FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Origin of case: NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT NH File No. 100-1128 be

Report Made At	Date Made	Period	Report Made By
New Haven, Conn.	9/21/45	6/21-23; 7/4,5,14,16, 21,28;8/4,11,20, 25;9/6,10-12/45	HAROLD E. MEYER

Title

RICHARD BRANSTEN, was.

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INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Synopsis. RICHARD BRANSTEN and RUTH McKENNEY presently reside 48 Canal Street, Westport, Connecticut. That residence purchased by the latter for $26,500. Both continue actively engaged in profession as writers. Subject known to have completed 5th Chapter, biography of HERBERT HOOVER. Recently received assistance from GEORGE SELDES, publisher of "IN FACT" magazine, concerning one phase. SEYMOUR BAKST, research assistant, continues to provide BRANSTEN with data. Subject attended only one professional group, CPA meeting at Norwalk, Conn.; one session State CPA Convention 7/22/45 as a guest; one session State CPA Convention 8/12/45 - both Bridgeport, Conn.; also several sessions of the National CPA Convention, NYC, 7/26,27/45, on a "NEW MASSES" press card. Was disappointed and returned to Westport before conclusion thereof; is reported to have been elected to the State Board of the Connecticut CP but disqualified as ineligible. Reported to have been assigned by ANDREW ONDA, State Secretary, CP, to assist in organization of the small "Workers Group", CP, Norwalk, Connecticut. Also subject and wife reported to have given up politics and were urged by subject's mother to give up the Party, as it was believed their work would benefit. Subject and wife critical of "DAILY WORKER" policy and of the editors and policy of "NEW MASSES", Communist publication. Both are known to have composed letters and articles critical of "DW" and the present "desertion" role of "NM", and have attempted to force a change in "NM" editorial policy by resigning as contributing editors. Have also prepared correspondence to

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Approved SAC

Roger [illegible] Gleason

100-80068-129

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SEP 25 1945

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EX-39

100-1123

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WILLIAM Z. FOSTER in that regard. Numerous associates, business and correspondent contacts in Connecticut, New York and California set forth.

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REFERENCE: Bureau File #100-80068 93779
Bureau Letter to New York, 6/2/45.
Letter to Bureau from Los Angeles, 6/19/45.
Bureau Letter 6/25/45.
Letter to Bureau from Los Angeles 7/12/45.
Report of Special Agent Fred G. Dupuis, dated 7/12/45 at Los Angeles, California.
Teletype to Bureau, 7/21/45.
Bureau letter to Los Angeles, 7/27/45.
Letters to Bureau from Los Angeles dated 8/24/45 and 8/25/45.

DETAILS: AT WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT:

The subject is considered a key figure in CP activities in the area of the New Haven Field Division.

RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT

The records of the Town Clerk reflect in Book of Deeds, Vol. 91, Page 307, that property on Easton Road, Westport, formerly owned by RICHARD BRANSTEN was sold to LESTER and SHIRLEY KRIEGER, Brooklyn, New York on April 10, 1944 for the sum of $16,500. It was noted that a mortgage on this property by RICHARD BRANSTEN was held by one EDWARD L. GREENBERG. Witnesses to the signing of the warranty deed at the exchange of the property to the KRIEGERS, were JOHN P. LIZAK and JOSEPH J. KAWABAY, both of Chicago Illinois.

On June 15, 1945, deed was registered with the office of the Town Clerk which indicated that RUTH McKENNEY BRANSTEN of Brentwood, California, had purchased the residence and property at 48 Canal Street, Westport from AVA B. BOOTH, wife of one HENRY BOOTH. The transaction was handled through the HARPER — WOOD COMPANY, INC., a real estate agency, Taylor Place, Westport and attorney for RUTH McKENNEY and the subject was HEREWARD WAKE, same address. The property was purchased at a reported amount of $26,500.

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Confidential Informant T-1 advised that BRANSTEN, through correspondence, had stated he intended to continue employment in Connecticut as a contributing editor of "NEW MASSES" magazine. This intention was further borne out by correspondence furnished by Confidential Informant T-1 from JOSEPH NORTH, publisher of "NEW MASSES".

BRANSTEN'S BIOGRAPHY OF HERBERT HOOVER

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On July 21, 1945, SEYMOUR BAKST is reported to have told Confidential Informant T-2 that he planned to attend the National Convention of the CPA, July 26-28, 1945 in New York and desired to contact BRANSTEN in New York concerning BRANSTEN'S biography of former president HERBERT HOOVER at that time. BAKST stated that he hadn't been able to get much "worthwhile material" on one phase of Mr. HERBERT HOOVER's life, but that he had secured copies of Mr. HERBERT HOOVER's speech over the Columbia Broadcasting System.

BAKST further stated that he had made arrangements to visit BRANSTEN at his residence in Westport on July 22, 1945 to talk over the "situation" with him. On this date BAKST stated BRANSTEN had completed the third chapter of the biography which dealt with Mr. HERBERT HOOVER'S life at Stanford University in California.

