



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE WASHINGTON, D. C.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

April 28, 1947.

SUBJECT: HAROLD WEISBERG - Request of CON.

REPORT EXAMINED, APPROVED,
AND FORWARDED TO
CHIEF SPECIAL AGENT
MAY 5 1947

Special Agent in Charge,
Washington, D. C.

Personal attention was given this case at Wash-
ington, D. C. on April 7 to 17, 1947.

Subject is 34 years old, married and resides at
2322 North Nottingham Street, Arlington, Virginia.
The Weisbergs have resided at the above address approxi-
mately two years and formerly resided at 313 H Street,
N.W., and also at 1717 R Street, N.W. Mr. Weisberg
indicated that he formerly resided at 2020 G Street
and 2220 N Street. The property at 2020 G Street has
changed hands since 1936 and Mr. Weisberg's residence
there could not be verified. The 2220 N Street address
is now a gasoline service station and inquiry at nearby
apartment buildings brought negative results.

[REDACTED] a
neighbor of the Weisberg's, was interviewed on April 14,
1947. [REDACTED] states that the Weisbergs have occupied
the premises [REDACTED] for slightly over two years;
that the Weisbergs have no children and that both subject
and his wife are employed. She stated that they live
quietly, have very few guests at their home and seem
to be people of temperate habits. She states that the
Weisbergs are away a good many weekends and she under-
stands that they visit Mrs. Weisberg's family in Hyatts-
town, Maryland. Our informant indicated that she did

not

not consider these people desirable neighbors; that

[REDACTED] She stated in fact that [REDACTED] with the Weisbergs and that for this reason she knew very little about their personal life and interests. She stated that she had no reason to question their Americanism or loyalty to the United States Government.

[REDACTED], was personally interviewed. She has known this family since [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] reported that she did not consider the Weisbergs a desirable element in the community. She states that they do very little entertaining, appear to be sober-minded and that they live simply and quietly. She mentioned that they were away a good many weekends, going to Wilmington, Delaware and Hyattstown, Maryland, to visit their respective families. [REDACTED] states that Harold Weisberg makes a rather good appearance when dressed for business, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] states that Harold Weisberg is aggressive, argumentative and officious. In this connection, she mentioned that the County and State had recently put in a retaining wall along Lee Highway [REDACTED] subject's property; that while said work cost several thousand dollars it was done at the State's own expense and without cost or assessment to the property owners, although it improved the property considerably. She stated that cement steps were put in to provide access to subject's vacant lot which

fronts

fronts on Lee Highway but that Weisberg wanted an iron railing installed and that when the contractor refused to put in said iron railing he made a big fuss about it and wrote to Governor Tuck; that later, when a group of county engineers came to survey the job, Weisberg made himself particularly obnoxious, being very outspoken, loud and argumentative.

2. [redacted] Weisberg make a statement a year or two ago concerning the British Greek controversy, at which time he indicated that he had written to Lord Halifax concerning that matter.

[redacted] said she was citing the above instances as typical of subject's aggressive and officious manner and she suggested that some of these actions on the part of Mr. [redacted] Weisberg cast some doubt in her mind as to [redacted] Americanism and loyalty to our Government.

[redacted], was interviewed [redacted] stated that while he was not very friendly with subject, he talked with Weisberg [redacted] He described subject as rather aggressive, self-important and a shrewd bargainer. He stated that he had never talked enough with subject to know anything about his political philosophies but that he had no reason to question subject's loyalty to the United States Government.

[redacted] who were neighbors of subject at [redacted], were personally interviewed.

[redacted] that Harold Weisberg had rented Apartment 1,

[redacted]. She recalled that Weisberg was single when he first took the apartment but was married about 1942; that while subject was overseas with the Army his wife's sister stayed with her in the apartment. [redacted] states that [redacted] subject [redacted] were very odd people; that their apartment was unkempt and loaded down with books and publications of all descriptions.

