

BU 65-1928

REFERENCES: Reports of SA DONALD D. CONNORS, dated March 8 and 23, 1949, at Washington, D. C.
Buffalo letters to Bureau dated March 17 and 30, 1949.
Newark teletype to Bureau, New York and Buffalo dated March 16, 1949.
Buffalo teletype to Bureau, New York and Newark dated March 17, 1949.
Bureau letter to Washington Field dated March 14, 1949.
Report of SA PAUL A. ALKER, dated March 29, 1949, at Newark.

DETAILS: AT ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

Miss WILMA CLARKE, Clerk, Payroll Office, Board of Education, Exchange Street, Rochester, advised that according to the payroll records of that office, THELMA OSTER was employed as a clerk and stenographer from September, 1931, to the end of September, 1934. According to these records, THELMA OSTER was laid off on May 5, 1933. However, she was immediately rehired on a temporary duty basis and worked in a temporary status during May, June and July, 1933. She was not associated with the Board of Education from the end of July, 1933, until the first of September, 1933, at which time she was rehired and continued steady employment until the end of September, 1934. There was no photograph of THELMA OSTER available at the Board of Education, Rochester.

Miss ANN BASSETT, Girls Advisor, East High School, Alexander Street, made available a copy of "The Orient", which is the annual Senior Class publication for East High School, Rochester. According to the 1928 edition of "The Orient", THELMA OSTER was graduated from East High School in January, 1928, after successfully completing a Commercial Course. Her birthdate was given as August 25, 1910. No place of birth was shown. Miss BASSETT advised that, according to her records, no information is available at East High School indicating possible disloyalty on the part of THELMA OSTER.

The 1928 edition of "The Orient" was sent to the New York Division for the purpose of displaying it to WITTAKER CHAMBERS. This publication was returned by the Reporting Agent to ANN BASSETT after it had been returned to this office by the New York Division.

AT HOUGHTON, NEW YORK

The following investigation was conducted by SA THOMAS J.

JORDAN:

Kisseloff-1958

Mr. and Mrs. H. WILLARD ORTLIP, who are presently employed as Art instructors at Houghton College, Houghton, New York, stated they lived in the "Castle" from approximately 1921 to 1924, at which time they moved into Girth's Tavern, a building which was adjacent to the "Castle" grounds. They resided in Girth's Tavern until approximately 1940. Both Mr. and Mrs. ORTLIP stated that numerous artists moved in and out of the "Castle", but they do not recall the names of any of these individuals and stated they do not remember WHITTAKER CHAMBERS. Both advised that a Mrs. WALTER EVANS, a resident of Fort Lee, New Jersey, a Mrs. RICHTER, who is the mother of one ERNEST RICHTER, who is employed as a cashier at the First National Bank of Fort Lee, New Jersey, and one JOSEPH WEEHAM, who resides in Coytesville, New Jersey, are persons who would know most of the individuals who had lived in the "Castle" during the pertinent years..

AT ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

The following investigation was conducted by Reporting Agent:

HANNAH PICKERING advised that she presently resides at 57 Merriam Street, Rochester, and has been employed for several years as a Vocational Advisor with the New York State Employment Service, 34 State Street, Rochester.

HANNAH PICKERING advised that in February, 1922, she left the United States for the purpose of going to Poland to work as a relief worker, with the Quaker Mission. She remained in Poland with the Quaker Mission until approximately November, 1922, at which time she was transferred to Russia, where she worked in the same capacity. She remained in Russia as a relief worker until the end of 1923, at which time she returned to the United States. She stated definitely that she did not meet HAROLD WARE during her employment in either Poland or Russia mentioned above.

Immediately upon her return to the United States, she obtained a position as a clerk with the "All Russian Textile Syndicate", which at that time was located at 121 Broadway, New York City. This position was obtained through her knowledge of Russia, which she had acquired during her work as a relief worker. She stated that this was an American corporation with American directors and that the Chase National Bank of New York City did most of the financing for this corporation. She advised that the "All Russian Textile Syndicate" was under the direction of one ALEX GUMBERG, who at that time was a very important figure in New York financial circles. PICKERING stated that GUMBERG is now deceased. The purpose of this organization was to buy raw cotton for the purpose of shipping it to Russia for sale.