This informant on August 31st stated that BRANSTEN had found, while reading the April 30th, 1945 copy of "IN FACT", [illegible] publication, a story concerning GENERAL SMEDLEY D. BUTLER and HERBERT HOOVER, which had been published in that issue. BRANSTEN told the informant that he had contacted GEORGE SELDES and requested the source of this data from SELDES, the publisher of "IN FACT", and was advised that he had obtained this data from GENERAL BUTLER himself and that he also had three letters concerning the matter from PAUL COMLEY FRENCH and two other individuals. It was stated that FRENCH is reported to have worked with BUTLER for several years and was characterized as BUTLER'S pressman. BRANSTEN had requested permission to use the letters and the data in his biography of HERBERT HOOVER as the only evidence he had concerning that particular matter was obtained from a book by one HAMILL, whom BRANSTEN characterizes as "a liar". BRANSTEN pointed out further that it was his intention to document with evidence the statements made inhis biography of former president HERBERT HOOVER, as he had to be "very careful what he writes".

The particular passage above referred to was as follows: "I kicked

his -- and him into the street. I did not know his name nor did I care who that coward was. Someone later told me that the man's name was Hoover (HERBERT HOOVER)".

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SELDES recalled that these were the very words that he had been told by GENERAL BUTLER and immediately after the conclusion of the interview SELDES had written a memo on the matter for future reference and was positive it was correct. SELDES expressed pleasure in being able to assist BRANSTEN in this regard and at BRANSTEN's request unqualifiedly gave his permission to be used as the source of this data to be quoted and volunteered to obtain authority from PAUL COMLEY FRENCH for BRANSTEN to use the data which FRENCH had supplied in that connection.

It will be noted that Confidential Informant T-3 advised that BRANSTEN had included the above quoted reference as it appears in the 5th Chapter on the life of former president HERBERT HOOVER dealing with that period of life spent in China.

The latter informant states subject continues to receive frequent correspondence from SEYMOUR BAKST, Washington, D. C. This informant also furnished what appears to be the original rough draft typewritten copies of the major portions of the third and fifth chapters of BRANSTEN'S biography of former president HERBERT HOOVER.

CP--CPA ACTIVITIES AND SUBJECT'S POSITION

Professional Group, CPA - Norwalk, Conn:

T-2 stated that BRANSTEN had been invited to attend a meeting of the above organization to be held the evening of July 13th, and was to commute with Mr. and Mrs. ROBERT PATTERSON of Weston, Connecticut, known members of that group.

BRANSTEN told RAE SACHS, a member of that group residing in Westport that he was entirely at odds with the CPA policy and strongly emphasized the need for "new blood" in the organization, especially in the National Committee. BRANSTEN stated he believed the National Committee should be composed mainly of trade unionist members who had been active in labor groups and organizational groups with the past two years.

Confidential Informant T-4 advised that BRANSTEN attended a closed meeting of the above group held at the home of ALBERT HARRIS, leader of the

group, at Woods Court, Norwalk, Connecticut, 8:15 p.m. on July 13, 1945. ALBERT HARRIS and ANDREW ONDA, the State President of the CPA and a number of local members were present. The discussion at this meeting centered on the Duclos letter and the resolution as amended of the National Committee of the CPA. ONDA and HARRIS lead the discussion and evidenced acceptance of the facts and indicated they had been unaware of BROWDER's mistakes and the danger of his approach to Capitalism.

BRANSTEN took the floor briefly and began by stating that he felt intensely bitter about the "present situation" of Party interests. He said, "Never have I been so frightened about the American Communist Party as I am now." He openly denounced all members in the National Committee in the CPA and deplored the existing attitudes towards women's role in the organization. He stated that he believed their efforts were not appreciated. Among the members of the National Committee whom he denounced in particular was V. J. JEROME and he emphasized ROBERT MINOR in a scathing denunciation. He favored FOSTER over BROWDER, however, not wholly approving of FOSTER. He stated that he, himself, (BRANSTEN) had asked so many questions of the "chest beaters" in the 9th Floor of CPA Headquarters that he had nearly been expelled from the CPA. He clearly indicated that he did not care whether members were "hot Marxists" and he stated the Leninists had become to soft and bourgeoisie, and he stated that his worry over Party affairs had caused him to suffer from stomach ulcers. His remarks were not readily accepted by HARRIS and ONDA and HARRIS again took the floor and stated, "BRANSTEN should not take the attitude of the defeatist." The informant stated that HARRIS whitewashed over BRANSTEN's remarks regarding collective leadership, central democracy and the misdemeanors of the members of the National Committee.

BRANSTEN and those present unanimously accepted the resolution of the committee of June 2, 1945, as amended. At the conclusion of the meeting, considerable discussion among the rank and file concerning BRANSTEN's stand and remarks ensued, and although a number agreed with him, all considered him tooemotional which they attributed to his alleged admitted illness, which he stated was an arrested case of tuberculosis.

ROBERT PATTERSON advised T-2 that he had offered to take BRANSTEN to another meeting of this group which was held on August 20, in Norwalk and he declined stating that he would not attend as he had been reassigned to another group of the CP.

Connecticut State Conventions
Of the CPA and CP - 7/22 and 8/12/45

Confidential Informant T-5 advised that BRANSTEN was definitely considered among those classed as the opposing faction to the State and National leadership of the CPA and had not made a very satisfactory impression at the July 22nd State Convention.

Confidential Informant T-6 advised that the subject attended the Connecticut State CPA Convention on July 22nd, 1945 held at Moose Hall, 840 Main Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut. He was permitted to attend with the status of a guest. This informant furnished no other information concerning any alleged statements made by the subject or any reported misconduct on the part of the subject at this convention. C.I. T-7 was advised by PEARL RUSSO, that she, as State Secretary of the CPA, had addressed the State Convention on July 22 at Bridgeport. Her remarks had been accepted as very good by the rank and file and the officers, and particularly by ONDA, the State President. According to this informant, BRANSTEN did not like her speech and had remarked to several present that PEARL RUSSO was too emotional. He had intimated that as long as her speech was along the lines of leadership, she should have named names, not necessarily about the state but concerning the National leadership. By and large, BRANSTEN had considered it a very good state convention but had wanted the convention to really take a stand on national leadership.

