

**SUBJECT** \_\_\_\_\_

WILLIAM GROPPER

**FOIPA** ~~##~~ \_\_\_\_\_

272,270

**FILE** ~~##~~ \_\_\_\_\_

FBIHQ 100-66809 Section 1

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

b7c

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

NY FILE NO. 100-1030

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK, NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>1/9/42</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>1/5/42</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b>
TITLE <b>WILLIAM VICTOR GROPPER</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - R</b>	

Lab 0  
PA 3

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

[REDACTED]

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b7D

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8/6/87 BY 88-104720

DETAILS:

[REDACTED]

b7c  
b7D

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED:

*[Signature]*

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100-66809-1

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JAN 10 1942

3 - New York

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GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 7-2034

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- Deleted under exemption(s) b7c b7D with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
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For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Typed 3/4/42  
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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LAWRENCE M. C. SMITH  
CHIEF, SPECIAL DEFENSE UNIT

RE: WILLIAM VICTOR GROPPER  
Mt. Airy Road  
Croton, New York

b7c

There is transmitted herewith a copy of the report of [REDACTED] dated January 9, 1942, at New York, New York, in the case entitled "William Victor Gropper, Internal Security - R," showing the information presently available in the files of this Bureau with respect to the above captioned subject.

It is recommended that this individual be considered for custodial detention in view of the existing emergency. The information contained on the attached report constitutes the basis for appropriate consideration in this regard.

It should be understood, of course, that additional information may be received from time to time supplementing that already available in the Bureau's files, and as such data are received they will be made available to you so that the information in your possession may be supplemented thereby.

It will be greatly appreciated if you will advise this Bureau at your earliest convenience as to the decision reached in this case.

Very truly yours,

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

4 APR 30 1942

RECEIVED DEPT OF JUSTICE  
E. B. John Edgar Hoover  
Director

APR 6 2 05 PM '42

RECEIVED - MAIL ROOM

Enclosure

COMMUNICATIONS

MAIL [REDACTED]

APR 6

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8/6/87 BY SP-1AG/aw  
CH 272270

ADDRESS REPLY TO  
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"  
AND REFER TO  
INITIALS AND NUMBER

*not*  
*H*

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

*New York*

Mr. Tolson.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
Mr. Clegg.....
Mr. Glavin.....
Mr. Ladd.....
Mr. Nichols.....
Mr. Rosen.....
Mr. Tracy.....
Mr. Carson.....
Mr. Coffey.....
Mr. Hendon.....
Mr. Kramer.....
Mr. McGuire.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm.....
Mr. Nease.....
Miss Gandy.....
Files.....

April 28, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. J. EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: William Victor Gropper B-2  
Mt. Airy Road  
Croton, New York

Set out above is the tentative dangerousness classification of the above-named individual, concerning whom a dossier has been previously submitted to this Unit by the Bureau.

Since it appears that the subject is not an alien, his apprehension at this time is not desired.

Lawrence M. C. Smith  
Chief, Special Defense Unit

By *Joseph Prendergast*  
Joseph Prendergast  
Assistant Chief

FOR DEFENSE COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 11  
★ MAY 29 1942 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

RECORDED *100-66809-2*  
MAY 5 1942  
SAC, NYC  
5-59-42

*b7c (FBI)*

10 MAY 1 1942, 94

b7c

October 27, 1942

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

100-66809

Special Agent in Charge  
New York, New York

RE: INTERNAL SECURITY  
CUSTODIAL DETENTION

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that a custodial detention card has been prepared at the Bureau, captioned as follows:

GROPPER, WILLIAM VICTOR

(Native Born)

COMMUNIST

Mt. Airy Road  
Croton, New York (Res.)

100-66809-NR1  
NOT RECORDED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8/6/87 BY SP-1AC/NU  
48275270

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-1AC/NU  
ON 8/6/87 48275270

The above caption should be checked immediately for accuracy against the information contained in your files, and the Bureau should be informed of any discrepancies. You will prepare without delay a 5" x 8" white card captioned as above and reflecting your investigative case file number for filing in your Confidential Custodial Detention Card File. In the event the above caption is not correct, the card you

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

prepare should be correctly captioned, and the Bureau should be informed of the correct caption.

The caption of the card prepared and filed in your Office must be kept current at all times and the Bureau immediately advised of any changes made therein in that connection.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 10  
OCT 27 1942 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

9 1942 b7c

b7c

February 26, 1943

Call 11:30 AM  
Typed 11:45 AM

MR. E. A. TAMM

[redacted] called and advised that the [redacted] has written the Attorney General with reference to two artists, [redacted] and Bill Groper, who are being considered as possibilities to go abroad with the Army Engineers to do pictorial work in connection with the war. [redacted] understands the Army's referring such cases to the Bureau for investigation, and he would like to be noted as a contact in the event an investigation of these two men is requested. Both of them have Communist connections. [redacted] resides at [redacted] New York, and will come to a place designated by Bureau agents for interview if necessary in connection with these two men.

Respectfully,

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 8/6/87 BY SP-7A/GW

CA 27220

RECORDED  
INDEXED

100-66809-2X

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
MAR 5 1943

EX - 26

INITIALS OF ORIGINAL FILE  
INITIALS OF ORIGINAL

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9M 1943

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 16, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR  
HUGH B. COX, ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL  
AND  
J. EDGAR HOOVER, DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

I refer to Mr. L. M. C. Smith's memorandum to me dated June 28, 1943, which reviews the history, development, and meaning of the Special Case work and of the danger classifications that were made as a part of that work.

After full re-consideration of these individual danger classifications, I am satisfied that they serve no useful purpose. The detention of alien enemies is being dealt with under the procedures established by the Alien Enemy Control Unit. The Special Case procedure has been found to be valueless and is not used in that connection. There is no statutory authorization or other present justification for keeping a "custodial detention" list of citizens. The Department fulfills its proper functions by investigating the activities of persons who may have violated the law. It is not aided in this work by classifying persons as to dangerousness.

Apart from these general considerations, it is now clear to me that this classification system is inherently unreliable. The evidence used for the purpose of making the classifications was inadequate; the standards applied to the evidence for the purpose of making the classifications were defective; and finally, the notion that it is possible to make a valid determination as to how dangerous a person is in the abstract and without reference to time, environment, and other relevant circumstances, is impractical, unwise, and dangerous.