PICKERING remained with this organization until sometime in 1925, at which time she went to Russia at the request of HAROLD WARE to work

with the "Russian Reconstruction Farms". PICKERING stated that during the period of her employment with the "All Russian Textile Syndicate", she first made the acquaintance of HAROLD WARE. She could not give the circumstances surrounding their meeting nor how she happened to meet him. However, her best estimate concerning this matter was that she met HAROLD WARE through mutual acquaintances, one of whom she believed to be JESSICA SMITH, with whom she had previously become acquainted while associated with the Quaker Mission.

Concerning the purpose of the "Russian Reconstruction Farms", PICKERING stated this was an organization partly composed of Russians and partly of individuals who were manufacturing modern farm equipment and machinery which was shipped to Russia in an effort to introduce modern farming methods to the Russian people. She could not specifically state who sponsored this organization, but stated that, to the best of her knowledge, it was sponsored partly by the Russian Government and partly by manufacturers of farm equipment in the United States.

PICKERING stated that during this period she worked directly under HAROLD WARE and most of her work was done in WARE's office in Russia. She stated that her work for the most part concerned social work that arose as a result of the introduction of modern farm equipment on experimental farms. According to PICKERING, HAROLD WARE was in complete charge of this entire project. However, she could not state whether or not he received his salary directly from the Russian Government or whether it was received from funds provided by the Russian Reconstruction Farms. According to PICKERING, HAROLD WARE at this time had no official connection with the Russian Government and his contacts were limited entirely to those individuals who were sponsoring the Russian Reconstruction Farms. This particular period of employment for HANNAH PICKERING lasted approximately one year, at the end of which she returned to the United States.

The only individuals whom PICKERING could remember who were employed by Russian Reconstruction Farms during this period were Doctor PEARLSTEIN, first name unknown, and his wife, who came from Baltimore, Maryland, and one PHILIP SMITH. She has no information concerning the present whereabouts of Dr. PEARLSTEIN and his wife, but stated that the last she heard concerning PHILIP SMITH was to the effect that he was operating a dairy farm near Doylestown, Pennsylvania. She last heard concerning the whereabouts of PHILIP SMITH approximately eighteen years ago.

After her return to the United States, which was sometime during the year 1926, she obtained employment with the "Open Road" in New York City. She could not give the circumstances surrounding her obtaining this employment and added that it undoubtedly was arranged because of her

knowledge of Europe, which she had obtained as a result of her two previous trips.

In the Fall of 1927, she obtained employment in a clerical capacity with the Russian-American Chamber of Commerce in New York City. This employment was obtained through the efforts of ALEX GUMBERG, mentioned above. She remained here until the Fall of 1929, at which time she again became associated with the "Open Road" in New York City, as a travel promoter. She remained with this organization until the Fall of 1932. She stated that at this time the purpose of the "Open Road" was to arrange for residents of the United States to travel on vacation trips to Europe and that these trips were not arranged primarily for the purpose of visiting Russia, but included all the other countries of Europe. In the Fall of 1932, the amount of travel which was performed by American citizens to the European continent declined considerably, with the result that she severed all association with the "Open Road" and obtained employment as a travel promoter with "In Tourist" in New York City. She described this organization as a Russian travel organization. She obtained this employment with "In Tourist" as a result of a request made by individuals whose names she does not remember who were associated with "In Tourist". She remained with this organization as a travel promoter until the end of 1935, at which time she went to Washington, D. C.

Toward the latter part of 1935, she obtained employment in Washington, D. C., with the "Farm Research Corporation", which at that time was under the direction of one WEBSTER POWELL. PICKERING stated that the "Farm Research Corporation" was a private institution which gathered and disseminated agricultural information to those residents of the United States who would be interested in obtaining statistics and farming methods. She stated that the "Farm Research Corporation" from approximately 1933 to the time of the death of HAROLD WARE, which was in the Fall of 1935, was under the direction of HAROLD WARE. She stated definitely she was not associated with this organization during the period it was controlled by HAROLD WARE. She remained with the "Farm Research Corporation" until the Spring of 1938, at which time she returned to her family home in Yates County, which is about thirty miles from Elmira, New York. She remained there a short time and then proceeded to the World's Fair being held in New York City, and obtained a position there arranging tours, dinners and affairs of that nature for visiting dignitaries and visitors.