The informant was advised by RUTH ONDA, wife of the State President, that ONDA planned to accuse BRANSTEN of violating his status as a guest at the convention but stated that BRANSTEN had remarked that ONDA's report to the convention was the best that he had ever heard.

C.I. T-8 and C.I. T-9 observed subject in attendance at the State CP Convention held the same place at 10 a.m. August 12, 1945. At this session, BRANSTEN under the name of BRUCE HINTON, was nominated for and reportedly elected to the State Committee of the Connecticut CP. It will be noted this group, according to the informants, will be the power in the Communist Party in Connecticut as reconstituted. Its primary function will be to see that the various programs and policies of the CP are carried out. Confidential Informant T-7 was advised by RUTH ONDA at a later date that at this session of the Convention BRANSTEN had received 25 votes and had come next to being elected to the State Committee. RUTH ONDA stated that PEARL RUSSO was very surprised because BRANSTEN had received so many votes but expressed the opinion that it was due to the fact that the rank and file were over-awed by his name and she stated that he was ineligible for this position because he had just arrived in the state.

At a later date BRANSTEN stated to Confidential Informant T-2 that RUDOLF GILLESPIE, negro, and member of the Norwalk Worker's Group - CP, had put his name in nomination for the election of State Committee Officers and that GILLESPIE had also invited him to attend the meeting scheduled for August 19th of the Workers Group - CP in Norwalk.

National CPA Convention
July 26, 1945.

On July 21, 1945, BRANSTEN advised this informant that he intended to attend the State Convention on July 22nd at Bridgeport and indicated a desire to attend the National Convention, July 26 - 28 at NYC but stated he didn't believe he could get in to that convention as he had a "very bad odor". BRANSTEN stated however, that he had instructed SEYMOUR BAKST, who was planning to attend the National Convention, to obtain complete notes on the proceedings, as he, (BRANSTEN) wanted to know everything that transpired.

T-2 stated BRANSTEN advised him on July 25th, that JOSEPH NORTH, publisher of "New Masses", Communist publication, had stated that the National CPA Convention would take place at 110 West 48th Street, New York City on the following day, and BRANSTEN further advised that he fully intended to be present for each session as long as they lasted.

The informant advised the subject had attended the sessions of the National Convention on the 26th which was also attended by FOSTER and BROWDER and that BROWDER had delivered his speech on the evening of July 26th. BRANSTEN, however, advised the informant that he doubted if he would be able to get into the convention after the 26th. He had attended the opening session as an "observer" from Connecticut and had gained admission on a "NNT" press card issued to him by JOSEPH NORTH, publisher. Later BRANSTEN advised the informant that he had attended sessions on the 27th of July but had decided to return to Westport the evening of that date and did not attend any further sessions, as he didn't believe that they would be very interesting; that he had heard everything; the reply to BROWDER and all the other facts; and that he didn't plan to stay around for the voting.

On a later date BRANSTEN advised this informant that he had made arrangements for GEORGE and HELEN SELDES and CLARA and LOUIS SCALA to meet in the BRANSTEN residence on the evening of July 29th, the purpose of which was to discuss all the news of the convention, which he had learned while in New York City.

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Subject Invited to Speak At Mass Meeting
Camp Unity -- Wingdale, New York

RUTH McKENNEY told Confidential Informant T-2 that BEATRICE -- last name unknown to the informant -- who is possibly connected with the "New Masses" magazine, had attempted to obtain the services of she and BRANSTEN to speak before a large mass meeting at Camp Unity at Wingdale, New York on a date subsequent to July 26th. BRANSTEN stated that he had offered a number of excuses to decline this request but had finally advised the above individual that both would decline because in substance they were not in accord with "New Masses" policy as "New Masses" had not come out with a strong enough policy and in view of the fact that BRANSTEN was to attend the National CPA Convention before taking any further action, his future activities in the Party would depend on what transpired at the National Convention and his attitude towards it.

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Subject's Position In Regards To "Politics"

Confidential Informant T-3 stated that BRANSTEN had apparently advised his mother, MRS. CHARLES BRANSTEN of 2275 Broadway, San Francisco, 15, California, that he and RUTH McKENNEY had decided to forego future activity in politics. According to the informant, MRS. BRANSTEN had in correspondence dated Saturday August 11, 1945 to RICHARD and RUTH BRANSTEN made the following statement: "I am happy and relieved that you both have decided to give up politics. I then wish you would go further and resign from the party and keep yourselves free from any labels and obligations. I think your work will benefit by it, you wouldn't then have to think, 'I musn't say this or that as it might conflict with Party ideas.'". This copy of correspondence furnished by the informant is retained in the New Haven file.

"Workers Group" - CP and CPA
Norwalk, Connecticut

Confidential Informant T-2 was advised by BRANSTEN that RUDOLF GILLESPIE, upon the recommendation of ANDREW ONDA had advised him of the date of the next meeting of the above group which had been inactive during the "unsettled" state of the party. Following the State Convention of the CP August 12, 1945, Confidential Informant T-10 was advised by RUDOLF GILLESPIE that he had been told by ONDA that BRANSTEN had been assigned to the Norwalk Workers Group of the CP. ONDA had further advised that BRANSTEN would be able to assist in strengthening an organization of that group which is composed mostly of Negros.

