



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JOHN STEINBECK

**FILE NUMBERS: 9-4583
AND 100-106224**

SUBJECT John Steinbeck

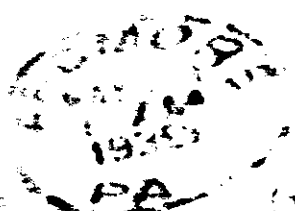
FILE # 9-4583

SECTION _____

PAGES REVIEWED 10

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THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Joe Whaling
302 Springwood
Anderson, Pa.

9-4583
Released in total
with no excisions
10pg

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D

I am going to be an judge will
 do with I don't take this card
 to police at tell them you was
 at your will the court than a
 day 4 month 1959

I am going to be an judge will
 do with I don't take this card
 to police at tell them you was
 at your will the court than a
 day 4 month 1959



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STEINBECK GETS EXTORTION THREAT

SAN JOSE, Cal., May 28 (AP) - Sheriff's deputies disclosed today that novelist John Steinbeck had received a letter and telegram from Reno, Nev. demanding money, "or else."

Deputy Jack Gibbons and Eugene Denton said the letter was signed "Maury B. Campbell" and demanded \$200. The telegram, signed "Melancholy Black" offered no specific sum. The deputies said they do not know who wrote them, but they are situated circumstances.

Reno police and postal inspectors are co-operating with the sheriff's office in an investigation.

**STANDARD AND
INDUSTRIAL TRUST**

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**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

San Francisco, California,
June 13, 1939.

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

RE: **WALTER H. CAMPBELL;
JAMES H. HARRIS, Victim;
Extortion.**

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated June 6, 1939, in the above entitled matter.

UNION PAID STORE (Name), 701 1/2 St., San Jose, California, has information relative to information contained in Bureau letter of reference. He stated that JOHN HARRIS, a merchant, residing in Santa Clara County, had received a letter asking for \$200.00 and later received a telegram requesting money. He stated he knows where HARRIS is either of these communities, that inquiry was made of ALVIN W. SMITH, United States Commissioner at San Jose, California, and at his request Post Office Inspector in Charge, C. E. WATKINSON, at San Francisco was notified and he suggested that these two communities be furnished to the extent possible on May 23, 1939. HARRIS advised that he did not know where HARRIS is and he suggested that he be notified of any information in his possession that he has any information, such as the names of these communities and that he will be happy to advise, that he was requested and is going to do so as soon as possible for passing on the matter.

ALVIN W. SMITH, U. S. Commissioner at Santa Clara County, was interviewed and had no additional information. Deputy Sheriff JOHN WILSON, who investigated this case was out of town and not available for an interview.

Inquiry at the office of C. E. WATKINSON, Post Office Inspector in Charge, San Francisco, disclosed the facts do not indicate a violation within the jurisdiction of the FBI since the letter and telegrams were requests for financial assistance and no threats were made. They were sent to H. S. BROWN, Post Office Inspector, Reno, Nevada, for appropriate investigation and no copies were retained. WALTER H. CAMPBELL is reported to have lived at the address noted above at the time these letters were written.

9-4-22-2

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUN 14 1939

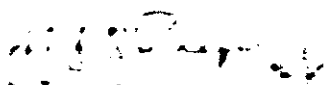
WALTER H. CAMPBELL

Letter to Director
from S.A.C. San Francisco

June 15, 1939
- page 2 -

In accordance with Bureau instructions, no investigation is being made at this Division. Although copies of this letter and Bureau letter, with enclosure, are being forwarded herewith to the Salt Lake City Field Division for its information only and as a basis for further investigation, should the Bureau desire that office to conduct any investigation at Reno, where the original letter and telegram were apparently written.

Very truly yours,


S.J.L. PIMAK,
Special Agent in Charge

AM:fb
9-173

AIR MAIL
S.A.C. ILL.

cc: Salt Lake City
S.A.C.

1976
Continued
Inventory

1976
Inventory
Continued

Inventory of Cultural Resources

The purpose of this report is to provide a comprehensive inventory of the cultural resources located within the project area. This report is based on field surveys conducted in 1976. The results of these surveys are presented in the following sections. The first section provides a general description of the project area and the cultural resources located within it. The second section provides a detailed description of the cultural resources located within the project area. The third section provides a summary of the cultural resources located within the project area.

The results of the field surveys conducted in 1976 are presented in the following sections. The first section provides a general description of the project area and the cultural resources located within it. The second section provides a detailed description of the cultural resources located within the project area. The third section provides a summary of the cultural resources located within the project area.

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SUBJECT John Steinbeck

FILE # 100-106224

SECTION _____

PAGES REVIEWED 107

PAGES RELEASED ~~██~~ 105

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From
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

TO
Official indicated below by check mark

MEMORANDUM

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
 OTHERWISE**

- Solicitor General
- Assistant to the Attorney General
- Assistant Attorney General Arnold, Anti-Trust
- Assistant Attorney General Clark, Tax
- Assistant Attorney General Shea, Claims
- Assistant Attorney General Littell, Lands
- Assistant Attorney General Berge, Criminal
- Assistant Solicitor General Fahy
- Mr. Hoover, Director, FBI
- Mr. Bennett, Director of Prisons
- Mr. Schofield, Immigration and Naturalization
- Judge Martin, Director, War Risk Bureau
- Mr. Lawrence, Director, Bond and Spirits
- Mr. Quinn, Administrative Assistant
- Mr. Holtzoff, Special Assistant
- Mr. Townsend, Special Assistant
- Mr. Smith, Special Defense Unit
- Mr. Lyons, Pardon Attorney
- Mr. Palmer, Director of Personnel
- Parole Board
- Mr. Donaldson, Chief Clerk
- Mrs. Plumley, Appointment Clerk
- Mr. DiGirolamo, Division of Records
- Mr. Adler, Division of Supplies
- Mr. McKavitt, Librarian
- Mr. Carusj
- Mr. Allen
- Miss Bell
- Mrs. Johnson
- Miss Lanke
- Miss Coulson
- Mr. Franke

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

12 11 1936
 3 30 1936

OFFICE OF
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



May 11, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOOVER

Will you note the attached
letter of John Steinbeck, the playwright?

h.b.
Francis Biddle
Attorney General

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

100-106224-1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 22 1942
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE

RECORDED

*I ENCL. IS
BY JF meB*

*SEP 11 1942
meB*

EX - 8

May 11, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROOBER

Will you note the attached
letter of John Steinbeck, the playwright?

Francis Biddle
Attorney General

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
F. B. I.
RECEIVED-SECURITY DIV.

MAY 25 1943

td

THE BEDFORD
118 East 40th Street
New York

Caledonia 5-1000

Dear Mr. Biddle:

I'm very sorry I haven't been able to see you.

Do you suppose you could ask Edgar's boys to stop stepping on my heels? They think I'm an enemy alien. It's getting tiresome.

Congratulations on the S.S. matter,

/s/ John Steinbeck

COPY

100-106224-1



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Ladd _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Mr. Carson _____
- Mr. Coffey _____
- Mr. Hendon _____
- Mr. Kramer _____
- Mr. McGuire _____
- Mr. Harbo _____
- Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Mr. Nease _____
- Miss Beahn _____
- Miss Gandy _____

RA
EX-111

October 27, 1942

5:05 P. M.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM *W*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Miss Collins in the Attorney General's office telephoned and advised that the Attorney General wanted to see the Bureau's file on John Steinbeck tomorrow morning (oct. 28th). *61*

Respectfully,

D. Stalcup
D. STALCUP.

5:45 P. M. Miss Collins was advised that the Bureau had conducted no investigation concerning John Steinbeck and her attention was called to the Bureau's memorandum of May 21, 1942, in which the Attorney General was so advised.

ds

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100-106225-2

12	NOV 28 1942
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EX-36

J. EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
October 30, 1942

CC-287

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm	✓
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Kramer	
Mr. McGuire	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Nease	

EAT:RFK
Call 6:05 PM
Typed 7:45 PM

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: JOHN STEINBECK - AUTHOR

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE**

Miss Beahm	
Miss Gandy	

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In response to her previous request I telephonically advised Miss Collins in the Attorney General's office that we had in our possession two pamphlets which concerned the above-entitled individual. One of these entitled "Their Blood Is Strong" was written by the subject and published in 1938 by the Simon J. Lubin Society of California. The material in this pamphlet is similar to that contained in his book "The Grapes of Wrath" and concerns the activities of migratory agricultural workers. The other pamphlet, which was furnished to us in May, 1938, is entitled "Writers Take Sides" and contains the opinions of several hundred authors as to whether they are for or against Franco. I informed Miss Collins that the subject was one of the authors quoted therein and further advised her I would make these pamphlets available to her for whatever purpose she may need them. Miss Collins stated she would appreciate the use of them very much.

Respectfully,

Edward A. Tamm

RECORDED
INDEXED
274

100-126224-3
F B I
15 NOV 8 1942



58 NOV 18 1942

14

West Palm Beach, Florida.

December 3, 1942.

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover,
Chief of F.B.I. Washington, D.C.

Subject: JOHN ERNST STEINBECK
Complaint: Proposed agitation of
Japanese Relocation
Centers, California & West.

Sir:--

For some time past I have resented books by Steinbeck, for they portray such unrepresentative pictures of our American life in rural districts. I live near the Everglades farms district and most of the migrants out there live better than I do, while they are here for the picking season.

46578

Steinbeck's name is John Ernst Steinbeck. His father was a German, born in Florida of German parents, according to the story in WHO'S WHO in U.S. writing circles. But of course the author furnishes the information about himself.

My reason for writing this is that it is rumored that Steinbeck is now gathering information for a heart-throb about the sad condition of Japanese in Relocation Centers in the West. I think it would be best for all concerned that he be not permitted to issue such a story until after the war-- if ever.

Under strict enforcement of postal regulations, Steinbeck's books would not be permitted to go through U.S. mails, because of their scurrilous and obscene passages. These are held up as examples of the immoral life of the U.S. in foreign countries opposed to us. I understand his books have been translated into German and circulated as "horrible examples," but I cannot prove this.

THIS LETTER DOES NOT NEED A REPLY.
IT IS ONLY SENT TO YOU. AS INFORMATION.

You may have all this information from other sources; but I will explain why I am writing it. During the other World War I made reports direct to [redacted] when they did not concern local matters, but came to my attention regarding other sections of the country. I had authority to do this.

Where is Mr. Steinbeck?
Is he attempting to get information concerning government housing of soldiers?
He might dress in uniform and hang around incomplete camps like Boca Raton, trying to get information as to inadequacy of camps before they are completed and outfitted perfectly. I hope this will not occur.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Respectfully yours

Mail address [redacted]

b7c

DEC 10 3 35 PM '42

"H-13"
RX-2

JOHN STEINBECK

Extensive...
Bureau...

12-15-42

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100-106224-34
100-106100-1
TMB:DCW

46577

Date: December 19, 1943
To: Mr. Dillon S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
War Building
Washington, D. C.
From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Subject: JOHN ERNST STEINBECK

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

For your information and whatever consideration you may
deem advisable, there is set forth below the pertinent portion of
a communication recently received at this Bureau from one [redacted] b7c
[redacted] West Palm Beach, Florida

West Palm Beach, Florida,

December 8, 1943.

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover
Chief of F. B. I. Washington, D.C.
Subject: JOHN ERNST STEINBECK
Complaint: Proposed agitation
of Japanese Relocation
Centers, California
& West.

Sir—

"For some time past I have resented books by Steinbeck, for
they portray such unrepresentative pictures of our American life in
rural districts. I live near the Everglades farms district and
most of the migrants out there live better than I do, while they are
here for the picking season.

"Steinbeck's name is John Ernst Steinbeck. His father was a
German, born in Florida of German parents, according to the story in
WFO'S WFO in U.S. writing circles. But of course the author
furnishes the information about himself.

"My reason for writing this is that it is rumored that
Steinbeck is now gathering information for a heart-throb about the
sad condition of Japanese in Relocation Centers in the West. I
think it would be best for all concerned that he be not permitted
to issue such a story until after the war-- if ever."

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

52 JAN 8 1943

DEC 21 1943 P.M.
12 54 PM '43

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WAR DEPARTMENT
Military Intelligence Service
Washington

AUG 13 1943

Subject: Letter of Transmittal.

To: Honorable J. Edgar Hoover,
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation,
United States Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

The attached communications are forwarded for your information and such action as you consider advisable.

For the Chief, Military Intelligence Service:

L. R. Forney

L. R. FORNEY
Colonel, General Staff Corps,
Asst. Executive Officer, MIS.

Enclosures:

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DECLASSIFIED BY 2333-plg Army letter dtd 8-2-79
ON 1-22-79 *LA*
CA/tha

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100-106224

F B
35 AUG 18 1943

D 143 SE 4
EX 4

55 SEP 4 1943

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

*Headquarters Western Defense Command and 4th Army
ACIS, 8-2, Presidio of San Francisco, California -*

IX-0/S-14305c

27 July 1943

SUBJECT: John E. STEINBECK, 15041 De Gado Drive, Sherman Oaks, California

TO : Chief, MIS, War Department, Washington, D. C.

1. Attention is invited to our CI-R1 report dated 27 January 1943, Subject as above, representing investigation conducted in the vicinity of Los Angeles, California, and memorandum report dated 25 April 1943, Subject as above, covering investigation conducted in the Second Service Command previously forwarded your office.

2. Inclosed find CI-R1 report dated 13 July 1943 representing investigation conducted in the vicinity of San Francisco, California.

3. This office does not concur in the recommendations by the reporting agent in closing report. In view of substantial doubt as to Subject's loyalty and discretion, it is recommended that Subject not be considered favorably for a commission in the Army of the United States.

4. Undeveloped leads will not be followed in the absence of request, and this case is considered closed in this office.

For the AC of S, G-2:

BORIS T. PASH
Lt. Col., M.I.

Chief, Counter Intelligence Branch

1 Incl: (in trip)
CI-R1 dtd 7-13-43

John E. Steinbeck

MIS Dist: WSH.

*✓ 473!
File*

DECLASSIFIED BY 2333
ON 1-22-91

100-106188-2
ENCLOSURE
per Army letter dtd 8-2-28

Caolbia

8/11/43 LL

CONFIDENTIAL

100-106224-3X1

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

File No. LA-3493 TL-9/S-14306a
Date 15 July, 1948
Subject:

Investigation requested by CIC, SAC, San Francisco, Calif.
Office of origin A G of S, G-2, WDC & 4th Army
Report made at San Francisco, California
Report made by G. O. STEINBECK, Agent, WDC
Period covered 3 June, 1948 to 12 July, 1948
Character of investigation Personnel - S
Status of Case CLOSED

JOHN E. STEINBECK
18041 Pol Sade Drive
Berkeley Oaks, California

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION:

By letter dated 16 February, 1948, from the A G of S, G-2, WDC and Fourth Army, Presidio of San Francisco, California, to the CIC, Branch Office, G-2, WDC and Fourth Army, San Francisco, California, it was requested that a proper investigation be made in this area to determine the discretion, integrity and loyalty of Subject, and his suitability to hold a commission in the army of the United States.

DETAILS:

Foreign-point Trade Outline: This CI-MI supplements previous record prepared at Los Angeles, California, under date of 27 January, 1948, made by Special Agent B.L. Johnson, CIC, Los Angeles, California.

1. Personal Data:

Birth: 27 January, 1908, Salinas, California.
Present Age: 41 years
Description: Height 5' 11"; weight 207 lbs.
Characteristics: Loyal, honest, sincere, competent, thorough, sensitive nature. (Names A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H)
Marital Status: Received interlocutory decree of divorce 12 March, 1948.

2. Family Data:

Father: John Ernest Steinbeck (deceased), born in St. Augustine, Florida.
Mother: Olive Esther Steinbeck (deceased), born in Salinas, California.
Sister: Mrs. V.F. Baker, Carrol, California.
Wife: Carol Steinbeck, interlocutory decree of divorce, 12 March, 1948.

Forwarded, _____:
MID, Washington, D. C., _____ 3 copies ✓
IO, Los Angeles Office _____ 1 copy
Procurement District _____ copies
THRU: BIO, LA _____ copies

Reviewed and Approved:
For the AC of S, G-2:

RICHARD C. HAM
Major, Inf.
Chief, Investigations and Section
Counter Intelligence Branch

Incl #1, 2

1-2483 DL-8/S-14308c
JOHN B. SCHERER

3. Education: 1915 - 1919, Salinas Union School, graduated; 5 years at Leland Stanford University; majored in Journalism; did not graduate.

4. Employment: At present working for self as an author; has sold stories to the Motion Picture Industry. March 1942 to December 1942, employed as Special Consultant to the Secretary of War, assigned to the Commanding General, Army Air Forces. Made an exhaustive study of flying and training, and now writing an official book on this subject. No salary. December 1942 to March 1943, employed by the Office of War Information, 370 Madison Avenue, New York City, as a Foreign News editor at a salary of \$3000.00 per year.

Also Vice-President of the Pacific Biological Laboratories, Inc., for a number of years where he helped to operate a commercial laboratory.

5. Military History: None

6. Mail and Office Check: None

7. Addresses: 1942 to present, 15041 Del Cade Drive, Sherman Oaks Calif. December, 1941 to March, 1942, New York City, New York. July, 1936 to December, 1941, Los Gatos, California. Subject has lived most of his life near Salinas and Carmel, California, except for the time spent in Los Gatos and on intermittent trips to Los Angeles, New York City, and other parts of the world. (Memo B, H)

8. Residence Check:

Mr. Hugh Porter, 244 California Street, San Francisco California; purchaser of Subject's former residence at Los Gatos. (U) Memo B)
Mr. F. Rainari, neighbor of Subject at Los Gatos, California. (S) Memo H)

9. Organizations:

- *Western Writers' Congress, 1936
- *Committee to Aid Agricultural Organization, 1938. (Memo L)
- *Schneiderman-Darcy Defense Committee, 1940 (Memo L)
- *Emergency Youth Assembly, 1937. (Memo L)

LA-3493 EL-0/2-14306c
JOHN H. STRINECK

9. Organizations: (continued)

- ~~X~~ International Union of Revolutionary Writers of Moscow.
- ~~X~~ League of American Writers, 1941.
- ~~X~~ National Institute of Arts and Letters, 1939.

