than in a business way since they were both interested in the same type of work. [REDACTED] did not know the type of work in which the [REDACTED] were engaged.

b7d

PG 65-1342

The following investigation was conducted by SA BERNARD  
W. CASHDOLLAR:

AT ROCHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Mrs. ELITH SEITZ, Auditor, Penn-Beaver Hotel, Brighton Avenue, made available the guest registration records of the hotel for the years 1947, 1948, 1949, and through June, 1950. From these records it was determined that the subject had resided at the Penn-Beaver Hotel on four occasions.

1. On January 6, 1948, at 6:18 P.M., he registered as F. P. HELLER, American Chemical Paint Company, Ambler, Pa., and was assigned Room 107. He checked out on January 7, 1948, at 10:12 A.M., leaving no forwarding address.

On January 7, 1948, he made three local telephone calls:

A. Beaver Falls 2593 (No answer) Phone listed to ERNEST PERROTT, doing business as Perott Electric Company, 700 Seventh Avenue, Beaver Falls, Pa.

B. Beaver Falls, Pa., 210-M, listed to ALBERT W. SPYDER, 1225 Sixth Avenue, Beaver Falls, Pa., doing business as Home Electric Company.

C. To Hookstown, Pa. - no number recorded.

D. To Beaver Falls, Pa., 191, listed to Ingraham-Richardson Manufacturing Company, Beaver Falls, Pa.

2. On March 28, 1948, at 1:33 P.M., subject registered again as F. P. HELLER and was assigned Room 308. He checked out on April 3, 1950. He made the following telephone calls during his stay:

A. On March 28, 1948, he called an unknown Cleveland, Ohio, number, station to station, talking for thirteen minutes.

B. On March 28, 1948, he called an unknown Philadelphia, Pa., number, station to station, talking for twelve minutes.

C. On March 30, 1948, he called Beaver Falls, Pa., 191, listed to Ingraham-Richardson Manufacturing Company, Beaver Falls, Pa.

PG 65-1342

D. On March 30, 1948, he called Beaver, Pa., 1989-R, listed to MELVIN S. PATTERSON, Van Buren Homes, Venport, Pa., who is listed in the City Directory as an employee of the Ingraham-Richardson Company, Beaver Fall, Pa., wife's first name, DORIS.

E. On March 30, 1948, he unsuccessfully attempted to call Hookstown, Pa., listed to PEYTON ROSE RUSSELL, Rochester, Pa., area, District Manager, American Chemical Paint Company, Hookstown, Pa.

F. On March 31, 1948, he called a Hookstown, Pa., number (not recorded), possibly Hookstown 2026, listed to PEYTON ROSE RUSSELL, American Chemical Paint Company.

G. On March 31, 1948, he called an unknown Detroit, Michigan, number and talked for sixteen minutes.

H. On March 31, 1948, he called an unknown number at Middletown, Ohio, and talked for twelve minutes.

I. On March 31, 1948, he called an unknown number at Louisville, Kentucky, but call was not completed.

J. On March 31, 1948, he called Hookstown 2026, listed to PEYTON ROSE RUSSELL, District Manager, American Chemical Paint Company.

K. On April 2, 1948, he called an unknown number at Hookstown, Pa.

L. On April 2, 1948, he called Hookstown 2026, listed to PEYTON ROSE RUSSELL, District Manager, American Chemical Paint Company, Hookstown, Pa.

M. On April 2, 1948, he called an unknown number at Louisville, Kentucky, but call was not completed.

N. On April 2, 1948, he called an unknown Middletown, Ohio, number and talked for four minutes.

O. On April 2, 1948, he attempted to call Beaver 4457, but line was busy. Phone listed to American Chemical Paint Company, 633 Third Street, Beaver, Pa.

PG 65-1342

P. On April 2, 1948, he called an unknown number at Philadelphia, Pa., and talked for six minutes.

3. On April 6, 1948, at 1:19 A.M., subject again registered at the Penn-Beaver Hotel as F. P. HELLER and was assigned Room 305. He checked out on April 9, 1948 at 9:10 P.M., leaving no forwarding address. During his stay he made the following telephone calls:

A. On April 6, 1948, he called an unknown number at Detroit, Michigan, and talked for fourteen minutes.

B. On April 6, 1948, he called an unknown Anderson, Indiana, number and talked for four minutes.

C. On April 6, 1948, he made a collect call to an unknown number at Ambler, Pa.

D. On April 6, 1948, he called Hookstown, Pa., 2026, listed to PEYTON ROSE RUSSELL, District Manager, American Chemical Paint Company.