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Miscellaneous Communist Activities
And Contacts in Connecticut

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RUTH BRANSTEN advised Confidential Informant T-2 that she had invited Mrs. GUNNAR (ESTHER) MICKELSON to the Branston residence on the evening of July 14th and others to be present would be MAX and GRACE GRANICH, MILDRED GILMAN, RUTH YOUNGMAN, HELEN and GEORGE SELDES, CLARA and LOUIS SCALA.

Mrs. BRANSTEN said that the affair was to be in the nature of an outdoor barbecue for approximately 20 guests in celebration of the BRANSTEN's homecoming to Connecticut and was to be a closed affair.

It will be noted that the MICKELSONS are reported Communists. GUNNAR MICKELSON is a former CIO organizer from Milwaukee and reported to be acquainted with influential and high ranking Communists and very friendly with GEORGE SELDES. MICKELSON is presently employed as a script writer for soap operas and other national radio programs. MILDRED GILMAN is believed to be identical with MILDRED G. WOHLFORTH, reported left-wing writer and former member of the LAW, who is in frequent contact with the BRANSTENS and the SELDES. RUTH YOUNGMAN is a resident of Westport, Connecticut. HELEN and GEORGE SELDES, CLARA and LOUIS SCALA are considered key Communists in the New Haven Field Division.

This Informant stated the subject made arrangements for medical care and treatment from Dr. BARNET FINE, a resident of Stamford, Connecticut. It is to be noted that Dr. FINE is a known and registered member of the CP and CPA in that city and at least one recent meeting of the Stamford Professional Group of the CPA was held at his residence. According to information appearing in the New Haven files, he is the personal physician of a predominant number of Stamford, Connecticut Communists.

RUTH BRANSTEN told the informant that MRS. IVY BRIDGE, an old friend of the BRANSTENS had invited Her and RICHARD BRANSTEN to attend an Authors Tea to inaugurate a Book Collection Drive for Russia through the Stamford Chapter of Russian War Relief to be held August 27th at Stamford Connecticut. According to the informant RICHARD BRANSTEN had declined the invitation giving as the reason, "We usually try to advoid that sort of thing." The informant was advised by RUTH BRANSTEN that a social gathering would be held on the night of August 17th at the Bransten residence, to include mutual friends, GOLDIE and LARRY HILL, who were formerly managers of a book shop and who now reside at Prospect Shore [illegible]; and RUTH and AL —possibly ALLAN and MRS. GREEN of Westport, Connecticut. ALLAN GREEN is a known member of the State Council of the "Independent Citizens Committee of Arts, Sciences and Professions, Inc." an organiza-

tion with headquarters in New Haven, which the Connecticut Communists are attempting to control. The informant stated that another gathering at the NICKELSON's residence to include the BRANSTENS and GEORGE and HELEN SELDES was planned for August 15th, the purpose of which was to discuss the end of the war.

This informant was advised by BRANSTEN that some business scheduled at the residence of JOHN and IVY BRIDGE in Stamford, Connecticut for August 19th had to be cancelled due to the unexpected illness of RUTH McKENNEY. It will be noted that JOHN and IVY BRIDGE are key Communists in the area of Stamford, Connecticut. JOHN BRIDGE is professor at the Columbia University, New York City and associated with a committee in that city aiding MORRIS U. SCHAPPES.

The informant stated further that BRANSTEN had advised him that RUTH McKENNEY's nervous breakdown had resulted in her hospitalization and that it was due to the fact that she had been taking Benzedrine for the past three years. She planned to be under the care of a physician in New York City. The informant stated on August 19, 1945 that MAX and GRACE GRAUICH, whom BRANSTEN stated he had not seen for some time, were to visit at the BRANSTEN residence on that date.

RUTH BRANSTEN told the informant at a later date, that she was making plans for a gathering to be held at the residence of GUNNAR NICKELSON September 1, 1945 at which the BRANSTENS, HELEN and GEORGE SELDES and a Dr. GUMPERT (phonetic) would be present. The latter had been visiting at the BRANSTEN residence. On August 31st GEORGE SELDES told RUTH BRANSTEN, according to the informant that on August 30th he and HELEN SELDES had received a telegram from VERA CASPARY, who apparently had returned to the U. S. from ENGLAND. VERA CASPARY had indicated a desire to visit the SELDES Labor Day weekend. SELDES stated that GENE WHITAKER (possibly Mrs. EUGENIA FOSTER WHITAKER) a girlfriend, of HELEN's was also planning to visit the SELDES the same weekend. GEORGE SELDES stated that he had had to advise both parties however, to postpone these visits due to the illness of HELEN SELDES, who was on the verge of a nervous breakdown. According to the informant, BRANSTEN appeared to be very interested in this information.

It will be noted that VERA CASPARY and EUGENIA FOSTER WHITAKER are both subjects of Internal SECURITY - R investigations in regard to their reported connections with the Comintern Apparatus.

Confidential Informant T-3 stated the BRANSTENS had received a communication from CLAUDE COCKBURN of 5 Hamilton House, Hall Road, L

Position Concerning The"Daily Worker"

Confidential Informant T-3 stated that RUTH McKENNEY or RICHARD BRANSTEN had attempted to compose a letter to the editors of the "DAILY WORKER" on the 25th of July. This letter was very critical of the editors decision to discontinue the pre-convention political discussions which had appeared up until that date. The informant stated that apparently after several attempts a letter was composed and addressed to ADAM -- (possibly ADAM LAPIN of the "DAILY WORKER") in which it is pointed out that numerous efforts had been made to compose a satisfactory critical letter to the editor of the "WORKER" with negative results, which dealt with the same subject matter.