She

She recalled that Mr. Weisberg received considerable mail and that a great deal of it consisted of Governmental publications. She recalled that she had assisted other Government investigators several years ago when they made inquiry concerning the Weisbergs and recalled that she had examined the mail for the Weisbergs and made their trash available to the investigators. She recalled that subject was a reader and booster of the newspaper "PM" and that in looking over some of subject's mail she had found one envelop on which the name of the Communist Party appeared. She states that she saw very little of subject to talk to and that he was not particularly friendly; that in fact he was not very friendly with anyone in the building. She states that he had business callers at all hours of the day and night and that he used his typewriter constantly. She recalled that subject had made a statement on one occasion to the effect that "too many people had too much money and that the Government should tax it away from them". She also recalled having seen Weisberg's name in the papers in connection with some political scandal but did not know or recall the details concerning this. She stated that because of these incidents and the investigative inquiries which were being made at the time, she considered subject suspicious characters but she stated that she never really knew what he was doing or what it was all about.

Inquiry was made concerning subject at 1717 R Street, the Rocksboro Apartments, an address which appeared on one of subject's personal history statements and which was also listed by subject's wife, formerly Lillian M. Stone, on one of her personal history statements. [redacted] recalled and described subject as a previous tenant who lived in a second floor apartment. He stated that subject was there for about two years; that he lived quietly, was sober-minded, caused no trouble and to his knowledge enjoyed a good reputation. He also knew Lillian Stone and he was of the opinion that subject had married Lillian Stone just before they left that apartment since he recalled [redacted]. He stated that he was given to understand that they had just previously been married (Note: Actually marriage took place

August 3,

August 3, 1942.

In reply to a question as to whether [redacted] belonged to any of these organizations, [redacted] stated: [redacted] was a member of the Book Shop at one time." In answer to further questioning concerning [redacted] [redacted] stated that [redacted] was employed by the [redacted] Committee and that he had subsequently been a free-lance writer but when questioned as to his journalistic connections, [redacted] reported that [redacted] wrote for Click magazine and Picture Scoop but stated: "I don't recall the names of the other things. He was a free-lance writer."

[redacted]

[REDACTED]

numerous rumors connecting [REDACTED] that they had heard
with Communism. [REDACTED]

states that she has seen ██████████, Harold Weis-
berg, only a few times and that she does not like him
personally; that because of this fact she knows really
nothing about him and was not in a position to express
any opinion concerning him.

State Department personnel file indicates that
subject was appointed to OSS on January 15, 1945 as
Consultant, Presentation Division, \$10.55 W.A.E.; that
on April 5, 1945 subject was made Research Analyst,
P-5, \$4600 per annum, W.A.E. and was then assigned to
Research and Analysis Branch, Latin American Unit; that
on August 9, 1945 subject was given a War Service Indefinite
appointment as Research Analyst, P-5. Subject was trans-
ferred to the State Department on September 30, 1945
under Executive Order 9621, and is currently assigned
to DRA as Research Analyst, P-5, \$5164 per annum.

Military

Military records at OSS indicate subject was assigned to the Presentation Unit from August 10, 1944 to November 15, 1944 when he was released for transfer to the Ft. Dix Separation Center. Subject was a Corporal, USA. Subject's efficiency rating for 1945 was "Excellent". Said rating was signed by Woodrow Borah and reviewed by Maurice Halperin. As of March 31, 1946 subject received an excellent efficiency rating which was signed by M. Robert Rogers and reviewed by Woodrow Borah.

~~_____~~ DRA, was personally interviewed. ~~_____~~ has known Harold Weisberg since ~~_____~~ and subject worked ~~_____~~ ~~_____~~ states that in his opinion Weisberg was not qualified for the position he held in the Latin American Unit; that he is definitely not P-5 caliber and seemed to have no particular background for work in the Latin American Unit. He states that after subject had worked ~~_____~~