E. On April 7, 1948, he again called Hookstown 2026, listed to PEYTON ROSE RUSSELL, District Manager, American Chemical Paint Company.

F. On April 7, 1948, he called Beaver Falls, Pa., 191, listed to Ingraham-Richardson Manufacturing Company, Beaver Falls, Pa.

G. On April 7, 1948, he called Beaver, Pa., 1670, phone listed to Dr. A. W. CULLEY, M.D., Third Street, Beaver, Pa.

H. On April 8, 1948, he received an incoming collect call from an unknown number at St. Louis, Missouri, and talked for nine minutes.

I. On April 9, 1948, he called Hookstown, Pa., 2026, listed to PEYTON ROSE RUSSELL, American Chemical Paint Company, Hookstown, Pa.

J. On April 9, 1948, he placed and canceled a call to an unknown number at Philadelphia, Pa.

PG 65-1342

4. On April 18, 1948; at 10:17 P.M., the subject again registered at the Penn-Beaver Hotel as F. P. HELLER and was assigned Room 412. He checked out on April 24, 1948, leaving no forwarding address. During his stay, he made the following calls:

A. On April 19, 1948, he called Hookstown, Pa., 2026, listed to PEYTON ROSE RUSSELL, District Manager, American Chemical Paint Company, Hookstown, Pa.

B. On April 19, 1948, he called an unknown number at Hookstown, Pa., possibly Hookstown 2026, listed as above.

C. On April 21, 1948, he called an unknown Pittsburgh, Pa., number and talked for two minutes.

D. On April 21, 1948, he called an unknown number at Hookstown, Pa., possibly Hookstown 2026.

No other information was available from the hotel records.

Mrs. RUTH SEITZ, Auditor, advised she did not recall HELLER.

The following persons, all considered reliable and known personally by SA CASEDOLLAR, advised they did not recall HELLER personally:

THOMAS JUDGE, Manager, Penn-Beaver Hotel  
RUTH JUDGE, Assistant Manager, Penn-Beaver Hotel  
VIRGINIA VAN TASSELL, Desk Clerk, Penn-Beaver Hotel  
DOROTHY ROYMAN, Desk Clerk, Penn-Beaver Hotel  
MARY ANTHONY, Desk Clerk, Penn-Beaver Hotel  
BETTY JANE MURRAY, Desk Clerk, Penn-Beaver Hotel

The records of the Penn-Beaver Hotel were also checked for the years 1947, 1948, 1949, and through June, 1950, for the name VIRGINIA PADDOCKS, HELLER's alleged girl friend, without success. No record was found for either a Miss or Mrs. O'BRIEN, likewise described [REDACTED]

b7c

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

PG 1342

**REFERENCES:**

Cincinnati teletype to Philadelphia, Pittsburgh,  
Indianapolis, Milwaukee, 7/2/50  
Report of SA HOWARD A. SEARL, Philadelphia, 7/6/50  
Report of SA JOSEPE A. VERICA, Cincinnati, 7/21/50

SAC, Baltimore

August 22, 1950

Director, FBI

THOMAS L. BLACK, was.  
ESPIONAGE - R  
Baltimore file 65-1751

Reference is made to Baltimore report of Special Agent Joseph C. Trainor dated July 7, 1950, in captioned matter. Referenced report reveals on page five that Miss Ethel Mann, Administrative Assistant in the Technical Library, Hercules Powder Company, was interviewed and that she advised that the Hopewell reports of the Hercules Powder Company did not contain any Government restricted information. It is noted that Miss Ethel Mann admitted that William W. Stapler entertained her socially on various occasions. In view of this, it is believed that an opinion should be obtained from other officials of the Hercules Powder Company regarding the classified nature of the Hopewell reports.