10. Principal Assignments: Marine Biology.

11. References: No references given in San Francisco, California area.

12. Acquaintances: Mr. Martin Roy, Searatega, California. (S) (Name E)
 Miss Barbara Burke, 3055 Jackson Street, San Francisco, California. (S) (Name G)
 Mr. H.L. Roberts, Cashier, First National Bank, Los Gatos, California. (S) (Name F)
 Mr. Webster Street, of Union, Martin & Ferrante, California. (S) (Name H)
 Mrs. Carol Steinbeck, 425 Bardley Avenue, Pacific Grove, California. (S) (Name I)

13. Credit Record: Satisfactory (Name K)

14. Police Record: San Francisco Police Dept. NR (Name L)
 Federal Bureau of Investigation, San Francisco. NR (Name L)
 ONI, 12th Naval District, San Francisco. NR but HQ files refer to one, JOHN STRINECK, PO Box 221, Los Gatos, Calif. as subscriber to PEOPLE'S WORLD as of Sept. 1939. (Name L)
 American Legion Radical Research Bureau, San Francisco, California show record of Subject from November 9, 1938 through June 4, 1939. (Name L)
 Sheriff's Office, Santa Clara County, Calif. NR (Name M)
 Los Gatos Police Dept. NR (Name N)
 Salinas, California Police Dept. NR (Name N)
 Carmel Calif., Police Dept. NR (Name N)
 Monterey, Calif. Police Dept. NR (Name N)

ADVERSE INFORMATION:

1. Subject has associated with individuals who are known to have a radical political and economic philosophy, and with some members of the Communist Party. (Names A, B, C and E)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

LA-2492 II-0/S 143054
JOHN H. STEINBECK

ADVERSE INFORMATION: (continued)

2. Subject received large volume of Communist literature and possessed books expressing radical political and economic views, in his library. (Names B, H)
3. Subject's former wife, Carol Steinbeck, registered as a Communist in Santa Clara County in 1938. (Names B, C, G, H, I, J, K)

UNDEVELOPED LEADS: Request investigations as follows:

A S of S, G-2, Red Service Command, Governors Island, New York

- (1) Interview Subject's agents, McIntosh and Otis, 13 East 41st Street, New York City, to determine Subject's associations and activities in that vicinity. Such leads should be developed with particular attention to Communist associations and relations.
- (2) To determine what relations has had with the League of American Writers by contacting the League's headquarters in New York City.
- (3) To contact Major Betweiler, AAF, 25 Broad Street, New York City, who has made allegations that Subject is quite a heavy drinker and has communistic tendencies.
- (4) Make an office and employment check at the office of War Information, 570 Madison Avenue, New York City, where Subject was employed from December 1941 to March, 1945.

A S of S, MIS, War Department, Washington, D.C.

- (1) To make necessary office and employment check to determine Subject's employment as a Special Consultant to the Secretary of War, assigned to the Commanding General, Army Air Forces. Particular attention to be given to any possible Communist associations and connections.
- (2) To check with FBI, OWI, MIS and Dies Committee files to determine any record extant on Subject. The Dies Committee should have a resume of Subject's activities written by Thomas Cavett for the Los Angeles Office of the Dies Committee.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

LA 2493 EL-0/S 14305
JOHN R. STEINBECK

REMARKS AND CONCLUSIONS:

This investigation revealed that Subject is honest, loyal, patriotic and an excellent and sincere writer. Although Subject exercised poor discretion during his early days of writing by associating with some elements of the Communist Party, he was not interested in advancing the cause of the Party but in gathering material for his writings on certain social conditions existing in this country at that time.

Subject wrote various articles which were published by Communist organizations because the economic views expressed were considered radical. However, Subject rejected communist political and economic theories repeatedly and discarded his association with this element when it became apparent that his prestige was being used to further the interests of the Party.

Subject, in this Agent's opinion, possesses the requisites of honesty, loyalty and discretion necessary for a commission in the Army of the United States. Subject is sincere in his beliefs concerning the social and economic situation of the under classes in this country and in his desire to have their lot improved.

Subject is a candid and powerful writer.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

This Agent recommends that Subject be given a commission in the Army of the United States if he can be placed where his writing ability may be utilized.

G-2 NOTE:

This office does not concur in the recommendations of the investigative agent, and believing that substantial doubt exists as to Subject's loyalty and discretion, recommends that Subject not be favorably considered for a commission in the Army of the United States. Undeveloped leads will not be followed in the absence of a request, and this case is considered closed in this office.

APPROVED:

F. N. FAIRCLOTH
Lt. Colonel, MI
Officer in Charge

MS: Only previously disapproved
for a commission by War Dept.
Personnel Board WAA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

Salinas, California
May 29, 1943
Case No. IX-0/3-14305c

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

SUBJECT: JOHN E. SPEKINER
424 Hardley Avenue
Pacific Grove, California

Re: Covering Memorandum.

Three excellent sources of information -- the Marshal Postmaster, Subject's attorney, and Subject's wife -- agree on these points:

1. Subject is not a communist.
2. Subject is loyal, patriotic, honest.
3. Subject is an excellent writer.
4. Subject would make a good officer if his writing ability is utilized.

AGENT'S OPINION

This Agent believes that Subject could pass the requisite of honesty, loyalty and integrity insofar as his commission in the United States Army is concerned. It is the question of whether Subject would be of more value as a civilian employee or as an Officer that higher authorities must decide. If Subject is to be employed by the United States Army in positions in which his great writing ability may be utilized, it is the opinion of this Agent that he should be commissioned.

MARTIN FRANKEL
Special Agent CID

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

San Francisco, California
30 June 1943
Case No. XX-0/8-14305e

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

Subject: JOHN E. STEINBECK
15041 Del Sado Drive
Sherman Oaks, California

Re: Interview with Mr. MARTIN RAY, Acquaintance.

On June 9, 1943, this Agent interviewed Mr. MARTIN RAY, intimate acquaintance of Subject. RAY associated with STEINBECK and his former wife, CAROL STEINBECK, during the entire time Subject's residence was in Los Gatos, California. Informant is presently residing on Masson Road, Saratoga, California.

RAY believes Subject to be absolutely loyal to the government although Subject associated with some elements of the Communist Party in his earliest days of writing. Subject repeatedly stated to RAY that he was not a Communist but was interested in the lower-class working people regardless of their particular political creed. RAY explained that Subject had written certain articles for publications which were considered Communistic but that these articles were written to explain Subject's point of view of the social problem involved and not to further the interest of the Communist Party. Subject, according to RAY, gradually realized that he was being used by the Party and severed all connections with this element after his books began to have a wide sale.

CAROL STEINBECK, former wife of Subject, told RAY that she registered with the Communist Party in Santa Clara County in 1938 simply to observe the local reaction and that Subject was strongly opposed to this act.

Following the sale of one of Subject's earlier books, Subject and his wife made a trip to Europe, visiting Sweden and Russia. RAY stated that Subject was deeply impressed by the economic and political policies of Sweden but was not impressed, nor did he discuss, the government of Russia.

Concerning Subject's character, RAY stated Subject's integrity was beyond question. Subject is very sensitive and sentimental; is deeply devoted to his friends and is easily influenced by these friends to grant large favors.

RAY believes Subject should be commissioned in the Army only if Subject's writing ability may be efficiently utilized. According to RAY, Subject would work very hard writing for the benefit of his country but is not qualified to hold a commission in any other situation.

Agent's Notes:

RAY is a close friend of Subject and has tremendous respect for Subject's writing ability. This Agent believes RAY is interested in Subject's welfare as a friend yet was absolutely fair and impartial in his recollections of Subject and Subject's suitability for a commission in the Army.

MEMO B

CHARLES O. SHIELDS
Agent, CIC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

San Francisco, California
June 14, 1943
Case No. XL-O/S-14306a

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

SUBJECT: JOHN E. STRINECK
15041 Del Sade Drive
Sherman Oaks, California

RE: Acquaintance check with Miss Barbara Burke

On June 9, 1943, this Agent interviewed MISS BARBARA BURKE, 3065 Jackson Street, San Francisco, California regarding Subject.

MISS BURKE bought the Subject's first house at Los Gatos and became intimately acquainted as the Subject lived on the premises for a short time thereafter. MISS BURKE believes Subject to be unquestionably loyal, having heard him say that he had never voted the communistic ticket, and was strongly opposed to his wife's registration with the party. MISS BURKE further stated that Subject had always voted Democratic tickets, and was heartily in favor of the policies of the New Deal.

MISS BURKE stated Subject is a very heavy drinker, but she had never seen him intoxicated. Subject's political philosophy, MISS BURKE considered to be merely "leftish" in the social changes calculated to improve the conditions of the working classes, and felt Subject's integrity to be unimpeachable.

Agent's notes: Informant has the greatest respect for the literary work of Subject, but appeared to this Agent to be sincere and candid in her description of Subject's qualities.

CHARLES O. SHIELDS
Agent, SIC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMO C

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

San Francisco, California

June 14, 1943

Case No. EL-O/S-14306a

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

SUBJECT: JOHN B. STEINBECK
150-41 Del Gado Drive
Sherman Oaks, California

RE: Residence check

On June 8, 1943, this Agent interviewed MR. HUGH PORTER, 244 California Street, San Francisco, California, purchaser of Subject's house in Los Gatos.

MR. PORTER did not know Subject personally, but had Subject's belongings moved from the house. He stated that Subject's second-class mail was tremendous, much of it apparently communistic. MR. PORTER read various parts at random and found it very radical. Subject's library, left in the former residence, contained many radical books.

Informant's opinion of Subject based upon observation of conditions under which Subject lived is that Subject is very impulsive, eccentric, and unreliable socially. Informant had no knowledge of Subject's economic or political views except from the circumstantial evidence stated above.

MR. PORTER stated that Subject employed a Japanese house boy, Joe Higashi, who continued to work after Subject left. HIGASHI had books, ostensibly propaganda containing pictures of Axis leaders and accomplishments. HIGASHI is now evacuated to the interior.

Agent's notes: PORTER did not know Subject, but is very much opposed to economic and political views of Subject as indicated by type of mail received and contents of Subject's library.

CHARLES O. SHIELDS
Agent, CIC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMO D

San Francisco, California
30 June 1943
Case No. IX-0/2-14305a

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

Subject: JOHN E. STEINBECK
15041 Del Gado Drive
Sherman Oaks, California

Re: Residence Check.

On June 8, 1943, this Agent interviewed Mr. F. RAINEORI, Los Gatos, California, neighbor of Subject, during the time Subject resided in Los Gatos.

Informant stated that Subject was friendly but generally very aloof. Subject, according to RAINEORI, apparently made frequent visits out of town while living in Los Gatos. RAINEORI recalled no derogatory remarks concerning Subject; however, informant had heard that Subject was very sensitive and desired to be avoided by the local people so that he could concentrate on his writing without interruption.

Agent's Note:

This neighbor lived approximately one-half mile from Subject and had little in common with Subject.

CHARLES O. SHIELDS
Agent, CIC

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMO E

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

San Francisco, California
June 11, 1943
Case No. HL-0/2-14306

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

SUBJECT: JOHN H. STRINECK
15041 Del Gato Drive
Sherman Oaks, California

RE: Acquaintance check

On June 8, 1943, this Agent interviewed MR. H. L. ROBERTS, cashier
First National Bank, Los Gatos, California.

Subject had an account in the bank from July 1, 1936 to June 26, 1941.
ROBERTS impression of Subject was that he is very quiet and reserved.
Subject usually is very poorly dressed.

Agent's notes: ROBERTS had no knowledge of Subject's economical or
political views, and had not heard any derogatory remarks concerning
his loyalty or integrity.

CHARLES O. SHIELDS
Agent, SIC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMO F

CONFIDENTIAL

Salinas, California
May 26, 1943
Case No. 100/S-14305c

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

SUBJECT: JOHN E. STEINBERG
425 Hardley Avenue
Pacific Grove, California

RE: Acquaintance Check.

On May 26, 1943 this Agent interviewed **HERSIE STREET**, of **MERRILL MARTIN & FERRANTE**, attorneys, Monterey, California, in connection with the investigation of Subject, who has applied for a commission in the United States Army.

STREET said that he is Subject's attorney, has known Subject since 1921, and would classify him as a generous, large, sentimental Irishman, a bit shy, and yet decisive.

According to **STREET**, Subject's legal and permanent address is 425 **HARDLEY AVENUE, PACIFIC GROVE, CALIFORNIA**. Other addresses are temporary, dependent upon the current locale of his work. His personal effects and furniture are at the Pacific Grove address, and this home is used for legal and tax purposes. Subject, said **STREET**, was finally divorced from **IRMA STEINBERG** in March, 1943, remarried, to **SIBBOLDIN STEINBERG**, with whom he lived after this marriage in New York City. Subject has a sister in Carmel, another in Watsonville, another in Berkeley, all California cities. The husband of the the sister residing in Carmel is a Lt. Colonel in Africa, attached to the Transport Service, U.S. Army.

Subject's former wife **CAROL**, stated **STREET**, lives in Carmel, California. **CAROL STEINBERG**, against her husband's wishes, registered as a communist. This action reflected unfavorably against her husband.

Subject's father, continued **STREET**, had been a treasurer of Monterey County, California for fifteen years. His mother was a well known clubwoman in Salinas, California.

STREET said he had received a letter from Subject, May 25, 1943, in which Subject stated he was leaving for England very shortly as a correspondent and special writer of the New York **HERALD TRIBUNE**.

STREET was positive Subject was not a communist, had no communist leanings, that his honesty, loyalty and integrity were of the best, that he was intensely patriotic, and would make an excellent officer if able to use his writing talent.

AGENT'S NOTES

Informant, and his law firm, have a reputation in Monterey for conservatism.

CONFIDENTIAL

MARTIN FRANKEL
Special Agent CIB

CONFIDENTIAL

Salinas, California
May 26, 1943
Case No. II-O/S-14305c

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

SUBJECT: JOHN E. STEINBECK
125 Hardley Avenue
Pacific Grove, California

Acquaintance Check

On May 26, 1943 this Agent interviewed **FREDERICK E. BECHOLD**, Postmaster, Carmel, California, in connection with the investigation of Subject, who has applied for a Commission in the United States Army.

BECHOLD stated as follows:

1. Subject's wife worked, in 1934, on a DP-geeing project so that her husband, Subject, could continue writing. At this time he was getting material for **GRAPES OF WRATH**. Wife referred to his first wife, **CAROL STEINBECK**, now a resident of Carmel, California.
2. BECHOLD said he was well acquainted with Subject in his earlier writing days, around 1932-1936.
3. Subject associated with communists and radicals only to get material for his writings.
4. Subject is not a communist. He believed that the communist and Associated Farmers were both squandering the migratory workers.
5. Subject will associate with anyone or any group who will furnish material for his writing.
6. Subject is an excellent writer.
7. Subject's association with the communists is selfish - to learn about them so he can write about them.
8. Subject would make a good officer if he saw his writing valued.
9. Subject understands the leftist element and wouldn't stand for subversive stockpiling writings.
10. Subject is fundamentally a good citizen.
11. Subject is more genuine in his disbelief in communism than a lot of people who call themselves conservative.
12. If Subject had been of draft age he would not have tried in any way to avoid the draft; he would have gladly entered the army, hoping to procure more material to use in his writings.
13. Subject's loyalty, honesty and integrity is of the highest.

AGENT'S NOTE

BECHOLD appeared to be very sincere, and attempting to offer fact as well as opinion.

MARTIN FRANKEL
Special Agent CIC

CONFIDENTIAL
MEMO H

CONFIDENTIAL

Salinas, California
May 28, 1943
Case No. IX-0/S-14305c

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICE IN CHARGE

SUBJECT: JOHN E. STEINBECK
325 E. Wiley Avenue
Pacific Grove, California

Re: Acquaintance Check.

On May 28, 1943 this Agent interviewed Mrs. CAROL STEINBECK, Carmel, California, in connection with the investigation of Subject, who has applied for a commission in the United States Army.

CAROL STEINBECK stated that Subject does not have any fixed political beliefs, that he is a registered Democrat, and probably, on a broad basis, favors the New Deal.

CAROL STEINBECK said Subject got all his material for his GRAPES OF WRATH from the Farm Security Administration. His writings, according to informant, come before everything else in his life, and writing has been his passion since childhood.

CAROL STEINBECK said that Subject is not nor ever has been a member of the communist party, or even a sympathizer. She said that she had once registered as a Communist to see what would happen and what the reaction would be in a small town. Now she regrets this move because it caused comment that reflected upon Subject.

According to CAROL STEINBECK, Subject would make an excellent officer of the United States Army if he was assigned to duties wherein he could use his talent for writing. He is loyal, she asserted, honest and his integrity cannot be questioned.

AGENT'S NOTES

Subject was divorced from CAROL STEINBECK March, 1942, and final March, 1943. Subject has remarried. Informant appeared to be sincere but did not give Subject the benefit of any doubts. She did not volunteer a great deal of information, and seemed to feel that resentful of the mention of Subject's name.

MARTIN FRANKEL
Special Agent CIC

MEMO I

C O N F I D E N T I A L

San Francisco, California
June 11, 1945
Case No. I X-0/S-14505e

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

SUBJECT: JOHN E. STEINBECK
15041 Del Gado Drive
Sherman Oaks, California

RE: Check of Voter's Registration
Files Santa Clara County, Calif.

On 9 June 1945 this Agent check the Voter's Registration files Santa Clara County, California to secure information concerning the Subject, who is being considered for a commission in the Army of the United States.

Registration files show that Subject's former wife, CAROL STEINBECK, registered as a Communist in Santa Clara County, 8 November 1938. On 16 September 1939, approximately one year later, Subject's wife registered in Santa Clara County as a Democrat. On the 13 June 1942, CAROL STEINBECK transferred her voting registration to Monterey, California.

No record was found of Subject having registered at any time as a Communist in Santa Clara County.

CHARLES O. SHIELDS
Agent, C I C

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

MEMO J

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

San Francisco, California
13 July 1943
Case No. IX-0/S-14305c

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

Subject: JOHN H. STENROCK
15041 Del Gado Drive
Sherman Oaks, California

Re: Credit Check

On 13 July 1943 this Agent checked the records of the Retail Credit Association, 153 Stockton Street, San Francisco, California regarding the Subject. These records include reports from the Retail Merchant's Association of San Jose, California covering Santa Clara County.