For the foregoing reasons I am satisfied that the adoption of this classification system was a mistake that should be rectified for the future. Accordingly, I direct that the classifications heretofore made should not be regarded as classifications of dangerousness or as a

100-66809-NR2

determination of fact in any sense. In the future, they should not be used for any purpose whatsoever. Questions raised as to the status or activities of a particular person should be disposed of by consideration of all available information, but without reference to any classification heretofore made.

A copy of this memorandum should be placed in the file of each person who has hitherto been given a classification. In addition, each card upon which a classification appears should be stamped with the following language:

"THIS CLASSIFICATION IS UNRELIABLE. IT IS  
HEREBY CANCELLED, AND SHOULD NOT BE USED  
AS A DETERMINATION OF DANGEROUSNESS OR OF  
ANY OTHER FACT. (SEE MEMORANDUM OF JULY 16,  
1943 FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO HUGH B.  
COX AND J. EDGAR HOOVER)."

Attorney General

[REDACTED] b7C

100-66809

Date: September 22, 1943

To: SAC - New York City

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: WILLIAM VICTOR GROPPER  
INTERNAL SECURITY

b7C

It is noted that this case was closed with the report of [REDACTED] of your Office dated January 9, 1942.

b7C

In view of subject's key figure status a report should be submitted in the near future bringing this case up to date.

- Mr. Tolson.....
- Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
- Mr. Clegg.....
- Mr. Glavin.....
- Mr. Ladd.....
- Mr. Nichols.....
- Mr. Rosen.....
- Mr. Tracy.....
- Mr. Carson.....
- Mr. Coffey.....
- Mr. Hendon.....
- Mr. McGuire.....
- Mr. Mumford.....
- Mr. Quinn Tamm.....
- Mr. Nease.....
- Miss Gandy.....

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8/6/87 BY SP-7AG/WD

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED  
SEP 26 4 43 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

100-66809-43  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
SEP 24 1943  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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INDEXED  
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28 SEP 27 1943

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**100-66809**

*b7c*

**February 3, 1944**

**SAC, New York**

**WILLIAM VICTOR GROPPER  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C**

Your attention is again called to the Bureau's letter of September 22, 1943, instructing you to submit a report in the above captioned case. This matter should be given immediate attention.

**[REDACTED]** *b7c*

RECORDED

**100-66809-4**  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FEB 7 1944  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/6/87 BY SP-7AG/WW

*CB 2/22/20*

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 9  
★ FEB 4 1944 P.M.  
[REDACTED]

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Acers \_\_\_\_\_
- Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mumford \_\_\_\_\_
- Starke \_\_\_\_\_
- Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

08 PM '44

**[REDACTED]**  
**[REDACTED]**  
**[REDACTED]**

*b7c*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

NY FILE NO. 100-1030

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 4/7/44	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/10/43; 2/9, 10; 3/22/44	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
TITLE WILLIAM VICTOR GROPPER		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C b7c	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** Subject born December 3, 1897, at NYC, and is employed by the MORNING FREEDOM PUBLISHING CO., and FREEDOM OF THE PRESS COMPANY, as a cartoonist, in NYC. He resides in Croton-on-the-Hudson, N.Y., with his wife, SOPHIE, whom he married in Chicago in 1926. Subject presently drawing cartoons for "Daily Worker", "Morning Freiheit" and "New Masses"; is allegedly an artist of some repute. Detailed information set forth concerning subject's Communist activities and affiliations.

Classified by SP-18670  
Declassify on: OADR 8/6/81

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

**REFERENCE:** Bureau file 100-66809. Report of [REDACTED] dated January 9, 1942 at New York City.

**DETAILS:** The subject is being considered a key figure in the New York Field Division.

"Who's Who in American Jewry", edited by JOHN SIMONS and published by the NATIONAL NEWS ASSOCIATION, INC., 72 Fifth Avenue, New York City, for 1938-1939, reflects that the subject is a cartoonist and painter; was born in New York City on December 3, 1897, the son of HARRY and JENNY (NIDEL) GROPPER. The subject was educated at the NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN, and the NEW YORK SCHOOL OF FINE AND APPLIED ART. He was staff cartoonist on the New York Sunday TRIBUNE, from 1919 to 1921, and the New York Sunday WORLD, from 1925 to 1927. He has been a contributor to the NEW YORK POST, THE BOOKMAN, THE DIAL, SPUR, SMART SET, VANITY FAIR, VOGUE, NEW MASSES, SUNDAY WORKER, MORNING FREIHEIT and others.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: E. E. Conway SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	RECORDED & INDEXED
COPIES DESTROYED 1/12/50	100-66809-5	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau	25 APR 1 1944	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	b7c

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His works include: "The Golden Land" - a series of political cartoons (1927); "USSR IN 56 DRAWINGS" (1928); "ALAY OOP" - a story in pictures (1930); and illustrations for about 16 books.

His paintings include "The Senate" - published by Living American Art; prints published by the AMERICAN ARTISTS GROUP; murals painted for SCHENLEY DISTILLERS CORPORATION, HOTEL TAFT, and the Freeport, Long Island Post Office. He has paintings in the collections of the MUSEUM OF MODERN ART and the WHITNEY MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART. He has been awarded the PIERRE MacDONALD PRIZE, the WANAMAKER PRIZE, the COLLIER PRIZE, and the HARMON PRIZE. He is a member of the MURAL PAINTERS SOCIETY (Director); the AMERICAN ARTISTS CONGRESS (Executive Board member in 1936); the AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PAINTERS, SCULPTORS, AND ENGRAVERS; the AMERICAN GROUP, and the AMERICAN NEWSPAPER GUILD.

He married SOPHIE <sup>X Gropper</sup> FRANKLE in 1925 in Chicago, Illinois, and lives with her and his children, GENE and LEE, at Mount Airy Road, Croton-on-Hudson, New York.

A check of the Selective Service Board, #753, Montrose, New York, reflected that the subject has order number 10380; resides at Mount Airy Road, Croton-on-Hudson, New York, telephone CROTON 3619. His birth date was confirmed, and he gave his wife's name as SOPHIE.