One of the necessary elements in establishing a successful prosecution in this case is the establishment of the fact that information of a classified nature was passed by Black. This matter should be handled expeditiously.

cc - Philadelphia (Phila. file 65-4332)

65-59181

*But - Black denies ever receiving any of the Hopewell reports.*

65-4332-775

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED 213	FILED 413
AUG 23 1950	
FBI - PHILADELPHIA	

*Acord*

*Holmes*

*Wette*

*Ho*

*W*

SAC, Baltimore

August 22, 1950

Director, FBI

THOMAS L. BLACK, was.  
ESPIONAGE - R  
Baltimore file 65-1751

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cc - Philadelphia (Phila. file 65-4332)

65-59181

65-4332-775

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 23 1950	
FBI - PHILADELPHIA	

*Wm*



SAC

9-13-50

SA WILLIAM B. WELTE, JR.

THOMAS L. BLACK, was  
ESPIONAGE - R  
(Bufile 65-59181)

Rebulet 6-21-50 and report of SA WILLIAM B. WELTE, JR., dated 7-26-50 at Philadelphia.

All contacts of CHARLES W. BERG, the employer of the subject, were made by SA HOWARD A. SEARL. At no time during any of the interviews, did Mr. BERG express in any manner, a threat in any form to Agent SEARL or any other Special Agent of the FBI. BERG appeared to be highly emotional and easily upset. He offered his complete cooperation to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in connection with the instant investigation, and offered his services, if needed, in connection with any other investigation. At times, as the investigation progressed, BERG expressed concern for the reputation of the company, The Charles W. Berg Laboratories of 1827 North 5th Street, Philadelphia, desiring that every effort be made to protect the good reputation of that company.

Interviews with THOMAS L. BLACK were conducted by SAs WILLIAM B. WELTE, JR. and ROBERT W. HOLMES. During the course of these interviews, BLACK made occasional references concerning the emotional instability of his employer. For example, after BLACK returned to his employer after the initial interviews on June 15 and 16, 1950, which were conducted during BLACK's normal working hours, he informed CHARLES W. BERG that he had been interviewed by the FBI and was doing everything he could to assist its investigation of HARRY GOLD. BERG was rather incensed over the fact that BLACK had not been at work for two days and told BLACK that the FBI had no right to interview him during the day and that if he were being detained, he should sue the FBI. He also recommended to BLACK that he get an attorney.

BLACK told the Agents that he did not take anything that BERG said seriously in view of the fact that BERG was a neurotic hypochondriac, and an unstable individual.

As the Bureau has been previously advised, the surveillance of subject BLACK was extremely difficult due to the character of the neighborhood in which the surveillance was being conducted. There were several numbers writers (petty gamblers) in the vicinity of the Charles W. Berg Laboratories, and it was not long before the surveilling Agents were spotted by these numbers writers as being strangers in the vicinity. However, while the Agents were spotted, there is absolutely no indication that they were aware of the identity of the Agents. The surveilling Agents observed these numbers writers in the vicinity and even noticed that they went into the Charles W. Berg Laboratories each day.

WBW:atp  
65-4332

65-4332-782

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 13 1950	
FBI - PHILADELPHIA	

Memo - SAC  
9-12-50

BLACK had advised on several occasions, that he suspected he was being surveilled and that BERG on one occasion, hearing of the activity of strangers in the vicinity, flew off the handle and told BLACK that it was all his fault that the FBI was around and that he would shoot the first FBI Agent that he saw. At the time he made this statement, BLACK stated that BERG was in a highly emotional state and certainly did not mean anything that he was saying. BLACK explained that BERG, a married man, was having several affairs with other women and he believed that BERG was considerably distressed for fear that the individuals noticed in the vicinity were hired by his wife or the husband of one of the women with whom he was going, and would have been quite relieved to know that it was the FBI.

During the interviews, when BLACK brought up the subject of a surveillance, no comment was made to either affirm or deny the existence of the surveillance on subject BLACK. To this day, no statement has been made to him as to whether or not he was ever under surveillance by this office.