The credit records indicate that the Subject enjoyed an excellent rating in 1940, had very good commercial and savings accounts in various California banks. Subject's income stated to be solely from writings and sale of stories to the motion picture industry.

CHARLES O. SHIELDS
Agent, CIC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMO K

San Francisco, California,
May 1, 1943,
Case No. IX-O/S-14305c.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

Subjects: JOHN E. STEINBECK, aka Dr. Beckstein,
15041 Del Gado Drive,
Sherman Oaks, California.

Re: Police check.

On February 23, 1943, this Agent checked the records of the Office of Naval Intelligence, 12th Naval District, the American Legion Radical Research Bureau, the San Francisco Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the San Francisco Police Department, all of San Francisco, California, regarding Subject.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the San Francisco Police Department reported no record of Subject.

The Office of Naval Intelligence reported the following records:

"HIO files refer to one John STEINBECK, P. O. Box 321, Los Gatos, Calif., who was a subscriber to the PEOPLE'S WORLD as of Sept., 1939. (It should be noted that John STEINBECK, the author, also maintained a home in Los Gatos)"

The American Legion Radical Research Bureau reported the following:

- 11/9-1936: Was Pacific Weekly contributor. Red publication at Carmel.
- 11/15-1936: One of the sponsors of the Assembly of Youth, January 9 and 10.
- 4/1-1938: Contributed article in this issue of Pacific Weekly (Red publication) re: The Racial Prejudice Among the Agricultural Workers in California.
- 10/17: Chairman of the newly formed Committee to Aid Agricultural Organization. (Very Red outfit).
- 6/4-1939: His book "The Grapes of Wrath" was branded as Red propaganda by Father A. D. Spearman, S.J., director of the library of Loyola, U.L.A.

His former wife, Carol Henning Steinbeck, was registered Communist, Santa Clara County - 1938 - while living at Rt. 1, Box 98-D, Los Gatos.

NICHOLAS ZAVINSKY,
Special Agent, CIC.

lf

MEMO L

(CONFIDENTIAL)

San Francisco, California
11 June 1945
Case No. IX-O/S-14505e

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

SUBJECT: JOHN E. STEINBECK
15041 Del Gado Drive
Sherman Oaks, California

RE: Police Check

On 8 June 1945 this Agent checked the records of the Sheriff's office, Santa Clara County, California and the Police Department, Los Gatos, California, regarding the Subject.

Police Department, Los Gatos . . . No Record.

Sheriff's Office, Santa Clara County . . . No Record.

CHARLES O. SHIELDS
Agent, CIC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMO M

CONFIDENTIAL

Salinas, California
May 26, 1943
Case No. IX-QA-14305c

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

SUBJECT: JOHN E. WEEHRECH
425 Hardley Avenue
Pacific Grove, California

RE: Police Check.

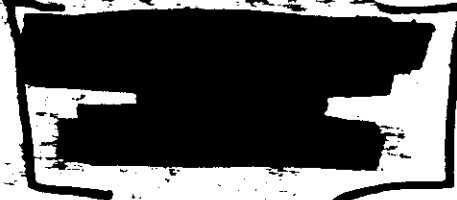
On May 26, 1943 this Agent checked the records of the Salinas Police Department, Salinas, California, the Carmel Police Department, Carmel, California, and the Monterey Police Department, Monterey, California in connection with the investigation of Subject, who is being considered for a commission in the Army of the United States.

Salinas, California Police Department.....No Record
Carmel, California, Police Department.....No Record
Monterey, California Police Department.....No Record

MARTIN FRANKEL
Special Agent in Charge

MEMO N
CONFIDENTIAL

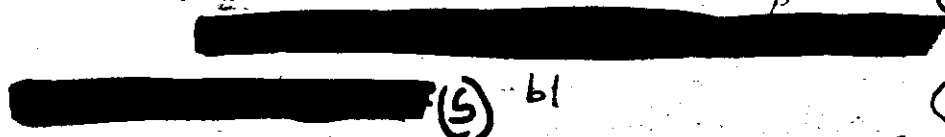
Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. E. A. Tamm	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Coffey	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Carson	_____
Mr. Hendon	_____
Mr. Mumford	_____
Mr. Jones	_____
Mr. Quinn Tamm	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____



(S)

Director, FBI
 Re: JOHN STEINBECK
Mexico Latin American Matters

Dear Sir:
 There are enclosed for the Bureau's information two copies of a memorandum for the Ambassador dated March 22, 1944, containing information relative to this individual and to ERNEST HEMINGWAY, well-known writer.



Very truly yours,

Birch D. O'Neal
 Birch D. O'Neal
 Civil Attaché

BDO:N:MKI
 Enclosures - 2

11-29-77
 CLASS. & EXT. BY 3907 paf/mb
 REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
 DATE OF REVIEW 11-29-87

CLASSIFIED DECISIONS FINALIZED
 BY DEPARTMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC)
 DATE: 11/29/02

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CLASSIFIED BY 1257
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 DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE 10/4/78
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SECRET

4 APR 10 1944

SECRET

Re: JOHN STEINBECK

Page Two

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~~SECRET~~

HDO'N:MKI

Birch D. O'Neal
Civil Attaché

cc: Bureau (2)

SECRET

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43

~~SECRET~~

March 22, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE AMBASSADOR;

Re: JOHN STEINBECK

As you know, John Steinbeck is a well-known writer who is presently working in Mexico City as a correspondent for the "New York Tribune".

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CLASSIFIED DECISIONS
BY DEPARTMENT REVIEW (DRG)
DATE: 11-29-89

CLASS. & EXT. BY 3907 11-25-87
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CLASSIFIED BY 1259
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DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE 10/17/78

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100-106224-4

SECRET

ENCLOSURE

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: April 8, 1944

FROM : SAC, San Antonio

SUBJECT: JOHN ERNST STEINBECK
Incoming Passenger, Brownsville, Texas
3/15/44
FOREIGN TRAVEL CONTROL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Reference is made to Bureau memorandum to San Antonio dated March 21, 1944, in the above-captioned matter. For the information of the New York City Office, reference memorandum advised that an investigation was conducted by Military Intelligence Division concerning the above-captioned individual to determine his loyalty and suitability to hold a commission in the Army of the United States, and that information had been received by the Bureau indicating that in view of substantial doubt as to the loyalty and discretion of the subject, a recommendation was made that he should not be considered favorably for a Commission in the U. S. Army. (LXU)

This is to advise that on March 15, 1944, the subject, accompanied by his wife, GWYN CONKER STEINBECK, entered Brownsville, Texas, via Pan American Clipper enroute from the Reforma Hotel, Mexico, D. F. to their residence at 330 E. 51st Street, New York City. At the time of their entry, it was ascertained that the subject was an American citizen born at Salinas, California, on February 27, 1902, and that his wife was also an American citizen, having been born in Chicago, Illinois, October 25, 1914. It was also learned that the subject is presently employed as a writer by the New York Herald Tribune and that in 1943 he had been on a six-months assignment to England, Africa, and Sicily as a war correspondent.

The subject advised that on that assignment he had been slightly wounded and that the purpose of his present two-months trip to Mexico City had been to regain his health before resuming his work for the above-mentioned newspaper.

The above is being submitted for the information of the Bureau and a copy of this letter has been designated for the information of the New York City Office. No further action in this matter is presently contemplated by this Office.

DECLASSIFIED BY 2333 Pem Army letter dtd 8-2-78
ON 1-22-79

ERM:am

6-22-16, a

CC New York City

CLASSIFIED BY 1259
EXEMPT FROM GDS, CATEGORY 2
DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE 10/4/78

RECORDED & INDEXED

EX - 2 157

CONFIDENTIAL

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
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DATE 4-22-79
61 APR 24 1944

100-106224-4X
100-166188-3
F B I
19 APR 15 1944
[Signature]

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new

Found Soviets Eager for Peace, Capa, Steinbeck Tell Trib Forum

The word most frequently heard during their recent tour of the Soviet Union was "peace," author John Steinbeck and photographer Robert Capa told the fourth session of the Herald Tribune Forum Wednesday evening.



GERTRUDE A. CORY, of St. Louis, shared half of the 1947 Nobel Prize in Medicine and Physiology with her husband, Prof. F. Cory. The other half of the award, which was made in two parts, went to Bernardo A. Houssay of Buenos Aires. The Corys were honored for the joint discovery of catalytic metabolism of glycogen; and Houssay, for his research on

Capa read a joint report of their observations while visiting the Ukraine, Georgia and Great Russian industrial cities as a self-styled "cold war team" of correspondents.

"These people were destroyed and hurt much more than any that I have seen during my ten years of battlefields and they hate war more than any one I ever talked to," declared Capa.

He said a halt of the "vicious and insane game" of recriminations between Russia and the U. S. would find immediate approval among Russian masses. He stated Russians were particularly interested in hearing about "the persecution of liberals" in America and that he and Steinbeck told them "to our knowledge there are no political prisoners in the United States yet."

"I am holding my fingers crossed," he told the Forum audience. . . . "We do not know who started this vicious and insane game of stupid accusation and violent criticism. It is not very important who started it. The important thing is who is going to stop it."

"The people of Russia in our little experience want the same things our people do — food, shelter, security and the ability to raise and feed and educate their children in peace. And this is the really important thing. That is all."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

*Selection of wife
in Capa & Steinbeck
given to Steinbeck
Wright 2/20/48*

G.I.R. 2

[Handwritten signature]

This is a clipping from
Page 2 of the
DAILY WORKER

Date 10-24-47
Clipped at the Seat of
Government

FIVE

EX-78

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

#43

100-106224-A
FBI
52 NOV 4 1947

53 NOV 17 1947

46

Jan 18, 1947

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I trust that your agents in San Francisco are watching these series of articles with much interest.

No doubt you have a file on this John Steinbeck; one of our foremost Commie inspired writers who had written many stories whose theme was to stir up class consciousness. Grapes of Wrath etc.

The most shocking element here is the fact that Steinbeck is even given space on the San Francisco, after being denounced by W. R. Hearst back in 38 or 39. As you know doubt know, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] blasted this picture Grapes of Wrath, seeing the underlying motives.

The very same executives on this paper purged this girl for her constant attack on the Commie themes emanating from Hollywood.

I wrote a letter to [REDACTED] of the Los Angeles Examiner, regarding this Steinbeck, seeking to hold up the articles. Also asking just who was responsible for this right about face. It seems that this is the only nearest sheet that is carrying Steinbeck's series.

How can Steinbeck have such "easy access to "INSIDE THE IRON CURTAIN" when YOU and other LOYAL Americans are forbidden to enter.

San Francisco is a veritable LITTLE MOSCOW to be sure.

I fully realize that the Examiner came out "finally" for the new Local Mayor Robinson, who ran on an Anti Commie platform. But the paper finally entered the picture after Robinson had a commanding lead. [REDACTED] stating that they were [REDACTED] because they figured he would win... NOT because he was the best man

RECORDED 100-106224-5

FEB 6 1948

mind you or the principles that he stood for..

When I arrived here a year ago , I proceeded to inform Robinson of Frank Havenner's record in Washington, which had been kept very much in the dark on the West Coast. With all this information it was clear sailing to be sure. This RED minority element in San Francisco is plenty dangerous , and a veritable powder keg. Of course I appreciate the fact that I am not telling you any thing that is new.

This Steinbeck running in the Examiner over Ada's dead body, a girl who was willing to sacrifice her very life for her country stands vindicated today for the fight she had even within her own ranks on this paper.

b7c I expected [redacted] to bring this matter to Mr. Herast's attention, who is residing as you know , in Beverly Hills..

I trust that this information will prove to be helpful to you.

With kindest regards ,

Yours most/sincerely,

b7c

[redacted]
San Simeon, Calif..

A Russian Journal -

Amateur Play: A Club Dance

The play reported here by John Steinbeck, with pictures by Robert Capa, was performed on a collective farm near Kiev, in the Soviet Ukraine. This farm was relatively little damaged by the Nazis, although its livestock were all killed. On the farm, 1,200 people were engaged in raising wheat, rye and corn when these two special correspondents of The San Francisco Examiner and the New York Herald Tribune visited last summer.

CHAPTER VIII

IN THE evening, we walked down through the village, and past the pond, to the clubhouse. As we passed the little lake, a boat came across it, and there was music in the boat, a curious music. The instruments were a balalaika, a little drum with a small cymbal, and a concertina, and this was the dance music of the village. The players moved across the lake in the boat, and landed in front of the clubhouse.

It was quite a large building, the club. It had a small stage, and in front of the stage chess boards and checker boards for spectators.

There were very few people in the club when we went, only a few chess players. We learned that the young people come back from the fields, and have their supper and then rest for an hour, even sleep for an hour, before they come to the club.

There was a little play that night. There was a large portrait of the President of the Ukrainian Republic, and a three-piece orchestra came into the club, and set up its instruments, and began to play. Gradually the young people came in, strong girls in bare feet, their faces were washed and shiny. Only a few young men came. There were very few young men.

The girls began to dance together. They wore bright, light dresses, and head cloths of colored silk and wool, and their feet were almost invariably bare. And they danced with fury. The music had a rapid beat, accentuated by drums and cymbals. The bare feet beat the floor. The boys stood around and watched. Finally we asked a girl why she did not dance with the boys, and she said:

"They are good for married, but there are so few of them since the war that a girl only gets into trouble if she dances with them. And besides they are very beautiful." And then she laughed and went back to her dancing.

There were so few of them, young men of marriageable age, there were very young boys, but the men who should have been there dancing with the girls were dead.

The stories of these girls is unbelievable. All day they had been working in the fields, since day light in fact, and yet after one hour sleep they were ready to dance all night. The men at the chess tables played on, unmoved and unobserved by the noise that went on about them.

Meanwhile the company which was in play was preparing the lights, and Capa was setting up his lights to photograph the play.

PREFER DANCING—It seemed to us that the girls were a little impatient, when the music stopped. They did not want to stop dancing for the play.

It was a little propaganda play that was active and dramatic. The story was as follows: There is a girl on a farm, but she is a big girl, and she does not want to work. She wants to get to town, and paint her nails, and see Dutch, and be decadent and so on.

As the play opens, she is seen as a peasant in a dress, a girl who is a brigade leader, a girl who has been decorated for her great work in the fields. The decadent girl who wants to paint her nails approaches the stage, and is obviously a trouble maker, whereas the other brigade leader girl, stands very straight with her hands at her sides and declares her love.

The third member of the cast is the tractor driver. And the interesting thing is that he is really a tractor driver, and the play had been held up an hour and a half while he fixed the tractor he had been working with all day. The tractor driver had one feminine trick, and only one, he delivered his lines, facing back, and forth across the stage, smoking cigarettes.

PERIL TO SOUL

Now the tractor driver is in love with the decadent girl who wants to paint her nails. He is really in love with her, and he is in grave danger of losing his soul to the dancing girl. In fact, as the play progresses, it is obvious that the tractor driver is most ready to throw up his driving a tractor, and helping the economy of the people, to follow her to a city, and get an apartment and live softly with the decadent girl. But the brigade leader girl, standing very straight, delivers a lecture to him. It does no good. He is obviously distraught, and he is very much in love with the slowly so good girl.

She does not know what to do. She will give up the girl he loves, or she will follow her to town and become a decadent. Now the decadent girl goes off, leaving the brigade leader



There is a typical scene in the clubhouse on the collective farm.

...when Capa discharged his flashlight to take his next picture. That broke the play wide open. The participating girl reared behind a bench of ferns, and didn't come out for the rest of the scene. The tractor driver fell out his line. The brigade leader stumbled, and tried to pick up the play, and failed. The rest of the play was done mostly by the prompter. It was done like a cab. From the prompter's box



Dancing in the clubhouse of the collective farm. The orchestra is composed of one piano, one guitar, one violin, and one trumpet.

...with the tractor driver. And the brigade leader, with feminine wit, tells the tractor driver that this girl does not really love him because he is such an eminent tractor driver, and she would soon be sick of him. The tractor driver does not believe this, and so the brigade leader says with a flash of inspiration:

"I have it. You proceed to make love to me, and when you see as you will find here much she loves you."

This notion is accepted. The tractor driver makes an entrance to find the tractor driver holding the brigade leader in his arms, and to his delight, and what you would expect happens, for the slowly girl decides that she will become a woman in socialist economy. She will stay on the farm. She turns her fury on the tractor driver, she says:

"I will form my own brigade, not only you can be an ornament and decorated. I myself will become a brigade leader and wear decorations."

PLAY BROKEN UP

This solves the tractor driver's problems, both amorous and economic, and the play closes with everybody feeling pretty good about the whole thing. This is the story of the play, but this is not how it really went. The tractor driver had only made love to the brigade leader across the stage, and the story had only

...and the girls dance.

...and shiny jewelry. She looked so nervous from the flashlight that she broke her beads and spilled them all over the stage. The play completely fell apart, and was only completed by the prompter, who was also the

APPLAUSE

...wouldn't have known what was about, except that she uttered it to us later. And the sun was finally drawn with furious applause. I had the feeling that the sun preferred this version. They had seen of this when it was over, the audience sang two Ukrainian songs. The girls wanted to dance. They were restless, and soon the sun took up his position and the sun was dancing on. They were very perturbed by the thought that they had to go to bed. It was already a quarter of 2, and they had to get up at 5:30 in the morning to go to work. But they were reluctant to leave and they would have stayed all night if they had been permitted to.

...of Stalingrad, which has been called the most heavily bombed city in the war, will be completely destroyed by the

\$50,000 Needed To Curb Snakes

... (S.P.), Jan. 18.—Gov. Dewey T. Mickelson, announcing estimated expenditures for Missouri River development in Snake River over a six-year period at a meeting of the Missouri State Inter-Agency committee, said a \$50,000 item for

...explained the same up to now, that will further dry areas along the river will mandate snake control. Some is expected to force a system of returns to further and not now appreciably infest by reptiles.

Brotherhood and \$ W/ All-w Pajam Pajam Odds \$25.9 All-w \$5-w Stripe All \$1 Mort

In the clubhouse of the collective farm, a play is performed by young farmers for the whole village.