He claimed employment with the MORNING FREIHEIT PUBLISHING COMPANY, 35 East 12th Street, New York City, and the FREEDOM OF THE PRESS COMPANY, 50 East 13th Street, New York City. His Social Security number is 082-01-7740. His education, as above stated, was confirmed, and he also claims to have studied at the FERRER ART SCHOOL for 4 years. He listed his occupation as a political cartoonist, and claimed 25 years experience in this work, averaging \$50 a week income. The subject claimed to have painted various murals for the Government, including the new Interior Building in Washington, D.C. and the Northwestern Building, a postal station, in Detroit, Michigan.

The subject stated that he was married on October 26, 1926, at Chicago, and that his son, GENE, was born in 1928 and his son, LEE in 1932. He owns his own home and 26 acres of ground in Croton-on-Hudson, which he values at \$22,500.

On April 6, 1943, the Draft Board received a letter from the U.S. ENGINEERS OFFICE of the War Department, Room 601, 120 Wall Street, New York City, advising that the subject was scheduled to leave for duty in North Africa, as an artist doing war work. By letter dated May 4, 1943, the Local Board was advised by the War Department that the subject had failed to qualify for this position.

The subject was classified in class 4-A on December 28, 1942.

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NY 100-1030

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Appearing in the New York file of instant case is a full-page ad, taken from "Time" magazine, advertising CAPEHART RADIOS. The upper half of the page is a portrait painted by WILLIAM GROPPER for the CAPEHART COLLECTION, depicting the Siege of Leningrad.

Appearing in the New York Times for October 31, 1943, is a small ad which reads as follows: "Your Brother's Blood Cries Out" by William Gropper. Portfolio. New York: The ACA Galleries. \$5. A portfolio of drawings of the war."

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[REDACTED]

Page 509 of the <sup>Committee</sup> DIES report reflects that the subject's name appears on a letterhead of the WORKERS INTERNATIONAL RELIEF, as a member of the National Committee. The DIES report, on page 545, reflects information concerning the JOHN REED CLUB, 430 6th Avenue, New York City, which was established by a group of artists, with Communist teachers. Among these teachers was listed BILL GROPPER.

The DIES report, on page 547, reflects that the subject was listed as an officer of the WORKERS CULTURAL FEDERATION, which was organized in 1931 and comprised 179 organizations. The New York Times for May 19, 1930, issued a signed statement in protest by the JOHN REED CLUB, of what was termed the "Red scare"; among the signers was the subject.

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The School for Democracy, 13 Astor Place, New York City, announced that the summer class for 1942 would be conducted at Arcadia, Fishkill, New York. Among the lecturers was WILLIAM GROPPER.

The Daily Worker for February 28, 1941, reflects that the subject was to be a speaker at Manhattan Center on March 2, 1941, to honor MIKE GOLD, Daily Worker columnist, for his 25 years of activity in behalf of the labor movement.

The Daily Worker for December 31, 1940, reflected that the subject was one of eight artists who had their names added in support of the \$300,000 campaign of the AMERICAN RESCUE SHIP MISSION, to aid Spanish Republican refugees.

The Daily Worker for August 28, 1941, contains a picture of subject and an article to the effect that he is happy to turn over thousands of rubles to the Soviet Government for the purchase of medical supplies for the Red Army; this article states that the subject has had a bank account accumulating in Russia, which has purchased many of his paintings, and also pays him royalties for thousands of reprints made of his work. GROPPER is described as a great favorite of the Soviet public, and among his numerous paintings now hanging in Soviet galleries are those in the Moscow Museum of Western Art, the Kharkov Museum and the Biro-Bidjan Museum. The Soviet Government has been depositing this money in the bank for many years and the subject wants it used to help relieve the suffering of wounded Soviet soldiers. He hopes that American artists and writers, whose work the Soviet Government has commended so warmly, will likewise turn over their earnings to this worthy cause.

The DIES reports on page 1622, reflect that the magazine, "Friday" made its first appearance on May 15, 1940, and the subject was listed as one of its cartoonists.

The DIES report on page 1680 reflected that the subject was a signer of an open letter calling for greater unity of the Anti-Fascist forces and the strengthening of the front against aggression through closer cooperation with the Soviet union. This letter was released on August 14, signed by 400 "leading Americans".

The New York files reflect that the subject has been connected or affiliated with the following organizations, which, in varying degrees, are allegedly Communistic.

In 1941 - a member of the New York Conference for Inalienable Rights  
In 1941 - A sponsor of the United American-Spanish Aid Committee

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-1030

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- In 1940 - A member of the National Executive Committee of the American Artists Congress
- In 1941 - A member of the Associated American Artists
- In 1941 - A sponsor of the social workers Hobby Show and Dance.
- In 1936 - A sponsor of the New York Conference for a people's delegation to Biro-Bidjan
- In 1941 - A dinner speaker at the 4th American Writers Congress and Congress of American Artists.
- In 1942 - A sponsor of the dinner for ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN, given by the Citizens Committee to Free Earl Browder, on February 25.
- In 1942 - A sponsor of a dinner on October 27, given by the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee.
- In 1942 - A sponsor of the Artists Front to Win the War
- In 1943 - A contributing editor to "New Masses" magazine.

- P E N D I N G -

- 6 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-1030

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

At Montrose, New York - Will obtain a photographic copy of that portion of the subject's Selective Service file which is in his handwriting, and submit same to the Bureau, in accordance with recent Bureau instructions requesting handwriting specimens for all key figures.

At New York City - Will continue to report activities of the subject as obtained from confidential informants.

Will submit to the Bureau a photograph of the subject.

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1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- Deleted under exemption(s) b1 b2 b7c b7D with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

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William Gropper

Taken from Daily Worker, 1-22-40, p.5.

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 7/6/87 BY SP-2AG/AD

CH 27222

100-66809-6



**GROPPIE AT WORK**

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

b7c

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY FILE NO. 100-1030

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK, NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>8/11/44</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>8/5/44</b>	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
TITLE <b>WILLIAM VICTOR GROPPER</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Key Figure

Subject held fiesta at his home at Croton-on-the-Hudson, NY, for the benefit of the JOINT ANTI-FASCIST REFUGEE COMMITTEE. Photographs submitted.

Classified by SP-7 ACW  
Declassify on: OADR 8/2/87

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

**REFERENCE:**

Bureau File 100-66809  
Report of [REDACTED] dated April 7, 1944 at New York, New York.