After the World's Fair closed, GUMBERG, mentioned above, died and she spent considerable time straightening out his affairs. This employment lasted until early 1940. For a short period of time thereafter she was employed as a helper by Dr. GEORGE RITELL, of New York City, who at that time was engaged in writing a book. Upon completion of this employment,

she returned to Rochester, New York, and has been employed by the New York State Employment Service as a Vocational Guidance Director.

Relative to the activities of HAROLD WARE, she advised that sometime before 1930, the exact date she could not remember, HAROLD WARE returned to this country from Russia and remained here a short period of time. He then returned to Russia and she did not have any contact whatsoever with him until approximately 1933, at which time HAROLD WARE again returned to this country and took up residence in Washington, D. C., and operated the "Farm Research Corporation", mentioned above.

PICKERING could not state definitely in what capacity HAROLD WARE was employed during the period from approximately 1930 to 1933 while he was in Russia, but stated that, to the best of her knowledge, he was employed directly by the Russian Government as a director or an overseer for one of their large community farms which the Russian Government was operating at that time. She had no information concerning his contacts during this period from 1930 to 1933. During the period from 1933 until the death of WARE in 1935, PICKERING stated that she lived in New York City and he lived with his wife, JESSICA SMITH, in Washington, D. C. During this period, HAROLD WARE made frequent trips to New York City, approximately once or twice a month and on practically all of these occasions, he contacted her while in New York City. PICKERING stated that these contacts were all of a personal nature. She could give no information concerning the real reason why HAROLD WARE made these trips from Washington to New York City, but surmised it was probably in connection with his business of operating the "Farm Research Bureau" in Washington, mentioned above.

PICKERING stated definitely that she does not know the identity of any individuals whom WARE may have contacted during these trips to New York City and added that she does not know ALGER HISS, WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, WILLIAM EDWARD CRANE, MARGARET GUTERLIUS or Colonel BYKOV, and added that, as far as she knew, HAROLD WARE did not know these individuals.

PICKERING advised that the following individuals knew HAROLD WARE during the early 1930's. However, she stated she was not cognizant of the relationship that may have existed between them. According to PICKERING, HAROLD WARE and the STEVENS brothers, DONALD and ROGER, were brought up in Arden, Delaware, and that, consequently, the STEVENS brothers knew HAROLD WARE during the early 1930's. She added that she thinks that the sister (first name unknown) of the STEVENS brothers was HAROLD WARE's first wife. However, she could not state whether HAROLD WARE was contacting his first wife during the early 1930's.

Kisseloff-1962

According to HANNAH PICKERING, one ~~HELEN BLACK~~, who is now associated with the Soufoto Agency in New York City, was acquainted with HAROLD WARE and had been for a considerable number of years. She stated definitely that she knows of no individual by the name of ~~THELMA OSTER~~ or ~~ANDREE EMERY~~, but could not state whether they might possibly have been in contact with HAROLD WARE during the early 1930's. She did state, however, that one HEDA MASSING and her husband, PAUL MASSING, were undoubtedly-acquainted with HAROLD WARE during this period. She could give no information concerning their present whereabouts, stating that, to the best of her knowledge, they were in New York City. She could not state whether HAROLD WARE had any contact with LEM HARRIS during the early 1930's, but added that she had become acquainted with HARRIS while she was living in New York City. However, she cannot remember the circumstances surrounding the meeting.

Concerning the present whereabouts of JESSICA SMITH, HANNAH PICKERING stated that, as well as she could remember, JESSICA SMITH had remarried after the death of HAROLD WARE and was probably living in New York City. She stated that for some reason, which she cannot remember, she believes SMITH remarried an individual whose last name is ~~ABT~~. She could give no further information regarding this matter.

