

RECORDED - 130

121-2700-18

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Date:

FEB 19 1951

Closing Supp.
121-2700

To:

Mr. James E. Hatcher
Chief, Investigations Division
U. S. Civil Service Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

From:

J. Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject:

WILLIAM HARRY JOUBERT
Transportation Economist V
Tennessee Valley Authority
Knoxville, Tennessee
LOYALTY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Reference is made to my letter of May 5, 1948, transmitting the results of the loyalty investigation on captioned individual.

In accordance with the policy of keeping you currently informed in loyalty matters, there are attached hereto four copies of the report of Special Agent James E. Mike, dated February 8, 1951 at Knoxville, Tennessee, setting fourth additional information which has recently come to the attention of this Bureau.

This is for your information, and no further action is being taken by this Bureau.

(Original reports not furnished to Department.)

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- Tolson _____
- Ladd _____
- Clegg _____
- Glavin _____
- Nichols _____
- Rosen _____
- Tracy _____
- Harbo _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Nease _____
- Gandy _____

BY SP. MSGR.
FEB 19 1951
COMM - FBI

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

BUREAU

FILE NO. 121-22

REPORT MADE AT KNOXVILLE	DATE WHEN MADE 2/8/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/28/50; 1/4, 15; 2/2, 5, 6/51	REPORT MADE BY JAMES H. RIKE rj
TITLE WILLIAM HARRY JOUBERT, Transportation Economist V, (Employee), Tennessee Valley Authority, Knoxville, Tennessee.			CHARACTER OF CASE LOYALTY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Informant reported JOUBERT in 1950 made statements which in effect favored the Chinese Communist Government over the Chinese National Government and on a radio forum in January, 1950, the employee took the affirmative side in a debate "Shall Communist China Be Defended?" Opponents in the debate advised that JOUBERT made no statements which caused them to doubt his loyalty to this country. Neighbors reported no information against employee's loyalty. Informant familiar with CP activities in Tennessee stated that JOUBERT's name not known to him. No disloyal information in credit file. JOUBERT's name does not appear in Knoxville Police Department files.

-RUC-

REFERENCE:

Report of SA JOHN A. PARKER dated 4/12/48 at Knoxville, Tenn. Knoxville letter to the Bureau dated 1/18/51. Bulet to Knoxville dated 1/23/51.

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">J. A. Roney</div>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">121-2700-18</div>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT ⑦ - Bureau (AMSD) 1 - Knoxville <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">acc - esc</div>	RECORDED - 130 INDEXED - 130 <div style="text-align: center;"> FEB 12 1951 1 </div>	RECORDED - 130 INDEXED - 130

PROPERTY OF FBI—THIS CONFIDENTIAL REPORT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE LOANED TO YOU BY THE FBI AND ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE OF AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED.

WILLIAM HARRY JOUBERT
Transportation Economist V
Tennessee Valley Authority
Knoxville, Tennessee
LOYALTY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Knoxville, Tennessee
February 8, 1951

iii: RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION:

Confidential Informant, Kx T-3, a government employee in a responsible position and regarded as reliable, stated that JOUBERT made comments to him during 1950 which had led him to believe that JOUBERT is sympathetic to the Communist line. JOUBERT expressed opinions to the Informant in regard to the Nationalist Chinese Government to the effect that the Nationalist Chinese Government does not represent the Chinese people and should not govern them. The Communist Chinese Government on the other hand, according to JOUBERT, did not deserve all the criticism that had been directed against it, although the most favorable comment that the Informant could recall made by JOUBERT was that the Chinese Reds did not destroy the land when they took over the government of China. JOUBERT also stated to the Informant that Mr. RHEE, President of Southern Korea, was not truly a representative of the people, but was an individual who had been put in control of Southern Korea by the United States Government with no reference to the will of the people. Further, the Informant stated, soon after President TRUMAN had committed American troops in the Korean war, the Informant asked JOUBERT what he thought of the Korean situation at that time. JOUBERT's answer was: "Frankly, I am not interested in the Korean situation." JOUBERT was also outspoken in favor of outlawing the atomic bomb as a weapon of warfare.

The Informant concluded by stating that JOUBERT had defended the Communists on Radio Station WNOX forum in the early part of 1950.

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The Informant added that Mr. F. WOODS BECKMAN and Mr. STEFAN H. ROBOCK, both of TVA, Knoxville, frequently visited JOUBERT's office and also they were seen together frequently by close associates.

