

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FD-204  
(5-7-54)

Commission No. 504

Title: SYLVIA LUDLOW HYDE HOKE, nee Hyde,  
also known as: Mrs. Sylvia Hoke,  
Mrs. John L. Hoke,  
Personnel Research Technician,  
Placement and Employee Relations Division,  
Director of Civilian Personnel, Headquarters,  
Department of the Air Force,  
Washington, D.C.  
SECURITY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Report of: Special Agent Louis J. Brunc, Jr. C

Date and Place: September 21, 1956  
New York, New York

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the FBI, and neither it nor its  
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SECURITY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

New York, New York  
September 21, 1956

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

On \_\_\_\_\_, who was in  
a position to furnish reliable information, advised that  
on \_\_\_\_\_, telephonic contact was made from  
telephone number SSSquahanna 7-7544, which was subscribed  
to at that time by DOROTHY H. WILSON, 40 West 84th Street,  
New York City, to telephone number Taylor 9-0935, Washington,  
D.C., subscribed to by JOHN HOME, Kennedy Street, N.E.,  
New York T-1 furnished no additional information concerning  
the above.

The Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area Telephone  
Directory for July, 1956, listed JOHN L. HOME, 783 Kennedy,  
N.E. with telephone Taylor 9-0935.

The employee's \_\_\_\_\_, which was reviewed  
\_\_\_\_\_, reflects she married JOHN L. HOME on June  
25, 1950, at Columbus, Ohio, and that from February,  
1954, she has resided at 783 Kennedy Street, N.E., Washington,  
D.C.

\_\_\_\_\_, who has furnished reliable information  
in the past, advised in February, 1943, DOROTHY WILSON was  
a member of the North Beach Branch of the Communist Party  
in California and attended her first Party meeting during  
that month.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



SYLVIA LUDLOW HYDE HOKI, nee Hyde,  
also known as: Mrs. Sylvia Hoke,  
Mrs. John L. Hoke,  
Personnel Research Technician,  
Placement and Employee Relations Division,  
Director of Civilian Personnel, Headquarters,  
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SECURITY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

New York, New York  
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a position to furnish reliable information, advised that  
on \_\_\_\_\_, telephonic contact was made from  
telephone number SSSquahanna 7-7544, which was subscribed  
to at that time by DOROTHY H. WILSON, 40 West 84th Street,  
New York City, to telephone number Taylor 9-0905, Washington,  
D.C., subscribed to by JOHN HOKI, Kennedy Street, N.W.  
New York T-1 furnished no additional information concerning  
the above.

The Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area Telephone  
Directory for July, 1956, listed JOHN L. HOKI, 703 Kennedy,  
N.E. with telephone Taylor 9-0905.

The employee's \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ , which was reviewed  
reflects she married JOHN L. HOKI on June  
25, 1950, at Columbus, Ohio, and that from February,  
1954, she has resided at 703 Kennedy Street, N.E., Washington,  
D.C.

\_\_\_\_\_, who has furnished reliable information  
in the past, advised in February, 1948, DOROTHY WILSON was  
a member of the North Beach Branch of the Communist Party  
in California and attended her first Party meeting during  
that month.

The Communist Party has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

[redacted], who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised during 1944 that DOROTHY WILSON, 300 Green Street, San Francisco, California, who formerly resided at 1255 Kearny Street, San Francisco, California, was a subscriber to the "People's World." This same informant later advised in 1944 that DOROTHY WILSON's name was observed on the membership rolls of the North Beach Branch of the Communist Party in March, 1944, and again in August, 1944.

The "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications" dated May 14, 1951, prepared and released by the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. contains the following concerning the "Daily People's World:"

"1. 'The official organ of the Communist Party on the west coast.'  
(Special Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, March 29, 1944, p.95; also cited in Report, January 3, 1941, p.10.)