January 26, 1948

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RECORDED
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INDEXED

San Simon, California
100-106224-5
Dear [redacted]

Your letter dated January 18, 1948,
with enclosures, has been received, and I want
to express my appreciation to you for having
brought this matter to my attention.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

VNP:msl

NOTE: This individual has corresponded with the
Bureau on several previous occasions on matters
of similar nature, and now draws the Director's
attention to John Steinbeck as a Communist in
connection with a series of articles Steinbeck
wrote concerning Russia.

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Pennington

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
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W. J. R.

Book Parade

John Steinbeck's "A Russian Journal"

By Robert Friedman

JOHN STEINBECK'S warm sympathy for people, as evidenced in his *A Russian Journal*, (published today) is the one positive feature of an account of a visit to the Soviet Union which is otherwise overrun with frivolous provincialism and a coy disinclination to face political realities.

Steinbeck has taken out the conventional insurance against criti-

A RUSSIAN JOURNAL by John Steinbeck. With photographs by Robert Capa. Viking, New York. 228 pp. \$3.75.

cism by concluding that his journal "will not be satisfactory either to the ecclesiastical Left nor the Lumpen Right. The first will say it is anti-Russian, and the second that it is pro-Russian. Surely it is superficial, and how could it be otherwise? We have no conclusions to draw, except that Russian people are like all other people in the world. Some bad ones there are surely, but by far the greater number are very good."

Now the above is pretty childish stuff. It is a fraudulent 'objectivity' which presumes to be accurate merely because it is inconsistent and superficial enough to draw fire from all sides. And it was a waste of Mr. Steinbeck's time to discover so laboriously that all people are alike.

What a reader logically expects from a "Russian journal" is not a platitude but an examination of the way of life of a people which right now is definitely not like that of "all other people."

THIS STEINBECK HAS NOT done, even to the minimum extent required to give the reader impressions as he says, to a more thorough study. This reviewer frankly could not decide whether Steinbeck's failure was due to choice or to an appalling political illiteracy.

What is one to say of a writer to whom the distinctive characteristic of American capitalist society is that it provides a government of "checks and balances"? Or of the malveve which has it that "our government is designed to keep anyone from getting too much power or having got it, from keeping it"? And, "we agreed," Steinbeck writes solemnly, "that this makes our country function more slowly but that it certainly makes it function more surely."

It is foolhardly for a man who does not know the facts of life in his own backyard to fare forth as an interpreter of his neighbor.

There is little in *A Russian Journal* to indicate that Steinbeck has any comprehension of Marxism, the cause for war, the fundamental difference between capitalism and socialism. He doesn't like war and he says so. He would hate to see another one. He is fond of children and good, honest people, Russian as well as any other kind.

But his *Journal* is filled with trivia which will not help people understand the first socialist state because Steinbeck himself never bothered to find out.

...IS PROVINCIAL, in a petty way, complaining that Russians always think they have discovered or invented products or methods which Steinbeck points out, they really didn't. This, from a native of a land in which U. S. contest winners of all kinds are automatically described as unquestioned world's champions.

He writes feelingly of the reverence throughout the world for the memory of Roosevelt. Yet he complains of a like tribute by the Soviet peoples to Stalin and sneeringly intimates that Stalin was a hypocrite in objecting to adulation.

Steinbeck makes the conventional bourgeois plaint about Soviet censorship and "suspicion" of foreigners and cutely explains them as traditional Russian behaviour. Very possibly and, in the light of the author's political maturity this is not sarcastic—Steinbeck does not know of the 30-year effort through conspiracy and armed attack by capitalist states to destroy the Soviet Union.

One could go on quoting Steinbeck, but what for? *A Russian Journal* is much more enlightening about the kind of culture which develops such intellectual Sad Sad-ery than about the Soviet Union.

Robert Capa's photographs, which illustrate the text are striking and excellently reproduced.

G. I. R. 9

Robert Friedman

This is a clipping from
Page 12 of the
Daily Worker

Date 4-16-48
Clipped at the Seat of
Government.

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52 MAY 18 1948

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Steinbeck Sans Wrath

Reviewed by **ALLAN DANE**

RUSSIAN JOURNAL. By John Steinbeck, with pictures by Robert Capa.
New York: Viking Press. 220 pages. \$3.75.

MR. STEINBECK has joined the fraternity of vodka visitors. For three weeks he toured the Soviet Union under the subtle guidance of VOKS, the government agency for "cultural liason," saw Moscow celebrate its 800th anniversary, got stomach cramps from overeating on a collective farm, inspected the ruins of Stalingrad, was wined and dined in Georgia, flew back to Moscow, where he chattered with American officials and correspondents, came home and wrote a book.

Now Mr. Steinbeck did see a few things that may prove interesting to the average reader, and Robert Capa contributes a few nice (but not exceptional) shots of life in Russia. There are impressive descriptions of wartime destruction, of the shortage of artificial limbs, of Soviet inefficiency and "snafu." Steinbeck give some curious examples of black market activities in Russia, of transportation difficulties, of the sickening hero-worship of the leaders.

The careful reader will be able to detect a few other interesting bits of information: the survival of deep religious feeling in the country; the greater emphasis on government building rather than on residential housing construction; the utter lack of humor and the depressing serenity of Moscow, as contrasted with the climate of greater spontaneity as one gets further away from the bureaucratic center.

And yet, one cannot help questioning Mr. Steinbeck's understanding of Russia. He went to Moscow as an "honest and liberal" man, he says, to concern himself with "politics and the larger issues" but "simply to report . . . neither critically nor favorably." But how can he speak of life in a totalitarian state without constantly referring to the government

and its agencies? How sure is he that he got to the "people" and not merely to a model farm in the Ukraine and to a show-case sanatorium on the Black Sea? If Mr. Steinbeck was merely after the answers to such questions as "Do children go to school in Russia?" He could have saved himself the trouble of going. He speaks no Russian, and all his contact was made through official interpreters. Steinbeck, whom the Russians consider one of America's top figures, was wined and dined, was taken to a Moscow nightclub and to a Kiev cocktail bar, went to the country home of such Soviet millionaires as Alexander Korneichuk — and concludes that the Russians have plenty to eat; he even states that the quality of Russian clothing improved during the few weeks he spent in Russia.

HE ATTENDED the celebration of the 800th anniversary of Moscow with Louis Aragon, the French Stalinist writer, and was impressed by the splendor of festivities. Capa galloped around Moscow by a special official assigned "to facilitate his movements about the city"; "in Red Square

G.I.R.-8

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[Handwritten signatures]

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55 SEP 18 1948

he had a militia man assigned to him to make things easy and stop any unpleasantness"; yet throughout the book Steinbeck never mentioned the MVD.

Most startling, perhaps, is Steinbeck's own attitude toward the Soviet Union. His book is full of what Koestler would call false equations. When Capa is stopped from taking pictures at a lend-leased tractor plant in Stalingrad, Steinbeck reminds us that foreigners may not photograph Oak Ridge either. In his mind, "Moscowitis" and "Washingtonitis" cancel each other out. When he admits that the collective farm he was shown put on a big show for him, he insists that "any Kansas farmer" would do the same for his guests.

Steinbeck wants "peace" and hates all "curtains," iron or otherwise. He does not care about governments, good or bad. He comes up with a conclusion that is neither here nor there: "We knew nothing about the things American papers were howling about — Russian military preparations, atomic research, slave labor, the political skullduggery of the Kremlin." And he still doesn't. As a matter of fact, he is proud of his ignorance. Even Capa is led to remark that "Steinbeck is so goddam innocent that all questions posed by the curious and hero-worshipping Russian population are answered by a friendly grunt, 'This I do not know.'" When he is asked if the American people want war with Russia, he replies: "We don't know." Whether the question concerns Wallace's popularity or American foreign policy, the agnosticism and decadence

of American ———ing or U. S. support of reactionaries and fascists, Steinbeck's answer is invariably, "I don't know . . . no one tells us these things."

Under such circumstances it is not surprising that the world-shaking conclusion to Steinbeck's conducted tour is that "the Russian people are people," "that they are very nice." He adds that they want "the same things all people want — good lives, increased comfort, security, and peace." But he does not tell us if the Russian people are getting any of these.

STEINBECK USED TO BE known as a man with a strong social conscience. *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Tortilla Flat* were full of righteous moral indignation about social and economic injustice. In *The Moon Is Down* Steinbeck made a heated if somewhat pedestrian attack on totalitarian aggression and conquest. Those were the days when Steinbeck could be counted upon to stand up and wield his pen in behalf of democracy and freedom. Even today had he gone to Spain or China, he would surely not have come back to write a book in order to demonstrate that the "Chinese people want good lives and comfort" or that "the Spaniards like peace."

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March 18, 1952

46576 *sub 10-1*

JOHN ERNEST STEINBECK

Summary

Reference is made to your request for information subsequent to February 13, 1948, concerning John Ernest Steinbeck, the writer. The FBI has not conducted an investigation on this individual.

A review of the files however, revealed newspaper reviews from the "Daily Worker" dated April 16, 1948, and the "New Leader" dated August 21, 1948, of John Steinbeck's book, "A Russian Journal". This book was published in April, 1948, by the Viking Press in New York and contained pictures by Robert Capa. The publication was based on experiences which the two "self-styled cold war team" had on a three weeks visit to Soviet Russia during the summer of 1947.

The writers of the reviews both seemed to doubt Mr. Steinbeck's ability to portray life in Soviet Russia authoritatively since he was there for such a short period of time.

The foregoing information is furnished to you as a result of a request for an FBI file check only and is not to be considered as a clearance or nonclearance of the individual involved. It is for your confidential use only and is not to be disseminated outside of your agency.

Original to State Department

S. H. Rogers:jar *jar*

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. Ladd _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Mr. Harbo _____
- Mr. Belmont _____
- Mr. Mohr _____
- Mr. Nease _____
- Mr. Gurnea _____
- Mr. Casper _____
- Mr. Callahan _____
- Mr. Connelley _____
- Mr. DeLoach _____
- Mr. Evans _____
- Mr. Gale _____
- Mr. Hendon _____
- Mr. Pennington _____
- Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
- Mr. Nease _____
- Miss Gandy _____

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JOHN ERNST STEINBECK 46575

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA:

John Ernest Steinbeck, author, playwright and war correspondent, was born at Salinas, California, on February 27, 1902. He graduated from Salinas High School in 1918 and was a student at Stanford University for five years but did not graduate. He married Carol Henning in 1930 and was divorced from her in March, 1949. He married Gwyn Conger on March 29, 1943, and Elaine Scott on December 28, 1950. He has been the author of a number of books and was awarded the Pulitzer prize in 1940. Among the books for which he is most noted are "Tortilla Flat," 1935; "Of Mice And Men," 1937; "Grapes Of Wrath," 1939; "The Moon Is Down," 1942; "Cannery Row," 1945; "The Redwood Bus," 1947; and "A Russian Journal," 1948. He was also employed as a war correspondent and as a writer for the "New York Herald Tribune" during 1943, 1944, 1947, and 1948. Steinbeck was Vice President of World Fideo, Inc., an organization chartered in New York State on December 18, 1947, for the purpose of preparing television programs. ("Who's Who In America," 1952-53) 100-166188-2, [redacted] 100-340922-111, p. 1, 53)

BUREAU INVESTIGATION:

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DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE 12/17/82

The Bureau has conducted no investigation concerning John Steinbeck. However, under date of May 11, 1942, Attorney General Bidale forwarded to the Bureau a letter received by him from Steinbeck which stated in part "Do you suppose you could ask Edgar's boys to stop stepping on my heels? They think I am an enemy alien. It's getting tiresome." After checking the Bureau files the Attorney General was advised that Steinbeck was not being and never had been investigated. (100-106224-1)

INVESTIGATION BY G-2:

Steinbeck was investigated by G-2 during 1942 to determine his suitability to hold a commission in the U. S. Army. After investigation the Chief, Counter Intelligence Branch, G-2, recommended he not be considered favorably for [redacted]

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a commission. Investigation developed that Steinbeck's former wife, Carol, had registered as a Communist in Santa Clara County, California, on November 8, 1938, but registered as a Democrat in 1939. According to Carol, she registered as a Communist to see what would happen and to see what the reaction would be in a small town, but regretted this move because it reflected unfavorably on her husband. She and others advised that Steinbeck was a registered Democrat and probably favored the New Deal but he had never been a Communist. (S)(u)

This investigation also revealed that Steinbeck contributed articles to the November 9, 1936, and April 1, 1938, issues of "Pacific Weekly," cited as a Communist publication by the California Committee on Un-American Activities. He also subscribed to the "Daily People's World," west coast Communist newspaper, as of September 1939. (S)(u) Per Army

Associates and friends of Steinbeck advised G-2 that he was honest, loyal, patriotic, and an excellent and sincere writer. They stated that although he exercised poor discretion during his early days of writing by associating with some elements of the Communist Party, he was not interested in advancing the cause of the Party but in gathering material for his writings on certain social conditions existing in the United States at that time. They reported that he wrote various articles which were published by Communist organizations because the economic views expressed were considered radical. However, he rejected Communist political and economical theories repeatedly and discarded his association with that element when it became apparent that his prestige was being used to further interests of the Party. (G-2; 100-166188-2) (S)(u) Per Army

AFFILIATION WITH COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATIONS:

During 1938, Steinbeck granted the Simon J. Lubin Society of California, Inc., permission to republish his pamphlet entitled "Their Blood Is Strong," a story of the migratory agricultural workers in California, which was originally published in 1936. According to the California Committee on Un-American Activities, the Simon J. Lubin Society, Inc., was a Communist front for California agrarian penetration, organized in the Fall of 1936 by Unit 104 of the Professional Section of the Communist Party. (61-7559-2-993)

In approximately 1938, the Committee to Aid Agricultural Workers was organized under Steinbeck's leadership. Steinbeck also served as chairman of this organization which has been referred to as the John Steinbeck Committee to Aid Agricultural Workers. According to one source of unknown reliability, this committee was organized after Steinbeck had exposed the situation of the migrant farmers and "Okies" in his books. This source stated there was nothing political in the work of the committee, the purpose being to gather food and clothing for those in need. Another source indicated that the committee furnished financial assistance to the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America. Many of the supporters of this organization were known to be Communist Party members or people who had been active in behalf of Communist united front organizations. The American Legion Radical Research Bureau described this committee as a "very Red outfit."

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b7d

Los Angeles member of the committee;
100-166188-2; 100-333317-1; 100-6633-2, p. 104;
100-3-23-16, p. 12)

John Steinbeck was one of the sponsors and delegates to the Western Writers Congress (declared to be a subsidiary of the American Writers Congress, cited by the HCUA) conference held in San Francisco, California, on November 13 and 14, 1936. (Dies Committee Hearing, Volume 3, Page 1996)

Steinbeck was active in the League of American Writers (cited by the Attorney General) during 1938-1940, serving that organization as one of the vice presidents in 1939 and as one of the board of directors of the California League of American Writers in 1940. He also furnished that organization with a statement for publication in a booklet published during May, 1938, and signed an open letter to all Senators and members of the House of Representatives during 1939. (61-7759-667812; 100-7322-8, 16; 61-7551-183110; 61-7561-2-87)

Steinbeck was among those who signed an open letter to the Government and People of the United States sponsored by the Washington Committee to Lift the Spanish Embargo (cited as a Communist front by the California Committee on Un-American Activities) on January 31, 1939. ("New York Times," 121-23278-267112, p. 1506)

As of late 1940 or early 1941 the name of John Steinbeck was contained in the active indices of the National Federation For Constitutional Liberties (cited by the Attorney General). (Anonymous; 100-1170-49, p. 157)

A clipping from the "New York Times" of February 21, 1946, reported the formation in New York City of a new cooperative publishing concern, namely, Associated Magazine Contributors, Inc. The initial list of owner-contributors included John Steinbeck. Associated Magazine Contributors was cited by the California Committee on Un-American Activities when it reported that "the Communist influence is established through such news services." (123-11674-13)

In preparation for a reception to be given at the Waldorf-Astoria, New York City, on May 5, 1946, by the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship (NCASF - cited by the Attorney General) for three visiting Soviet literary figures, the Assistant to the Executive Director of the NCASF contacted Howard Fast, well-known author and probable member the Cultural Section of the Communist Party in New York City, for his approval of a list of distinguished writers, publishers, artists, and other personalities to be invited to the affair. Fast declared that naturally anti-Soviets and Trotskyites should not be invited as they would make things "very uncomfortable." According to the informant the name of John Steinbeck was among those read off to Fast which met with his approval. b2
b7d [REDACTED] 100-146964-736)

✓ On May 17, 1948, Mrs. Muriel Draper of New York, the Chairman of the Women's Section of the American NCASF, spoke at a meeting of the Democratic Women's International Federation in Rome, Italy. In her speech she heartily agreed with the Soviet representative who had attacked United States foreign policy and reported that the American people were being given a dose of anti-Soviet propoganda worse than that against Germany before the Second World War. She stated that a number of individuals, including Steinbeck, had recently been converted to "the camp of war and anti-Sovietism." (5-18-48, "New York Herald Tribune;" 100-344442-A)

Bureau files reflect a number of instances from 1945 through 1950 wherein Steinbeck was approached by various other Communist Party front organizations to support their causes so as to enlist the widest possible mass support for their campaigns. There is no indication that he complied with these particular requests. (100-7061-923, p. 19; 100-334436-1521; 100-185087-7712; 100-370500-48) ✓

INSTANCES WHEREIN AMERICA'S ENEMIES HAVE USED
OR ATTEMPTED TO USE STEINBECK'S WRITINGS AND
REPUTATION TO FURTHER THEIR CAUSES:

Bureau files reflect that because many of Steinbeck's writings portrayed an extremely sordid and poverty-stricken side of American life, they were reprinted in both German and Russian and used by the Nazis and Soviets as propaganda against America. (Numerous references)

An individual who had been employed during 1937 as a playwright on the Federal Theater Project, Works Progress Administration, testified before the Dies Committee that the Party told her what to write and furnished her with research material obtained from the Simon Lubin Society (previously cited). She advised that this material included some of Steinbeck's field notes, in his handwriting, for his book "Grapes Of Wrath." (Testimony, Rena Vale on 7-22-40; Dies Committee Executive Hearings, Volume 3, Page 1219)

