

As of late 1940 or early 1941 the name of John Steinbeck was contained in the active indices of the National Federation For Constitutional Liberties (cited by the Attorney General). (Anonymous; 100-1170-49, p. 157)

A clipping from the "New York Times" of February 21, 1946, reported the formation in New York City of a new cooperative publishing concern, namely, Associated Magazine Contributors, Inc. The initial list of owner-contributors included John Steinbeck. Associated Magazine Contributors was cited by the California Committee on Un-American Activities when it reported that "the Communist influence is established through such news services." (123-11674-13)

In preparation for a reception to be given at the Waldorf-Astoria, New York City, on May 5, 1946, by the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship (NCASF - cited by the Attorney General) for three visiting Soviet literary figures, the Assistant to the Executive Director of the NCASF contacted Howard Fast, well-known author and probable member the Cultural Section of the Communist Party in New York City, for his approval of a list of distinguished writers, publishers, artists, and other personalities to be invited to the affair. Fast declared that naturally anti-Soviets and Trotskyites should not be invited as they would make things "very uncomfortable." According to the informant the name of John Steinbeck was among those read off to Fast which met with his approval. b2  
b7d [REDACTED] 100-146964-736)

✓ On May 17, 1948, Mrs. Muriel Draper of New York, the Chairman of the Women's Section of the American NCASF, spoke at a meeting of the Democratic Women's International Federation in Rome, Italy. In her speech she heartily agreed with the Soviet representative who had attacked United States foreign policy and reported that the American people were being given a dose of anti-Soviet propoganda worse than that against Germany before the Second World War. She stated that a number of individuals, including Steinbeck, had recently been converted to "the camp of war and anti-Sovietism." (5-18-48, "New York Herald Tribune;" 100-344442-A)

Bureau files reflect a number of instances from 1945 through 1950 wherein Steinbeck was approached by various other Communist Party front organizations to support their causes so as to enlist the widest possible mass support for their campaigns. There is no indication that he complied with these particular requests. (100-7061-923, p. 19; 100-334436-1521; 100-185087-7712; 100-370500-48) ✓

INSTANCES WHEREIN AMERICA'S ENEMIES HAVE USED  
OR ATTEMPTED TO USE STEINBECK'S WRITINGS AND  
REPUTATION TO FURTHER THEIR CAUSES:

Bureau files reflect that because many of Steinbeck's writings portrayed an extremely sordid and poverty-stricken side of American life, they were reprinted in both German and Russian and used by the Nazis and Soviets as propaganda against America. (Numerous references)

An individual who had been employed during 1937 as a playwright on the Federal Theater Project, Works Progress Administration, testified before the Dies Committee that the Party told her what to write and furnished her with research material obtained from the Simon Lubin Society (previously cited). She advised that this material included some of Steinbeck's field notes, in his handwriting, for his book "Grapes Of Wrath." (Testimony, Rena Vale on 7-22-40; Dies Committee Executive Hearings, Volume 3, Page 1219)

Steinbeck's book, "Grapes Of Wrath," was among the periodicals and books sold from the literature table at a Communist Party May Day meeting held on May 1, 1940, in Los Angeles, California. [REDACTED] 61-7559-7883, p. 7) b7c b7d

A booklet announcing the courses of the Workers School of New York City, official Communist Party school, for the winter term, 1943, stated that the works of leading dramatic writers, including Steinbeck, would be used in the discussions of history of social institutions as they had been reflected by writers of all times. (1946 Report, California Committee on Un-American Activities; 100-15252-39, p. 440)

b7E During March, 1945, a copy of a recommended reading list used by the American Youth For Democracy (cited by the Attorney General) indicated that listed books were available from the New Jersey State office of that organization at a discount. This list included Steinbeck's "The Moon Is Down." [REDACTED] state headquarters of the Communist Political Association, Newark, New Jersey; 61-777-31-60, p. 24)

ASSOCIATION WITH COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERS  
AND CONTROVERSY WITH COMMUNIST PARTY:

On June 2, 1953, an admitted former Communist Party member (about 1937-1939) testified before the House Committee on Un-American Activities that although Steinbeck had done

more through his novel about the agricultural workers than anyone else for the Communist Party cause, he appeared to be at odds with the Communist Party during that period although the witness could not state just how. (Roland William Kibbee, Executive Session testimony since publicly released; 61-9582-1975, p. 2330)

In letters written by Sam Dorcy to Ella Winter (both Communist Party functionaries in California) during March, 1937, and November, 1940, Dorcy indicated that Winter was well acquainted with Steinbeck and might have considerable influence with him. On March 7, 1937, he wrote "Needless to say, I am glad to hear about Steinbeck's new book. I hope it fulfills what you say. There is no reason why it should not. He can write, and, with the education I am told you and our friends have been giving him he ought to make the grade better than he did in his earlier book." Another undated letter obtained early in 1944 from Winter to Steinbeck indicated that Steinbeck had previously criticized Winter. This letter which was partially obscene attacked Steinbeck and indicated that he and Winter were at odds. (Highly confidential source; 100-18610-56, p. 29, 38, ??) ~~EX~~ U