2. 'West Coast mouthpiece of the Communist Party \* \* \* published by the Pacific Publishing Foundation, Inc., in San Francisco. \* \* \* The San Francisco office is located at 570 Folsom Street and the Los Angeles office is at 206 South Spring Street.'  
(California Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, 1943, p.342.)"

The records of the Voters Registration Bureau, City Hall, San Francisco, California, which were checked in 1944, reflect Miss DOROTHY HAZEL WILSON, 1255 Kearny Street, advised on July 13, 1942, she was a clerk by occupation and was born in New York State. Voters Registration Certificate Number 846797 filed on September 13, 1943, reflects DOROTHY HAZEL WILSON moved from 1255 Kearny Street to 300 Green Street.



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(California Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, 1943, p.342.)"

The records of the Veterans Registration Bureau, City Hall, San Francisco, California, which were checked in 1944, reflect Miss DOROTHY HAZEL WILSON, 1255 Kearny Street, advised on July 13, 1942, she was a clerk by occupation and was born in New York State. Veterans Registration Certificate Number 646797 filed on September 13, 1943, reflects DOROTHY HAZEL WILSON moved from 1255 Kearny Street to 300 Green Street.

The files of the Office of Civilian Defense, City Hall, San Francisco, California, which were checked in 1944, reflect Miss DOROTHY HAZEL WILSON was enrolled and fingerprinted by that organization on March 23, 1942, while residing at 10 Reno Place, San Francisco, California. She gave as her occupation clerical work and advised she was born April 15, 1920 in New York City.

A check of the records of the Retailers Credit Association, San Francisco, California, in 1945, disclosed, according to a report of June 29, 1942, DOROTHY H. WILSON resided at 1255 Kearny Street, San Francisco, California, and formerly had resided at 10 Reno Place in San Francisco. It was noted she was a clerical worker.

A representative of the Western Pipe and Steel Corporation, San Pedro, California, advised in 1945 DOROTHY HAZEL WILSON had applied for a position as a ship fitter in August, 1944, and had been hired that month. He further advised WILSON listed the following addresses as previous places of residence:

300 Green Street, San Francisco, California.  
1255 Kearny Street, San Francisco, California.  
10 Reno Place, San Francisco, California.

This representative noted that DOROTHY WILSON was born on April 15, 1920, in New York City, and had been employed from January, 1942, to July, 1942, at Fort Mason, near San Francisco, California.

CLYDE W. HASTI, Practising Law Institute (PLI), 20 Vesey Street, New York, New York, advised on October 27, 1955, that DOROTHY WILSON was employed by the PLI in New York City, as a proofreader from April 7, 1954, to August 19, 1955. He stated her employment record reflected she had been previously employed from August, 1941, to August, 1942, at Fort Mason, San Francisco, California.



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A check of the records of the Retailers Credit Association, San Francisco, California, in 1945, disclosed, according to a report of June 29, 1942, DOROTHY M. WILSON resided at 1255 Kearny Street, San Francisco, California, and formerly had resided at 10 Reno Place in San Francisco. It was noted she was a clerical worker.

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\_\_\_\_\_, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised in October, 1955, that ISIDORE GIBBY FELDMAN, an attorney at 165 Broadway, New York City, formerly had been the attorney for the Amberg Trading Corporation, the registered Russian trade agency in the United States.

\_\_\_\_\_, who has furnished reliable information in the past, on October 26, 1955, advised DOROTHY WILSON has resided on the 10th floor of the apartment house located at 140 West 54th Street, Manhattan, New York. On November 2, 1955, \_\_\_\_\_ identified \_\_\_\_\_ as a visitor of DOROTHY WILSON on October 21, 1955. The informant added that \_\_\_\_\_ had on a few occasions visited WILSON prior to October 21, 1955.

\_\_\_\_\_, who is in a position to furnish reliable information, advised during April, 1956, that DOROTHY WILSON is currently employed by Helen Hoke Associates, Hotel Shelton, 49th Street and Lexington Avenue, New York City.