Steinbeck's book, "Grapes Of Wrath," was among the periodicals and books sold from the literature table at a Communist Party May Day meeting held on May 1, 1940, in Los Angeles, California. [REDACTED] 61-7559-7883, p. 7) b7c b7d

A booklet announcing the courses of the Workers School of New York City, official Communist Party school, for the winter term, 1943, stated that the works of leading dramatic writers, including Steinbeck, would be used in the discussions of history of social institutions as they had been reflected by writers of all times. (1946 Report, California Committee on Un-American Activities; 100-15252-39, p. 440)

b7E During March, 1945, a copy of a recommended reading list used by the American Youth For Democracy (cited by the Attorney General) indicated that listed books were available from the New Jersey State office of that organization at a discount. This list included Steinbeck's "The Moon Is Down." [REDACTED] state headquarters of the Communist Political Association, Newark, New Jersey; 61-777-31-60, p. 24)

ASSOCIATION WITH COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERS
AND CONTROVERSY WITH COMMUNIST PARTY:

On June 2, 1953, an admitted former Communist Party member (about 1937-1939) testified before the House Committee on Un-American Activities that although Steinbeck had done

more through his novel about the agricultural workers than anyone else for the Communist Party cause, he appeared to be at odds with the Communist Party during that period although the witness could not state just how. (Roland William Kibbee, Executive Session testimony since publicly released; 61-9582-1975, p. 2330)

In letters written by Sam Dorcy to Ella Winter (both Communist Party functionaries in California) during March, 1937, and November, 1940, Dorcy indicated that Winter was well acquainted with Steinbeck and might have considerable influence with him. On March 7, 1937, he wrote "Needless to say, I am glad to hear about Steinbeck's new book. I hope it fulfills what you say. There is no reason why it should not. He can write, and, with the education I am told you and our friends have been giving him he ought to make the grade better than he did in his earlier book." Another undated letter obtained early in 1944 from Winter to Steinbeck indicated that Steinbeck had previously criticized Winter. This letter which was partially obscene attacked Steinbeck and indicated that he and Winter were at odds. (Highly confidential source; 100-18610-56, p. 29, 38, ??) ~~EX~~ U

On June 23, 1950, Louis Budenz, former Managing Editor of the "Daily Worker," east coast Communist newspaper, and an admitted former Communist Party member, advised as follows: "Carey McWilliams is a writer, particularly noted as the author of 'Factories In The Field,' published in 1939, which was the foundation of John Steinbeck's 'Grapes Of Wrath.' When this book was published, I was advised by Alexander Trachtenberg and Jack Stachel (both Communist Party functionaries) that McWilliams was under Communist discipline. This had a great deal to do with the way we handled this book and also John Steinbeck's book because at that time McWilliams was supposedly making a Communist of Steinbeck." (Interview with Budenz; 100-998-92)

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CIA

[REDACTED] (C)

The June 11, 1948, issue of the Los Angeles "Examiner" stated that Ring Lardner, Jr., a screen writer, had signed with Steinbeck and others to write a film version of Steinbeck's story "Pastures Of Heaven." According to the "Examiner," this "was the first Hollywood employment given any of the 'unfriendly ten' since their refusal to answer the Communist question in Washington last fall" and the move challenged the Motion Picture Association of America's announcement that none of the men cited by Congress would work until cleared of the charge. (100-295885-11, p. 5)

MISCELLANEOUS:

From time to time columnists for the "Daily Worker" and "Daily People's World" have criticized Steinbeck's writings as not portraying adequately the American Communists or supporting the American Communist movement. On the other hand these papers have also praised the books, stating in January, 1943, that he was one of the most popular authors among the Soviet Russians. Both Communists and anti-Communists criticized his 1948 series of articles for the "New York Herald Tribune" entitled "A Russian Journal," which he wrote after a visit to Russia in the Summer of 1947, as being too pro-Communist and too anti-Communist. Both sides criticized his ability to adequately portray life in Soviet Russia after such a short visit. It is noted that the articles criticized Soviet red tape and the Soviet Government but were favorable to the Russian people. (100-106224-A; 64-175-240-A; and others)

During 1942, 1943, and 1944, Steinbeck was listed as one of the individuals in the United States who received Russian literature. (Office of Censorship; 65-1674-809, p. 8; 65-49085-81)

On February 23, 1944, the Steinbecks attended a reception at the Russian Embassy in Mexico City. That reception celebrated the 26th anniversary of the founding of the Russian Army. ("Kovcadec," morning newspaper, 2/7/44; 100-145365-17)

On August 23, 1947, Joseph Starobin, correspondent of the "Daily Worker," was in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, conferring with leaders of the Communist Party of Brazil regarding the possibility of inviting well-known American writers to Brazil. One of the Americans recommended by Starobin was Steinbeck. There is no information available indicating Steinbeck was actually invited. [REDACTED] 100-51287-75, 81) (S) U Per State 10-3-78 on 6-18-80 SP-2 Top Jet

A Counter Intelligence Corps report of January 13, 1954, reported that there was a strong indication that the "Verlag der Nation," a publishing firm of the National Demokratische Partei (a Soviet zone political party which had been described by G-2 as "presumably a conservative party" but which is an East Zone political party and as such is Communist oriented) was about to negotiate publishing rights with seven American authors, including Steinbeck. (A usually reliable source of CIC; 100-26240-1)

(S) U Per Army letter dtd 8-2-78 on 1-22-79 by 2333 GA4/bjw

Name Searching Unit - Room 6527
 Service Unit - Room 6524
 Forward to File Review
 Attention [REDACTED]
 Return to [REDACTED] 4230
Supervisor Room Ext.

Type of References Requested:

- Regular Request (Analytical Search)
- All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
- Subversive References Only
- Nonsubversive References Only
- Main all References Only

Type of Search Requested:

- Restricted to Locality of Mar. 13 1968
- Exact Name Only (On Mar. 13 1968)
- Buildup Variations

Subject Steinbeck, John Ernest
 Birthdate & Place 2/18/1902 Cal.
 Address _____

Localities _____
 R 2 Date 3/13 Searcher Initials 392
 Prod. 16

	FILE NUMBER	SERIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	100-106224	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	100-106224-9	sum 3/2/58
		John Ernest (War)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	62-5-19610	sum 7/1/54
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	100-106224-12	sum 3/4/54
		12 sum 7/20/55
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	100-115040-3	sum 3/10/55
		John E.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	100-106224-10	sup 10/1/58
		John
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	9-4583	17 *
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	40-47579	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	100-106224-8	sum 10/2/54
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		9 sum 2/1/54
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	61-8077-5197	
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NP 100-361034-757	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	105-116427-10	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NP 105-116427-11	

MAR 13 1968

NUMEROUS REFERENCE

4-22c

SEARCH SLIP

b7c Supervisor [redacted] Room 7691

Subj: Heinrich, John Ernst

Exact Spelling _____ Searchers 114
All References _____ Initial 2176
Subversive Ref. _____ Date 9/4
Mail File _____
Restricted to Locality of _____

FILE NUMBER SERIALS

I/119 - 166188 _____

I/100 - 166188-4 Sum. 3/18/52 (no name)

John _____

NP40 - 47279 _____

I/100 - 106224 _____

ND9 - 4583 (misc) _____

I/105 - 26240-1 _____

NP138 - 450-22 _____

I/100 - 382992-21, 6 ST

I/61 - 7582-1975 p. 2330

NP65 - 58841-1057 p. 11

NP102 - 15875-4-977

ND9 - 4321-19

ND87 - 14833-1

AP1-6 - 6280-145-883

5-84 [redacted]
b7c Initialed

NUMEROUS REFERENCE

4-22c

67c

SEARCH SLIP

Supervisor [REDACTED] Room 7631

Subj: Steinbeck, John Ernst

Exact Spelling
 All References
 Subversive Ref.
 Mail File
 Restricted to Locality of _____

Searchers
Initial SI/76
Date 3/4

FILE NUMBER

SERIALS

<u>J.E.</u>	
<u>ER</u>	
<u>Ernst</u>	
<u>ER</u>	
<u>Ernest</u>	
<u>ER</u>	

John Steinbeck Committee
To Aid Agricultural Workers
F 100 - 339317 - 1

Initialed

Photo
cc to State Dept / ECS: AA
REQ REC'D
SEP 3 1963
APR. BY: Short-joe

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

MAILED
NOV 1 1956
NAME CHECK
MAIL ROOM

October 11, 1956

John Steinbeck
JOHN STEINBECK
Born: February 27, 1902
Salinas, California

46574

Summary

No investigation pertinent to your inquiry has been conducted by the FBI concerning the captioned individual. However, a review of FBI files reflects that in May, 1945, a source that has furnished reliable information in the past advised that the American Youth for Democracy in a list captioned "Recommended Reading List for American Youth for Democracy," listed the book entitled "The Moon Is Down" by John Steinbeck. The American Youth for Democracy has been cited by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

(61-777-31-60 informant [redacted])
Another government agency which conducts investigations abroad advised that on August 23, 1947, a correspondent of the "Daily Worker," an east coast communist newspaper, was in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, conferring with leaders of the Communist Party in Brazil. The discussion related to invitations to visit Brazil to be sent to various American writers and to ascertain whether they would be permitted to remain in Rio De Janeiro. The name of John Steinbeck was given as one who would receive an invitation from the Communist Party in Brazil.

(100-51287-81)
The files further reflect that a newspaper review appeared in the April 16, 1948, issue of the "Daily Worker," concerning John Steinbeck's book, "A Russian Journal," relating to his experiences while on a three-week tour of the Soviet Union in the Summer of 1947. The writer of the review appeared to doubt Steinbeck's ability to portray life in Soviet Russia authoritatively since he was there for such a short period of time.

(100-106224-6)

Orig. and one to CG
Req rec'd: 10/15/56
M. L. Armstrong/jm
(4) *mea*

EX-104
RECORDED - 7A
INDEXED - 7A
100-106224-8

- To: _____
- Nichols _____
- Boardman _____
- Belmont _____
- Mason _____
- Mohr _____
- Parsons _____
- Rosen _____
- Tamm _____
- Nease _____
- Winterrowd _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holloman _____
- Gandy _____

60 NOV 7 1956

NOV 2 1956

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-2 TJP/10M/10
ON 6-18-80

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP (S) OF 11/10/56

John Steinbeck

October 31, 1956

In the reports of the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, 78th Congress, Second Session, House Report No. 1311 on page 101, it is pointed out that "The National Maritime Union of America has toed the Communist Party line through all its changes in recent years. The ships of the American Merchant Marines are being supplied with libraries for the seamen to read while at sea, and the National Maritime Union's educational department is responsible for the selection of the books. John Steinbeck's 'Grapes of Wrath' is naturally present, as it would be in any communist's selection."

(57-407-424)

The "Daily Worker" issue of April 1, 1955, and the "People's World" issue of April 7, 1955, carried articles relating to a review by John Steinbeck of Matusow's "False Witness" which originally appeared in the April 2nd issue of the "Saturday Review of Literature." In the article captioned "Death of a Racket," Steinbeck speaks with "harsh contempt" of the "anticommunist hired informer."

(100-375988-A; "Daily Worker" 4/1/55)

The foregoing information is furnished to you as a result of your request for an FBI file check and is not to be construed as a clearance or a nonclearance of the individual involved. This information is furnished for your use and should not be disseminated outside of your agency.

Note: This memo marked Secret inasmuch as material in paragraph two from State Department was so marked on their communication information re Steinbeck/s furnished USIA on 4/1/54.

4-22b (11-23-55)

SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Steinbeck John
(625) Date 10/16 Searcher Number 880

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

SI	100-106224	no inv. 8130
NP	40-47279	mla
SI	100-115040-3	sum (F) 3-10-54
I	62-60527-37567	sum (F) 3-1
AD	100-115040-16	pb
SI	100-375988-A	DW 4-5-55
I		DW 4-1-55
NP	100-64700-1215	encl p 5655, 565
NP	100-106463-127	p 24 mla
NP	62-88217-1729	encl p 206 sent dissem
SI	100-359325-88	
AD	100-115040-15	11 I
NP	105-26240-1	
ISI	"Daily People's World" p 7	(see enclosure) april 7-55 to DW
NP	100-410145-10	4/25/55
	OCT 18 1956	albany
		R

S

4-22b (11-23-55)

SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Steinbeck, John
R# 625 Date 10/16 Searcher Number 880

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

John Ernest
SI 100-106224-Original 3/52

7

John Ernest
SI

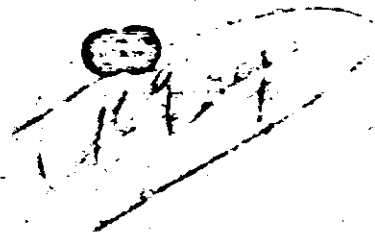
John E.
SI 100-356137-1263 encl 17

John Committee to Aid Agriculture
workbook

SI 100-339317-1 Summary
John Organization

SI 100-339317-1 Summary
J.

SI 65-31621-35 p29 mls
Approx 50 "One Steinbeck
cards not listed



4-22

Subj: John Steinbeck

Address: _____

Birthdate: _____ SUPV: _____

Misc: _____

R# _____ Date 3/5/54 Searcher Initial 89T

full search FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

John Steinbeck

I	DCP Vol #3	p 1996
I	DCP Rec Hearings Vol 3	p 1218, 1219
NP	100-202315	617, 34, 36, 16
SI	100-154799	79 p 76, 78
NP	100-18564	51
NP	100-202315	461 p 310
NP	100-202315	495 p 3
NP	100-202315	5730 p 18, 20
NP	100-202315	7013 p 43
NP	100-339302	7
SI	100-183386	18 (1)

4-22

Subj: _____

Address: _____

Birthdate: _____ SUPV: _____

Misc: _____

R# _____ Date _____ Searcher Initial _____

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

John (cont)

NR	✓ [REDACTED]	1 b7c
I	✓ 100-145365	17
I	✓ 100-340922	111 p 1, 52, 53
NI	✓ [REDACTED]	b7c
SI	✓ 100-378992	2
SI	✓ 100-3	2192 p 41 ^{encl}
SI	✓ 100-3	2559 p 127
I	✓ 100-344442-A	N.Y. Herald Tribune 5/18/48
I	✓ 100-998	92 p 3
NI	✓ 100-829	993 p 17, 212
I	✓ 100-15252	39 p 440 ^{encl}

4-22

Subj: _____

Address: _____

Birthdate: _____ SUPV: _____

Misc: _____

R# _____ Date _____ Searcher Initial _____

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

John (cont)

I	✓ 100-295885	9p39
SI	✓ 100-340918	8
NP	✓ 100-70772	22p4
I	✓ 100-146964	796
I	✓ 100-7061	923
NP	✓ 100-333949-A	Peoples World 12-28-46
I	✓ 100-185087	77X2
NP	✓ 100-120818-A	DW 1/12/44
NP	✓ 100-195220	123 p11
SI	✓ 100-10123	114 p651
NP	✓ 100-13	1324 p58(3)

b7c



4-22

Subj: _____
 Address: _____
 Birthdate: _____ SUPV: _____
 Misc: _____
 R# _____ Date _____ Searcher Initial _____

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

John (cont)

SI	✓ 100-18416	20
I	✓ 100-370500	48
SI	✓ 100-15139	17
SI	✓ I choose Freedom (Library) 100-275683	355
SI	✓ 100-251809	10
SI	✓ 100-7322	78 p 46
NP	✓ 100-350264	129 p 96
NP	✓ 100-195220	144
SI	✓ 100-349686	19 p 16
NP	✓ 100-90431	123
NP	✓ 100-18610	207 p 13

4-22

Subj: _____

Address: _____

Birthdate: _____ SUPV: _____

Misc: _____

R# _____ Date _____ Searcher Initial _____

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

John (cont)

	<u>FILE NUMBER</u>	<u>SERIAL</u>
I	✓ 100-18610	56p29, 38779
SI	✓ 100-348137 <i>Behind the Iron Curtain</i>	23pX, 32
SI	✓ 100-33049	592p210
I	✓ 100-334436	152X
SI	✓ 100-51287	81
	100-138754	999
I	✓ 100-6633	2
SI	✓ 100-51287	78
I	✓ 100-51287	75
SI	✓ 100-138754	35
SI	✓ 100-138754	490p19

Subj: _____

Address: _____

Birthdate: _____ SUPV: _____

Misc: _____

R# _____ Date _____ Searcher Initial _____

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

John (cont.)