On June 23, 1950, Louis Budenz, former Managing Editor of the "Daily Worker," east coast Communist newspaper, and an admitted former Communist Party member, advised as follows: "Carey McWilliams is a writer, particularly noted as the author of 'Factories In The Field,' published in 1939, which was the foundation of John Steinbeck's 'Grapes Of Wrath.' When this book was published, I was advised by Alexander Trachtenberg and Jack Stachel (both Communist Party functionaries) that McWilliams was under Communist discipline. This had a great deal to do with the way we handled this book and also John Steinbeck's book because at that time McWilliams was supposedly making a Communist of Steinbeck." (Interview with Budenz; 100-998-92)

b1 [REDACTED] (S)

b1

[REDACTED] (S)

b1, b3  
b6  
per  
CIA

[REDACTED] (C)

The June 11, 1948, issue of the Los Angeles "Examiner" stated that Ring Lardner, Jr., a screen writer, had signed with Steinbeck and others to write a film version of Steinbeck's story "Pastures Of Heaven." According to the "Examiner," this "was the first Hollywood employment given any of the 'unfriendly ten' since their refusal to answer the Communist question in Washington last fall" and the move challenged the Motion Picture Association of America's announcement that none of the men cited by Congress would work until cleared of the charge. (100-295885-11, p. 5)

MISCELLANEOUS:

From time to time columnists for the "Daily Worker" and "Daily People's World" have criticized Steinbeck's writings as not portraying adequately the American Communists or supporting the American Communist movement. On the other hand these papers have also praised the books, stating in January, 1943, that he was one of the most popular authors among the Soviet Russians. Both Communists and anti-Communists criticized his 1948 series of articles for the "New York Herald Tribune" entitled "A Russian Journal," which he wrote after a visit to Russia in the Summer of 1947, as being too pro-Communist and too anti-Communist. Both sides criticized his ability to adequately portray life in Soviet Russia after such a short visit. It is noted that the articles criticized Soviet red tape and the Soviet Government but were favorable to the Russian people. (100-106224-A; 64-175-240-A; and others)

During 1942, 1943, and 1944, Steinbeck was listed as one of the individuals in the United States who received Russian literature. (Office of Censorship; 65-1674-809, p. 8; 65-49085-81)

On February 23, 1944, the Steinbecks attended a reception at the Russian Embassy in Mexico City. That reception celebrated the 26th anniversary of the founding of the Russian Army. ("Kovchades," morning newspaper, 2/7/44; 100-145365-17)

On August 23, 1947, Joseph Starobin, correspondent of the "Daily Worker," was in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, conferring with leaders of the Communist Party of Brazil regarding the possibility of inviting well-known American writers to Brazil. One of the Americans recommended by Starobin was Steinbeck. There is no information available indicating Steinbeck was actually invited. [REDACTED] 100-51287-75, 81) (S) U Per State 10-3-78 on 6-18-80 SP-2 Top Jet

A Counter Intelligence Corps report of January 13, 1954, reported that there was a strong indication that the "Verlag der Nation," a publishing firm of the National Demokratische Partei (a Soviet zone political party which had been described by G-2 as "presumably a conservative party" but which is an East Zone political party and as such is Communist oriented) was about to negotiate publishing rights with seven American authors, including Steinbeck. (A usually reliable source of CIC; 100-26240-1)

(S) U Per Army letter dtd 8-2-78 on 1-22-79 by 2333 GA4/bjw

Name Searching Unit - Room 6527  
 Service Unit - Room 6524  
 Forward to File Review  
 Attention \_\_\_\_\_  
 Return to 4230  
Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_ Ext. \_\_\_\_\_

Type of References Requested:

- Regular Request (Analytical Search)
- All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
- Subversive References Only
- Nonsubversive References Only
- Main all References Only

Type of Search Requested:

- Restricted to Locality of \_\_\_\_\_
- Exact Name Only (On MR 131968)
- Buildup  Variations

Subject Steinbeck, John Ernest  
 Birthdate & Place 2/12/08 Cal.  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

Localities \_\_\_\_\_  
 R 2 Date 3/13 Searcher Initials 392  
 Prod. 16

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		12 sum 7/20/55
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	100-115040-3	sum 3/10/55
		John E.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	100-106224-10	sup 10/1/58
		John
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MAR 13 1968

NUMEROUS REFERENCE

4-22c

SEARCH SLIP

*b7c* Supervisor [redacted] Room 7691

Subj: Heinrich, John Ernst

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FILE NUMBER	SERIALS
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- I/100 - 166188-4 *(no name)* Sum 3/18/52
- John
- NP40 - 47279
- I/100 - 106224
- ND9 - 4583' (missed)
- I/105 - 26240-1
- NP138 - 450-22'
- I/100 - 382992-21, 6
- I/61 - 7582-1975 p 2330
- NP65 - 58841-1057 p. 11
- NP102 - 45875-4-977
- ND9 - 4321-19
- ND87 - 14833-1
- AP1-6 - 6280-145-883