Information concerning Franklin Watts, Incorporated,  
and Helen Hoke Associates is set out later in this report.

### Birth

The files of the Bureau of Vital Statistics for Manhattan, New York, which were checked on September 4, 1956, contained Birth Certificate Number 31703 which reflects SYLVIA LUDLOW HYDE was born on October 2, 1929, at the Deoth Memorial Hospital, 314 East 15th Street, New York City. Her father is WILLIAM AVERY HYDE, 40 Morningside Avenue, New York City, who was born in the United States, was 27 years of age at the time of the employee's birth, and was employed as a chemist. The employee's mother is CAROL ELIZABETH HYDE, 40 Morningside Avenue, New York City, who was born in the United States, and was at that time 29 years of age. It was noted the employee's parents had one previous child.

### Employments

Young Men's Christian Association  
Vocational Service Center  
11 East 36th Street  
New York, New York

On September 17, 1956, Mr. JAMES CURTIS DAY, Placement Counselor, advised captioned organization has employed students from Antioch College in Ohio for approximately two months at a time under a cooperative program. He explained the students then return to the college for further study. Mr. DAY said he cannot recall the employee, but advised a record of the employee reflects she was employed as a test scorer from March 28, 1949, to July 22, 1949, while a student at Antioch College. JAMES DAY stated she did a satisfactory job and her record is clear. According to the employee's record card, her mother is listed as Mrs. WILLIAM A. HYDE.



Information concerning Franklin Watts, Incorporated,  
and Helen Hoke Associates is set out later in this report.

#### Birth

The files of the Bureau of Vital Statistics for Manhattan, New York, which were checked on September 4, 1956, contained Birth Certificate Number 31703 which reflects SYLVIA LUDLOW HYDE was born on October 2, 1929, at the Booth Memorial Hospital, 314 East 15th Street, New York City. Her father is WILLIAM AVERY HYDE, 40 Morningside Avenue, New York City, who was born in the United States, was 27 years of age at the time of the employee's birth, and was employed as a chemist. The employee's mother is CAROL ELIZABETH HYDE, 40 Morningside Avenue, New York City, who was born in the United States, and was at that time 29 years of age. It was noted the employee's parents had one previous child.

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On September 17, 1956, Mr. J. L. BRODERICK, Executive Director, said he does not know and cannot recall the employee. He stated he had just arrived at captioned organization when she was working there under a work-study program of short duration in connection with her matriculation at Antioch College in Ohio.

Time, Incorporated, Publishers  
9. Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York

Miss ELLEN WEST, Assistant to the Personnel Director, advised on September 11, 1956, the employee had been employed from October 23, 1946, to December 27, 1946, as an office girl on the basis of an Antioch College cooperative program. Miss WEST explained the employee was employed by Time, Incorporated, during her work period and returned to Antioch College thereafter. She stated the employee's record reflects her work was average, and that she needed quite a bit of supervision. Miss WEST advised that according to her record, the employee worked well with others when properly approached; she added the record indicates the employee was shy.

Miss ELLEN WEST continued by advising that an application of the employee dated October 23, 1946, reflects she resided at 1293 Second Avenue, in New York City, was born on October 2, 1929, and had Social Security Number 284-24-5372. As of 1946 she indicated another residence as 1986 Summit Street, Columbus, Ohio. The person to be notified in case of an emergency in New York City was listed as GEMMETT E. FIELSNER, 1293 Second Avenue, New York City. Her former employers were listed as follows:

Izelys Cafeteria, Columbus, Ohio, June 7, 1945,  
to August 25, 1945.  
Antioch Tea Room, Yellow Springs, Ohio, September  
1, 1946, to October 25, 1946.

Miss WEST advised the person who was the employee's supervisor during her employment here is no longer with captioned organization. She stated she can refer to no one else at Time, Incorporated, who would be in a position to furnish any information with regard to the employee.