NP	100-138754	68/p24
SI	✓ 65-31621	35 p29
NP	✓ 65-52109	73
SI	✓ 65-31621	33 p24
NP	✓ 65-49085	149
SI	✓ 65-49085	81
I	✓ 65-1674	809
SI	✓ 65-30092	305/p21
NP	✓ 65-32677	48 p52
I	✓ 64-175-240-A	Chief American 1-14-48
SI	✓ 64-211-221	115 (C)

4-22

Subj: _____

Address: _____

Birthdate: _____ SUPV: _____

Misc: _____

R# _____ Date _____ Searcher Initial _____

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

John (cont)

NP	✓ 64-3300 sub F. -	41
SI	abstract only reviewed 64-31474	344
NI	✓ 121-27808	2
NP	✓ 121-21528	16
SI	✓ 121-2179 - 17X7 index 5p31	
I	✓ 121-23278-267X12 p1506	
SI	✓ 61-7476 -	342
SI	✓ 61-7582	1463
I	✓ 61-777-31 -	60
NP	✓ 61-7582 - 1298 p1100, 170	38
NP	✓ 62-85160 -	10 p 19

5

4-22

Subj: _____

Address: _____

Birthdate: _____ SUPV: _____

Misc: _____

R# _____ Date _____ Searcher Initial _____

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

John (cont)

NP	✓ 62-74669-9 -	6
AP	✓ 62-64427	963
SI	✓ 62-72221	68
AP	✓ 62-64427	979
AP	✓ 62-64427	1190
NP	✓ 62-81037	1
I	✓ 123-11674	13
NP	✓ 77-24571	14
SI	✓ 57-407	424 p101
NR	[REDACTED]	b7c
I	✓ 100-7322	8 (7)

Subj: _____
 Address: _____
 Birthdate: _____ SUPV: _____
 Misc: _____
 R# _____ Date _____ Searcher Initial _____

FILE NUMBER SERIAL

John Cant 1

SI	61-7590	504
I	61-7561-2	87
SI	100-7322	43
NP	65-37587	54
NP	61-7566	2160
SI	65-49085	16
NP	100-96543	9
NP	65-17395	29
SI	100-3	45
NP	100-138754-A	BW 1-24-4
NP	100-264798	1
SI	100-26841	9 p15
I	100-114353-A	BW 1-25-4
b2 NR	[REDACTED]	(9)
SI	61-7689-A	Time Magazine 1-6-41

4-22

Subj: _____

Address: _____

Birthdate: _____ SUPV: _____

Misc: _____

R# _____ Date _____ Searcher Initial _____

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

NP	✓ 100-52226	301
NP	✓ 100-264798	2
SI	✓ 100-138754	1
NP	✓ 65-30092	994
NP	✓ 61-7554	36
SI	✓ 61-7561	316
NP	✓ 62-82	70X
NP	✓ 62-74478	3
I	✓ 61-16-A	At NW 1-3-4
I	✓ 100-1170	49p157
SI	✓ 61-7559	10790Xp26

4-22

Subj: _____

Address: _____

Birthdate: _____ SUPV: _____

Misc: _____

R# _____ Date _____ Searcher Initial _____

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

I	✓ 61-7559	6678X2
NP	✓ 61-7559	4043X4
I	✓ 61-7551	183X10
I	✓ 100-3-23	X6 p12
I	✓ 61-7559-2	999
SI	✓ 100-7322	X4
NP	✓ 61-7561	246X9
SI	✓ 100-138954	SI SI SI 7p4,5,7,156
NP	✓ 100-6633	6
NP	✓ 62-66326	28
SI	✓ 100-102217	1

4-22

Subj: _____

Address: _____

Birthdate: _____ SUPV: _____

Misc: _____

R# _____ Date _____ Searcher Initial _____

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

I	✓ 61-7559	7883p7
I	✓ 100-7322	5
SI	✓ 61-10076	10
SI	✓ 100-7057	22X
NP	✓ 101-2105	1
LT	✓ 100-6633	2
I	✓ 100-7322	16
SI	✓ 100-15252	28p437
NP	✓ 65-9266	65
LT	✓ 100-6633	2
SI	✓ 100-7326	147 (12)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

March 1, 1954

JOHN STEINBECK

JOHN STEINBECK - Summary
Born: February 27, 1902
Salinas, California

No investigation has been conducted by this Bureau concerning the above-named individual. A review of the files, however, reflects that in May, 1945, a reliable source advised that the American Youth for Democracy in a list captioned "Recommended Reading List for American Youth for Democracy," listed the book entitled "The Moon is Down" by John Steinbeck. The American Youth for Democracy has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (61-777-31-60) (Info- [redacted])

Another Government agency, who conducts investigations abroad, advised that on August 23, 1947, a correspondent of the "Daily Worker," an East coast Communist publication, was in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, conferring with leaders of the Communist Party in Brazil. The discussion related to invitations to visit Brazil to be sent to various American writers and to ascertain whether they would be permitted to remain in Rio De Janeiro. The name of John Steinbeck was given as one who would receive an invitation from the Communist Party in Brazil. (100-51287-81) (St. Dept)

The files further reflect that newspaper reviews appeared in the April 16, 1948, issue of the "Daily Worker," and the August 21, 1948, issue of the "New Leader" concerning John Steinbeck's book, "A Russian Journal" relating to his experiences while on a three week tour of the Soviet Union in the summer of 1947. The writers of the reviews appeared to doubt Steinbeck's ability to portray life in Soviet Russia authoritatively since he was there for such a short period of time. (100-166188-4)

DECLASSIFIED BY: [redacted]
ON: [redacted]
Per det from state 10/3/78

- Tolson _____
- Ladd _____
- Nichols _____
- Belmont _____
- Clegg _____
- Glavin _____
- Harbo _____
- Rosen _____
- Tracy _____
- Gearty _____
- Mohr _____
- Winterrowd _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holloman _____
- Sizoo _____
- Miss Gandy _____

Original to USIA.
Request received: 1/13/54
W. H. Pritt: mdc

RECORDED - 3

INDEXED - 3

MAR 2 1954

130

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING

EX-112

65 MAR 8 1954

CLASSIFIED BY [redacted]
EXEMPT FROM GDS. [redacted]
DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION [redacted]

MAILED

NAME CHECK

In the reports of the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, Seventy-Eighth Congress, Second Session, House Report No. 1311 on page 101 it is pointed out that "the National Maritime Union of America has toed the Communist Party line through all its changes in recent years. The ships of the American Merchant Marines are being supplied with libraries for the seamen to read while at sea and the National Maritime Union's educational department is responsible for the selection of the books. John Steinbeck's 'Grapes of Wrath' is naturally present, as it would be in any Communist's selection." (57-407-424)

The foregoing information is furnished to you as a result of your request for an FBI file check only and is not to be construed as a clearance or a nonclearance of the individual involved. This information is furnished for your use and should not be disseminated outside of your agency.

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- Deleted under exemption(s) b1, b3 per CIA with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

_____ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

For your information: _____

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
100-106224-9

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

2 - 0 g 1
1 - yellow
1 - Section
1 - [redacted]

~~SECRET~~

b7c

RECORDED - 88

100-106224-9

Original to Office of Security
April 12, 1957

EX-120

JOHN ERNST STEINBECK

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN

63
Per
CIA

[redacted]

Steinbeck has never been investigated by this Bureau, however, the files of this Bureau contain the following information:

Steinbeck was born at Salinas, California, February 27, 1902. He graduated from Salinas High School in 1918 and was a student at Stanford University for five years but did not graduate. He married Carol Henning in 1930 and was divorced from her in March, 1943. He married Gwyn Conger on March 29, 1943, and Elaine Scott on December 28, 1950. He has been the author of a number of books and was awarded the Pulitzer prize in 1940. Among the books for which he is most noted are "Tortilla Flat," 1935; "Of Mice and Men," 1937; "Grapes of Wrath," 1939; "The Moon Is Down," 1942; "Cannery Row," 1945; "The Wayward Bus," 1947; and "A Russian Journal," 1948. He was also employed as a war correspondent and as a writer for the "New York Herald-Tribune" during 1943, 1944, 1947 and 1948. (100-106224-7)

(S)

A Special Committee on Un-American Activities of the United States House of Representatives, 75th Congress, published a report in 1939 captioned "Investigation of Un-American Propaganda Activities in the United States." On Page 1996 under the heading of Western Writers Congress, information was set out that during the Fall of 1936 a group of liberal and communistic writers issued a call for a conference to be held in San Francisco, California, on November 12, 1936, which conference continued throughout the following day. This report indicated that one of the sponsors of this Congress was John Steinbeck.

A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised in 1948 that John Steinbeck was one of the writers who attended the Western Writers Congress in 1936. (Former [redacted] b2, b7d)

CLASS. & EXT. BY 3908 11-29-77
REASON: 1.1, 1-2.4.2, 2.3
DATE: 11-29-77

- _____ Tolson
- _____ Boardman
- _____ Belmont
- _____ Mohr
- _____ Parsons
- _____ Rosen
- _____ Tamm
- _____ Winterrowd
- _____ Tele. Room
- _____ Holmes

WFS:vep
(5)

Orig & dupl to CIA

CLASSIFIED BY 1259
EXEMPT FROM GDS. CATEGORY 2, 3
DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE 10/14/78

to case
6/25/64
9113

SEE NOTE ON YELLOW PAGE 12

DECLASSIFIED BY DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE COMMITTEE (DF)
DATE: 11/29/79 DRK/fue

CONFIDENTIAL

JOHN ERNST STEINBECK

The Western Writers Congress was described as a communist front by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities in its report dated March 29, 1944.

A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised in 1944 that Sam Darcy was in Russia in 1937 and that Darcy had corresponded with Ella Winter. The informant stated that a letter from Darcy in March, 1937, indicated he was pleased to hear about "Steinbeck's new book." The informant stated Darcy commented that Steinbeck could write and with the education "I am told you and our friends have been giving him, he ought to make the grade better than he did in his early book." The informant furnished no additional information to identify the Steinbeck mentioned and it is not known if this person is identical with the subject of your inquiry.

(highly confidential source; 100-18610-56 - pg 29)

The "Times-Herald," a daily newspaper published in Washington, D. C., on May 9, 1953, contained an article reflecting that Herbert A. Philbrick before a United States Senate Investigation Committee had named Ella Winter, the Australian born wife of Donald Ogden Stewart, as one of twenty-three men and women communists in Massachusetts. Additional information concerning Ella Winter Stewart was forwarded to you on June 4, 1952, in the report of Special Agent [redacted] which was dated February 18, 1952. (100-18610-A & 222)

A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised in 1941 that Samuel Adams Darcy had stated in 1941 that he had traveled abroad in 1935 as he had been elected by the Communist Party in the United States as a representative to the Congress of the Communist International held in Moscow, Russia. Informant advised that Darcy had also returned to the United States in approximately May, 1937.

[redacted] San Francisco,*
The Committee on Un-American Activities of the United States House of Representatives, 83rd Congress, in a report captioned "Investigation of Communist Activities in the Los Angeles Area - Part 6" contains a statement of Roland William Kibbee, which he furnished to a staff member of the Committee on June 2, 1953. On Page 2329 and 2330 of the above-described report appears information which Kibbee furnished in answer to the question, "What caused your disillusionment with the Communist Party?" Kibbee stated "I can remember in my own case it even was involved more or less with the theory of the Communist Party and not outside working in organizations. . . Several of the contradictions that arose troubled me a great deal. . ."

*California; 61-6593-209)

JOHN ERNST STEINBECK

"I remember John Steinbeck who wrote, I thought, a most effective novel about the agricultural workers in the San Joaquin Valley, or, take it a step further, that the man did more for them than anyone else. A motion picture was made of the very sorry situation that existed there. I recall that John Steinbeck was at odds with the Communist Party. I can't say just how. It was a question of hearing them attacked into work deplored and too bad he doesn't see the light, and so forth, and these things troubled me a great deal. . . ." In this statement Kibbee admitted membership in the Communist Party for approximately two years beginning in approximately 1937. (61-7582-1975)

A pamphlet entitled "Their Blood Is Strong" by John Steinbeck was published in April, 1938, by the Simon J. Lubin Society of California, Incorporated. The Simon J. Lubin Society was "deeply appreciative of the cooperation received from the San Francisco news, who in October of 1936 published the seven chapters that form the bulk of this pamphlet; and especially grateful to John Steinbeck for his permission to use this material." (61-7559-2-999)

The California Committee on Un-American Activities in its report published in 1943 described the Simon J. Lubin Society, Incorporated, as a communist front for California Agrarian penetration, which was organized in the Fall of 1936 by Unit 104 of the Professional Section of the Communist Party. (California Committee 1943 report - pg 86)

On Page 148 of the same California Committee report appears information furnished by Rena M. Vale. Vale advised that the Southwest Unit of the Federal Theaters, which was composed of communists, had corresponded with the Simon J. Lubin Society in San Francisco, California, to obtain research material which that organization had turned over to John Steinbeck for his book (then unnamed) "Grapes of Wrath" and which Steinbeck had returned. She advised that when the material arrived she had examined it carefully and found notes in handwriting signed by John Steinbeck, which appeared to be field notes on migratory workers. (California Committee Report, 1943, pg. 148)

A pamphlet captioned "Writers Take Sides" was published by the League of American Writers, 381 4th Avenue, New York, New York, in May, 1938, and was described as being letters about the war in Spain from 418 American authors. On Page 56 of this pamphlet appeared a letter from John Steinbeck, the author of "Of Mice and Men" and "Tortilla Flat." (61-7561-2-87)

The "Daily Worker," an east coast communist newspaper, on April 25, 1939, contained an article captioned "Noted Writers Back Fight for Art Projects." The article reflected that 38 prominent writers, including John Steinbeck, had made public a letter urging support of the Federal Arts Project and indicated

JOHN ERNST STEINBECK

that the individuals were acting on their behalf as well as on behalf of the League of American Writers. (61-7551-183 X 10)

* The "Daily Worker" of September 7, 1939, contained an article captioned "U.S. Writers League Ends Summer Session in South." The article reflected that a two-week session for student writers, which was held under the auspices of the League of American Writers had just concluded. The article described the League of American Writers as a cultural nonpartisan organization and indicated that one of the vice presidents of the organization was John Steinbeck.

The League of American Writers has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (61-7559-6678X2)

* The records of the Department of State, State of New York, in 1941 reflected a certificate of incorporation was filed in 1939 for the League of American Writers, Incorporated. John Steinbeck, Route 1, Box 95D, Los Angeles, California, was one of the directors who was appointed to act until the first annual meeting of the corporation. (100-7322-8)

The "Los Angeles Times," a daily newspaper published in Los Angeles, California, on January 23, 1941, contained an article which reflected that John Steinbeck of Los Gratos, California, was one of the California directors of the League of American Writers, which organization was dedicated to the advancement of peace and democracy as against fascism and reaction. (100-7322-16)

* The report of the hearings before a Subcommittee of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the United States Senate, 81st Congress, on Page 1504 contained information attributed to "The New York Times" of January 31, 1939. The material was an open letter to the Government and people of the United States which urged that the embargo against the Spanish Republic be lifted. John Steinbeck appeared as one of the persons urging that the Spanish embargo be lifted. The article ended with a coupon which urged that all individuals fill out the coupon and forward it to the Washington Committee to Lift Spanish Embargo, Room 100, 1410 M Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C. (121-23278-267X12)

* The Washington Committee to Lift Spanish Embargo was cited as a communist front in the 1948 report of the California Committee on Un-American Activities.

JOHN ERNST STEINBECK

In 1950 a confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past and who was an admitted member of the Communist Party until 1945 advised that Carey McWilliams was the author of the book "Factories in the Field" published in 1939, which book was the foundation of John Steinbeck's book captioned "Grapes of Wrath." The informant advised that when this book was published he had received information from Communist Party leaders that McWilliams was under communist discipline. The informant stated that this information had a great deal to do with the way the book was handled as well as Steinbeck's book, because McWilliams at that time was supposedly making a communist of Steinbeck. (Louis Budenz, concealed 400; 100-998-77)

A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised in 1940 that the Committee to Aid Agricultural Workers was organized under the leadership of John Steinbeck, the author of "Grapes of Wrath," and that Steinbeck was chairman of the Committee. The informant stated that the Committee had the support of many prominent people in California and that in the informant's opinion, they were all people who had been active in behalf of communist united front organizations. [REDACTED] 100-3-23-16)

A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised in 1941 that the name of John Steinbeck, Route 1, Box 95D, Los Gratos, California, appeared in the active indices of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties. [REDACTED] 100-1170-49)

A representative of another Government agency advised in 1944 that various pieces of literature published in Russia, including daily newspapers from Moscow, Russia, had arrived in the United States during 1942 and part of 1943. The informant advised that some of this material was addressed to John Steinbeck in care of Elizabeth R. Otis, 18 East 41st Street, New York, New York. [REDACTED] of ONI; 65-1674-809)

The United States Office of Censorship advised by letter dated July 4, 1944, that John Steinbeck, 18 East 41st Street, New York City, had received the February 12, year not given, issue of the "Moscow News," a newspaper published in Russia. (65-49005-81)

The report of the Special Committee on Un-American Activities of the United States House of Representatives,

JOHN ERNST STEINBECK

published on March 29, 1944, and captioned "Investigation of Un-American Propaganda Activities in the United States" on Page 101 contained the following: "The National Maritime Union of America, . . . has toed the Communist Party line through all its changes in recent years. (57-407-424)

"These ships of the American Merchant Marine are being supplied with libraries for the seamen to read while at sea . . . John Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath" is naturally present, as it would be in any Communists' selection. . ."

b1 [REDACTED] (S)

[REDACTED] (S)

* [REDACTED] (S)

91

JOHN ERNST STEINBECK

b1



A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised in May, 1945, that the American Youth for Democracy in a list captioned "Recommended Reading List for A.Y.D." contained the book entitled "The Moon is Down" by John Steinbeck. (S) [redacted] 786 Broad Street, Newark, N.J.; 61-777-3-60)

The American Youth for Democracy has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised in 1945 that letters had been prepared to be sent to John Steinbeck, among others, requesting that he prepare a testimonial to the valiant Spanish exiles and the work of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee. The letter requested a 75-word statement be prepared to be made a part of a leaflet and with an attached photograph it was hoped that such statements would enlist the widest possible mass support for the campaign. (Highly confidential source; 100-7061-923)

The Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised in April, 1946, that the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship was planning to give a reception on May 5, 1946, in New York City in honor of three visiting Soviet literary figures. The informant advised that one of the persons indicated to receive an invitation to the reception was John Steinbeck, the novelist. [redacted] 100-146964-796)

The National Council of American-Soviet Friendship has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

"The New York Times" on February 21, 1946, contained an article reflecting the formation of a cooperative publishing concern under the name of the Associated Magazine Contributors,

JOHN ERNST STEINBECK

Incorporated. The article set forth the initial list of owner-contributors, which included the name of John Steinbeck. (123-11674-13)

The 1948 report of the California Committee on Un-American Activities reflected that in addition to completely communist-controlled and dominated publications there was also a long list of Trade Union, racial, minority, liberal and special interests publications into which communists had infiltrated. The report reflected that the communist influence was established through such news services as the Associated Magazine Contributors, Incorporated, and others. (100-15252-39 - pg 39)



b1

(S)

The October 24, 1947, "Daily Worker," an east coast communist newspaper, published an article captioned "Found Soviets Eager for Peace, Capa, Steinbeck Tell Trib Forum." This article indicated that Capa read a joint report by himself and John Steinbeck at the Herald Tribune Forum. This report purportedly stated that the Russian people were destroyed and hurt much more than any others that they, Capa and Steinbeck, had seen during their many years on the battle fields. The report further indicated that the Russian masses would strongly approve the halt of the "vicious and insane games" of recrimination between Russia and the U.S. It was indicated that the Russians were particularly interested in hearing about "the persecution of liberals" in America. (100-106224)

The "Daily Worker" on April 16, 1948, contained a book review of John Steinbeck's "A Russian Journal," which was described as being a book containing photographs by Robert Capa, which had been published by the Viking Press in New York, New York. The article reflected "John Steinbeck's warm sympathy for people, as evidenced in his 'A Russian Journal,' (published today) is the one positive feature of an account of a visit to the Soviet Union which is otherwise overrun with frivolous provincialism and a coy disinclination to face political realities. . . ."