The Informant stated that he was not willing to execute a signed statement nor appear before a loyalty hearing board because of his present employment.

Regarding associate F. WOODS BECKMAN, Confidential Informant Knoxville T-4, of known reliability, but who is not available to appear before a loyalty hearing board, and who will not give a signed statement, advised that on Nov. 20, 1948 the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc., sponsored a Declaratory Conference on Civil Rights at Madison Hall, University of Virginia, Charlottesville. Subsequent to this meeting, F. WOODS BECKMAN signed the declaration adopted at this civil rights conference as a sponsor.

Confidential Informant Knoxville T-5, of known reliability, who is familiar with the activities of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, and the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc., stated that after the House Committee on Un-American Activities in 1947 attacked the Southern Conference for Human Welfare as a Communist Group, and published a report to that effect, the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc., supplanted the Southern Conference for Human Welfare and this new group, S.C.E.F., Inc., was headed by CLARK FOREMAN and JAMES DOMEROWSKI, former directors of the S.C.H.W.

The Informant will not give a signed statement and will not appear before a loyalty hearing board.

The Southern Conference for Human Welfare was cited as a Communist Front by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, U. S. House of Representatives, March 29, 1944, pages 48 and 148.

Regarding STEFAN H. ROBOCK, he is presently the Chief, Industrial Economic Branch, TVA, Knoxville. Mr. ROBOCK, when contacted by SA JOHN

W. TOEDT on several occasions during the past six months indicated to the agent that he is not wholly in sympathy with the government prosecution of WILLIAM WALTER REMINGTON, who was recently convicted of perjury in New York City in that he denied before a Grand Jury that he had ever been a member of the Communist Party. ROBOCK stated that he was acquainted with REMINGTON in Washington, D. C. and did not consider him to be disloyal to this country. Further, he said that REMINGTON may or may not have been a member of the Communist Party cell in Knoxville during the 1930's as has been alleged. He did not consider that to be an indication of REMINGTON's present sentiments. He continued that he believed numerous persons had belonged to such an organization at that time without fully realizing its true nature, rather recognizing it as an organization endeavoring to better the conditions of the working classes, which endeavor they were interested in furthering. He said he believed REMINGTON would fall in this category.

Miss PARA LEE BROCK, Promotion Manager and Forum Moderator, Radio Station WNOX, Knoxville, Tennessee, advised that her records reflected that JOUBERT had appeared on a forum on Jan. 11, 1950 on the topic "Shall Communist China Be Defended?" and that JOUBERT and MARTIN SOUTHERN had taken the affirmative side in the debate. She said that there was no record of the forum and advised that she was unable to recall any specific statements or opinions put forth by JOUBERT.

Dr. RUTH STEPHENS, History Department, University of Tennessee, who has furnished reliable information in the past regarding certain matters under investigation, advised that she recalled the above mentioned program and recalled JOUBERT's participation, since she and WILLIAM D. STOUT took the negative side of the debate. Dr. STEPHENS was unable to recall any specific comment by JOUBERT, but could only state that he had made statements similar to those espoused by the Communist Party. She stated that she was not an associate of JOUBERT's, knew nothing further about him, and pointed out that she certainly would not impugn his loyalty to this on the basis of the forum.

Mr. WILLIAM D. STOUT, Professor of Political Science, University of Tennessee, Room 24, Ayres Hall Annex, Knoxville, Tennessee, stated that his only contact with Mr. JOUBERT had been at the Radio Station WNOX forum when he and Dr. STEPHENS debated MARTIN SOUTHERN and JOUBERT on the question "Should Communist China Be Defended?" Mr. STOUT added that he and Dr. STEPHENS took the negative side. Mr. STOUT stated that he does not recall the details of the statements made by SOUTHERN or JOUBERT, but he did recall that the main point of debate was whether recognition or non-recognition of Communist China would be advantageous to the United States' position in world politics. JOUBERT had argued that it would be advantageous to the United States to recognize Communist China. Mr. STOUT added that from JOUBERT's statements at the forum and from contact with him there at the radio station he had no basis to suspect him of being disloyal to

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the United States. STOUT added that due to the fact that he was not well acquainted with JOUBERT, he could make no recommendation as to his government employment.

Confidential Informant, Knoxville T-1, who is apparently a responsible and reliable public official, stated that he has observed JOUBERT since early 1948 when a previous loyalty investigation was conducted and during that period of time nothing has come to his attention which would cause him to doubt JOUBERT's loyalty to the United States. The Informant stated that he would recommend JOUBERT for government employment insofar as his loyalty is concerned.