Position Concerning "NEW MASSES"

On August 6, 1945, BRANSTEN advised T-2 that he had been asked by JOSEPH NORTH to attend a meeting regarding "NEW MASSES" magazine to be held in New York City but had declined advising NORTH that he had no new ideas other than those which he had already given NORTH. At a later date BRANSTEN told the informant that ESTHER _____ (office secretary at "New Masses) had requested that he attend an important meeting at the offices of "New Masses" at New York City on the morning of August 22nd but BRANSTEN had declined giving the reason that his wife was ill and he was unable to make it. Confidential Informant T-3 stated that on August 17, 1945 that the subject or his wife had composed a letter to the editors of "New Masses" which they desired made public in the columns of "NEW MASSES". This letter dealt with the issue of "NEW MASSES" for the week of August 14th and characterized the magazine as defunct in type and in fact; that the editorial policy was supine, trivial and dishonest and full of fatal lassitude; that articles were stale re-hashers of material originally appearing in the "DAILY WORKER" and that the magazine section was nauseatingly bankrupt, and declining from that high standard.

The informant stated that under date of August 19, 1945, correspondence was prepared to the editor of the "New Masses" by RICHARD BRANSTEN, which pointed out a continuing criticism of the editorial policy of "NM" and further criticised what BRANSTEN and his wife considered to be the "desertion" role of NEW MASSES and that "NEW MASSES" while bankrupt, was also reflecting the bankruptcy of the Party. The correspondence indicated that RUTH McKENNEY and the subject desired to state publicly their disagreement and decision to disassociate themselves from "A magazine which is not only not fulfilling its function but actually holding back the progressive movement." BRANSTEN stated, "As Communists, we can pursue no other course."

The letter indicated that 8 or 10 attempts had been made to express their complete disagreement and that a large number of letters had been written and disposed of prior to making this decision and that instant letter was for the editors alone and not for publication and indicated that an enclosed letter was to be published.

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BRANSTEN stated, "If this means violent attacks on us personally and assassination of us and still accomplishes the end of making a strong magazine then it is worth while." The informant, was provided with a copy of the following letter, which bore no date and was addressed "Comrades" signed by the initials R.M. and B.H. (RUTH McKENNEY and BRUCE MINTON) which the informant believed to have been composed after the date of August 21st, possibly for the purpose of enclosing with the foregoing letter, offering their resignation effective immediately, as contributing editors of "New Masses" and with the further request that their names be removed from the Masthead. The letter states that BRANSTEN since before 1942 had been critical and offered many protests and on many occasions had been on the point of resignation. His reasons for this action and a list of his objections he stated were too long to state, but that he would illustrate 9 points from the last two or three issues of "New Masses." They are as follows:

"1. "NEW MASSES" did not raise the question of the crime of dropping the Atomic bomb on defenseless women and children and a civilian population in feudal slavery, nor did "NEW MASSES" point out that it should have been tested on the Imperial palace and that the dropping of two bombs was a crime against humanity and the meaning of the war.

"2. "NEW MASSES" did not make clear that the atomic bomb was political, an attempt to put the Soviet Union in the position of hurrying into the war precipitously and that if the Atomic bomb was dropped a few hours before the Soviet Union announced time of entry into the Japanese War to misrepresent Soviet participation and that it was not shown that the bomb represents the foreign policy of imperialist expansion by the U.S. and an attempt to blackmail the Soviet Union.

"3. "New Masses" did not show that the United States use and possession of the Atomic bomb was to isolate the Soviet Union and the democratic forces in the world and that "NEW MASSES" did not make an issue of the gloating that the United States could now destroy the World and the Soviet Union.

"4. That the "New Masses", although protesting for the record the U.S. backing of CHIANG KAI SHEK and the danger of Civil War in

China, "New Masses", however, had not called for action or demonstrations and had not talked of forcing imperialists to back down.

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"5. "NEW MASSES" does not admit that the United States is an Imperialist Nation; that "New Masses" is not Marxist but tired Liberals.

"6. "NEW MASSES" did not raise alarm over appointment of General MacArthur to Supreme Allied Commander to direct post surrender Japan; nor did "NEW MASSES" point out that General MacArthur had only a year ago for his personally selected press agent, PHILIP LaFOLLETTE and was known to be politically involved with such groups as the American Nationalists, Christian Fronters and other anti-semetic, anti-Roosevelt, anti-Progressive and pro-Facist forces in this country.

"7. "NEW MASSES" has not raised the alarm of the lay offs following the war, nor has it suggested militant immediate intractable action locally in the shops, mills and mines..

"8. That New Masses is continually writing in such a fashion that it is on the "record" correctly perhaps, but the effect is to lull the readers into a false sense of security.. It doesn't urge Americans to fight now with every weapon against their own imperialism and it takes no action to save the country from fascism.

"9. That "New Masses" has nothing to offer on the cultural front, is too timid to convince and to lacking in creativeness, has Philistine views, lack of ideas and lack of concern with ideas."