~~_____~~ stated that it was finally decided to transfer Weisberg to another unit of DRA where he is now assigned as an Assistant to Irving Goldman. Our informant reports that subject is quite personable and gets along fine with his fellow workers; that his general reputation as to moral character and personal habits has never been open to any question. ~~_____~~ however, expressed considerable concern when questioned as to his opinion concerning Weisberg's integrity and loyalty to the United States. He stated subject did nothing you could put your finger on but he was always most inquisitive and anxious to be in on the 'know' on any problem which arose. He stated that subject, while in his office, was constantly on the phone on some personal project or cause; that he would call the War Assets Administration and complain about the manner in which they did business, stating that they were operating a racket and asserting his priority rights as a war veteran. He states that subject would often call Department Stores to complain about deliveries and that he would call the bus company complaining about their service and the fact that the bus failed to pick him up. He stated that he knew subject was quite friendly with Woodrow Borah and several other members of the U.P.W.A

but

but he did not know for certain whether or not subject was a member.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated that he had never heard subject make any pro-Russian statements; that he recalled subject took a definite stand against the Peron regime in Argentina. He stated that subject was often apt to speak out on things he knew very little about. [REDACTED] stated that in his opinion, Weisberg does not measure up to the caliber of State Department employees and indicated that the value of his services was negligible.

Records of the U.S. Senate Disbursing Office, Washington, D. C., indicate that subject was employed by the LaFollette Civil Liberties Committee from September 1, 1936 until October 19, 1939; that during part of this period subject was paid out of the funds from "downtown" (Agriculture Department). Subject was on the Senate Disbursing payroll from May 1937 until October 1939; as of September 1939 he was Editor, \$3200 per annum.

Subject was fired from this Committee by Senator Bob LaFollette for letting certain information contained in the Committee's reports leak to the press.

Department of Agriculture, Farm Security Administration records, indicate that subject was on their payroll as Assistant Information Specialist, CAF-6, from April 16, 1938 until February 17, 1939 at which time he was appointed Senior Administrative Assistant, CAF-9. Subject was terminated without prejudice due to completion of work and reduction in force on September 6, 1939. Correspondence in their file indicates that during this period subject was assigned to the LaFollette Civil Liberties Committee. Their files indicate that in connection with said employment subject was sent to Harlan County, Kentucky, to assist the Committee with the prosecution of cases against the coal operators.

Department of Agriculture personnel records further indicate that subject was employed by them as a Junior

Junior Clerk, CAF-2, from June 10, 1935 until May 1, 1937 when he was placed on furlough until April 15, 1938 at which time he was terminated. During most of this employment subject was assigned to the LaFollette Civil Liberties Committee.

[REDACTED] Washington, D. C., was personally interviewed. [REDACTED] opened the interview by stating he could not recommend the subject to the State Department, of all places. He stated that Weisberg was fired from the Civil Liberties Committee for breach of trust; that the matter involved the release of certain confidential material contained in the Committee's reports and which had been subpoenaed by the Committee in accordance with their authority to a certain newspaper; that the information in question was such as to cause the Committee great embarrassment and that its publication created the impression that the particular periodical involved had what amounted to a pipe-line into the Civil Liberties Committee. [REDACTED] was quite certain that the newspaper in question was the Daily Worker. [REDACTED] stated that this incident climaxed certain suspicions which he had previously entertained that subject was working hand and glove with a certain group and that his allegiance was to that group rather than to the Committee and the United States Government. He stated that his suspicions concerning subject had been primarily based on subject's conversation and ideas which subject expressed at the staff meetings of the Committee, which indicated that he was far to the left. He could not recall the names of any persons with whom subject associated and he was unable to furnish the writer with names of reliable persons who might have known subject at that time. [REDACTED] reported that prior to his dismissal, subject had proved capable on editorial work for the Committee and seemed to be doing a very good job. [REDACTED] said that he has seen nothing of Mr. Weisberg during the past seven or eight years since he left the Committee. He stated that he had heard subject was in the Army during the war but that he knows nothing about his Army record. [REDACTED] classified Harold Weisberg as a Fellow Traveler at the time he was fired from his Committee in 1939 but he made it clear that he did not know what subject has done since then.

From

2 From November 1939 to December 1942 subject indicated on his personal history statement that he was occupied as a free-lance writer. In this connection, we have ascertained that subject did write a signed article for Click Picture Magazine, February 1941 edition. This article, titled "Hitler's Foot Soldier", the sensational story of Jim Pata's un-Americanism, was approximately one full page in length and supported by photostats of letters and other documents. The theme of the article was definitely pro-labor and attempted to disclose the use of cheap labor and foreign made machinery by the firm in question.