5-80 *b7c* [redacted] Initialed

NUMEROUS REFERENCE

4-22c

67c

SEARCH SLIP

Supervisor [REDACTED] Room 7631

Subj: Steinbeck, John Ernst

- Exact Spelling
- All References
- Subversive Ref.
- Mail File
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Searchers  
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 Date 3/4

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<u>J.E.</u>	
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<u>Ernst</u>	
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<u>Ernest</u>	
<u>ER</u>	

John Steinbeck Committee  
To Aid Agricultural Workers  
F 100 - 339317 - 1

Initialed

66

Photo  
cc to State Dept / ECS: AA  
REQ REC'D  
SEP 3 1963  
APR. BY: Short Joe

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

REMAILED  
NOV 1 1956  
NAME CHECK  
MAILED

October 11, 1956

John Steinbeck  
JOHN STEINBECK  
Born: February 27, 1902  
Salinas, California

46574

Summary

No investigation pertinent to your inquiry has been conducted by the FBI concerning the captioned individual. However, a review of FBI files reflects that in May, 1945, a source that has furnished reliable information in the past advised that the American Youth for Democracy in a list captioned "Recommended Reading List for American Youth for Democracy," listed the book entitled "The Moon Is Down" by John Steinbeck. The American Youth for Democracy has been cited by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

(61-777-31-60 informant [redacted])  
Another government agency which conducts investigations abroad advised that on August 23, 1947, a correspondent of the "Daily Worker," an east coast communist newspaper, was in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, conferring with leaders of the Communist Party in Brazil. The discussion related to invitations to visit Brazil to be sent to various American writers and to ascertain whether they would be permitted to remain in Rio De Janeiro. The name of John Steinbeck was given as one who would receive an invitation from the Communist Party in Brazil.

(100-51287-81)  
The files further reflect that a newspaper review appeared in the April 16, 1948, issue of the "Daily Worker," concerning John Steinbeck's book, "A Russian Journal," relating to his experiences while on a three-week tour of the Soviet Union in the Summer of 1947. The writer of the review appeared to doubt Steinbeck's ability to portray life in Soviet Russia authoritatively since he was there for such a short period of time.

(100-106224-6)

Orig. and one to CG  
Req rec'd: 10/15/56  
M. L. Armstrong/jm  
(4) mel

EX-104  
RECORDED - 74  
INDEXED - 74  
100-106224-8

60 NOV 7 1956

NOV 2 1956

- To: Nichols
- Boardman
- Belmont
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- Mohr
- Parsons
- Rosen
- Tamm
- Nease
- Winterrowd
- Tele. Room
- Holloman
- Gandy

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-2 TJP/10M/10  
ON 6-18-80

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP (S) OF 10/11/56

John Steinbeck

October 31, 1956

In the reports of the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, 78th Congress, Second Session, House Report No. 1311 on page 101, it is pointed out that "The National Maritime Union of America has toed the Communist Party line through all its changes in recent years. The ships of the American Merchant Marines are being supplied with libraries for the seamen to read while at sea, and the National Maritime Union's educational department is responsible for the selection of the books. John Steinbeck's 'Grapes of Wrath' is naturally present, as it would be in any communist's selection."

(57-407-424)

The "Daily Worker" issue of April 1, 1955, and the "People's World" issue of April 7, 1955, carried articles relating to a review by John Steinbeck of Matusow's "False Witness" which originally appeared in the April 2nd issue of the "Saturday Review of Literature." In the article captioned "Death of a Racket," Steinbeck speaks with "harsh contempt" of the "anticommunist hired informer."

(100-375988-A; "Daily Worker" 4/1/55)

The foregoing information is furnished to you as a result of your request for an FBI file check and is not to be construed as a clearance or a nonclearance of the individual involved. This information is furnished for your use and should not be disseminated outside of your agency.

Note: This memo marked Secret inasmuch as material in paragraph two from State Department was so marked on their communication information re Steinbeck/s furnished USIA on 4/1/54.