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Inelys Cafeteria, Columbus, Ohio, June 7, 1945,  
to August 25, 1945.  
Antioch Tea Room, Yellow Springs, Ohio, September  
1, 1946, to October 25, 1946.

Miss WEST advised the person who was the employee's supervisor during her employment here is no longer with captioned organization. She stated she can refer to no one else at Time, Incorporated, who would be in a position to furnish any information with regard to the employee.



The records of the United States Civil Service Commission, Washington, D.C., which were utilized in 1955, reflected that on March 10, 1943, Mr. GERRIT E. FIELSTRA, in charge of the Photostat Department, New York Public Library, was interviewed. He advised he and others formed the Discussion Group in 1933 to combat the "stodgy" conservative element in the library. He said he attended a couple Communist Party meetings in the Bronx, New York, and on 14th Street, New York City.

\_\_\_\_\_ who held a responsible position with the New York Public Library during the 1930's and 1940's, advised on July 11, 1955, he has known GERRIT FIELSTRA since about 1929 and that he has been friendly with that person since that time. He recalled that FIELSTRA was active in attempts to stir people up and to have changes made in the attitude of the library administration, but never considered him as being Communistic or subversive in any way at all. He explained that during the middle and late 1930's there was a great deal of agitation on the part of the library workers to unionize and to secure better working conditions.

\_\_\_\_\_ further advised there was in existence at the time, an organization known as the Staff Association which had for its purpose the employees' welfare, to which organization all library personnel belonged. He said that FIELSTRA, among others, was dissatisfied with the Staff Association and unsuccessfully attempted to form another organization for the purpose of bettering working conditions. \_\_\_\_\_ stated FIELSTRA and others got a union started, but it did not last very long. He recalled FIELSTRA was very active in this effort and was outspoken in his criticism of the library administration. This informant felt that FIELSTRA's attitude at that time was responsible for his not being advanced in the library. He felt the union became pro-Communist because of the manner in which it attempted to attain its end and because of the distribution of "Class Mark" which, because of its content, he regarded as very pro-Communist. He stated he could not recall specifically the methods the union used or the content of that paper because of the lapse of time since all this activity took place. He advised he did not know if FIELSTRA was connected with the union when it became Communist dominated and does not recall if FIELSTRA had anything to do with the publication "Class Mark."



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\_\_\_\_\_ advised that FIELSTRA was active in the mid 1930's in a group called the Discussion Group which lasted about one year and then passed out of existence. \_\_\_\_\_ believed the group was innocently organized and the purpose was to discuss current events. He recalled it quickly became infiltrated with Communists and Communist sympathizers and faded when the members realized what had happened.

\_\_\_\_\_ declared he never suspected FIELSTRA of being a Communist, subversive in any way, or disloyal to the United States. He said that to his knowledge GERRITT FIELSTRA associated with persons whom he suspected as being Communists only in connection with the activities mentioned above, and he felt that FIELSTRA did this innocently as did many others not realizing that those persons were pro-Communist.

An examination of several of the 1935 copies of the "Class Mark" at the New York Public Library, 42nd Street and 5th Avenue, New York City, in 1953, disclosed that the masthead of this publication showed that it was published by the Communist Party, USA, 50 East 13th Street, New York City.

On July 11, 1955, \_\_\_\_\_, who held a responsible position in the New York Public Library, \_\_\_\_\_, New York City, during the 1930's and early 1940's, advised she recalled GERRITT FIELSTRA very well and stated she disliked him intensely. She said he belonged to, and was a leader in, a group that tried to form a union. This group opposed everything that the library administration tried to do for the employees.

\_\_\_\_\_ stated that FIELSTRA was very outspoken and critical of the administration, and she added the group to which he belonged distributed a paper that attacked and vilified library officials. She said she did not know the name of the group or the paper.

\_\_\_\_\_ advised she suspected FIELSTRA of being pro-Communist, but had no definite or specific information on which she bases her suspicion. She said that on one occasion when she overheard FIELSTRA conversing with another person she interrupted him and told him he was a Communist. She stated he vehemently denied this.