**DETAILS:**

The subject of this case is being considered a key figure in the New York Field Division.

The July 1, 1944, issue of the "Daily Worker" in the "What's On" column advised that July 1st was fiesta time at the GROPPERS, from 2 p.m. to ..... The Fiesta was to be held at the home of BILL and SOPHIE GROPPER, Mount Airy Road, Croton-on-the-Hudson, New York. The admission was \$1, while the payment of \$2 included a turkey dinner. It was given for the benefit of the JOINT ANTI-FASCIST REFUGEE COMMITTEE and everybody was welcome.

Photo of [REDACTED]  
 William Victor Gropper

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <u>E. C. Conroy</u>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	RECORDED & INDEXED
COPIES DESTROYED 11-13-64		100-66809-7	118
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		EX-22	
5 - Bureau (2 enc.)		11 AUG 1944	
[REDACTED] FILE		[REDACTED]	

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The "Daily Worker" for July 4, 1944 advised that the fiesta had attracted a great deal of comment. STANLEY M. ISAACS was to act as master of ceremonies, and among those appearing were RAY LEV, noted concert pianist; TONY KRABER of the Columbia Broadcasting System; and REY DE LA TORRE, the South American sensational guitarist; and a swing band made up of eight of the leading jazz musicians of the New York night clubs.

The subject's cartoons continue to appear frequently in the "Daily Worker". These are being clipped and placed in the subject's case file in the New York Office.

"Life" magazine for June 12, 1944 contained a short article on the subject, showing his photograph and photographs of several of his paintings. These are being retained in the New York file, and photographic copies of the subject's photograph are being forwarded to the Bureau as enclosures with copies of instant report.

The "Daily Worker" for January 30, 1944 on page 3, advised of a meeting which was held on January 27th at MANHATTAN CENTER to pay tribute to ART YOUNG, deceased pro-Communist artist. The subject was one of the speakers.

b1  
b2  
b7D  
b7E  
[REDACTED] (C)

b2  
b7C  
b7D  
[REDACTED]

The subject was listed as one of the sponsors of the Citizens Non-Partisan Committee to elect BEN DAVIS, JR. to the New York City Council.

b1  
[REDACTED] (C)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-1030

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

b1



ENCLOSURES - BUREAU (2)

Two photographic copies of a photograph of subject.

- PENDING -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-1030

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

At Montrose, New York:

\* Will obtain a photographic copy of that portion of the subject's Selective Service file which is in his handwriting, and submit same to the Bureau, in accordance with recent Bureau instructions requesting handwriting specimens for all key figures.

At New York City:

Will continue to report Communist activities of the subject as obtained from confidential informants and from a review of the "Daily Worker".

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- Deleted under exemption(s) b1 b2 b7c b7D with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
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\_\_\_\_\_

For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
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9874

b7c Office Memorandum

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

100-1030

TO : Director, FBI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE: September 30, 1944

FROM : SAC, New York

Classified by R-1A6/nd

SUBJECT: WILLIAM VICTOR GROPPER  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
(Bureau File No. 100-66809)

Substantive by [redacted] 8/28/44

CA 269134

23675

Attention: FBI LABORATORY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

Enclosed herewith are photographic specimens of the handwriting of  
subject, who is a key figure in the New York City Field Division.

[redacted]

(c) b1

Encl. 1

100-66809-8

RECORDED

F B I  
87 OCT 1944

15 1 attached  
178 OCT 1944

NO. ANS. NEC. part of  
SPEC. RETAINED IN LAB.

[redacted] b7c

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

b7c

WRITE IN THIS BLANK SPACE

a \_\_\_\_\_  
 b \_\_\_\_\_  
 c \_\_\_\_\_  
 d \_\_\_\_\_

17. If now taking any course of training or study, give:  
 Type of course

School

Date you expect to complete course:

**PRESENT JOB** (If you are now working or if you have a job.)

**TITLE OF YOUR PRESENT JOB:**

(See instruction 4.)

(If you do not have a job, write "unemployed"; if a full-time student, write "student.")

**NEWSPAPER CARTOONIST**

19. Length of experience at this type of work: Yrs. **25** Mos. \_\_\_\_

Date began: **1917**

**DUTIES OF YOUR PRESENT JOB:**

(See instruction 5.)

**I CREATE AND DRAW POLITICAL CARTOONS FOR DAILY NEWSPAPERS**

**PRODUCT(S) YOU WORK ON OR PRODUCE OR SERVICE YOU PERFORM**

**EDUCATIONAL**

22. Machine(s) operated or tool(s) used (if any)

**PRESENT EMPLOYER:**

Name of company or proprietor

**MORNING FREEDOM PUBLISHING CO.**

(If working for yourself, write "self-employed")

**ADDRESS OF PLACE OF WORK:**

**35 EAST 12 ST. NEW YORK, N.Y.**

(Number and street or rural route)

(City or town)

(County)

(State)

**BUSINESS:** (Give specific kind of farm, factory, mine, public utility, store, or other establishment or business where you work.)

**NEWSPAPER**

Division or branch in which you work

**EDITORIAL**

**FOR WHICH YOU ARE BEST FITTED** (Describe the kind of work you think you are best fitted to do at present. This may or may not be the same as your present job given above. If none, write "none.")

**TITLE OF JOB FOR WHICH YOU ARE BEST FITTED:**

(See instruction 4.)

**NEWSPAPER CARTOONIST**

25. Length of experience at this type of work: Yrs. **25** Mos. \_\_\_\_

Date began: **1917**

Date ended:

this job the same as your present job?  Yes.  No. If "No," fill in item 27.

**DUTIES OF JOB FOR WHICH YOU ARE BEST FITTED:**

(See instruction 5.)

**FOR WHICH YOU ARE NEXT BEST FITTED** (Describe the kind of work you think you are next best fitted to do. If none, write "none.")

**TITLE OF JOB FOR WHICH YOU ARE NEXT BEST FITTED:**

(See instruction 4.)

**ARTIST AND PAINTER**

29. Length of experience at this type of work: Yrs. **25** Mos. \_\_\_\_

Date began: **1917**

Date ended:

this job the same as your present job?  Yes.  No. If "No," fill in item 31.