4-22b (11-23-55)

SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Steinbeck John  
# (625) Date 10/16 Searcher Number 880

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SI	100-375988-A	DW 4-5-55
I		DW 4-1-55
NP	100-64700-1215	encl p 5655, 565
NP	100-106463-127	p 24 mla
NP	62-88217-1729	encl p 206 sent dissem
SI	100-359325-88	
AD	100-115040-15	11 I
NP	105-26240-1	
ISI	"Daily People's World"	p 7 (see enclosure) april 7-55 to DW
NP	100-410145-10	4/25/55
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4-22b (11-23-55)

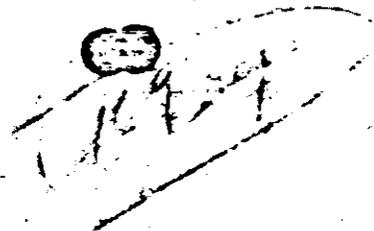
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R# 625 Date 10/16 Searcher Number S80

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<u>SI</u>	<u>100-106224-Original</u>	<u>3/52</u>
<u>I</u>	<u>7</u>	
	<u>John Ernest</u>	
	<u>SI</u>	
	<u>John E.</u>	
<u>NP</u>	<u>100-356137-126</u>	<u>3 encl p 17</u>
	<u>John Committee to Aid Agriculture</u>	
	<u>workbook</u>	
<u>SI</u>	<u>100-339317-1</u>	<u>Summary</u>
	<u>John Organization</u>	
<u>SI</u>	<u>100-339317-1</u>	<u>Summary</u>
	<u>J.</u>	
<u>NP</u>	<u>65-31621-35 p 29</u>	<u>mlr</u>
	<u>Approx 50 "One Steinbeck</u>	
	<u>cards not listed</u>	



4-22

Subj: John Steinbeck

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ SUPV: \_\_\_\_\_

Misc: \_\_\_\_\_

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*full search* FILE NUMBER

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*John Steinbeck*

I	DCP Vol #3	p 1996
I	DCP Rec Hearings Vol 3	p 1218, 1219
NP	100-202315	617, 34, 36, 16
SI	100-154799	79 p 76, 78
NP	100-18664	51
NP	100-202315	461 p 310
NP	100-202315	495 p 3
NP	100-202315	5730 p 18, 20
NP	100-202315	7013 p 43
NP	100-339302	7
SI	100-183386	18 (1)

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NR	✓ [REDACTED]	1 b7c
I	✓ 100-145365	17
I	✓ 100-340922	111 p 1, 52, 53
NI	✓ [REDACTED]	b7c
SI	✓ 100-378992	2
SI	✓ 100-3	2192 p 41 <sup>encl</sup>
SI	✓ 100-3	2559 p 127
I	✓ 100-344442-A	N.Y. Herald Tribune 5/18/48
I	✓ 100-998	92 p 3
NI	✓ 100-829	993 p 17, 212
I	✓ 100-15252	39 p 440 <sup>encl</sup>

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NP	✓ 100-70772	22p4
I	✓ 100-146964	796
I	✓ 100-7061	923
NP	✓ 100-333949-A	Peoples World 12-28-46
I	✓ 100-185087	77X2
NP	✓ 100-120818-A	DW 1/12/44
NP	✓ 100-195220	123 p11
SI	✓ 100-10123	114 p651
NP	✓ 100-13	1324 p58(3)

b7c



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SI	✓ 100-15139	17
SI	✓ I choose Freedom (Library) 100-275683	355
SI	✓ 100-251809	10
SI	✓ 100-7322	78 p 46
NP	✓ 100-350264	129 p 96
NP	✓ 100-195220	144
SI	✓ 100-349686	19 p 16
NP	✓ 100-90431	123
NP	✓ 100-18610	207 p 13

53

74

4-22

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I	✓ 100-18610	56p29,38779
SI	✓ Behind the Iron Curtain 100-348137	23pX, 32
SI	✓ 100-33049	592p210
I	✓ 100-334436	152X
SI	✓ 100-51287	81
	<del>100-138754</del>	<del>999</del>
I	✓ 100-6633	2
SI	✓ 100-51287	78
I	✓ 100-51287	75
SI	✓ 100-138754	35
SI	✓ 100-138754	490p19

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*John (cont.)*

NP	100-138754	68/p24
SI	✓ 65-31621	35 p29
NP	✓ 65-52109	73
SI	✓ 65-31621	33 p24
NP	✓ 65-49085	149
SI	✓ 65-49085	81
I	✓ 65-1674	809
SI	✓ 65-30092	305/p21
NP	✓ 65-32677	48 p52
I	✓ 64-175-240-A	Chief American 1-14-48
SI	✓ 64-211-221	115 (C)

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Subj: \_\_\_\_\_

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SI	abstract only reviewed 64-31474	344
NI	✓ 121-27808	2
NP	✓ 121-21528	16
SI	✓ 121-2179 - 17X7 index 5p31	
I	✓ 121-23278-267X12 p1506	
SI	✓ 61-7476 -	342
SI	✓ 61-7582	1463
I	✓ 61-777-31 -	60
NP	✓ 61-7582 - 1298 p1100, 170	38
NP	✓ 62-85160 -	10 p 19

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4-22

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I	✓ 123-11674	13
NP	✓ 77-24571	14
SI	✓ 57-407	424 p101
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I	✓ 100-7322	8 (7)