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\_\_\_\_\_ further advised that FIELSTRA was very active in the Discussion Group. She indicated that members of the Discussion Group were pro-C communist.

On June 23, 1955, Miss EVELYN SBARRA, Clerk, Credit Bureau of Greater New York, advised the Credit Bureau files contain a report dated February 4, 1954, on GERRIT E. FIELSTRA. This report reflects FIELSTRA resided at 49 Prospect Street, Jersey City, New Jersey, formerly resided at 1293 Second Avenue, New York City, was married, and had grown children. The report noted that FIELSTRA had been employed with the New York Public Library since 1928. His trade is satisfactory and there were no suits or judgments against him. Another report dated February 7, 1952, reflected FIELSTRA, who then resided at 1293 Second Avenue, New York City, previously resided at 219 East 77th Street in New York City.

The records of the New York City Police Department which were checked on June 27 and 28, 1955, by a representative of that organization.

505 East 89th Street, New York City.  
219 East 77th Street, New York City.

\_\_\_\_\_ further advised that FIELSERA was very active in the Discussion Group. She indicated that members of the Discussion Group were pro-C communist.

On June 23, 1955, Miss EVELYN SBARRA, Clerk, Credit Bureau of Greater New York, advised the Credit Bureau files contain a report dated February 4, 1954, on GERRITT E. FIELSERA. This report reflects FIELSERA resided at 49 Prospect Street, Jersey City, New Jersey, formerly resided at 1293 Second Avenue, New York City, was married, and had grown children. The report noted that FIELSERA had been employed with the New York Public Library since 1928. His trade is satisfactory and there were no suits or judgments against him. Another report dated February 7, 1952, reflected FIELSERA, who then resided at 1293 Second Avenue, New York City, previously resided at 219 East 77th Street in New York City.

The records of the New York City Police Department which were checked on June 27 and 28, 1955, by a representative of that organization

505 East 89th Street, New York City.  
219 East 77th Street, New York City.



Residences

101 West 55th Street  
New York, New York:

On September 18, 1956, Miss LORETTA ALLEN, Secretary, Rental Office of the building at captioned address, advised she would have no record of the employee's residence at this address if she were merely residing with a relative or was a subtenant in one of the apartments. She stated her records reflect the WATTSSES resided at this address from April, 1948, to September, 1950. Miss ALLEN declared she has no recollection of the employee and cannot suggest anyone in the apartment house who would have any knowledge of her.

It is to be noted that during an interview of FRANKLIN WATTS, information from which is set out later in this report, it was determined that the employee resided with FRANKLIN WATTS' wife at 101 West 55th Street during 1948 or 1949 for 5 or 6 weeks.

1293 Second Avenue  
New York, New York

The following individuals were contacted on September 17, 1956, for information concerning the employee, but they claim to have no knowledge or recollection of her:

JOHN SLOPOVSKY, Superintendent since November, 1950.

JAMES O'MALLEY, Apartment 4 North, resided here since 1941.

Mrs. JOSEPH POPPER, Apartment 2 East, resided here 31 years.

Reference

On September 11, 1956, Mr. FRANKLIN WATTS, Franklin Watts, Incorporated, Publishers, 699 Madison Avenue, New York, New York, advised the employee is married to his wife's son, JOHN L. HONE. He added that his wife's name is HELEN HONE WATTS. He claimed to have known the employee since about 1948 while she was attending Antioch College. Mr. WATTS stated he would recommend



Residences

101 West 55th Street  
New York, New York:

On September 18, 1956, Miss LORETTA ALLEN, Secretary, Rental Office of the building at captioned address, advised she would have no record of the employee's residence at this address if she were merely residing with a relative or was a subtenant in one of the apartments. She stated her records reflect the WATTSSES resided at this address from April, 1948, to September, 1950. Miss ALLEN declared she has no recollection of the employee and cannot suggest anyone in the apartment house who would have any knowledge of her.