Mrs. EVA LEE ROBBINS, Personnel Division, TVA, Arnstein Bldg., Knoxville, Tenn., produced the personnel file for JOUBERT, which file, when reviewed by the agent, reflected no disloyal information regarding JOUBERT.

Mr. HAROLD E. RUTENSCHROER, Chief Clerk to the General Superintendent of Transportation, Southern Railroad Company, who resides at 300 Emoriland Bldg., Knoxville, advised that Mr. and Mrs. WILLIAM H. JOUBERT had moved from the second floor apartment in his home to 6116 Easton Road, Knoxville, in July, 1949. Mr. RUTENSCHROER stated that during his acquaintance with the JOUBERT's nothing came to his attention that would reflect against their loyalty to this country, and he would not hesitate to recommend JOUBERT insofar as his loyalty was concerned.

JOHN H. KERR, [redacted] stated that he has known the JOUBERT family for over one year and they are quiet, respectable neighbors with no un-American associations or tendencies insofar as he knows. Mr. KERR has heard no rumors from the neighbors concerning disloyalty on JOUBERT's part. Mr. KERR stated that he regarded JOUBERT as a loyal citizen and would recommend him for government employment.

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Confidential Informant, Knoxville T-2, a member of the Communist Party, of known reliability, advised that WILLIAM HARRY JOUBERT and his wife are unknown to him and insofar as he knows these individuals are not and have not been members of the Communist Party in the State of Tennessee.

Mr. AUDREY BIDDLE, Retail Credit Association, 313 Commerce St., Knoxville, Tenn., produced the credit file for WILLIAM HARRY JOUBERT, which file contained no information regarding his loyalty.

Captain FRANK REAMS, Identification Bureau, Knoxville Police Department, stated that JOUBERT's nor his wife's name did not appear in the files of the Knoxville Police Department.

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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

SA GEORGE C. WELBORN interviewed CI, Kx T-2; SA ROBERT E. MARGISON interviewed CI, Kx T-3, PARA IEE BROCK, and Dr. RUTH STEPHENS. The writer conducted the remaining investigation.

Confidential Informant, Kx T-3, stated that during the trial of WILLIAM WALTER REMINGTON in New York City for perjury, it was JOUBERT's stated opinion that the wife of WALTER REMINGTON was lying when she stated that REMINGTON had at one time been a member of the Communist Party. The Informant also reported that MARTIN SOUTHERN and WILBUR JAY MOULDER were close associates of JOUBERT, visiting him in his office and frequently calling him on the telephone. MARTIN SOUTHERN is identified as a Knoxville attorney with offices at 615½ Market St., Knoxville, Tenn. File #121-63-302 indicates that SOUTHERN is the attorney for Mrs. CHRISTINE BENSON, a former member of the Communist Party, Knoxville. On June 21, 1950 Mrs. BENSON telephonically advised the Knoxville Office that after consultation with SOUTHERN she thought there would be no purpose in her submitting to further interview by the FBI regarding WILLIAM WALTER REMINGTON. She advised that SOUTHERN had told her she was under no compulsion to submit to interview. It is noted that CHRISTINE BENSON testified in the New York REMINGTON perjury trial to the effect that she was a member of the CP as was WILLIAM WALTER REMINGTON when they resided in Knoxville.

Kx File #100-2425-11 contains a newspaper clipping setting out a letter to the editor of the Knoxville Journal on Oct. 12, 1950 by SOUTHERN. SOUTHERN in this letter was defending certain critics of the Unitarian Church.

Kx File #100-0-1911 indicates that the Knoxville Chapter of the Americans for Democratic Action was organized in Knoxville in 1950 and MARTIN SOUTHERN was elected temporary chairman. He was named as a delegate to the National convention of the A.D.A. held at Washington between March 31 and April 2, 1950. On May 26, 1950 he was replaced with a permanent chairman. This file also contains an article written by SOUTHERN published in the "East Tennessee Labor News," April 26, 1950 in which SOUTHERN sets forth certain pro-labor viewpoints.