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SI	100-3	45
NP	100-138754-A	BW 1-24-4
NP	100-264798	1
SI	100-26841	9 p15
I	100-114353-A	BW 1-25-4
b2 NR	[REDACTED]	(9)
SI	61-7689-A	Time Magazine 1-6-41

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NP	✓ 62-82	70X
NP	✓ 62-74478	3
I	✓ 61-16-A	At NW 1-3-4
I	✓ 100-1170	49p157
SI	✓ 61-7559	10790Xp26

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I	✓ 61-7551	183X10
I	✓ 100-3-23	X6 p12
I	✓ 61-7559-2	999
SI	✓ 100-7322	X4
NP	✓ 61-7561	246X9
SI	✓ 100-138954	SI SI SI 7p4,5,7,156
NP	✓ 100-6633	6
NP	✓ 62-66326	28
SI	✓ 100-102217	1

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FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

I	✓ 61-7559	7883p7
I	✓ 100-7322	5
SI	✓ 61-10076	10
SI	✓ 100-7057	22X
NP	✓ 101-2105	1
LT	✓ 100-6633	2
I	✓ 100-7322	16
SI	✓ 100-15252	28p437
NP	✓ 65-9266	65
LT	✓ 100-6633	2
SI	✓ 100-7326	147 (12)

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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

March 1, 1954

JOHN STEINBECK

JOHN STEINBECK - Summary  
Born: February 27, 1902  
Salinas, California

No investigation has been conducted by this Bureau concerning the above-named individual. A review of the files, however, reflects that in May, 1945, a reliable source advised that the American Youth for Democracy in a list captioned "Recommended Reading List for American Youth for Democracy," listed the book entitled "The Moon is Down" by John Steinbeck. The American Youth for Democracy has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (61-777-31-60) (Info- [redacted] b7E

Another Government agency, who conducts investigations abroad, advised that on August 23, 1947, a correspondent of the "Daily Worker," an East coast Communist publication, was in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, conferring with leaders of the Communist Party in Brazil. The discussion related to invitations to visit Brazil to be sent to various American writers and to ascertain whether they would be permitted to remain in Rio De Janeiro. The name of John Steinbeck was given as one who would receive an invitation from the Communist Party in Brazil. (100-51287-81) (St. Dept.

The files further reflect that newspaper reviews appeared in the April 16, 1948, issue of the "Daily Worker," and the August 21, 1948, issue of the "New Leader" concerning John Steinbeck's book, "A Russian Journal" relating to his experiences while on a three week tour of the Soviet Union in the summer of 1947. The writers of the reviews appeared to doubt Steinbeck's ability to portray life in Soviet Russia authoritatively since he was there for such a short period of time. (100-166188-4)

DECLASSIFIED BY: [redacted]  
ON: [redacted]  
Per det from state 10/3/78

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Gearty \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Original to USIA.  
Request received: 1/13/54  
W. H. Pritt: mdc

RECORDED - 3  
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NAME CHECK

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING

EX-112

65 MAR 8 1954

CLASSIFIED BY 1287  
EXEMPT FROM GDS.  
DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION [redacted]

In the reports of the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, Seventy-Eighth Congress, Second Session, House Report No. 1311 on page 101 it is pointed out that "the National Maritime Union of America has toed the Communist Party line through all its changes in recent years. The ships of the American Merchant Marines are being supplied with libraries for the seamen to read while at sea and the National Maritime Union's educational department is responsible for the selection of the books. John Steinbeck's 'Grapes of Wrath' is naturally present, as it would be in any Communist's selection." (57-407-424)

The foregoing information is furnished to you as a result of your request for an FBI file check only and is not to be construed as a clearance or a nonclearance of the individual involved. This information is furnished for your use and should not be disseminated outside of your agency.

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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, b3 per CIA 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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100-106224-9

Original to Office of Security  
April 12, 1957

EX-120

JOHN ERNST STEINBECK

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN

63  
Per  
CIA

[redacted]

Steinbeck has never been investigated by this Bureau, however, the files of this Bureau contain the following information:

Steinbeck was born at Salinas, California, February 27, 1902. He graduated from Salinas High School in 1918 and was a student at Stanford University for five years but did not graduate. He married Carol Henning in 1930 and was divorced from her in March, 1943. He married Gwyn Conger on March 29, 1943, and Elaine Scott on December 28, 1950. He has been the author of a number of books and was awarded the Pulitzer prize in 1940. Among the books for which he is most noted are "Tortilla Flat," 1935; "Of Mice and Men," 1937; "Grapes of Wrath," 1939; "The Moon Is Down," 1942; "Cannery Row," 1945; "The Wayward Bus," 1947; and "A Russian Journal," 1948. He was also employed as a war correspondent and as a writer for the "New York Herald-Tribune" during 1943, 1944, 1947 and 1948. (100-106224-7)

(S)

A Special Committee on Un-American Activities of the United States House of Representatives, 75th Congress, published a report in 1939 captioned "Investigation of Un-American Propaganda Activities in the United States." On Page 1996 under the heading of Western Writers Congress, information was set out that during the Fall of 1936 a group of liberal and communistic writers issued a call for a conference to be held in San Francisco, California, on November 13, 1936, which conference continued throughout the following day. This report indicated that one of the sponsors of this Congress was John Steinbeck.