It is to be noted that during an interview of FRANKLIN WATTS, information from which is set out later in this report, it was determined that the employee resided with FRANKLIN WATTS' wife at 101 West 55th Street during 1948 or 1949 for 5 or 6 weeks.

1293 Second Avenue  
New York, New York:

The following individuals were contacted on September 17, 1956, for information concerning the employee, but they claim to have no knowledge or recollection of her:

JOHN SLOPOVSKY, Superintendent since November, 1950.

JAMES O'MALLEY, Apartment 4 North, resided here since 1941.

Mrs. JOSEPH POPPER, Apartment 2 East, resided here 31 years.

Reference

On September 11, 1956, Mr. FRANKLIN WATTS, Franklin Watts, Incorporated, Publishers, 699 Madison Avenue, New York, New York, advised the employee is married to his wife's son, JOHN L. HOME. He added that his wife's name is HELEN HOME WATTS. He claimed to have known the employee since about 1948 while she was attending Antioch College. Mr. WATTS stated he would recommend



the employee as to character, reputation, and associates on an unqualified basis. He said he has no reason to question her loyalty or the loyalty of any member of her family.

FRANKLIN WATTS continued by advising that in 1948 or 1949 the employee stayed for 5 or 6 weeks with his wife at 101 West 55th Street, New York City, while she was employed during a work period out of Antioch College, which conducted a study-work program. Mr. WATTS explained that students at Antioch College would work approximately 6 weeks and then return to school for about the same period alternating in such a way in connection with their study-work program. WATTS advised that at other times when the employee was in the New York City area she probably resided at various rooming houses, but WATTS did not know exactly where or at what addresses the employee lived.

On June 15, 1956, a review of the records of the County Court Clerk's Office, Borough of Manhattan, New York, disclosed that a Certificate of Incorporation had been filed on March 3, 1956, by Helen Hoke Associates, Incorporated. The records disclosed in addition that among the directors of that corporation were HELEN HOKE, 200 East 66th Street, New York, New York, and DOROTHY WILSON, 40 West 84th Street, New York, New York. Among the names of the subscribers to the certificate were HELEN HOKE and DOROTHY WILSON.

It is to be noted that information regarding DOROTHY WILSON was set out previously in this report.

According to the records of the County Court Clerk's Office it was indicated that Helen Hoke Associates, Incorporated, would engage in the business of publishing, manufacturing, printing, buying, selling, and disseminating literary and artistic property through all media, including books, journals, magazines, periodicals, pamphlets, motion picture magazines, motion pictures, radio, television, and any and all other forms of publication, dissemination, and production.



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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

On April 19, 1956,

, advised that according to a report dated April 13, 1955, Franklin Watts, Incorporated, Publishers, was incorporated on March 2, 1942. The informant advised that FRANKLIN WATTS is president and treasurer of that corporation and his wife, HELEN WATTS, is vice president and secretary. The corporation publishes juvenile and to a lesser degree trade books.

The current New York Telephone Directory for the Borough of Manhattan, New York, contains listings for HELEN WATTS and FRANKLIN WATTS at the address 200 East 66th Street, New York City, both individuals having the same telephone number listing. The telephone directory also lists Franklin Watts, Incorporated, at 699 Madison Avenue, New York, New York.

Miscellaneous

The files of the Credit Bureau of Greater New York, which were checked by HELEN PUST on September 4, 1956, contain no record of the employee.

A representative of the Bureau of Special Services, New York City Police Department, advised on September 4 and September 20, 1956, no record of the employee, her husband, or her parents was located in the files of that agency.

On September 13, 1956, a representative of the Bureau of Criminal Identification, New York City Police Department, advised his agency files are negative concerning the employee.

Confidential informants, who have furnished reliable information in the past, and who are familiar with general Communist activities in the New York City area, advised on September 6, 11 and 12, 1956, they do not know the employee or her husband.

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