The statements made by and about me, and that each and every such statement is true and complete to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. The statements made by me in the foregoing \_\_\_\_\_ in my own handwriting. (are are not)

Registrant sign here William Gropper  
(Signature or mark of registrant)

I swear to before me this 11th day of June, 1942  
(Signature of officer)  
Postmaster  
(Designation of officer)



Person has assisted the registrant in filling out this Questionnaire, such person shall sign the following statement:

WILLIAM GROPPER • CROTON • ON • HUDSON • N. Y.

May 11th, 1943

10380

Selective Service  
Local Board No. 753  
Westchester County  
Hendrick Hudson High School  
Montrose, New York

Local Board No. 753 28  
Westchester County 119  
MAY 12 1943 753  
Hendrick Hudson High Sch.  
Montrose, New York

Gentlemen:

I wish to notify you that my proposed trip to Africa as Artist for the War Department has not materialised. Until further developments take place, I will keep you informed.

I want to thank you for the courtesy and cooperation you have so kindly extended to me.

Sincerely yours,

Wm Gropper

Recd. H-H

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

9875

100-1080  
TO : Director, FBI  
FROM : SAC, New York  
SUBJECT: WILLIAM VICTOR GROFFER, Internal Security (C) - Bureau file 100-55809  
DATE: October 18th, 1944

b7c

This is to advise that full background information, handwriting specimens, and photographs have been obtained and submitted to the Bureau regarding the above-captioned subject and this case is being placed in a pending inactive status in the New York Field Division.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8/2/87 BY SP-7 AG/uo

CB 272222

RECORDED 100-66899-9 b7c

37 OCT 21 1944

51 OCT 28 1944

EX - 15

b7c

9876 FILE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/6/99 BY SP-1 AG/AN

CH 29222



# Gropper's Early Struggles Enrich His Work

By ART SHIELDS

Our own Bill Gropper, who was honored at a birthday celebration at the Hotel Commodore last night, has never forgotten the sweatshops where he worked as a child, or the "home work" he did.

The memory has fueled his drive to help change the world ever since.

Bill's father and mother couldn't quite feed the family by working all day in the little East Side garment factory and taking the work home. So Bill had to help. From the age of 10 on he was sewing buttons every night.

The sidewalks were Bill's drawing boards in those days.

He just put the faces of his friends and neighbors, and the sweatshop workers and bosses, on the cement.

Then he began putting black and white work on bits of wrapping paper.

His chance came when George Bellows, artist for the old Masses, began teaching him in the sketching class at the Ferrar school on the East Side at night.

Bill was in his mid teens then. He had quit high school to work as a bushel boy in a clothing store, and the faces that came in and out



WILLIAM GROPPER

of the plant were going into his pictures at night.

The kid's stuff made a hit at a neighborhood exhibition. The director of the New York School of Fine and Applied Art gave him a

scholarship. And later recommended him for his first newspaper job.

The conservative editor of the old New York Tribune, where he got his first art job, was in on the burning.

The editor had sent a reporter and Bill to the IWW hall on E. Fourth St., where I met him soon after.

Bill's job was pictures—of "bombs," said the editor.

It was a long, narrow, poorly lit hall, where a Tribune reader might expect ghosts, red ghosts, to pop out. But when the reporter asked the editor of the Wobbly paper, the Rebel Worker, for "bombs," Lee Chumky, the tall, pale, pleasant editor, smiled as he said: "Bombs, surely, here are the only kind we have in this hall." And he gave Bill and his companion a bundle of pamphlets.

### FIRED HIS EDITOR

Artist and reporter were converted at once.

"We fired our editor," said Bill, "and I went to work for the Rebel Worker, which was leading a campaign to free Bill Haywood, Tom Meany and other working class prisoners, and to defeat Soviet Russia."

Bill's black and white line drawings quickly became famous.

I remember the gaunt, wispy figure of Andy Furuseth, seaman's leader, which emerged from the pages of the Liberator (later the New Masses) after Bill covered the AFL election at Atlantic City in 1919 with John Reed.

The young artist worked with laborers in Cuba; he lived on Bowery for a couple of years. As he developed, politically with Communists he was meeting.

His art became more versatile and original. Bill could work with any material. I remember how he sketched the trial of Jim Larkin, Irish leader, on newspaper, and he was denied the right to bring drawing paper into court.

Bill became Freiheit staff artist in 1924, and has worked with the paper ever since. Though slick paper editors are calling for work in Freiheit, the New Masses and the Daily and Sunday Worker, none first.

He began painting some ten years ago and his paintings hang in the best galleries and museums today. But Bill picks his own subjects. He is at a sea of the people, fighting them every day of the life.

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NOT RECORDED  
87 DEC 21 1944

This is a clipping from page 4 Sec. of the date 12-5-44 clipped at the Seat of Government

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*file*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1/6/87 BY SP-1 AG/WW



# People's Leaders, Artists Honor Bill Gropper at Dinner Here

By **ART SHIELDS**  
Bill Gropper, famous people's artist, was showered with honors by artists and people's leaders from many parts of the world at a dinner given by the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee at the Hotel Commodore Monday night.

*file*

Carl Sandburg was chief speaker. Warm greetings from Secretary of the Interior, Harold L. Ickes; the Union of Soviet Artists, David Low, leading British cartoonists; Rep. Helen Gahagan Douglas, Rep. John M. Coffee, Ben Gold, president, the Fur and Leather Workers, CIO, and many other anti-fascists were read to the crowd of nearly 1,000 diners.

"Greetings to Gropper, a fellow artist in the great fight against fascism," said Low's cable.

"The Union of Soviet Artists told Gropper that:

"With unflagging attention and admiration art workers of the USFB follow your public appearances and your excellent and pointed cartoons."

### RED ARMY CAPTAIN

A uniformed Red Army captain, Orest Shevsov, delivered the Red Army's greetings in person.

"The struggle against fascism is being fought by artists as well as with arms," said the Red Army soldier.

"The Red Army greets Gropper as a great fighter against fascism."

The diners gave more than \$12,500 for the anti-fascist committee's work in rehabilitating victims of Franco and other fascist dictators.

Bill Gropper is only 25 years old on this birthday, said Edward Chodorov, the playwright, who was introduced by Dr. Edward K. Barsky, Spanish war surgeon.

The youthful-looking artist dates his life from the time in 1919 when he began drawing for the people, the speaker explained.

