

FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS
RELEASE

SUBJECT: Harold Weisberg

Consultation Response

CROSS-REFERENCES

PAGES REVIEWED: 18

PAGES RELEASED: 7

NOTE:

A search of the indices to our central records system at FBI Headquarters revealed cross-references to your subject. A cross-reference is defined as a mention of your subject in a file on another individual, organization, event, activity or the like. In processing cross-references, the pages considered for possible release include only those pages which mention your subject and any additional pages showing the context in which your subject is mentioned. When such a page also contains information about another subject matter, the information "outside the scope" of the request is marked with "o/s" in the margin and bracketed. Whenever possible, the o/s material is released; however, it is withheld if consultation with another government agency would be required or if it is otherwise exempt from disclosure. For your information, the exemptions that apply to the material had it been within the scope of your request has also been noted on the document.

Harold Weisberg

INFORMATION IN MDW REPORT DATED MAY 6, 1949

The MDW report states that surveillance reflects that Howard Weisberg "reliably reported to be an avowed Communist; Member of the Washington Co-operative Bookshop (cited by the U. S. Attorney General Biddle as a Communist front organization)," was acquainted with [redacted]. The MDW report also sets forth the following information from a confidential informant: "Confidential Informant WVI-28, who is considered highly reliable, expressed the opinion that subject was probably a Communist. This opinion was based on subject's past employment record and his personal associates. Informant indicated subject had formerly worked for the LaFollette Committee and had also worked with various other Committees of Congress and had been employed by various agencies all of which had been infiltrated with Communists. The LaFollette Committee, for example, had as its editor one Harold Weisberg, who was described by informant as being "avowed Communist and close associate of subject."

OBSERVATIONS:

Bureau files reflect that in March, 1940, Harold Weisberg was interviewed by Bureau Agents and he stated that he was employed by the La Follette Civil Liberties Committee until June, 1939, and thereafter did special research work for the Dies Committee. [redacted] Bureau files reflect that highly confidential sources have advised that Weisberg, while employed with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), was a mutual friend of his fellow employees [redacted]

[redacted] Weisberg was discharged from the State Department on June 23, 1947, under the provisions of of the McCarran Rider to the State Department Appropriations Bill, according to Jack Peurifoy, State Department employee. An article appeared in the Washington Times Herald dated September 21, 1947, entitled "Ousted State Department Aides are Identified." This article listed the name of Harold Weisberg, 2300 Block North Nottingham Street, Arlington, Virginia. An article appeared in the Washington Post dated November 18, 1947, which [redacted] stated that the State Department on the previous date "backed down" on the firing without a trial of the individuals whose loyalty was said to be in question. The article stated that the employees were free to resign with nothing on their records against them. The State Department's position was reversed to avoid any possible injustice.

v.c
Referred to Army
ok to release Army
per letter of 12/8/89

(6)(3): (6)(6) per CIA letter 12/6/89
121-19570-41

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

4 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 per Army with no segregable material available for release to you. letter of 12/2/89

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:

105-134594 Serial 18

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

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

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

6 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 per Army with no segregable material available for release to you. letter of 12/8/89

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:
105-18814 Serial 4149

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

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

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DATE: March 4, 1958

ST. TO : Mr. E. B. [redacted] b7c
FROM : Mr. [redacted] b7c
SUBJECT: [redacted] b7c
ESPIONAGE - B

U17635

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

Deagan

[Large redacted block]

ACTION:

The above information and enclosure are being referred to the attention of the Espionage Section.

(S)(1), (K)(1), (b)(3), (b)(7) per CIA letter 12/6/57

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-19-90 BY SP7mac/TB
277,836

104 cards

Enclosure

REC-457-117

- (5) b7c
- 1 - Mr. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Aull
- 1 - Liaison Section
- 1 - Mr. [redacted]

100-206388-62

105-31942-594

11 MAR 25 1958

Enclosure Behind File

CLASSIFIED

57 APR 15 1958

Cover memo Belmont to Boardman (Encl) 3/18/58
Let to NY (Encl) 3/18/58

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 105-31942-

105-31942-594

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) (J)(1), (K)(1), (b)(3), (b)(1) with no segregable material available for release to you. Per CIA letter 12/6/89

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:
100-206388 Serial 62 enclosure pg 36

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

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

OS
b7c

[REDACTED] U

The Washington Committee for Democratic Action has been declared as an organization coming within the purview of Presidential Order #9835. U