A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised in 1948 that John Steinbeck was one of the writers who attended the Western Writers Congress in 1936. (Former [redacted] b2, b7d)

CLASS. & EXT. BY 3908 11-29-77  
REASON: 1.1, 1-2.4.2, 2.3  
DATE: 11-29-77

- \_\_\_\_\_ Tolson
- \_\_\_\_\_ Boardman
- \_\_\_\_\_ Belmont
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mohr
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parsons
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rosen
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tamm
- \_\_\_\_\_ Winterrowd
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tele. Room
- \_\_\_\_\_ Holmes

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Orig & dupl to CIA

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DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE 10/14/78

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6/25/64  
DRK/jwb

SEE NOTE ON YELLOW PAGE 12

DECLASSIFIED BY DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE COMMITTEE (DF)  
DATE: 11/29/79 DRK/jwb

CONFIDENTIAL

JOHN ERNST STEINBECK

The Western Writers Congress was described as a communist front by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities in its report dated March 29, 1944.

A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised in 1944 that Sam Darcy was in Russia in 1937 and that Darcy had corresponded with Ella Winter. The informant stated that a letter from Darcy in March, 1937, indicated he was pleased to hear about "Steinbeck's new book." The informant stated Darcy commented that Steinbeck could write and with the education "I am told you and our friends have been giving him, he ought to make the grade better than he did in his early book." The informant furnished no additional information to identify the Steinbeck mentioned and it is not known if this person is identical with the subject of your inquiry.

(highly confidential source; 100-18610-56 - pg 29)

The "Times-Herald," a daily newspaper published in Washington, D. C., on May 9, 1953, contained an article reflecting that Herbert A. Philbrick before a United States Senate Investigation Committee had named Ella Winter, the Australian born wife of Donald Ogden Stewart, as one of twenty-three men and women communists in Massachusetts. Additional information concerning Ella Winter Stewart was forwarded to you on June 4, 1952, in the report of Special Agent [redacted] which was dated February 18, 1952. (100-18610-A & 222)

A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised in 1941 that Samuel Adams Darcy had stated in 1941 that he had traveled abroad in 1935 as he had been elected by the Communist Party in the United States as a representative to the Congress of the Communist International held in Moscow, Russia. Informant advised that Darcy had also returned to the United States in approximately May, 1937.

[redacted] San Francisco,\*  
The Committee on Un-American Activities of the United States House of Representatives, 83rd Congress, in a report captioned "Investigation of Communist Activities in the Los Angeles Area - Part 6" contains a statement of Roland William Kibbee, which he furnished to a staff member of the Committee on June 2, 1953. On Page 2329 and 2330 of the above-described report appears information which Kibbee furnished in answer to the question, "What caused your disillusionment with the Communist Party?" Kibbee stated "I can remember in my own case it even was involved more or less with the theory of the Communist Party and not outside working in organizations. . . Several of the contradictions that arose troubled me a great deal. . ."

\*California; 61-6593-209)

**JOHN ERNST STEINBECK**

"I remember John Steinbeck who wrote, I thought, a most effective novel about the agricultural workers in the San Joaquin Valley, or, take it a step further, that the man did more for them than anyone else. A motion picture was made of the very sorry situation that existed there. I recall that John Steinbeck was at odds with the Communist Party. I can't say just how. It was a question of hearing them attacked into work deplored and too bad he doesn't see the light, and so forth, and these things troubled me a great deal. . . ." In this statement Kibbee admitted membership in the Communist Party for approximately two years beginning in approximately 1937. (61-7582-1975)

A pamphlet entitled "Their Blood Is Strong" by John Steinbeck was published in April, 1938, by the Simon J. Lubin Society of California, Incorporated. The Simon J. Lubin Society was "deeply appreciative of the cooperation received from the San Francisco news, who in October of 1936 published the seven chapters that form the bulk of this pamphlet; and especially grateful to John Steinbeck for his permission to use this material." (61-7559-2-999)

The California Committee on Un-American Activities in its report published in 1943 described the Simon J. Lubin Society, Incorporated, as a communist front for California Agrarian penetration, which was organized in the Fall of 1936 by Unit 104 of the Professional Section of the Communist Party. (California Committee 1943 report - pg 86)

On Page 148 of the same California Committee report appears information furnished by Rena M. Vale. Vale advised that the Southwest Unit of the Federal Theaters, which was composed of communists, had corresponded with the Simon J. Lubin Society in San Francisco, California, to obtain research material which that organization had turned over to John Steinbeck for his book (then unnamed) "Grapes of Wrath" and which Steinbeck had returned. She advised that when the material arrived she had examined it carefully and found notes in handwriting signed by John Steinbeck, which appeared to be field notes on migratory workers. (California Committee Report, 1943, pg. 148)