This letter pointed out that it was the writers' hope that in the future they should again be associated with "NEW MASSES", its heritage, its traditions and its future, but that is was now in doldrums, has forgotten the past and is afraid of the future; fails to talk to the people and to express confidence in the people; appears to be afraid to fight for a better world; to anxious to excuse the errors of imperialism to apologize for the role of the Soviet Union. The letter pointed out that the writers' had taken this action as they had not been able to convince the editors of their view point from within the "NEW MASSES" organization and further pointed out that it was their hope that "in the future "NEW MASSES" would resume the struggle for a better life and a world of dignity and peace and socialism."

This informant provided copies of correspondence of RICHARD BRANSTEN dated August 21, 1945 addressed "Dear Comrade Foster" enclosing a letter by RUTH McKENNEY and BRANSTEN to "NEW MASSES" (Apparently the preceding letter). This two page letter attempts to explain the decision of BRANSTEN and his wife in resigning as editors of "NEW MASSES" in the light of "NEW MASSES" "desertion" of its role, and points out the reflections in "NEW MASSES" of the faults of the CPA and CP, as well as the economic and political aspects of the Truman Administration and the anti-Soviet, anti-democratic policy followed by the Government and the State Department policy. A paragraph of this letter is quoted as follows:

"I write this to you because I know you are always open to discussion and ideas.....I cannot presume more than to call to your attention the questions worrying somany of us. We are afraid---after the experience of the past year and one half--that we are still carrying over the incorrect and villainous approach of Browderism. I note your warning against "leftism" but I am afraid that at the moment that is not the danger; the danger rather is in changing the vocabulary by continuing our tendency to be over-cautious, impressed with possibilities to deal with the ruling class, over-awed by the power of American imperialism."

This informant also furnished a six page article possibly written by this subject or RUTH McKENNEY, as a result of the reading of the August 28, 1945 issue of "NEW MASSES" pointing out the opinions of the writer of certain data appearing in that issue of "NEW MASSES" and again resigning as contributing editors of "NEW MASSES" effective immediately.

The informant furnished also numerous copies of attempts by the subject and RUTH McKENNEY which the informant stated was written by RUTH McKENNEY at preparing an article severely criticizing "NEW MASSES" and its editorial policy. The indecision in the attempt at composition of this article is evidenced by the numerous changes in the title, several of which are as follows: "Save The New Masses", "Arguments Pro-Bono, The one-Sided", "Rise Up Outraged 'NEW MASSES' Readers", "Threshing Out A Few Little Differences With The Board Of Editors Of the 'New Masses' Magazine," "To arms! Rise Up, Outraged 'New Masses' readers!"

The above article, similar to the article mention immediately above was severely critical of the contents of the August 28, 1945 issue of "New Masses" and concludes that "New Masses" magazine as of September 1945 in the opinion of the writers is morally, politically and financially bankrupt.

Confidential Informant T-3 states that he is uncertain as to the actual mailing or forwarding of any of the above articles of correspondence including the resignations on the part of the subject and his wife to the "DAILY WORKER", "NEW MASSES" or WILLIAM Z. FOSTER.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES,
CORRESPONDENTS, ASSOCIATES,
BUSINESS AND OTHER CONTACTS

93792

Contacts Within The New York
Field Division

T-3 furnished a copy of a three-page mimeographed pamphlet entitled "Needed, A magazine of Progressive Writing and Culture" by Lawrence BARTH of 60 Morton Street, New York 14, New York. This pamphlet pointed out the writer's recommendations and specifications for a progressive magazine of the arts and culture and cites the author's opinion of the present status of progressive literature now on the retail market. This pamphlet is being forwarded as an enclosure to the New York Office.

The informant advised that RICHARD BRANSTEN received correspondence from the Southern Conference for Human Welfare - New York Committee, Murray Hill Hotel, 112 Park Avenue, New York City, under date of August 3rd. This correspondence enclosed a copy of "The Southern Patriot" which is the official organ of the National Headquarters of the above organization located at Nashville, Tennessee. Also provided was an envelope and a one page copy of typewritten correspondence from GRACE GRANICH, 339 E. 16th. Street, New York City, addressed to Mr. and Mrs. BRANSTEN, postmarked July 6, 1945. The above is forwarded to the New York Field Division as an enclosure.

Also furnished by the informant was a copy of typewritten correspondence dated July 24, 1945 on the letterhead of "NEW MASSES" signed "[illegible]" (JOE NORTH). According to the informant this correspondence apparently enclosed for BRANSTEN the "NEW MASSES" press card by which he obtained admission to the CPA National Convention, July 26th and 27th in New York City. This correspondence is forwarded to the New York Office as an enclosure.

Confidential Informant T-2 was advised by BRANSTEN that ESTHER _____ (Secretary in the offices of "New Masses" magazine New York City) did not attend the National Convention. She also had advised him that she had accumulated a lot of material upon which BRANSTEN believed she had done a wonderful job as it had been forwarded to him. BRANSTEN had filed all of this material away for future use and told the informant that he intended to write a book on it some time. He did not advise the informant as to the nature or content of this material.

This informant stated that on August 18, 1945, BRANSTEN met a Mr. DOLLCAP or STOLLCAP of New York City at the Westport depot and having made previous arrangements with GEORGE SELDES, went immediately to the SELDES' residence. 93733

The informant was unable to state if the above was identical with an individual, CARROLL — whom BRANSTEN stated had also contacted him and the latter individual he reported was a writer from one of the west coast studios who recently arrived in New York, his wife and children remaining on the West Coast. CARROLL — was reported to reside at the Somerset Hotel on 47th Street, New York City and was employed in New York. He is also reported to be acquainted with DICK REYNOLDS, who is employed on the New York Daily Mirror. This informant stated that on August 24, 1945, RUCH McKENNEY advised she had invited one ANATOLE VOLKOV of the USN, Hotel Governor Clinton, New York City and his girlfriend to visit the BRANSTEN residence on August 26, 1945.

