

10

Information transmitted for official use and is not to be disseminated outside your agency without the express permission of the U. S. Secret Service.

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE
TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Original to [redacted] [redacted]
[482] [redacted]

ORIGIN Chief's Office OFFICE Washington, D. C. FILE NO. 62-3-2817

TYPE OF CASE	STATUS	TITLE OR CAPTION
White House Supplier	Closed	Harold Weisberg --
INVESTIGATION MADE AT	PERIOD COVERED	White House Supply Source
Hyattstown & College Park, Md. Washington, D. C.	10/11/54 - 12/6/54	
INVESTIGATION MADE BY		
Special Agent [redacted]		
Special Agent [redacted]		

Reference is made to office memorandum from the Chief to [redacted], Washington, D. C., dated October 13, 1954, requesting an investigation of Mr. Harold Weisberg as a possible supplier of poultry for the White House.

A synopsis of the salient facts in this investigation follows, since it was found that a rather lengthy and detailed inquiry was required to cover Mr. Weisberg and his poultry enterprise.

Harold D. Weisberg and his wife, Lillian Stone Weisberg, have resided on a small farm near Hyattstown, Maryland, since 1948 and have been engaged in raising and selling "pheasant chickens." Using the trade name "Cog d'Or," the Weisbergs sell their fowls to a rather limited and exclusive Washington market, catering to embassies, smart restaurants, and socially prominent private families.

Weisberg personally slaughters and freezes his chickens, and two women employees assist him in eviscerating them before they are frozen. Once frozen, the chickens are stored in the Southern States Cooperative lockers at Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Although the Weisberg farm is strewn with debris and is very unkempt looking to the passer-by, the actual processing of the poultry seems to be done in an adequately careful and sanitary manner.

[redacted] Supervisor of the Sanitation Division of Montgomery County, Maryland, reports that abattoir inspection and supervision is not presently in force in Montgomery County, although regulations were drawn in October 1954. Under present rules, the Weisberg farm will not be subject to health and sanitation inspection. However, Act 43, Section 205 of the Maryland Code calls for annual inspection of frozen food plants and this will embrace the Southern States Cooperative at Gaithersburg, Maryland.

DISTRIBUTION	COPIES	REPORT MADE BY	DATE
Chief ✓	Orig &	[redacted]	
Washington	1 cdatt.	APPROVED [redacted]	12/2/54
	1 cc	SPECIAL AGENT [redacted]	12/5/54

- 2 -

[REDACTED] is the plant manager of the Southern States Cooperative at Gaithersburg and will be the man to contact there -- telephone Gaithersburg 190. He has five employees, all of whom have been there three or more years. There are three keys to each locker -- one retained by the renter, one by the plant manager, and a master key also in custody of the plant.

[REDACTED] said he has known Weisberg six years through business dealings and is of the opinion that Weisberg's poultry are of a superior type and are well processed. He knows nothing concerning Weisberg which would label him a security risk.

Mr. Weisberg claims that his chickens are 1/16th pheasant, which allegedly combines the slight taste tang of game birds with the best flavors of the most select domestic breeds of chickens. While dismissing the genealogy of the pheasant chicken as a myth, authorities of the Division of Poultry Husbandry of the University of Maryland have acknowledged that Weisberg's chickens are superb eating and are definitely superior in quality to the run-of-mill fowl.

[Both Mr. and Mrs. Weisberg are former Government employees, and a persistent odium of communistic affiliations followed them throughout most of that employment. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has a comprehensive report on them dated June 29, 1948, and from this, it has been learned that Mrs. Weisberg was a member of at least three communist front organizations and was under constant scrutiny by her employing agency. Mr. Weisberg was allegedly dropped from the LaFollette Senate Investigating Committee in 1939 for leaking news to the Daily Worker and for other questionable conduct. Mr. Weisberg was reputedly a close friend of Vito Marcantonio, the notoriously radical representative from New York City. Mr. Weisberg was also dropped from the State Department in 1947 as a security risk. He describes himself as a "Roosevelt Democrat," but some of his neighbors describe him as a radical and a communist.]

[REDACTED], professor at the University of Maryland, Division of Poultry Husbandry, said Mr. Weisberg is apparently a very intelligent man and if he is selling his chickens with the insistence that they are actually "pheasant" chickens, he is guilty of misrepresentation.

Mr. Weisberg purposely caters to a select market and does not hesitate to publicize the fact that Mrs. John Foster Dulles and other well-known people are among his customers. There is

- 5 -

In addition to a master key which will open all of the lockers at the plant. Mr. Weisberg states that, in most instances, he personally takes his orders from his stock at the food locker and delivers them to his customers in Washington, D. C. However, on certain occasions, he will call [REDACTED] and authorize him to release an order to a customer who comes to the plant personally.

Background of Mr. and Mrs. Weisberg and Their Employees

The names of Mr. and Mrs. Harold D. Weisberg and their three employees, [REDACTED], were submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Subversive and Criminal, and to the House Un-American Activities Committee. No record was returned concerning the three employees. However, the FBI returned a [31-page] report of investigation on the Weisbergs dated [June 29, 1948.] (A copy of this report is transmitted with this report.)

From this report, it has been ascertained that both Mr. and Mrs. Weisberg were former Government employees and each of them, during that time, came under scrutiny and investigation as security risks. Mrs. Weisberg was alleged to be a member of three organizations which have been listed as subversive under Presidential Executive Order 9835. These include the League of Women Shoppers of Washington, the Washington Book Shop, and the Washington Committee for Democratic Action.

Mr. Weisberg was employed in the Civil Liberties Investigative Branch of the LaFollette Senate Committee and was dropped from this Committee in 1939 allegedly for leaking information to the Daily Worker and for improper conduct along subversive lines. Later, Mr. Weisberg, after a brief military service, was employed by the OSS. From there, he entered the State Department in 1945 and was employed by them as a Research Analyst, specializing in Latin American countries, until 1947 when he, with nine others, was dropped as a security risk, having been suspected of communism or communistic sympathies.

When the investigating agents were interviewing Harold D. Weisberg, he voluntarily stated that he was a "Roosevelt Democrat and New Dealer," but did not expand his political opinions otherwise.

[REDACTED], [REDACTED] at the village of Hyattstown, where Mr. Weisberg lives, was interviewed concerning Weisberg and spoke with considerable animosity. He said that Weisberg did not mix well with the local people and was generally regarded as a radical and a communist.

[REDACTED] at Hyattstown, was interviewed and echoed the same opinion of Weisberg, adding