References spoke of subject having written an article on plexiglass for Click Magazine. In this connection, an unsigned article, reported to have been prepared by Click's investigator and titled "Is Hitler financed by America's Defense Program" appeared in the June 1941 edition of Click. This article purported to show that the firm of Rohm and Haas, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, manufacturers of plexiglass bomber noses, etc. was in fact Nazi controlled and dominated since certain royalties were paid on processes used by them to the parent company, a German controlled concern. This also was a very short article and was accompanied by photostatic copies of letters and other documents including an official production table dated September 1940 prepared by the Office of Government Reports. Copies of Click Magazine from January 1939 to December 1941 were reviewed but no further reference to the name of Harold Weisberg was found.

[REDACTED], Committee on Un-American Activities, [REDACTED] House Office Building, Washington, D. C., was personally interviewed concerning Mr. Weisberg. This informant recalled that Harold Weisberg was a former employee of the LaFollette Civil Liberties Committee and stated he understood subject had been fired from that Committee by Senator LaFollette for letting certain information leak to the Daily Worker. He recalled that subject subsequently associated himself with Gardner Jackson, [REDACTED]

~~_____~~. He states that Weisberg was employed by Gardner Jackson and was assisting Jackson in his all-out campaign to discredit the Dies Committee; that Weisberg eventually got in touch with one David D. Mayne, a former Lieutenant (agent) of William Dudley Pelley, who headed the Silver Shirt Legion of America; that Mayne had in his possession certain correspondence and files written on the letter-heads of the Silver Shirt Legion of America and it was Weisberg's hope that he could dig up some information linking up Martin Dies and William Dudley Pelley and his organization; that this contact resulted in a subsequent meeting between Harold Weisberg and David Mayne at the old Gordon Hotel on 16th Street, where Weisberg promised David Mayne a Government job and approximately \$100 if he would give him certain letters which purportedly linked Martin Dies with Pelley and the Silver Shirts. The deal was made and subsequently Gardner Jackson gave a dinner at his Chevy Chase home to which he asked a number of liberal Congressmen, including Coffee of Washington, Hook of Michigan, and which Weisberg and several others attended; that during the course of said dinner party the question of the Dies Committee was brought up and the existence of the letters was made known; that Representative Hook of Michigan finally agreed to use the letters although several of the others at the dinner indicated they wanted no part of them. Our informant states that Representative Hook disclosed the contents of the letters before the House of Representatives and that they were inserted into the Congressional Record; that said letters, purportedly signed by William D. Pelley and addressed to David D. Mayne, linked Martin Dies with William Pelley and indicated that "Dies would not go out of his way to call us or to embarrass us; True, Father Coughlin, etc. *****". ~~_____~~ stated that the letters in question were eventually proved fraudulent; that they were subsequently stricken from the Congressional record and that ~~_____~~

~~_____~~ Our informant recalled that at the time this happened, numerous hearings were held and that among others, Harold Weisberg was called in for questioning.

~~_____~~ there was little doubt in his mind but what Weisberg was a Communist or Fellow Traveler and that it was his

opinion

opinion [REDACTED] Weisberg, that Weisberg himself knew that the letters in question which he had purchased from Mayne were fraudulent. In closing the interview [REDACTED] expressed his opinion that the State Department would certainly lay itself open to criticism if it hired Harold Weisberg.

In connection with the above testimony the writer reviewed certain news clippings concerning the Dies Committee and Pelley, letters which are contained in the files of the Washington Post Newspaper Library. This file includes a newspaper clipping from the Washington Post dated February 7, 1940 which is titled "Dies Charge from Record" and reads in part: "Letters purportedly linking Representative Martin Dies with William Dudley Pelley, Silver Shirt leader, were branded forgeries and were withdrawn from the Congressional Record yesterday by their sponsor, Representative Hook, Democrat of Michigan."