Carl Sandburg, perhaps the century's greatest American poet, showed his emotion as he spoke of his old friend, Bill Gropper.

Of Bill Gropper, who, he said, was using his immense "imagination and creative art in human service."

Sandburg contrasted Gropper with the German intellectuals he met in the 1920's, who abandoned the people in disdain, and thus opened the doors wide to the Nazis.

Sandburg read two poems in his musical voice. The first of a Norwegian patriot, who defied the Gestapo men, while they slowly broke his fingers, brought tears to people's eyes.

### LASHES FRANCO

Frederick N. "Blackie" Myers, vice president of the National Maritime Union, lashed Gropper's enemies, the fascists of Spain in unsparring words.

Saying many NMU members were at the bottom of the sea because of Franco's spies and of his refueling of Nazi submarines, Myers warned that:

"Franco is still the ally of the Axis.

"As long as this situation exists none of us are safe. We can destroy the Nazi and Japanese armies, but as long as the Falange is building its fascist network in Latin America, the next world war is under preparation.

"Seamen demand this mess be cleaned up.

Dorothy Parker, Norman Corwin, Dean Dixon, the Negro musician and Margaret Lombardo Tioedarb of Mexico were among the other speakers.

This is a clipping from  
page 4 of the  
DAILY WORKER

Date 12-6-44  
Clipped at the Seat of  
Government.

INDEXED

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EX-53

100-66809-A<sub>2</sub>

NOT RECORDED  
87 DEC 12 1944

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

NY FILE NO. **100-1030** **b7c**

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK, NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>3/5/45</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>2/17, 19, 20, 24, 26/45</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b>
TITLE <b>WILLIAM VICTOR GROPPER</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b> <b>b7c</b>	
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: <p style="text-align: center;"><u>KEY FIGURE</u></p> <p>Subject continues as cartoonist for <b>DAILY WORKER</b> and continues Communist activities.</p> <p><b>[REDACTED]</b> Subject held auction at his home and raised \$2500 for Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee. Subject recently joined the American Committee for the Yugoslav Relief Ship, 58 Park Avenue, NYC. Subject continues to reside Mount Airy, Croton-on-Hudson, NY.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- P* -</p>			
REFERENCE:	Bureau File No. <b>100-66809</b> . <b>b7c</b> Report of <b>[REDACTED]</b> dated August 11, 1944 at New York, New York.		
DETAILS:	The subject of this case is considered a key figure in the New York Field Division.		
As reflected by the current issues of the <b>DAILY WORKER</b> and <b>SUNDAY WORKER</b> , the subject continues employment as a cartoonist for the <b>DAILY</b> and <b>SUNDAY WORKER</b> .			
<b>[REDACTED]</b>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>E. E. Conroy</i>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES		
COPIES DESTROYED <b>11-1</b>	<b>100-66809-10</b>		RECORDED & INDEXED
COPIES OF THIS REPORT IN FILE <b>b7c</b>	<b>[REDACTED]</b> <b>b7c</b>		<b>[REDACTED]</b>
<b>[REDACTED]</b> <b>b7c</b>	<b>[REDACTED]</b> <b>b7c</b>		EX-71

8/2/87 SP-1 AG/PAJ EN 202270  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 2/8/81 BY SP-1  
Comp # 202,325  
*[Signature]*

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59 MAY 2 1945

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### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- Deleted under exemption(s) b7c b7D with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
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NY 100-1030



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A review of the files of the New York Field Division reflected the following information regarding the subject:

At an auction held November 12, 1944 at the home of the subject, \$2500 was raised for the benefit of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee.



b2  
b7c  
b7D

The subject's name appears on a list of individuals considered by the Organizing Committee of the Jefferson School of Social Science as a possible guest lecturer and forum participant.

The subject's name appeared on a letterhead as a sponsor of the Art Committee of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, Inc.

In a clipping taken from the PEOPLE'S VOICE, dated February 26, 1944, it was stated that the subject spoke at an exhibit of paintings by negro and white socially conscious artists at the George Washington Carver School, New York City.

The subject wrote a form letter, undated, requesting financial support of NEW MASSES.

Regarding the subject's background, it was determined from the files of this office that the subject's drawings appeared among a group of drawings by American artists being exhibited in the Museum of Western Art in Moscow under the auspices of the Artists Committee of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, Inc.

The subject was a member of the editorial staff of "PIONEER" which was the predecessor of the "NEW PIONEER" official publication of the junior section of the IWO.

NY 100-1030

The "PIONEER" was described as a "magazine for workers' and farmers' children." The subject's name appeared on the general list of fraternalists of the IWO serving on the MAX BEDACHT Birthday Committee in 1943. The subject's cartoon "Bonds Become Bombs" won second prize in a contest sponsored by the American Society of Magazine Cartoonists of the New York Defense Savings Staff of the Treasury Department.

The subject signed an open letter to the President sponsored by the American Council on Soviet Relations urging the declaration of war on Finland in 1942.

In 1943, the subject was listed as a sponsor for the new Council of American-Soviet Friendship.

The following clipping was taken from the DAILY WORKER dated December 26, 1944:

**"PAINTERS, SCULPTORS JOIN YUGOSLAV RELIEF**

"Outstanding American painters and sculptors have joined the American Committee for the Yugoslav Relief Ship, 58 Park Avenue, organized to send a ship laden with warm clothing and relief supplies to the heroic people of Yugoslavia, it was announced."

Subject's name was included in a group of names of sculptors and artists.

"Our purpose," the Committee has announced, "is to fill a ship with warm clothing, blankets, shoes, and relief supplies from the people of America to the heroic people of Yugoslavia. Allied observers have reported that devastation in Yugoslavia is the worst in Europe. They need these things desperately."

"Bundles should be sent or brought to the committee at 58 Park Ave."

The following clipping was taken from the DAILY WORKER dated December 16, 1944:

**"ALP ART AUCTION SUNDAY AT 2 P.M.**

"Rep. Vito Marcantonio and Eugene P. Connolly today announced that the New York County Committee of the American Labor Party would hold an art auction tomorrow (Sunday) beginning at 2 p.m. The auction will be held at studios and galleries of the

"Artists' League of America, 567 Sixth Ave. Proceeds of the first such auction to be held by the County organization will go jointly to the New York Committee and the artists and their associations."