SAC

9-13-50

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ESPIONAGE - R  
(Bufile 65-59181)

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WBW:mtp  
65-4332

65-4332-782

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9-12-50

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Director, FBI

9-25-50

SAC, Philadelphia

[REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Recruitment  
Security Precautions  
Methods of Payment  
Information Sought  
Information Obtained  
Communist Party Assistance

[REDACTED]

WB:mtp  
65-4090

Encls.

cc: Los Angeles

New York

San Francisco

Washington Field

PH File 65-1332

~~Classified by 100-9  
Exempt from GDS, Category 2 & 3  
Date of Declassification Indefinite  
gdp/dw 10/25/84~~

65-4332-78

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SAC, PHILADELPHIA

September 11, 1950

SAC, SEATTLE

THOMAS L. BLACK, was.  
ESPIONAGE - R;  
(Philadelphia file 65-4332).

Rearlet dated August 21, 1950, enclosing a copy of the report of SA WILLIAM B. WELTE, JR., dated July 26, 1950, Philadelphia.

Referenced letter also indicated that a photograph of BLACK was being enclosed.

The photograph of BLACK was not received by the Seattle Office. It is requested that for the completion of the Seattle files the photograph of BLACK be forwarded to Seattle.

65-3095  
WCT;jn

65-4332-787

OK  
(Payer)

10 *Paul*

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, PHILADELPHIA

DATE: September 11, 1950

*cc:* SAC, SEATTLE

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was.  
ESPIONAGE - R;  
(Philadelphia file 65-4332)

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65-3095  
WCT:jn

65-4332-789

*Holmes* *PUH*  
*See Serial 781* *3*

9/25/50

SAC, Seattle

SAC, Philadelphia

THOMAS L. BLACK, was.  
ESPIONAGE - R  
(Seattle file 65-3095)

Reurlet 9/11/50.

Enclosed is a photograph of the subject taken in June 1950.

Enclosure

MSH:cab  
65-4332

*cab.*

*um*

65-4332-790



Director, FBI

10/5/50

SAC, Philadelphia

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE ARTS, SCIENCES & PROFESSIONS  
(COMMITTEE TO FREE THE HOLLYWOOD TEN)  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

On 10/2/50, THOMAS L. BLACK, an admitted Soviet espionage agent, was interviewed at the Philadelphia Office. During the course of the interview he produced a newspaper clipping datelined at Hollywood, California, July 27, 1950, which he believed came from the New York Times of July 28th.

The story dealt with the release of a publicity bulletin by the Committee to Free the Hollywood Ten. According to this bulletin, this committee was distributing throughout the country a short film defending the ten Hollywood writers jailed for contempt of Congress. The last paragraph of the news story read as follows:

"When the office of the Committee for Freeing the Hollywood Ten was called for further information, Martin Field, who said he was in charge of booking the film, was put on the phone. He expressed enthusiasm about the prospects of getting a wide release of the subject not only in theatres but in homes throughout the country."

The Committee was referred to in the story as a subdivision of the Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions located at 1,501 Crossroads of the World, Hollywood 26, California.

BLACK explained that his reason for presenting this clipping was that he was certain MARTIN FIELD is a man whom he knew during the 1930's and early 1940's in Newark, N. J. His correct name is MAX FREEFIELD, which was changed by him to MARTIN FIELD. BLACK, for some time, roomed with FIELD's brother, who uses the name of CHARLES FREEFIELD.

According to BLACK, MARTIN FIELD was, for a few weeks in the early 1930's, a member of the COMMUNIST PARTY in Newark, N. J., but dropped

rwh/rac  
100-33949

cc: Los Angeles  
Newark

In File 65-4332 (THOMAS L. BLACK)

65-4332-796

Director, FBI

out. He has remained a strong and active Communist sympathizer. At one time he was employed on the WPA writers' project in New York City. In the early 1940's he worked as a proof reader for a ticket printing company in Newark which BLACK believes was called the Enterprise or the Empire Ticket Company. FIELD went to Hollywood about 1944 or 1945 to become a writer in the motion picture industry but was never successful at it. He was married about 1940 or 1941 at Newark to HELEN GROSSMAN, who is a writer under the name of HELEN COLTON. BLACK describes her as a CP sympathizer.

This is being reported as a matter of information.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM - UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

To : SA WILLIAM H. NAYLOR

From : SAC, Philadelphia

October 11, 1950

Subject: THOMAS LESSING BLACK  
ESPIONAGE - R

The above subject is being assigned to you under the Detcom program. It is your responsibility to view the subject and become acquainted with his physical appearance. When this has been done you will prepare a memorandum reflecting such action and, if the case is assigned to you, will make a recommendation as to whether the case should be closed or whether additional investigation should be conducted.