This file also contains a clipping from the Washington Post dated January 31, 1940 titled "Silver Shirt Link to Dies Held Forgery". Said article reads in part: "According to the Committee Statement regarding the Pelley letters, Mayne testified that he not only had forged the documents but also sold them to Harold Weisberg for the consideration of \$100.00 and the promise of a job. Weisberg, said the witness, formerly was an investigator for the LaFollette Civil Liberties Committee and now works under the direction of Gardner Jackson, Legislative Representative of Labor's Non-Partisan League."

This file includes a clipping from the Washington Post dated February 5, 1940 titled "Britt denies diners plotted against Dies". This clipping tells of the dinner party given by Gardner Jackson and of the discussion of the Dies Committee at that dinner. It reads in part: "Existence of the Mayne letters was also mentioned but certainly there was no agreement to use them."

[REDACTED] reported that she first knew Harold Weisberg when he became associated with the LaFollette Civil Liberties Committee; [REDACTED]

~~_____~~
She states that subject was enthusiastic, energetic, had considerable native intelligence and learned quickly; that he did a very good job in editing the Committee's reports. She states, however, that subject eventually got himself into a jam over the advanced release of certain material to the press and that she understood that this incident resulted in subject's being fired from the Committee by Senator LaFollette. She stated that she did not know just what material was involved in the leak but that it contained certain material which the Committee did not want released and which had been changed before the regular press releases were issued. ~~_____~~ spoke of subject as being argumentative and as a person who was inclined to "shoot off his mouth" on things he did not know very much about. She states that subject was very pro-labor and an enthusiastic supporter of the New Deal and its policies. She recalled that the subject had taken a definite stand against the Dies Committee and that after he left the Civil Liberties Committee he had worked quite closely with Gardner Jackson who was also fighting the Dies Committee. She recalled that in this connection subject had gotten himself into a very embarrassing situation when certain documents which he had purchased, which purportedly linked Mr. Dies with the Silver Shirts, were proved to be forgeries. She stated that she did not recall the contents of said documents but recalled that they had been published in the local papers. This informant expressed the opinion that subject may have been a misguided liberal at that time but she does not think that he would be disloyal to the United States Government. She stated that she had never heard him advocate Communism nor align himself with that party or its members. She was of the opinion that subject's past liberalism might have been tempered by his maturity and military service but she stated: "Harold Weisberg would never be one to cross a picket line." She recalled that subject had been a member of the local Newspaper Guild and that ~~_____~~ but she did not know him to belong to any other group or organization. ~~_____~~ states that she has seen very little of Weisberg since he left the Committee

but

but recalled that he had been a free-lance writer and that he had mentioned writing an article on plexiglass for Click Magazine; also one on the Bata Shoe Company.

[REDACTED], Executive Offices of the President, was personally interviewed, and stated [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. She recalled that said articles were to be a factual description of this Government's functions and operations; that they were published under the title "Your Government Reports", or a similar title and that after the fourth article came out they were discontinued because of a change in the magazine's editorial policy.

[REDACTED]. She stated that subject's letter contained such a good portrayal of conditions and impressions created by the American GI in North Africa, that Elmer Davis published same in his official Government report.

[REDACTED] She reports that she sees Harold Weisberg [REDACTED] but that she has never visited in his home. She spoke of Weisberg as an ambitious, industrious and resourceful individual, who was most agreeable to deal with and seemed to appreciate her efforts to assist him. She stated that she knew nothing of subject's background prior to 1939 or 1940 when he was a free-lance writer; that she had no knowledge of any other articles which subject had written, although she expressed the opinion that he had probably done considerable writing. [REDACTED] stated that in her opinion Harold Weisberg is a person of fine character and she said "I'd trust Harold Weisberg. Weisberg is an all right guy. Harold is a good American. I would stake my life on it that he is an all right guy". [REDACTED]

N.B. →

[REDACTED] was personally interviewed and stated that he was associated with subject for a short time in the Latin American Section of OSS. He states that subject impressed him as a conscientious person and a hard worker but that he could never understand why Weisberg was assigned to the Latin American Unit since he apparently had no background or experience for work in that particular field. He stated that he could not identify subject as a member of the particularly undesirable faction which dominated the Latin American Unit at that time but there was always some question in his mind as to why and how Weisberg became associated with that Unit. He stated that on one or two occasions, [REDACTED] as a guest to attend the union luncheons, he recalled having seen the subject there but he could not state as to whether subject was an active member of the union. [REDACTED] stated that the Latin American Unit was absorbed by another division shortly after he took over and that he really did not know very much about Harold Weisberg, and did not consider himself a competent witness in this case.