Among the artists mentioned in the above article was the subject.

The following clipping was taken from the DAILY WORKER dated December 11, 1944:

"GREETINGS TO GROPPER ON HIS 47th BIRTHDAY

"William Gropper's 47th birthday was celebrated at a dinner sponsored by the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee. Following are some of the greetings received by the famous artist and cartoonist.

\* \* \*

"HAROLD L. ICKES,

Secretary of the Interior.

"I wish to extend to you my greetings on your birthday anniversary. It is gratifying to me to be able to tell you that the large three-panel mural designed and executed by you of 'The Building of a Dam,' and now mounted upon one of the walls of the second floor of the Department of the Interior Building in Washington, is seen daily by many appreciative persons who express their admiration of your work.

"My best wishes are for your continued success and well being.

\* \* \*

"DAVID-LOW

Noted English Cartoonist

"Greetings to Gropper, from a fellow artist in the great fight against fascism.

\* \* \*

"KUKRYNIKSI

**Celebrated Moscow Cartoonists**

"We are happy to greet you not only as a gifted artist whose splendid drawings and cartoons are widely known the world over and in our country in particular, but also as a courageous, wholehearted fighter against Nazism and all kinds of reaction. An important role has fallen on artists in today's great war, and we Soviet cartoonists are proud to know that you are with us in this struggle.

\* \* \*

"THEODORE DREISER

"As you know I've always liked your drawings and Paintings - reason: the beauty of their form and the clarity of their social interpretations. Here's wishing you 104 more happy birthdays with no police to interfere."

The above clipping included the subject's picture.

The following clipping was taken from the DAILY WORKER dated December 6, 1944:

"PEOPLE'S LEADERS, ARTISTS HONOR  
BILL GROPPER AT DINNER HERE

by Art Shields

"Bill Gropper, famous people's artist, was showered with honors by artists and people's leaders from many parts of the world at a dinner given by the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee at the Hotel Commodore Monday night.

"Carl Sandburg was chief speaker.

"Warm greetings from Secretary of the Interior, Harold L. Ickes; the Union of Soviet Artists, David Low, leading British cartoonists; Rep. Helen Gahagan Douglas, Rep. John M. Coffee, Ben Gold, president, the Fur and Leather Workers, CIO, and many other anti-fascists were read to the crowd of nearly 1,000 diners.

"Greetings to Gropper, a fellow artist in the great fight against fascism," said Low's cable.

"The Union of Soviet Artists told Gropper that:

"With unflagging attention and admiration art workers of the USSR follow your public appearances and your excellent and pointed cartoons."

**"RED ARMY CAPTAIN**

"A uniformed Red Army captain, Orest Shevsov, delivered the Red Army's greetings in person.

"The struggle against fascism is being fought by artists as well as with arms," said the Red Army soldier.

"The Red Army greets Gropper as a great fighter against fascism."

"The diners gave more than \$12,500 for the anti-fascist committee's work in rehabilitating victims of Franco and other fascist dictators.

"Bill Gropper is only 25 years old on this birthday, said Edward Chodorov, the playwright, who was introduced by Dr. Edward K. Barsky, Spanish war surgeon.

"The youthful-looking artist dates his life from the time in 1919 when he began drawing for the people, the speaker explained.

"Carl Sandburg, perhaps the century's greatest American poet, showed his emotion as he spoke of his old friend, Bill Gropper.

"Of Bill Gropper, who, he said, was using his immense imagination and creative art in human service."

"Sandburg contrasted Gropper with the German intellectuals he met in the 1920's, who abandoned the people in disdain, and thus opened the doors wide to the Nazis.

"Sandburg read two poems in his musical voice. The first of a Norwegian patriot, who defied the Gestapo men, while they slowly broke his fingers, brought tears to people's eyes.

**"LASHES FRANCO**

"Frederick H. 'Blackie' Meyers, vice president of the National Maritime Union, lashed Gropper's enemies, the fascists of Spain in unsparing words.

"Saying many NMU members were at the bottom of the sea because of Franco's spies and of his refueling of Nazi submarines, Myers warned that:

"'Franco is still the ally of the Axis.

"'As long as this situation exists none of us are safe. We can destroy the Nazi and Japanese armies, but as long as the Falange is building its fascist network in Latin America, the next world war is under preparation.

"'Seamen demand this mess be cleaned up.'

"Dorothy Parker, Norman Corwin, Dean Dixon, the negro musician and Margaret Lombardo-Tloedano of Mexico were among the other speakers."

The DAILY WORKER dated December 6, 1944 contained a picture of the subject and his wife with CARL SANDBURG taken at the dinner marking the subject's birthday.

The following clipping, which includes the subject's picture, was taken from the DAILY WORKER dated December 5, 1944:

**"GROPPER'S EARLY STRUGGLES ENRICH HIS WORK**

By Art Shields

"Our own Bill Gropper, who was honored at a birthday celebration at the Hotel Commodore last night, has never forgotten the sweatshops where he worked as a child, or the 'home work' he did.

"The memory has fueled his drive to help change the world ever since.

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"He just put the faces of his friends and neighbors, and the sweatshop workers and bosses, on the cement.

"Then he began putting black and white work on bits of wrapping paper.

"His chance came when George Bellows -- artist for the old Masses -- began teaching him in the sketching class at the Ferrar school on the East Side at night.

"Bill was in his mid teens then. He had quit high school to work as a bushel boy in a clothing store. And the faces that came in and out of the plant were going into his pictures at night.

"The kid's stuff made a hit at a neighborhood exhibition. The director of the New York School of Fine and Applied Art gave him a scholarship. And later recommended him for his first newspaper job.

"The conservative editor of the old New York Tribune, where he got his first art job, was in on the morning.

"The editor had sent a reporter and Bill to the IWW hall on E. Fourth St., where I met him soon after.

"Bill's job was pictures -- of 'bombs', said the editor.

"It was a long, narrow, poorly lit hall, where a Tribune reader might expect ghosts, red ghosts, to pop out. But when the reporter asked the editor of the Wobbly paper, the Rebel Worker, for 'bombs', Lee Chumley, the tall, pale, pleasant editor, smiled as he said: 'Bombs, surely, here are the only kind we have in this hall.' And he gave Bill and his companion a bundle of pamphlets.