JOHN ERNST STEINBECK

"What is one to say of a writer to whom the distinctive characteristic of American capitalist society is that it provides a government of 'checks and balances'? Or of the malivets which has it that 'our government is designed to keep anyone from getting too much power or, having got it, from keeping it'? And, 'we agreed,' Steinbeck writes solemnly, 'that this makes our country function more slowly, but that it certainly makes it function more surely...'

"One could go on quoting Steinbeck, but what for? A Russian Journal is much more enlightening about the kind of culture which develops such intellectual Sad Sackery than about the Soviet Union..."

The "New Leader," a weekly magazine, on August 21, 1949, contained an article captioned "Steinbeck Sans Wrath," which was a book review of "A Russian Journal," which was written by Steinbeck and contained pictures by Robert Capa. The article reflected that "Mr. Steinbeck has joined the fraternity of vodka visitors. For three weeks he toured the Soviet Union under the subtle guidance of VOKS, the government agency for 'cultural liaison,'..." The article reflected he had attended the "celebration of the 800th anniversary of Moscow with Louis Aragon, the French Stalinist writer" and had visited the country home of "such Soviet millionaires as Alexander Korneichuk - and concludes that the Russians have plenty to eat; he even states that the quality of Russian clothing improved during the few weeks he spent in Russia..."

The article further reflected "most startling, perhaps, is Steinbeck's own attitude toward the Soviet Union. His book is full of what Koestler would call false equations. When Capa is stopped from taking pictures at a lend-leased tractor plant in Stalingrad, Steinbeck reminds us that foreigners may not photograph Oak Ridge either. In his mind 'Moscomitis' and 'Washingtonitis' cancel each other out. When he admits that the collective farm he was shown put on a big show for him, he insists that 'any Kansas farmer' would do the same for his guests..."

"Steinbeck used to be known as a man with a strong social conscience. The Grapes of Wrath and Tortilla Flat were full of righteous moral indignation about social and economic injustice. In The Moon is Down Steinbeck made a heated if somewhat pedestrian

JOHN ERNST STEINBECK

attack on totalitarian aggression and conquest. Those were the days when Steinbeck could be counted upon to stand up and wield his pen in behalf of democracy and freedom. Even today had he gone to Spain or China, he would surely not have come back to write a book in order to demonstrate that the 'Chinese people want good lives and comfort' or that 'the Spaniards like peace.' "

A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised in 1948 that the firm of World Video, Incorporated, was chartered in New York State on December 18, 1947, and that the firm prepared television programs. The officers of the firm include John Steinbeck as vice president and Robert Capa as assistant vice president. [REDACTED] b7.
NYC; 100-340922-111)

b1, b3
per
CIA

[REDACTED]

The "New York Herald-Tribune" of May 18, 1948, contained an article captioned "Women's Rally in Rome Hears Russia Praised." The article, which was datelined Rome, May 17, reflected that the meeting was that of the Democratic Women's International Federation, whose aim was to fight "American, British and French imperialists and warmongers." The article reflected that the chief American delegate, Mrs. Muriel Draper, chairman of the women's section of the American National Committee for American-Soviet Friendship mentioned several persons converted to "the camp of war and anti-Sovietism," which included John Steinbeck.

X
The "Los Angeles Examiner," a daily newspaper published in Los Angeles, California, on June 11, 1948, contained an article reflecting that Ring Lardner, Jr., had signed a contract with John Steinbeck and others to write a film version of Steinbeck's story "Pastures of Heaven." The article reflected this was the first Hollywood employment given "any of the 'un-friendly ten' since their refusal to answer the Communist question in Washington last fall." (100-295885-11)

The "Daily Worker" on April 1, 1955, contained an article captioned "John Steinbeck Takes a Look at Matusow and

JOHN ERNST STEINBECK

'Death of a Racket.' " The article was a review of an article by Steinbeck which appeared in the April 2, 1955, issue of "Saturday Review." The article reflected that Steinbeck's article captioned "Death of a Racket" was based on the book "False Witness" written by Harvey Matusow. Steinbeck's article reportedly stated:

"The Matusow testimony to anyone who will listen places a bouquet of forget-me-nots on the grave of McCarthy. The ridiculousness of the whole series of investigations now becomes apparent, even to what a friend of mine used to call peanut-munchers. Matusow will have a much greater effect than he knows. What follows cannot be worse and may be better. It will surely be funny."

The "Daily Worker" article continues, "It is impossible not to be moved by this kind of statement of an angered scorn which, if the record is to be kept straight, itself participated in, and helped to create, that very climate, those same 'winds of the time' as Steinbeck puts it, 'when certain basic nonsense was allowed to pass unnoticed.' For Steinbeck was taken in tow by the Cold War leadership to such an extent that he did not scruple even to lend the authority of his literary achievement to State Department broadcasts in fascist Spain, Italy, Vienna, etc."

The article continued "Steinbeck's contempt for the 'certain basic nonsense' which was believed under the influence of the Cold War hysteria does not lead him to a rejection of the Big Lie about the working-class Communist Party. He still says that the Communists approve of 'the climate of disunity and suspicion which has haunted us for the last few years,' and that Communists 'would much rather keep the investigations going with their harvest of fear and disruption.' . . . It suffices that John Steinbeck has expressed sentiments which a literary artist with a sense of responsibility for his nation cannot long silence without crushing his talent. . . ." (100-374988-A)

For additional information concerning Steinbeck you may desire to contact the Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, of the United States Army and the Department of State.

The above information is furnished to you as a result of your request for a name check and should not be construed as a clearance or nonclearance of captioned individual. The information is furnished for your use and should not be disseminated outside of your agency.

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JOHN ERNST STEINBECK

NOTE:

Steinbeck never investigated by Bureau. Steinbeck sent letter to Attorney General Biddle in 1942 which contained "Do you suppose you could ask Edgar's boys to stop stepping on my heels? They think I'm an enemy alien. Its getting tiresome." The AG was advised on 5/21/42 that Steinbeck was not being and had never been investigated.

The Attorney General's office telephonically requested the Bureau's file on Steinbeck on 10/27/42 and was advised only information available was two pamphlets. G-2 investigated Steinbeck in 1943 and it was recommended Steinbeck not be given Army Commission. (100-106224)

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THESE DAYS:

Steinbeck's List Proves Nothing

By **GEORGE E. SOKOLSKY**

JOHN STEINBECK, who writes novels and things, has compiled a list of those who could not enter the United States under its present laws. He says that it is not a joke and, of course, as it is published in the erudite "Saturday Review," it cannot possibly be a joke, but it does seem to be a futile occupation for so noble a mind. After all, every country determines who is to be admitted to it, just as every well-ordered household decides what kind of persons it wants to invite to dinner.

I shall take the first five names on Steinbeck's list as an example of his thinking and because the entire list would add nothing to the reader's knowledge, except perhaps to wonder at Steinbeck's logic:

NAME	CHARGE
ADAM	Morals
CAIN	Murder
NOAH	Alcoholism, cruelty to animals
SAUL	Assault with intent to kill
DAVID	Revolution"

Of course, John Steinbeck has a perfect right to understand the book of Genesis, in the Bible, as he chooses, in whatever language he has learned to read it. However, if he accepts the theories of the Hebrews on the subject of Adam, that progenitor of the human race bears no moral stigma, except the Fall which made us humans instead of angels, seraphim and other disembodied spirits. So, Steinbeck's trouble is not that he does not understand a Semitic folk-tale, but its mystical meaning is beyond him altogether.

As for Cain, naturally we should keep him out. A man who kills his brother is undesirable in any society. Would Steinbeck have him admitted? Would he build an arch of triumph for him? I saw a preview of Leo McCarey's picture, "An Affair to Remember," and I could not help thinking that these are perfectly normal, healthy human beings—nothing dirty about a one of them. Does John Steinbeck object to such a picture? Must we welcome murderers to our company to please Steinbeck?

Teaches Respect for Parents

His next objectionable character is Noah, who built the Ark. The story of Noah is particularly significant in Hebrew folklore because it teaches respect for parents. Noah liked his wine and he lay asleep, uncovered and improperly exposed. Shem covered the shame of his father with respectful delicacy. Perhaps Steinbeck does not, in this age of sophisticated ignorance, grasp the beauty of this tale, or even know of it.

- Tolson _____
- Nichols _____
- Boardman _____
- Mohr _____
- Parsons _____
- Rosen _____
- Tamm _____
- Trotter _____
- Nease _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holloman _____
- Gandy _____

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BAIRD BRONER

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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
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46 JUN 12 1957

- Wash. Post and Times Herald _____
- Wash. News _____
- Wash. Star _____
- N. Y. Herald Tribune _____
- N. Y. Journal-American 14
- N. Y. Mirror _____
- N. Y. Daily News _____
- N. Y. Times _____
- Daily Worker _____
- The Worker _____
- New Leader _____

Date JUN 10 1957

63 JUN 12 1957

So we come to Saul, having skipped ~~over many~~ Biblical characters that Steinbeck might have used if he knew of them, for instance, Lot and his wife, and all the progenitors of the Semitic peoples who were polygamists and each had several wives which was not prohibited by local law or custom. Saul was a king at a time when kings ruled autocratically and when a king had power of life and death over his subjects. The Hebrews, however, had a control over the kings, namely that there were prophets, holy men who were regarded by the people as being the voice of God. Saul was bawled out by a prophet when his conduct became too oppressive. After all, if we admitted King Saud, a descendant of Ishmael, probably way back an Edomite, and housed him in Blair House as a guest of the nation, we would surely have admitted Saul. The precedents are against Steinbeck. Also we admitted Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, a descendant of David by way of Solomon and the Queen of Sheba.

No, he objects to David as a revolutionist, which David was not at all because he was obeying the will of God, which cannot be said of Lenin or Trotsky who denied God. David killed Goliath and saved his people which was a very proper thing to do then as now. Thereupon David and the King's son, Jonathan, became pals. But it was the Lord's intent that David should rule and it is so clearly stated. And one reason was that David was a very holy man who wrote many psalms, some of which have come down to us to this day and which are read at all Jewish and Christian religious services.

It is perfectly clear that of John Steinbeck's first five, four could have come into the United States and would have been received either by President Eisenhower or John Foster Dulles. The fifth, who killed his brother, Steinbeck can keep for himself.

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

- Tolson _____
- Boardman _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Parsons _____
- Rosen _____
- Tamm _____
- Trotter _____
- Nease _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holloman _____
- Gandy _____

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W.C. Sullivan
Q

These Days By George E. Sokolsky

What Does It Prove?

A13

JOHN STEINBECK, who writes novels and things, has compiled a list of those who could not enter the United States under its present laws. He says that it is not a joke and of course, as it is published in the erudite "Saturday Review," it cannot possibly be a joke, but it does seem to be a futile occupation for so noble a mind. After all, every country determines who is to be admitted to it, just as every well-ordered household decides what kind of persons it wants to invite to dinner.



Sokolsky

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- Wash. Post and Times Herald A13
- Wash. News _____
- Wash. Star _____
- N. Y. Herald Tribune _____
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- N. Y. Mirror _____
- N. Y. Daily News _____
- N. Y. Times _____
- Daily Worker _____
- The Worker _____
- New Leader _____

Date JUN 10 1957

63 JUN 13 1957

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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

MAILED
DEC 2 1958
NAME CHECK

RA

John E. Steinbeck

December 1, 1958

JOHN E. STEINBECK *Sullivan 465214*
Born: February 27, 1902
Salinas, California

You are referred to our memorandum dated
March 1, 1954, concerning the captioned individual.

~~(62-60527-37567)~~

The April 1, 1955, issue of the "Daily
Worker" and the April 7, 1955 issue of the "People's
World" carried articles relating to a review by John
Steinbeck of Matusow's "False Witness" which originally
appeared in the April 2 issue of the "Saturday Review
of Literature." In the article captioned "Death of a
Racket," Steinbeck speaks with "harsh contempt" of the
"Anti-Communist Hired Informer." (100-375988-A Daily Worker 4/1/55)

The "Daily Worker" was an east coast communist
newspaper which suspended publication on January 13, 1958.
The "Daily People's World" has been cited by the Special
Committee on Un-American Activities, House Report 1311, dated
March 29, 1944 as "the official organ of the Communist
Party on the west coast." *do*

The foregoing information is furnished to
you as a result of your request for an FBI file check and
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of the individual involved. This information is loaned
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Orig and one to USIA
Req rec'd: 11/18/58
B? V. Gronquist/ckb
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- Tele. Room _____
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- Gandy _____

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11-28
11-19, 1958

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 Service Unit - Room 6524
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 Return to [REDACTED] Supervisor Room Ext. Call 11/16

Type of References Requested:

Regular Request (Analytical Search)
 All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
 Subversive References Only
 Nonsubversive References Only
 Main _____ References Only

Type of Search Requested:

Restricted to Locality of _____
 Exact Name Only (On the Nose)
 Buildup Variations
 Check for Alphabetical Loyalty Form

Subject Steinbeck John E.
 Birthdate & Place _____
 Address _____

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Localities

R# (97) Date 11-19 Searcher Initials 876
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Udd from 100-106224-9 Sum 3-27-57
John Ernest (du)
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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

September 13, 1961

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Malone	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Ingram	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

Mr. DeLoach:

RE: MENTION OF FBI IN THE BOOK
"THE WINTER OF OUR DISCONTENT"
BY JOHN STEINBECK

The above book, a recent Literary Guild selection, is a novel laid in the fictitious town of New Baytown, New York, and concerns the problems of a young grocery store clerk whose family had at one time been among the leaders of the community. The book is written in the first-person as though being told by the "hero." At the beginning of the book he describes various persons of the town including one Stonewall Jackson Smith, the Chief of Police, whom he characterizes as being of above average intelligence for the town and who "even took the FBI training at Washington, D. C."

Later in the story, just a weekend before the local elections, the Grand Jury indicts the city manager and other high officials for corruption, etc. Immediately prior to the announcement of the indictments, Chief "Stoney" Smith had made a trip to the State Capitol and in a subsequent conversation between the Chief and the grocer clerk, in which the Chief is clearly suffering from a guilty conscience, it becomes evident that he has been excluded from the indictments because he chose to "turn state's evidence," so to speak, and furnish information against the other town officials.

OBSERVATION

While Steinbeck does not belabor the fact that the Chief of Police is FBI trained, nevertheless a careful reader cannot fail to recall the reference in the initial introduction to the Chief when his behavior concerning the indictments comes up.

By contrast, Steinbeck's references to a Justice Department investigator who appears in the story investigating the illegal entry into the United States of one of the townspeople are of the highest caliber.

RECOMMENDATION

For information.

1961
ULG:kmd

M. A. Jones

BI 2

RECEIVED
SEP 21 1961
100-106224-11
EX-102
REC-38
SEP 21 1961
M. A. Jones
103

Name Check Unit - Room 6523
 Service Unit - Room 6524
 Forward to File Review
 Attention [REDACTED]
 Return to [REDACTED] 7637
Supervisor Room Ext.

Type of References Requested:

Regular Request (Analytical Search)
 All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
 Subversive References Only
 Nonsubversive References Only
 Main _____ References Only

Type of Search Requested:

Restricted to Locality of Salinas, Calif
 Exact Name Only (On the Nose)
 Buildup Variations
 Check for Alphabetical Loyalty Form

Subject John Ernest Steinbock
 Birthdate & Place _____
 Address _____

Localities add to 100-106224 11/56

R# _____ Date 3/28 Searcher Initials 5211
 FILE NUMBER SERIAL

- 100-106224
- John Ernest (You)
- SI 100-106224-9 (Sum)
- John
- NP 40-47279
- NP 9-4583
- SI 100-106224-8
- SI 100-115040-3 "
- SI 62-60227-37867-
- NP 66-6200-145-88
- NI [REDACTED]
- NP 9-4321-19
- NP 62-74669-9-6
- Steinbock, John, Investigator
- NP 100-339317-11
- Steinbock, One
- NR [REDACTED]
- NR [REDACTED]
- 62-62736-106; 041, 174 Vol 4, p. 24
- NI [REDACTED]

b7c

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____

Steinbeck in Moscow Impressed by Progress

By ART SHIELDS

MOSCOW — America's youth is much concerned with the question of war or peace, said John Steinbeck, in a talk with Soviet journalists.

The author of "Grapes of Wrath" is making his first visit to the USSR since the middle 1940's. He is much impressed with the changes he is seeing.

Steinbeck's novels are popular here. I find them in all the libraries of the factories, farms and ships that I visit.

He was eagerly questioned by two writers for the *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, the youth newspaper, as he was about to begin a travel tour.

Steinbeck was asked whether the present young American writers reminded him of his own first steps in literature.

"I don't think so," he replied. I began to write some decades ago. I was much influenced by the severe economic depression in America at that time. I think that the youth now is more concerned with this issue of war or peace."

He did not think however that they see the way clearly at this time, and he thought the most pronounced feature of American youths is the "concern" and "uneasiness" they have been feeling through the post-war years.

"I think the main cause," he continued, "is the absence of a concrete goal. Absence of a target to which they can dedicate their whole lives."

But Steinbeck is glad that the youths are seeking. They are seeking something different from their present environment, he

said, and their seeking are being expressed by many young writers in America today.

Steinbeck wants his fellow American writers to be "for" not merely "against" something. He noted at one point that some young American writers give too much attention to denouncing everything in the past.

The correspondents wanted to know what Soviet writers were plying that Sholokhov, Ehrenburg and Simonov were best known and liked.

Unfortunately most other Soviet writers have not yet been published in America, he said.

He has been working on a new novel since summer. It will be a long novel that will take another two years. And it will deal with the morals of American society, he stated.