[REDACTED] U

[REDACTED] U

The personnel file of HAROLD WEISBERG was reviewed at the State Department Building, 1734 New York Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. This file shows he first came to the State Department by transfer on July 1, 1946 as a Political Analyst from the Office of Strategic Services where he was a Consultant from January 15, 1945. On March 7, 1947 he was advanced to Research Analyst. He was assigned to the Division of Research for the American Republics. His file showed he resigned on June 23, 1947. His previous Government service was as follows:

1. 1935 - 1936, Department of Agriculture—File Clerk
2. U. S. Senate Office Building as Editor, Investigator and Assistant Secretary of the Subcommittee of Education and Labor from 1937 to 1939.
3. Self-employed from 1939 to 1942 as a Writer of articles on national and international affairs for various national publications.
4. U. S. Army from December, 1942, to November, 1944, when he was honorably discharged.

The file further disclosed his parents, FREDERICK and SARAH WEISBERG, were born in Russia and became naturalized citizens of the United States. The place of naturalization was not shown.

In a letter dated June 16, 1947 he was offered an opportunity to accept an appropriate position in another competitive level. The reason was given as reduction in force. There was nothing to indicate he was disloyal or that the matter leading up to his resignation on June 23, 1947

WFO 121-3454

was based on information concerning subversive activities. The reasons advanced seemingly were founded on the belief of some of his Supervisors that his work was not of a calibre they believed suitable for his rating because he did not have the background or education to properly discharge his duties.

It was noted Mr. WEISBERG worked on a report entitled, "Activities of FRANCO Agents in the Other American Republics, I Argentina."

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7D

OS
b7C

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Washington T-7, a Federal agency that conducts personnel and intelligence investigations, has in its files an investigative report dated April 28, 1947 concerning HAROLD WEISBERG, [REDACTED]. This report disclosed that the United States Senate Disbursing Office showed that WEISBERG was an employee of the La Follette Civil Liberties Committee from September, 1936, to October, 1939, and was discharged for permitting certain information to leak to the press.

Further, the report sets forth that [REDACTED] stated WEISBERG had been dismissed for a breach of trust which involved releasing confidential information to a newspaper. [REDACTED] b7C, b7D said he was quite certain the newspaper in question was the Daily Worker. He advised he could not recommend WEISBERG to the State Department and that, although he had not seen him since 1939, "he considered him to be a 'fellow traveler' at that time."

Washington T-8, an Investigator of another Federal agency that conducts personnel and intelligence investigations, supplied Washington T-7 with similar information to that set forth in the preceding paragraph and,

in addition, said he felt HAROLD WEISBERG had been employed by [redacted] the Labor Non-Partisan League, an organization opposed to the Dies Committee. Further, WEISBERG reportedly promised one DAVID MAYNE, a former Agent of WILLIAM DUDLEY PELLEY of the Silver Shirt Legion of America, one hundred dollars and a Government job if MAYNE would give him certain letters purportedly linking MARTIN DIES with PELLEY and the Silver Shirts.

b7C

According to Washington T-8, [redacted] and WEISBERG reputedly forwarded these letters which WEISBERG obtained from MAYNE to a Congressman who read them into the Congressional Record. The letters were proved later to be fraudulent and were stricken from the Record and MAYNE was prosecuted and given a suspended sentence for forgery. This same informant stated he is of the opinion WEISBERG knew the letters were fraudulent and that there is little doubt in his mind but that "WEISBERG is a Communist or at least a fellow traveler."

b7C

The investigation conducted by Washington T-7 and included in their report dated April 28, 1947 went on to show that WEISBERG formerly had worked for MAURICE HALPERIN and that besides having worked for him, he was also friendly with [redacted] who was dismissed from the State Department on loyalty grounds.

b6, b7C per State Dept letter 4/26/90

As a result of the investigation of HAROLD WEISBERG by Washington T-7 and included in the above-mentioned report, it was recommended that he be removed from the rolls of the State Department.

It was noted in this report that "there were certain individuals who were interviewed during the course of investigation who spoke favorably concerning HAROLD WEISBERG as regards his loyalty but that considerable information was disclosed which reflected unfavorably on his loyalty."

b7D

[redacted]

b7C

[redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

[REDACTED]

u

[REDACTED]

OS
b7D
b2
b7C

u

[REDACTED]

u

[REDACTED]

u

[REDACTED]

u

[REDACTED]

u

Washington T-7 is the confidential investigative files of the State Department, 515 22nd Street, N. W.

u

Washington T-8 is [REDACTED] Investigator for the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

u

b7C

[REDACTED]

u

[REDACTED]

u