#### "FIRED HIS EDITOR

"Artist and reporter were converted at once.

"We fired our editor,' said Bill, 'and I went to work for the Rebel Worker, which was leading a campaign to free Bill Haywood, Tom Mooney and other working class prisoners, and to defend Soviet Russia.'

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"Bill's black and white line drawings quickly became famous. I still remember the gaunt, wispy figure of Andy Furuseth, seamen's leader, which emerged from the pages of the Liberator (later the New Masses) after Bill covered the AFL convention at Atlantic City in 1919 with John Reed.

"The young artist worked with laborers in Cuba, he lived on the Bowery for a couple of years. And he developed politically with the Communists he was meeting.

"His art became more versatile and original. Bill could work with any material. I remember how he sketched the trial of Jim Larkin, Irish leader, on newspapers, when he was denied the right to bring drawing paper into court.

"Bill became Freiheit staff artist in 1924, and has worked with the paper ever since. Though slick paper editors are calling for work, the Freiheit, the New Masses and the Daily and Sunday Worker come first.

"He began painting some ten years ago and his paintings hang in the best galleries and museums today. But Bill picks his own subjects. He is a son of the people, fighting for them every day of his life."

The subject illustrated a pamphlet entitled, "Is Dewey the Man?" by Sender Garlin, former columnist for the DAILY WORKER, which pamphlet was published by the Workers Library Publishers, Inc.

b7c [REDACTED] determined that the subject continues to reside at Mount Airy Road, Croton-on-Hudson, New York.

- P E N D I N G -

NY 100-1030

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Will continue to follow and report the activities of the  
subject.

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XXXXXX  
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK**

NY FILE NO. **1001030**

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>OCT 29 1946</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>9/20;10/10,15/46</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b>
TITLE <b>CHANGED</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>	
SAMUEL GROPPER, with aliases: <u>William Victor Gropper, Bill Gropper</u>		<b>b7c</b>	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Subject still resides at Mount Airy, Croton-on-Hudson, NY and is employed as a cartoonist for the Morning Freiheit and New Masses. Subject frequently contributes cartoons to Daily Worker. Subject, white, born 12/3/97, in NYC. Subject's father born Roumania and mother born Poland. Subject married 10/26/26, Chicago, to SOPHIE FRANKEL. Subject has been cartoonist for Daily Worker, Morning Freiheit and New Masses and has been active in Communist work for many years. He has been a member of the American Committee for Yugoslav Relief; sponsor of Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee, and Art Committee of the National Council of American Soviet Friendship, and has been affiliated with numerous other Communist front organizations.

NO  
 JAN  
 1947  
 45  
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 8/7/87 BY SP-1AG/ALW

**REFERENCE:**

Bureau file 100-66809.  
 SAC letter Number 28, Series 1946, 3/12/46.  
 Report of [REDACTED] 3/5/45, New York.

**DETAILS:**

The title of this case is being marked changed to reflect the correct name of the subject as SAMUEL GROPPER, with aliases, William Victor Gropper and Bill Gropper as set out below.

At Croton-on-Hudson

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>Edward S. [REDACTED]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES DESTROYED 11-15-58	<b>100-66809-11</b>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT	<b>SE 11</b>
5 - Bureau	<b>37 OCT 31 1946</b>
3 - New York	<b>b7c</b>

50 JAN 21 1947

NY 100-1030

[REDACTED] b7C  
ascertained on October 10, 1946 that the subject still resides at Mount Airy, Croton-on-Hudson, New York.

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

On October 5, 1946, the Daily Worker, 50 East 13th Street, New York was called on a pretext and it was ascertained that the subject very seldom contributed cartoons to the Daily Worker, but that he did to the New Masses.

On October 15, 1946, the New Masses, 104 East 9th Street, New York City was called on a pretext and it was ascertained that the subject still contributed cartoons to that magazine, but that he sent them in and rarely came to the office. The receptionist at the New Masses stated that the subject was an independent artist and could be contacted only at home so far as she knew.

On the same date, the Morning Freiheit, 50 East 13th Street, New York City was contacted on a pretext and it was ascertained that the subject still contributed cartoons to that paper. The receptionist stated that BILL GROPPER came to the office only on Mondays and Fridays.

A review of the Daily Worker reflected only occasional cartoons by the subject in that paper. b7C

On September 20, 1946, [REDACTED] reviewed the birth records at the Bureau of Vital Statistics, 125 Worth Street, New York City and ascertained that Birth Certificate Number 50611 reflected that SAMUEL GROPPER, male, white, was born December 3, 1897 at Manhattan, New York. His father, HARRY GROPPER was born in Roumania and his mother JENNIE NEEDLE was born in Poland.

A review of the file of instant case reflects that according to subject's Local Draft Board 753, Montrose, New York, subject was born in New York City on December 3, 1897 and that according to "Who's Who in American Jewry", subject was born on that date, the son of HARRY and JENNIE GROPPER. Other sources in the file also verified the above as the subject's birth date. It is therefore believed that the subject is identical with the SAMUEL GROPPER whose birth date is set out above.

Subject's Selective Service file also reflected that he was married October 26, 1926 at Chicago, Illinois to SOPHIE FRANKEL. GROPPER

A review of the file further disclosed that subject has been a cartoonist for the Daily Worker, the Morning Freiheit, and the New Masses and has been active in Communist work for many years. He has been a member of the American Committee for Yugoslav Relief; a sponsor for the Joint

NY 100-1030

Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee, and the Art Committee of the National Council of Soviet American Friendship and has been affiliated with numerous other Communist front organizations.

- P E N D I N G -

NY 100-1030

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

At New York City:

Will follow and report on the Communist activities of the subject.

December 5, 1946

SAC, New York

Director, FBI

WILLIAM VICTOR GROPPER  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
(New York File 100-1080)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8/28 BY SP-1A6/MS

It is desired that a report be submitted in this case bringing the subject's activities up to date. Thereafter you should submit a report in summary form setting forth, by witnesses, only such information of a legally admissible character as will tend to prove, directly or circumstantially, membership in or affiliation with the Communist Party, and knowledge of the revolutionary aims and purposes of that organization. In the preparation of this latter report temporary symbols should be used to protect the identity of those informants who are in a position to testify.

100-66809

RECORDED

100-66809-12

53 DEC 9 1946

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Pennington
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy

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