"THE WORKER"
OCTOBER 29, 1963

1cc to CSC
4/25/69

100-106224

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

- The Washington Post and Times Herald _____
- The Washington Daily News _____
- The Evening Star _____
- New York Herald Tribune _____
- New York Journal-American _____
- New York Mirror _____
- New York Daily News _____
- New York Post _____
- The New York Times _____
- The Worker P.5 (Midweek)
- The New Leader _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
- The National Observer _____
- People's World _____

Date 10/29/63
100-106224-17
NOT RECORDED
141 NOV 8 1963

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- Deleted under exemption(s) b1, b3 per CIA with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

_____ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

For your information: _____

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
100-106224-12

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Records Branch

2/27 . 19 64

Name Searching Unit - Room 6527
 Service Unit - Room 6524
 Forward to File Review
 Attention
 Return to 61251B Supervisor Room Ext.

Type of References Requested:
 Regular Request (Analytical Search)
 All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
 Subversive References Only
 Nonsubversive References Only
 Main References Only

Type of Search Requested?
 Restricted to Locality of _____
 Exact Name Only (On the Nose)
 Buildup Variations

67c Wtd Ser 1957
 Subject John Ernest Steinbeck
 Birthdate & Place _____
 Address _____

Localities _____
 Re _____ Date 2/27 Searcher Initials 527
 Prod. _____

	FILE NUMBER	SERIAL
	MF 100-106224	2
	MF 100-106224-	9 (Ser 3/27/57)
	MF 100-106224-	9 (Ser 3/10/54)
67c	100-115040-3	(Ser 3/10/54)
	John Ernest Steinbeck	
	MF 100-106224-	9 (Ser 3/14/52)
	John E. Steinbeck	
	MF 100-106224-10	(Ser 12/1/54)
	John Steinbeck	
	65-67235-152	up 6
	65-34794-239	up 4
	100-39548-276	up 15
	105-81470-7	
	105-62469-14	up 17
	138-450-40	up 8 A
	410-47279	
	MF 100-106224-8	7 (Ser 3/1/54)
		8 (Ser 10/21/54)
	(Ser 2/1/54 - returned)	

REC-19

100-106224-12

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

March 4, 1964

EX-115

JOHN ERNST STEINBECK Summary
Born: February 27, 1902
Salinas, California

original copy furnished 3/6/64 WTB

A review of FBI files reveals the following information which may pertain to captioned individual.

Enclosed is a copy of an article appearing on page five of the "Worker" midweek edition dated October 29, 1963, captioned "Steinbeck in Moscow Impressed by Progress."

The "Worker" is an East Coast communist publication.

Your attention is directed to the following reports and memoranda which have been sent to your agency;

1. Memorandum dated April 12, 1957, captioned "John Ernst Steinbeck" sent April 15, 1957.
2. Report dated August 24, 1959, by SAA [redacted] at New York captioned "Bulgarian Funds, New York Division" sent August 31, 1959.
3. Memorandum dated May 26, 1960, Chicago, Illinois, captioned [redacted] Internal Security-PO" sent June 8, 1960.
4. Report dated February 14, 1964, at New York, by SA [redacted] captioned "Russky Golos Publishing Company."

b7c

(100-106224-10, 65-34794-239, 105-81470-7, 100-39588-276)

Enclosure

Original & 1-CIA
Request Received-2-27-64

*GHS
DML*

JSP:bss

(4) This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI, and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency. This is in answer to your request for a check of FBI files.

64 MAR 13 1964

Memorandum

Belmont	✓
Mohr	✓
DeLoach	✓
Casper	✓
Callahan	✓
Conrad	✓
Felt	✓
Gale	✓
Rosen	✓
Sullivan	✓
Tavel	✓
Trotter	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Holmes	✓
Gandy	✓

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 7-20-65

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: JOHN ERNST STEINBECK

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

per Army letter dtd
8-2-78
DECLASSIFIED BY 2333
ON 1-22-79 G-44/bia

In response to Mr. Tolson's request, the following data is being set out as a result of a check of our files on captioned individual.

JOHN ERNST Steinbeck
Mr. Steinbeck was born at Salinas, California, on February 27, 1902. He was a student at Stanford University for five years but did not graduate. He married Carol Henning in 1930 and was divorced from her in March, 1943. He married Gwyn Conger on March 29, 1943, and Elaine Scott on December 28, 1950. He has been the author of a number of books and was awarded the Pulitzer prize in 1940. He was also employed as a war correspondent and as a writer for the "New York Herald Tribune" during 1943, 1944, 1947 and 1948.

Although he has never been investigated by the FBI, he wrote Attorney General Biddle in May, 1942, as follows: "Do you suppose you could ask Edgar's boys to stop stepping on my heels? They think I am an enemy alien. It is getting tiresome."

Army Intelligence (G-2) investigated Steinbeck during 1943 to determine suitability to hold commission in Army, but was recommended unfavorably. Carol Steinbeck (first wife, divorced 1943), registered as a Communist in California in 1938 to see reaction it would cause. Steinbeck opposed his wife's action, and he was registered as a Democrat. (X)(u) Per Army

Steinbeck reportedly associated with communists during early days of his writings, 1936-1941, to gather material for books but was not interested in advancing the cause of the Party. Many of his writings, including "Grapes of Wrath," 1939, were about poverty-stricken migrant workers and portrayed the sordid side of American life. Due to the nature of his writings they were translated into foreign languages and widely distributed by enemies of the United States (both Nazis and Soviets), as examples of life in the United States even though the communists were reportedly at odds with him as they did not feel he adequately portrayed American communists or life in Russia.

1 - Mr. Tolson

1 - Mr. DeLoach

REC-40 100-106224-13

JCF:jol
(6)

50 JUL 28 1965

JUL 23 1965

CRIME RESEARCH

CLASSIFIED BY
EXEMPT FROM GDS, CATEGORY 2
DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE

M. A. Jones to DeLoach
RE: JOHN ERNST STEINBECK

He has been connected to a limited extent with various organizations and publications that have been cited by the Department, the House Committee on Un-American Activities or state legislative committees during the period 1936-1946. Some of these organizations included the following: the Western Writers Congress (1936); the League of American Writers (1939); the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties (1941) and the Simon T. Lubin Society, Inc. (1938). In 1938, he organized and served as chairman of the John Steinbeck Committee to Aid Agricultural Workers which was widely supported by communists. Among Communist Party members reportedly attempting to make a communist out of Steinbeck (1937-1940) were Ella Winter, California Communist Party functionary, and Carey McWilliams described by Budenz as under communist discipline.

(100-115040)

The "New York Herald Tribune" of May 18, 1948, contained an article concerning a meeting in Rome, Italy, of the Democratic Women's International Federation whose aim was to fight "American, British and French imperialists and warmongers." At this meeting, John Steinbeck was publicly criticized as one of several persons who had been converted to "the camp of war and anti-Sovietism."

The 4-1-55 issue of the "Daily Worker" contained a review of an article Steinbeck had prepared concerning the book, "False Witness," written by Harvey Matusow in which Steinbeck criticized Matusow's testimony. The "Daily Worker" article was critical of Steinbeck on this occasion because he had asserted that the communists were also responsible for the climate of disunity and suspicion throughout the world during this period.

In 1959, a reliable source advised the FBI that John Steinbeck was on the mailing list of the Japan Council Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs. Another reliable source has described this organization as a communist-infiltrated organization in Japan.

In April, 1964, a reliable source advised the FBI that on March 12, 1964, John Ernest Steinbeck had received the sum of \$420 as an author's fee from the Soviet publication, "Novyi Mir." (62-5-19610)

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

V.

JAM.

TB

SECRET

March 18, 1968

BY LIAISON

Mrs. Mildred Stegall
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

Reference is made to your name check request for a review of FBI files concerning the following individuals subsequent to the date of the previous name check request as noted following each name.

[REDACTED]

John Ernest Steinhilber

May 10, 1964

[REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED BY [REDACTED]
EXEMPT FROM GDS, CATEGORY 3
DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE

[REDACTED]

ORIGINAL FILED IN 62-5-30576

Delivered to Mildred Stegall
on 3-18-68
67c

- Tolson
- DeLoach
- Mohr
- Bishop
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- Felt
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

ENCLOSURE

1 - Mr. DeLoach (sent direct)

1 - Mr. Gale (sent direct)

ENCLOSURE

66 MAR 17 1968

REC-74

100-106223-14

NOT RECORDED

126 MAR 21 1968

See note next page.

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

RB

Mrs. Mildred Stegall

~~SECRET~~

b1
b7c

[REDACTED] (S)

The files of the Identification Division were checked and found to contain no additional pertinent data concerning the above individuals.

A copy of this communication has not been sent to the Attorney General.

Sincerely yours,

b7c NOTE: Our files reflect that the final results of our name check concerning [REDACTED] was sent by memorandum dated 9-12-63, rather than 9-4-63. The additional information was developed subsequent to the prior summary memorandum furnished in 1963.

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

May 20, 1964

CLASS. & EXT. BY 3908 11-29-79
REASON-FOUO VI. 1-2.4.2
DATE 11/29/89

~~SECRET~~
JOHN ERNST STEINBECK- Summary

John Ernst Steinbeck has never been the subject of investigation by the FBI.

Mr. Steinbeck was born at Salinas, California, on February 27, 1902. He was a student at Stanford University for five years but did not graduate. He married Carol Henning in 1930 and was divorced from her in March, 1943. He married Gwyn Conger on March 20, 1943, and Elaine Scott on December 23, 1950. He has been the author of a number of books and was awarded the Pulitzer prize in 1949. He was also employed as a war correspondent and as a writer for the "New York Herald Tribune" during 1945, 1946, 1947 and 1948.

According to the annual report of the House of Representatives Committee on Un-American Activities published in 1939, during the Fall of 1936 a group of liberal and communist writers issued a call for a conference to be held in San Francisco, California, on November 13, 1936, under the auspices of the Western Writers' Congress. The report indicated that one of the sponsors of this Congress was John Steinbeck. A reliable informant of the FBI advised in 1948 that John Steinbeck was one of the writers who attended the Western Writers' Congress in 1936. In 1944, this Congress was described by the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HCUA) as a communist front.

According to a reliable informant of the FBI, Sam Darcy, in 1937, indicated to Ella Winter that he was pleased to hear about "Steinbeck's new book." Darcy commented that Steinbeck could write and with the education "I am told you and our friends have been giving him, he ought to make the grade better than he did in his early book." The informant furnished no additional information to identify the Steinbeck mentioned, and it is not known if this person is identical

John Ernst Steinbeck.

CLASSIFIED BY 1229
EXEMPT FROM GDS, CATEGORY 3
DATE OF RECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE 10/15/88

- Tolson _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- DeLoach _____
- Evans _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

CJH:smg/ear
(10)

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

SECRET

ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE

100-106224-14

19670

b7c [REDACTED]

A pamphlet entitled "Their Blood Is Strong" by John Steinbeck was published in April, 1933, by the Simon J. Lubin Society of California, Incorporated (SJLSCI). This pamphlet consisted of material which Steinbeck had published elsewhere and which had been reprinted in pamphlet form with Steinbeck's permission. The California Committee on Un-American Activities (CCUA) in its report published in 1943 described the SJLSCI as a communist front for California agrarian penetration.

A pamphlet captioned "Writers Take Sides" was published by the League of American Writers (LAW), New York, New York, in May, 1939, and was described as containing letters about the war in Spain from 416 American authors. On Page 56 of this pamphlet there appeared a letter from John Steinbeck. The "Daily Worker," an East coast communist newspaper, on April 25, 1939, contained an article noting that 30 prominent writers, including John Steinbeck, had made public a letter urging support of the Federal Arts Project and indicating that the individuals were acting on their behalf as well as on the behalf of the LAW. The article noted that one of the vice presidents of the organization was John Steinbeck.

The records of the Department of State, State of New York, in 1941 reflected a certificate of incorporation was filed in 1939 for the LAW. John Steinbeck, of Los Angeles, California, was one of the directors who was appointed to act until the first annual meeting of the corporation.

The LAW has been cited as subversive pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

The report of the hearings before a subcommittee of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the United States Senate, 81st Congress, on Page 1504, contained information attributed to "The New York Times" of January 31, 1939, which consisted of an open letter urging that the embargo against Spain be lifted. John Steinbeck appeared as one of the persons urging that the Spanish embargo be lifted, and it was indicated that the organization sponsoring the plea was the Washington Committee to Lift Spanish Embargo. This organization was cited as a communist front in the 1943 report of the CCUA.

In 1950, a reliable informant of the FBI advised that Carey McWilliams was the author of the book, "Factories in the Field," published in 1939, which was the foundation of John Steinbeck's book, "Grapes of Wrath." According to the informant, McWilliams was under communist discipline and this had a great deal to do with the way this book was handled as well as Steinbeck's book because McWilliams at that time was supposedly making a communist out of Steinbeck.

In 1940, a reliable informant of the FBI advised that the Committee To Aid Agricultural Workers was organized under the leadership of John Steinbeck, and it had the support of many prominent people in California. In the informant's opinion, they were all people who had been active in behalf of "communist united front organizations."

In 1941, a reliable source advised the FBI that the name of John Steinbeck, Los Gatos, California, appeared in the active indices of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties. This organization has been cited as subversive pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

In 1944, the records of the Office of Naval Intelligence indicated that one John Steinbeck, New York, New York, had received literature and daily newspapers from Moscow, Russia, during 1942 and 1943. The United States Office of Censorship advised in 1944 that this same John Steinbeck had received a copy of the "Moscow News," a newspaper published in Russia.

The report of the House of Representatives Committee on Un-American Activities, published on March 23, 1944, described The National Maritime Union of America as having "toed the Communist Party line through all its changes in recent years." The report continued, "These ships of the American Merchant Marine are being supplied with libraries for the seamen to read while at sea... John Steinbeck's 'Grapes of Wrath' is naturally present, as it would be in any Communists' selection."

[REDACTED]

b1

(100-106224-9) (S)

[REDACTED]

b1
b7c

(100-145-365-71) (S)

A reliable informant of the FBI advised in May, 1945, that the American Youth for Democracy, an organization which has been cited as subversive within the purview of Executive Order 10450, issued a list of recommended reading which contained the book entitled "The Moon is Down" by John Steinbeck.

In 1945, a reliable informant of the FBI advised that letters had been prepared to be sent to John Steinbeck, among others, requesting that he prepare a testimonial to the "valliant Spanish exiles and the work of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee." This organization has been cited as subversive within the purview of Executive Order 10450.

A reliable source, in April, 1946, advised the FBI that the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship in New York City was planning to give a reception in New York City in honor of three visiting Soviet literary figures. According to the informant, John Steinbeck was indicated to be one of those persons who would receive an invitation to attend this reception.

"The New York Times," on February 21, 1946, described the formation of a cooperative publishing concern under the name of the Associated Magazine Contributors, Incorporated. The article set forth the initial list of owner-contributors, which included the name of John Steinbeck. The 1946 report of the CCUA discussed communist infiltration of various publications. The report reflected that communist influence was established through such news services as the Associated Magazine Contributors, Incorporated, and others.

b1 [REDACTED] (S)

The October 24, 1947, issue of the "Daily Worker" contained an article concerning a report which had been read at the Herald Tribune Forum. John Steinbeck was coauthor of this report. The report expressed sympathy for the sufferings of the Russian people during the war and indicated that the Russian masses would strongly approve the halt of the "vicious and insane games" of recrimination between Russia and the United States.

The "Daily Worker" on April 16, 1948, contained a book review of John Steinbeck's "A Russian Journal." The article stated, "John Steinbeck's warm sympathy for people, as evidenced in his 'A Russian Journal,' (published today) is the one positive feature of an account of a visit to the Soviet Union which is otherwise overrun with frivolous provincialism and a coy disinclination to face political realities."

This article continued to criticize Steinbeck for his favorable references to the American form of government, including his statements that "our government is designed to keep anyone from getting too much power or, having got it, from keeping it," and "we agreed that this makes our country function more slowly, but that it certainly makes it function more surely."

The "New Leader," a weekly magazine, on August 21, 1948, also reviewed Steinbeck's "A Russian Journal" and criticized Steinbeck as a Soviet apologist. The article indicated that Steinbeck had visited the homes of millionaires and implied that from this Steinbeck had concluded that the Russians have plenty to eat and that the quality of Russian clothing had improved. The article noted that Steinbeck constantly made excuses for the Russians, and it pointed out that when he admitted that a collective farm had put on a big show for him, he also insisted that "any Kansas farmer" would do the same for his guests.

The "New York Herald Tribune" of May 18, 1948, contained an article concerning a meeting in Rome, Italy, of the Democratic Women's International Federation whose aim was to fight "American, British and French imperialists and warmongers." At this meeting, John Steinbeck was publicly criticized as one of several persons who had been converted to "the camp of war and anti-Sovietism."

The "Los Angeles Examiner," on June 11, 1948, contained an article reflecting that Ring Lardner, Jr., had signed a contract with John Steinbeck and others to write a film version of Steinbeck's story, "Pastures of Heaven." The article reflected that this was the first Hollywood employment given "any of the 'un-friendly ten' since their refusal to answer the communist question in Washington last fall."

The "Daily Worker," on April 1, 1955, contained an article, "John Steinbeck Takes a Look at Matusow and 'Death of a Locket.'" The article was a review of an article Steinbeck had prepared concerning the book, "False Witness," written by Harvey Matusow. The Steinbeck article was obviously critical of Matusow and stated that as a result of Matusow's testimony, the "ridiculousness of the whole series of the investigations now becomes apparent." The "Daily Worker" article was critical of Steinbeck, especially when he asserted that the communists approved of "the climate of disunity and suspicion which has haunted us for the last few years," and that the communists "would much rather keep the investigations going with their harvest of fear and disruption." (100-106224-9)

~~SECRET~~

In 1959, a reliable source advised the FBI that John Steinbeck was on the mailing list of the Japan Council Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs. Another reliable source has described this organization as a communist infiltrated organization in Japan. (105-62469-14)

In 1959, a reliable source advised the FBI that during July of that year John Steinbeck, in care of McIntosh and Otis, Inc., New York, New York, had been paid the sum of \$192.70 from the New York account of the National Bank of Bulgaria. It was not known to the source if this individual was identical with John Ernst Steinbeck. (65-34794-239)

In April, 1964, a reliable source advised the FBI that on March 12, 1964, John Ernest Steinbeck had received the sum of \$420 as an author's fee from the Soviet publication, "Novyi Mir." (65-28939-3046)

[REDACTED]

(S) b1

~~SECRET~~