A pamphlet captioned "Writers Take Sides" was published by the League of American Writers, 381 4th Avenue, New York, New York, in May, 1938, and was described as being letters about the war in Spain from 418 American authors. On Page 56 of this pamphlet appeared a letter from John Steinbeck, the author of "Of Mice and Men" and "Tortilla Flat." (61-7561-2-87)

The "Daily Worker," an east coast communist newspaper, on April 25, 1939, contained an article captioned "Noted Writers Back Fight for Art Projects." The article reflected that 38 prominent writers, including John Steinbeck, had made public a letter urging support of the Federal Arts Project and indicated

**JOHN ERNST STEINBECK**

that the individuals were acting on their behalf as well as on behalf of the League of American Writers. (61-7551-183 X 10)

\* The "Daily Worker" of September 7, 1939, contained an article captioned "U.S. Writers League Ends Summer Session in South." The article reflected that a two-week session for student writers, which was held under the auspices of the League of American Writers had just concluded. The article described the League of American Writers as a cultural nonpartisan organization and indicated that one of the vice presidents of the organization was John Steinbeck.

The League of American Writers has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (61-7559-6678X2)

\* The records of the Department of State, State of New York, in 1941 reflected a certificate of incorporation was filed in 1939 for the League of American Writers, Incorporated. John Steinbeck, Route 1, Box 95D, Los Angeles, California, was one of the directors who was appointed to act until the first annual meeting of the corporation. (100-7322-8)

The "Los Angeles Times," a daily newspaper published in Los Angeles, California, on January 23, 1941, contained an article which reflected that John Steinbeck of Los Gratos, California, was one of the California directors of the League of American Writers, which organization was dedicated to the advancement of peace and democracy as against fascism and reaction. (100-7322-16)

\* The report of the hearings before a Subcommittee of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the United States Senate, 81st Congress, on Page 1504 contained information attributed to "The New York Times" of January 31, 1939. The material was an open letter to the Government and people of the United States which urged that the embargo against the Spanish Republic be lifted. John Steinbeck appeared as one of the persons urging that the Spanish embargo be lifted. The article ended with a coupon which urged that all individuals fill out the coupon and forward it to the Washington Committee to Lift Spanish Embargo, Room 100, 1410 M Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C. (121-23278-267X12)

\* The Washington Committee to Lift Spanish Embargo was cited as a communist front in the 1948 report of the California Committee on Un-American Activities.

JOHN ERNST STEINBECK

In 1950 a confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past and who was an admitted member of the Communist Party until 1945 advised that Carey McWilliams was the author of the book "Factories in the Field" published in 1939, which book was the foundation of John Steinbeck's book captioned "Grapes of Wrath." The informant advised that when this book was published he had received information from Communist Party leaders that McWilliams was under communist discipline. The informant stated that this information had a great deal to do with the way the book was handled as well as Steinbeck's book, because McWilliams at that time was supposedly making a communist of Steinbeck. (Louis Budenz, concealed 400; 100-998-77)

A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised in 1940 that the Committee to Aid Agricultural Workers was organized under the leadership of John Steinbeck, the author of "Grapes of Wrath," and that Steinbeck was chairman of the Committee. The informant stated that the Committee had the support of many prominent people in California and that in the informant's opinion, they were all people who had been active in behalf of communist united front organizations. [REDACTED] 100-3-23-16)

A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised in 1941 that the name of John Steinbeck, Route 1, Box 95D, Los Gratos, California, appeared in the active indices of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties. [REDACTED] 100-1170-49)

A representative of another Government agency advised in 1944 that various pieces of literature published in Russia, including daily newspapers from Moscow, Russia, had arrived in the United States during 1942 and part of 1943. The informant advised that some of this material was addressed to John Steinbeck in care of Elizabeth R. Otis, 18 East 41st Street, New York, New York. [REDACTED] of ONI; 65-1674-809)

The United States Office of Censorship advised by letter dated July 4, 1944, that John Steinbeck, 18 East 41st Street, New York City, had received the February 12, year not given, issue of the "Moscow News," a newspaper published in Russia. (65-49005-81)

The report of the Special Committee on Un-American Activities of the United States House of Representatives,

JOHN ERNST STEINBECK

published on March 29, 1944, and captioned "Investigation of Un-American Propaganda Activities in the United States" on Page 101 contained the following: "The National Maritime Union of America, . . . has toed the Communist Party line through all its changes in recent years. (57-407-424)

"These ships of the American Merchant Marine are being supplied with libraries for the seamen to read while at sea . . . John Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath" is naturally present, as it would be in any Communists' selection. . ."

b1 [REDACTED] (S)

[REDACTED] (S)

\* [REDACTED] (S)