Step-son of N.G. Silvermaster

Contacts within the Los Angeles Field Division

Confidential Informant T-3 provided a copy of a pamphlet entitled "HWM — Today and Tomorrow" which is a report on the work, purposes and policies of the Hollywood Writers Mobilization of which BRANSTEN appears to be a member. This source also advised that BRANSTEN was tendered a statement dated July 1, 1945, by KATZ, GALLAGHER and MARGOLIS, Attorneys at law, 111 W. 7th Street, Los Angeles 14, California, reflecting professional servicies rendered in the amount of $208.50. This informant also provided correspondence from ELIZABETH GERSTLEY of 717 North Crescent Drive, Beverly Hills, California under date of July 5, 1945, which is being forwarded to the Los Angeles Field Division as an enclosure.

In connection with the GERSTLEYS, Confidential Informant T-2 learned from BRANSTEN that he and RUTH McKENNEY had received a communication from JAMES GERSTLEY, July 20, 1945, whom it was stated was a relative of BRANSTEN. The latter advised that at that time GERSTLEY was residing at the Statler Hotel, Washington, D. C. and GERSTLEY had indicated a desire to visit the BRANSTEN'S residence on July 22, 1945 as he intended to be in New York over that weekend returning to Washington, D. C. the following Sunday evening. BRANSTEN forwarded an affirmative reply to GERSTLEY and as a result BRANSTEN stated he visited their residence on July 21 over night. On that evening the informant stated GEORGE and HELEN SELDES also visited their residence. The informant stated BRANSTEN had indicated he had inquired of GERSTLEY concerning the whereabouts of

ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN and according to GERSTLEY the latter was in Maine. BRANSTEN stated that he had agreed as he had previously been advised FLYNN was in Maine by Mother BLOOR. On a later date RUTH McKENNEY told the informant that GERSTLEY had apparently attended to business matters in Washington, D. C. which appeared to be successful for GERSTLEY and that the latter had indicated he and his wife, ELIZABETH, might visit the BRANSTENS Later in the year. This informant further stated that on August 17th BRANSTEN in a communication to GERSTLEY and his wife stated that he and RUTH were relieved and happy over the newspaper account of a court decision, congratulated GERSTLEY and insisted that the GERSTLEYS visit the BRANSTENS during the autumn.

93794

Confidential Informant T-3 provided a copy of correspondence dated July 12, 1945 from GEORGE WILNER forwarded to RICHARD BRANSTEN from the NAT C. GOLDSTONE AGENCY, in which it was pointed out that WILNER had been successful in negotiations concerning BRANSTENS story "The Four Bonnie Browns" and that contracts from Paramount studios would be ready for BRANSTEN within a few days. Reference report indicates that GEORGE WILNER is a known CPA member in Los Angeles, California, associated with the NAT GOLDSTONE AGENCY. This copy of correspondence is forwarded to the Los Angeles Field Division as an enclosure.

BRANSTEN advised T-2 on August 17th that he had finally received the contracts previously mentioned from GEORGE WILNER, however, due to technical difficulties arising from proper signature and notarization he had had to communicate with WILNER on that and subsequent dates for appropriate instructions in concluding the signing thereof. This informant stated that prior to July 16, 1945 BRANSTEN had sold their Brentwood residence at Beverly, California as BRANSTEN had stated on that date he had made a special request for payment for this property from the Bank of America, North Beverly Drive, Beverly Hills, California.

T-3 provided a copy of typewritten correspondence addressed to BRANSTEN by one KAY ---- (last name unknown) dated July 17, 1945, in which the writer expressed personal opinions concerning the unsettled state of the CPA and indicated that she had joined the CPA within the past year and one half in Hollywood, California. This individual indicated she had received a check from RICHARD BRANSTEN and that she had been accumulating all the letters published in the "Worker" and requested instructions from BRANSTEN concerning the type of these letters which he might wish her to retain. The informant stated that no purpose was set out in this correspondence, which is forwarded to the Los Angeles office as an enclosure.

T-3

The informant also provided three pages of mimeographed data relative to the Screen Writers Guild from one EMMET LAVERY which was addressed to all members of the Screen Writers Guild. One portion of this correspondence was labeled ~~"Confidential"~~ and was a brief statement concerning the Esquire picutes, LOUIS BERKOFF, and a Mr. KOVACS, and was signed by HOWARD ESTABROOK, Secretary. This correspondence is forwarded to the Los Angeles Field Division as an enclosure.

93795

Also being forwarded to the Los Angeles Field Division are two copies of mimeographed correspondence dated August 3rd, and 17th, 1945 signed by EMIL FRIED, President of the 59th Assembly, District Club, CPA Los Angeles, California on the letterhead of that organization; and a throwaway entitled "1945 Daily 'Peoples World' Drive." Also forwarded to Los Angeles as enclosure is a copy of correspondence dated August 22, 1945 from one NORA HELGREN, 1201 N. Mansfield Avenue, Hollywood 38, California. This correspondence was addressed to RICHARD BRANSTEN and referred to one "IVOR" and apparently referred to British politics and the cable address "Workadai Kincross". Also furnished by the informant and included as one of the above enclosures, is a copy of correspondence dated August 31st, from one BARBARA MYERS, Executive Secretary of the Hollywood Welfare Association, c/o JOSEF MISCHEL of 1422 North Kingsley, Los Angeles 27, California. This typewritten correspondence was addressed to RUTH McKINNEY and RICHARD BRANSTEN and solicited contributions for the above mentioned organization.