Regarding WILBUR JAY MOULDER, a report was submitted 2/19/42 by SA J. T. LUTHEY, JR. at Knoxville, entitled "WILBUR JAY MOULDER, Internal Security - G," which report reflected that MOULDER had a photograph of HITLER and GOEBBELS on his wall in his YMCA room in Knoxville. These photographs were taken from "Life" magazine. The Bureau advised that no investigation should be conducted in this matter. On August 9, 1950, Mrs. J. E. SERVERS, 3109 Orlando Ave., Knoxville, reported that the MOULDERS had had a party or meeting in their home and some colored people had attended this meeting. It is noted that MOULDER resides at 3100 Orlando Ave., and is employed in the Commerce Development Section, TVA, Knoxville.

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ADMIN. PAGE

Mrs. SHIRLEY ROBOCK, wife of an associate of JOUBERT's, as of May 26, 1949, was elected as treasurer of the Knoxville Chapter of Americans for Democratic Action. It is noted that CI, Kx T-3, advised that Mrs. ROBOCK had asked a neighbor if she objected to the ROBOCK's entertaining negroes in their home over the weekend. This viewpoint on the racial situation had startled some of the Southerners who worked at TVA.

Regarding associate, F. WOODS BECKMAN, #100-2319 reflects as of Feb. 7, 1950 he was President of the United World Federalists of Tennessee, Inc., and further that BECKMAN was instrumental in forming the United World Federalists organization in Knoxville. There is no information in the Knoxville files that this organization is infiltrated by the Communist Party.

By letter dated Nov. 6, 1940 the Bureau transmitted two photostatic copies of a list of names of alleged members of the CP employed by the TVA, which list was reported to have been compiled by a Congressional Committee, but a review of Bureau file #61-7551-360 did not reflect from which congressional committee the list was received. This list contained the name, F. WOODS BECKMAN. It is noted that investigation by the Knoxville Division has reflected that some of the individuals named on the list were associated with the CP but not all were identified with the CP. Further investigation by the Bureau and the Knoxville Division has not verified the list in any way. Therefore, the information is not being set out in the details of this report.

CI, Kx T-3, reported that MERRILL J. ROBERTS, Professor, University of Florida, was a constant correspondent of JOUBERT's. By teletype dated 2/6/51 the Mobile office advised there was no information on ROBERTS in their files.

The information regarding STEFAN H. ROBOCK and WILLIAM WALTER REMINGTON appeared in [redacted] which case was entitled "RICHARD EDGAR PILES, [redacted]" Report in this matter was dated 1/13/51 at Knoxville and was made by SA JOHN W. TCEDT.

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INFORMANT PAGE

Knoxville T-1 is [redacted] and who requested that his identity be concealed because of this [redacted] relationship.

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Knoxville T-2 is [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau.

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Knoxville T-3 is [redacted]

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[redacted] She requested that her identity not be revealed since she was of the opinion that JOUBERT [redacted] if he knew she had talked to agents of this office. She declined to give a signed statement or appear before a loyalty hearing board for the same reason.

Knoxville T-4 is [redacted]

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[redacted] She requested that her name be kept confidential. This information was set out in a report of SA DAVID HANLON BECKER dated 2/11/49 at New Orleans entitled "Southern Conference for Human Welfare and Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc.; Character, Internal Security - C."

Knoxville T-5 is [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau. Information furnished by this Informant appeared in the report of SA DAVID HANLON BECKER dated 11/18/48 at New Orleans, La. entitled "SCHW; SCEF, Internal Security - C."

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Per Chief, FOIPA, Bureau of Personnel
Investigations, CSC, 11/30/78

UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

ADDRESS ONLY
"CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION"
IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO
FILE LRB:hes
AND DATE OF THIS LETTER

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

121-2700
[Handwritten signature]

Date: December 13, 1951

To: Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D. C.

From: Hiram Bingham
Chairman, Loyalty Review Board
U. S. Civil Service Commission

Subject: Joubert, William Harry
D.O.B. 11-1-11
Transportation Economist
Tennessee Valley Authority

In accordance with your request, there is shown below the disposition made of the case of the captioned individual, who was investigated by your Bureau under the provisions of Executive Order 9835:

This disposition refers to loyalty only and has no reference to actions on other questions of suitability or security which may enter into a case.

Employee or Appointee:

- Eligible on loyalty
- Ineligible and dismissed on loyalty
- Resigned or otherwise separated from Federal Service prior to decision on loyalty

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Applicant:

- Eligible on loyalty
- Ineligible and denied employment on loyalty
- Withdrew from consideration prior to decision on loyalty

[Handwritten signature]

Remarks:

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NOT RECORDED
11 JAN 11 1952
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63 JAN 16 1952
USCSC--WASHINGTON D C

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MAY 1951