[REDACTED], who has worked rather closely with subject in the Latin American Unit of DRA [REDACTED], was personally interviewed. Mr. Rohrllich recalled that subject had been engaged in intelligence research work on matters pertaining to the infiltration of Nazi and Fascist elements in Argentina. He states that subject impresses him as an aggressive person who is inquisitive and has an inquiring mind; that he seemed to take particular interest in running down certain phases of that work. He stated that although Weisberg [REDACTED] he never recalled having read any of subject's reports and was therefore unable to express any opinion as to the caliber of subject's work. He mentioned that when Mr. Hussey, Chief of DRA, took over, he did not consider Weisberg qualified for the work to which he was assigned and that Weisberg was put on the surplus list but that subsequently subject was assigned as an assistant to Irving Goodman. [REDACTED] states that Weisberg has a pleasing personality and that he seems to be well-liked by his other co-workers; that Weisberg bends over backward to be cooperative and accomodating in assisting others.

He

He states that subject enjoys a good reputation as to moral character, sobriety and personal habits. When questioned as to his opinion concerning subject's Americanism and political viewpoint, [REDACTED] described subject as a fervent admirer of the New Deal, as a liberal and as pro-labor in his views. He stated that he has never known subject to advocate Communism and he does not think Weisberg is in sympathy with the Communist movement in this country. On the other hand, [REDACTED] did not recall ever having heard subject express any concern over the spread of Communism in this country. He stated that he felt subject would prefer to live under a Constitutional form of Government rather than under a Communist Government. He was of the opinion that subject would be pro-Russian on a given problem only in so far as he would be open-minded to look into what kind of a case the Russians could make on any given controversy but not in the sense of implicitly favoring their case over and above the American case. He stated that he was quite sure that subject was a member of the UPWA and that he paid his \$1.50 dues regularly, but stated that he [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He knew subject to be a rather close friend of Woodrow Borah, who has been rather active in the union.

The files of the Committee on Un-American Activities list one H. Weisberg - Communist 1934 Daily Worker 4/19/34. This reference was checked and the H. Weisberg referred to was listed as a probable speaker for the ILGW Union of the dress industry in connection with a meeting to be held by them in connection with a strike lockout in that industry. The article intimated that the party in question was an official of ILGW. At that time, Harold Weisberg, our applicant, was reported to be engaged in newspaper work in Wilmington, Delaware and coverage of same by the CSA investigation at Wilmington should eliminate

the

Not applicant

the possibility that our applicant and the H. Weisberg referred to above are identical. It was also ascertained that one Weisberg was listed in the Committee's files with reference pertaining to page 4, Daily Worker, October 29, 1926. This reference disclosed that one Weisberg, first name not shown, was listed as having contributed \$3.00 under the New York City contributions to a drive for \$50,000 in support of the Daily Worker. Information from this reference was not sufficient to warrant an attempt to identify that party with our applicant.

Our applicant, Harold Weisberg, is known to the Committee on Un-American Activities in connection with the Dies Committee - Pelley hearings, as previously mentioned in this report.

[REDACTED]

On subject's personal history sheet, Form 57, dated December 1944, subject listed the following personal references who are known to this office: Hugh Barton, PW; M. R. Rogers, OSS and Robert Wohlforth, Department of Justice, New York City.

Subject's name was checked through the files of the local Credit Bureau with negative results.

The Washington Loan and Trust Company, which was given by subject as a bank reference, reports that subject has carried a small, satisfactory checking account since April 1937.

The Department of Agriculture investigative files were searched in the name of this applicant with negative results.

Meil

Mail cover was established through the cooperation of the local Post Office. This mail cover was continued from April 14, 1947 until May 2, 1947. During this period subject received the April 14th and April 23th copies of "In-Fact", a periodical which is published at 25 Astor Place, New York City.