It is expected that you will have become acquainted with the subject and will have prepared the memorandum reflecting this within a two-week period from the date of assignment.

WEW:llw  
65-4332

65-4332-800

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
OCT 11 1950	
FBI - PHILADELPHIA	
<i>Naylor</i>	

OFFICE MEMORANDUM - UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

To : SA WILLIAM H. NAYLOR

From : SAC, Philadelphia

October 11, 1950

Subject: THOMAS LESSING BLACK  
ESPIONAGE - R

The above subject is being assigned to you under the Detcom program. It is your responsibility to view the subject and become acquainted with his physical appearance. When this has been done you will prepare a memorandum reflecting such action and, if the case is assigned to you, will make a recommendation as to whether the case should be closed or whether additional investigation should be conducted.

It is expected that you will have become acquainted with the subject and will have prepared the memorandum reflecting this within a two-week period from the date of assignment.

WSW:llw  
65-4332

65-4332-800

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 11 1950	
FBI - PHILADELPHIA	

Director, FBI

October 13, 1950

SAC, New York

M. MARGOLIN  
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Re NY report dated 8/4/50 entitled, as above.

Enclosed herewith for the Philadelphia Office are two copies of a photograph of MORDECAI MARGOLIN, Chemist in the Department of Purchase, City of New York.

Philadelphia is requested to exhibit photo to THOMAS L. BLACK in order to determine if identical to the M. MARGOLIN known to him in 1931.

2cc: Philadelphia (65-4332) - encls. (2)

*as deleted 1-A (1)  
in file 105-552*

*[Handwritten signature/initials]*

*[Stamp: ypb]*  
*[Handwritten: Holmes]* *[Handwritten: 10/13/50]*

WAE:APK  
100-76263

65-4332-801

Director, FBI

October 13, 1950

SAC, New York

M. MARGOLIN  
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Re NY report dated 8/4/50 entitled, as above.

Enclosed herewith for the Philadelphia Office are two copies of a photograph of MORDECAI MARGOLIN, Chemist in the Department of Purchase, City of New York.

Philadelphia is requested to exhibit photo to THOMAS L. BLACK in order to determine if identical to the M. MARGOLIN known to him in 1931.

2cc: Philadelphia (65-4332) - encls. (2)

*all attached  
1-11-51  
info # 100-552*

65-4332-801

WAT:ATK  
100-76163

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 17 1950	
FBI - PHILADELPHIA	
<i>WAT</i>	

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC

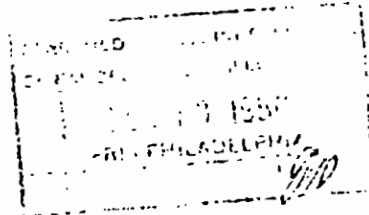
FROM : SA WILLIAM H. NAYLOR

SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK  
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: October 19, 1950

The writer has viewed subject on various occasions and is acquainted with his physical appearance. The writer is also familiar with the neighborhood in which subject lives; namely, 1929 North 6th Street, Philadelphia, and is also familiar with subject's place of employment, The Charles W. Berg Laboratories, 1827 North 5th Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

whn/mrs  
65-4332



65-4332-802

SAC

SA WILLIAM H. NAYLOR

THOMAS HESSLER BLACK  
EMPLOYEE - R

October 19, 1953

The writer has viewed subject on various occasions and is acquainted with his physical appearance. The writer is also familiar with the neighborhood in which subject lives; namely, 1929 North 6th Street, Philadelphia, and is also familiar with subject's place of employment, The Charles W. Berg Laboratories, 1827 North 5th Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

WLN/mrs  
65-4332

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 23 1953	
FBI - PHILADELPHIA	

65-4332-802



CHARGE-OUT SLIP

FD-5  
(1-1-45)

ENTIRE FILE

DATE

CLASS

NUMBER

LAST SERIAL

SERIALS

as serial 811 as they are identical.

OF

CLASS

FILE NUMBER

LOCATION

RECHARGE

SPECIAL AGENT

TO

DATE

FROM

65-4332-810