Relative to ~~DOROTHY DETZER~~, she stated she has had no contact whatsoever with her for approximately fifteen or twenty years and added that she believes that she is presently living in Washington, D. C. PICKERING stated that DETZER may possibly have known HAROLD WARE during the early 1930's. She stated that DETZER is the author of the book, "Appointment on the Hill". PICKERING stated that she herself had never become a member of the Communist Party, and, as far as she knows, HAROLD WARE had never become a member of the Party.

She denied any knowledge that HAROLD WARE had ever been engaged in any espionage activities and stated that the first time she received any information concerning this matter was during the recent hearings conducted by the House Un-American Activities Committee during the course of which HAROLD WARE's name was made public.

Relative to WEBSTER POWELL, mentioned above, who operated the Farm Research Bureau in Washington, D. C., after the death of HAROLD WARE, PICKERING stated she does not know for a fact, but she is of the opinion that WEBSTER POWELL knew HAROLD WARE at least from the period of 1933 to 1935. She could give no information concerning his present whereabouts, adding that she has not seen or heard of him since she left the Farm Research Bureau in 1938.

RE: DETERMINATION OF THE DATE OF MANUFACTURE OF
5 ROLLS OF FILM RECOVERED FROM THE HOME OF
JILY D. WHITTAKER CHAMBERS BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES ON DECEMBER

AT ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

On December 21, 1948, SA ROBERT K. MC QUEEN, of the Washington Field Division, and WILLIAM A. WHEELER, Investigator for the House Committee on Un-American Activities, Washington, who had in his possession five rolls of microfilm obtained from CHAMBERS, which have been identified as Grand Jury Exhibits #47, 48, 49, 50 and 51, were taken by SA CHARLES J. HARKINS, of the Buffalo Division, to the office of Mr. CLARENCE L. WYND, Assistant to the General Manager of the Kodak Park Plant, Eastman-Kodak Company, Rochester, New York. Mr. WYND, in the presence of SA MC QUEEN, HCUA Investigator WHEELER and Agent HARKINS, handled and conducted a visual inspection of the microfilm identified as Grand Jury Exhibits 48, 49, 50 and 51, to determine the date of manufacture. By a visual inspection, Mr. WYND was unable to determine this fact and summoned to his office Mr. HENRY T. IRELAND and Mr. JOSEPH C. GOLAN, Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, respectively, of the Cinc & Sheet Film Department of the Kodak Park Works, Eastman-Kodak Company, Rochester, to inspect the film. IRELAND and GOLAN handled and inspected this film in the presence of SA MC QUEEN, HCUA Investigator WHEELER and SA HARKINS, and they were unable to ascertain the code markings on the film to determine its date of manufacture.

The film was then transported by HCUA Investigator WHEELER, in the presence of SA MC QUEEN, SA HARKINS and Messrs. IRELAND and GOLAN, to the office of Dr. ALFRED E. ROBERTSON, Chemical Engineer of the Kodak Park Works, Eastman-Kodak Company, in order that a microscopic test might be performed on the film. Grand Jury Exhibits 48, 49, 50 and 51 were then handled and placed under a microscope by Dr. ROBERTSON in the presence of SA MC QUEEN, SA HARKINS, HCUA Investigator WHEELER and Messrs. IRELAND and GOLAN, and when it was possible to ascertain the code markings on Exhibits 48 and 49, Messrs. GOLAN and IRELAND examined Exhibits 48 and 49 through the microscope and were able to identify these two pieces of film as being manufactured by the Eastman-Kodak Company in Rochester, New York, during the period from July 1, 1937, to January 1, 1938, for Exhibit 48, and for Exhibit 49 determined this roll was manufactured during the period from January 1, 1937 to July 1, 1937. Messrs. IRELAND and GOLAN then placed identifying marks on Exhibits 48 and 49 and prepared notes of their inspection for future reference and testimony.

Grand Jury Exhibit 50 was examined under microscope by Dr. ROBERTSON and Messrs. GOLAN and IRELAND and they were not able to identify this roll of film as being manufactured by the Eastman-Kodak Company.