This informant further advised that RICHARD BRANSTEN had received correspondence from one BARTLEY CRUM listed in reference report as the attorney for LOUISE BRANSTEN.

Contacts within The San Francisco Field Division

Confidential Informant T-3 provided four copies of undated correspondence from LOUISE BRANSTEN, 3 copies of which are typewritten with two of the typewritten copies on the letterhead of the American-Russian Institute for Cultural Relations with the Soviet Union, San Francisco, California. The third typewritten letter is dated Saturday, only. The fourth item of correspondence is handwritten on personal stationery bearing the return address of 2626 Green Street, San Francisco, California, and is signed, "LOUISE". All of the above mentioned letters deal with personal matters of no interest to this investigation and are accordingly forwarded herewith as enclosures to the San Francisco Office.

The informant advised also that the BRANSTENS had received corres-

100-1128

from Lt. Commander John W. DINKELSPIEL and Mrs. JOHN DINKELSPIEL, both of 350 Oregon Avenue, Palo Alto, California.

~~P E N D I N G~~ 93796

100-1128

ENCLOSURE SHEET

Enclosures to the New York Field Division

One Three page mimeographed pamphlet entitled "Needed, Magazine of Progressive writing and Culture" by LAWRENCE BARTH, 93797

One copy of typewritten correspondence from GRACE GRANICH, 339 East 16th Street, New York dated Friday, only, together with an envelope postmarked July 6, 1945.

One copy of "New Masses" letterhead dated July 24, 1945 beginning "Dear Bruce" and ending "In Haste, Joe."

Enclosures to the Los Angeles Field Division

One pamphlet entitled "HWM - Today And Tomorrow" concerning the Hollywood Writers Mobilization, its work, purposes and policies dated 1945 Hollywood, California.

Three pages of handwritten correspondence dated July 3, 1945 addressed "Dear Richard and Ruth", one page of which is signed, "Love, Sis" and the other page and the signature on the balance of the letter is "much love, Jim", including two envelopes #1, postmarked July 5th and #2 postmarked August 25, 1945, all of which is from JAMES and ELIZABETH GERSTLEY 717 North Crescent Drive, Beverly Hills, California.

One copy of typewritten correspondence dated July 12, 1945 on the letterhead of the NAT C. GOLDSTONE AGENCY beginning, "Dear Richard" and ending "Sincerely, George".

A one page typewritten letter dated July 17, 1945, beginning "Dear Richard" and ending "Best to you and Ruth - Kay".

Three pages of mimeographed correspondence in the nature of a report from EMMET LAVERY, to all members of the Screen Writers Guild, regarding the Hollywood Reporter, the last page of which is signed with the name HOWARD ESTABROOK, Secretary".

Enclosure Sheet (Cont'd)

Enclosures to Los Angeles Field Division(- (Continued)

One copy of correspondence on the letterhead of the 59th A. D. -- CPA dated August 3, 1945. 93798

One copy of correspondence from the 59th AD - CPA dated August 17th, 1945 with enclosures.

A throw-away entitled, "1945 Daily 'Peoples World' Drive".

One copy of Typewritten correspondence dated August 12, 1945, beginning, "Dear Friends", signed "Cordially, Nora", together with the envelope, postmarked, "Los Angeles, California", August 22, 1945," bearing the return Address, "NORA HELGREN, 1201 North Mansfield Avenue, Hollywood, 38, California."

One copy of Correspondence dated August 31, 1945, typewritten, signed "Sincerely, BARBARA MYERS, Executive Secretary."

Enclosures to the San Francisco Field Division

Four copies of correspondence from LOUISE BRANSTEN, numbers one, two, three and four, one of which is handwritten and three copies are typewritten.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

93729

THE NEW HAVEN FIELD DIVISION

At Westport, Connecticut:

Will maintain contact with Confidential Informants and report this subject's Communist Activities.

Will follow and report the result of letter to the New York Field Division dated 9/21/45 requesting a search of the New York indices for any data available to informants of that office concerning the activity of the subject or sympathies expressed at the recent National CPA Convention, New York, July [illegible]-28, 1945.

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One copy of this report is forwarded to the New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco Offices respectively, with enclosures, inasmuch as instant report contains data considered pertinent to investigations or concerning individuals connected with Communist Party activities within those areas.

b7D

93810

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The following is the identity of the temporary confidential informants referred to in the report of Special Agent Harold E. Meyer dated 9/21/45, entitled "RICHARD BRANSTEN, was., INTERNAL SECURITY - C":

T-1 is [redacted] whose identity is being concealed upon request. Confdl

T-2 [redacted] a temporary symbol being used to further conceal the identity of the source.

T-3 is a Trash Cover on the BRANSTEN Residence, 48 Canal Street, Westport, Connecticut, effected through the cooperation of [redacted] a temporary symbol being used to conceal the investigative technique.

T-4 is [redacted] Confdl
T-5 is CNHT-22
T-6 is [redacted]
T-7 is CNHT-37
T-8 is [redacted]
T-9 is [redacted]
T-10 is CNHT-29

The above have been given temporary symbols to further conceal their identity.