~~_____~~
Sub-
ject also received the April 14th copy of the "Cooperator", a periodical published by the Eastern Cooperative League, 44 W. 143rd Street, New York City, George H. Tichenor, editor. Subject received the April 15th copy of the AVC Bulletin published by the American Veterans Committee, 1860 Broadway, New York City, Michael J. DeSherbinin, editor.

The files of another Government Agency contain a file on subject but indicate that no investigation was conducted by them; that subject's name was checked through their subversive files only, and that the only reference pertained to one Harold O. Weisberg, who was former editor of the LaFollette Civil Liberties Committee. A notation followed that subject was not identified and that the information was not necessarily adverse if identified. Subject's case was closed December 18, 1946 and condition removed because of liquidation of the Agency by whom investigation had been requested.

611 files were checked on applicant and disclosed that subject was approved by them as to security on July 7, 1944 on the basis of a character and loyalty report prepared for them by a commercial reporting agency. One witness stated that: "Subject became involved in a spurious letter which he purchased from someone; that a party had sold a letter to him telling him that it was written by Chairman Dies to William D. Pelley, former Silver Shirt leader. He had published this letter in good faith, thinking it was genuine and actually had a letter from the party from whom he had purchased it, a Mr. David D. Mayne, indicating that the letter was a genuine document. In my opinion, he was acting in good faith and was really trying to get circumstantial, supporting evidence for a project on which he was working.***** There is no question about his

patriotism.

patriotism. He has a nice personality. I would feel no hesitancy in recommending him for a responsible Government position. He is pro-labor and a New Dealer."

Subject's 201 file on file at OSS indicates that Harold Weisberg was inducted into the Army as a Private at Camden, N.J., on December 18, 1942; that he was assigned to Headquarters Detachment OSS on August 9, 1944 and promoted to a Corporal on August 28, 1944; that as of November 15, 1944 subject was released for transfer to the Fort Dix, New Jersey, Separation Center for discharge under ASF Order 318 dated September 23, 1944 (failure to meet minimum physical requirements). Subject's military record indicates that he was undergoing a treatment at Walter Reed Hospital, Washington, D. C., from March 22, 1944 to May 4, 1944. Proceedings of a board of medical officers, Walter Reed Hospital, which reviewed subject's case, found that a permanent partial disability existed prior to induction based on:

1. Strain, lumbosacral and left sacroiliac.
2. Pes planus, bilateral, second degree, symptomatic cause undetermined (flat feet).
3. Astigmatism, mixed bilateral vision OD 20/70 JS - OS 20/200, correctable to OD 20/30 and OS 20/50.

The Board recommended that subject be returned to any duty of a non-strenuous nature in which impaired vision would not be hazardous to the individual or to members of his unit, etc. As of October 6, 1944 subject wrote to his Chief at OSS, H. C. Barton, complaining of eyestrain and requesting that inquiry be made to determine his eligibility for a medical discharge. On November 15, 1944 subject was given separation orders as indicated above. Subject was rated excellent as to character and efficiency on October 31, 1944.

The files of the Special Investigation Squad, Subversive Unit, Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D. C., were searched in the name of this applicant with negative results.

Passport

Passport Division records, State Department, report no record in the name of Harold Weisberg. [REDACTED], who was formerly in the Latin American Unit at OSS and [REDACTED], who was formerly connected with the LaFollette Civil Liberties Committee, were contacted for additional information concerning subject but both of these informants stated that they did not know Weisberg personally and were not in a position to furnish a reference on him.

FC files were checked on subject with negative results. However, subject is known to [REDACTED] and others in FC because of a liaison contact he established with FC in connection with certain work he was doing in the Latin American Unit on Falangists' activity in South America. [REDACTED] and he stated that solely because he associated subject with Halperin he warned his office to use caution in giving certain types of information to Weisberg until more information was available concerning his reliability; that [REDACTED] office was asked to hold up Weisberg from further liaison work with FC until security clearance was obtained. [REDACTED] states that Weisberg impressed him as a bright fellow who was enthusiastic and ambitious; that he seemed to be very pleasant, cooperative and agreeable to deal with.

[REDACTED]
Special Agent.