JOHN ERNST STEINBECK

b1



A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised in May, 1945, that the American Youth for Democracy in a list captioned "Recommended Reading List for A.Y.D." contained the book entitled "The Moon is Down" by John Steinbeck. (S) [redacted] 786 Broad Street, Newark, N.J.; 61-777-3-60)

The American Youth for Democracy has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised in 1945 that letters had been prepared to be sent to John Steinbeck, among others, requesting that he prepare a testimonial to the valiant Spanish exiles and the work of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee. The letter requested a 75-word statement be prepared to be made a part of a leaflet and with an attached photograph it was hoped that such statements would enlist the widest possible mass support for the campaign. (Highly confidential source; 100-7061-923)

The Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised in April, 1946, that the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship was planning to give a reception on May 5, 1946, in New York City in honor of three visiting Soviet literary figures. The informant advised that one of the persons indicated to receive an invitation to the reception was John Steinbeck, the novelist. [redacted] 100-146964-796)

The National Council of American-Soviet Friendship has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

"The New York Times" on February 21, 1946, contained an article reflecting the formation of a cooperative publishing concern under the name of the Associated Magazine Contributors,

**JOHN ERNST STEINBECK**

Incorporated. The article set forth the initial list of owner-contributors, which included the name of John Steinbeck. (123-11674-13)

The 1948 report of the California Committee on Un-American Activities reflected that in addition to completely communist-controlled and dominated publications there was also a long list of Trade Union, racial, minority, liberal and special interests publications into which communists had infiltrated. The report reflected that the communist influence was established through such news services as the Associated Magazine Contributors, Incorporated, and others. (100-15252-39 - pg 39)



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The October 24, 1947, "Daily Worker," an east coast communist newspaper, published an article captioned "Found Soviets Eager for Peace, Capa, Steinbeck Tell Trib Forum." This article indicated that Capa read a joint report by himself and John Steinbeck at the Herald Tribune Forum. This report purportedly stated that the Russian people were destroyed and hurt much more than any others that they, Capa and Steinbeck, had seen during their many years on the battle fields. The report further indicated that the Russian masses would strongly approve the halt of the "vicious and insane games" of recrimination between Russia and the U.S. It was indicated that the Russians were particularly interested in hearing about "the persecution of liberals" in America. (100-106224)

The "Daily Worker" on April 16, 1948, contained a book review of John Steinbeck's "A Russian Journal," which was described as being a book containing photographs by Robert Capa, which had been published by the Viking Press in New York, New York. The article reflected "John Steinbeck's warm sympathy for people, as evidenced in his 'A Russian Journal,' (published today) is the one positive feature of an account of a visit to the Soviet Union which is otherwise overrun with frivolous provincialism and a coy disinclination to face political realities. . . ."

**JOHN ERNST STEINBECK**

"What is one to say of a writer to whom the distinctive characteristic of American capitalist society is that it provides a government of 'checks and balances'? Or of the malivets which has it that 'our government is designed to keep anyone from getting too much power or, having got it, from keeping it'? And, 'we agreed,' Steinbeck writes solemnly, 'that this makes our country function more slowly, but that it certainly makes it function more surely...'

"One could go on quoting Steinbeck, but what for? A Russian Journal is much more enlightening about the kind of culture which develops such intellectual Sad Sackery than about the Soviet Union..."

The "New Leader," a weekly magazine, on August 21, 1949, contained an article captioned "Steinbeck Sans Wrath," which was a book review of "A Russian Journal," which was written by Steinbeck and contained pictures by Robert Capa. The article reflected that "Mr. Steinbeck has joined the fraternity of vodka visitors. For three weeks he toured the Soviet Union under the subtle guidance of VOKS, the government agency for 'cultural liaison,'..." The article reflected he had attended the "celebration of the 800th anniversary of Moscow with Louis Aragon, the French Stalinist writer" and had visited the country home of "such Soviet millionaires as Alexander Korneichuk - and concludes that the Russians have plenty to eat; he even states that the quality of Russian clothing improved during the few weeks he spent in Russia..."

The article further reflected "most startling, perhaps, is Steinbeck's own attitude toward the Soviet Union. His book is full of what Koestler would call false equations. When Capa is stopped from taking pictures at a lend-leased tractor plant in Stalingrad, Steinbeck reminds us that foreigners may not photograph Oak Ridge either. In his mind 'Moscomitis' and 'Washingtonitis' cancel each other out. When he admits that the collective farm he was shown put on a big show for him, he insists that 'any Kansas farmer' would do the same for his guests..."

"Steinbeck used to be known as a man with a strong social conscience. The Grapes of Wrath and Tortilla Flat were full of righteous moral indignation about social and economic injustice. In 'The Moon is Down' Steinbeck made a heated if somewhat pedestrian

JOHN ERNST STEINBECK

attack on totalitarian aggression and conquest. Those were the days when Steinbeck could be counted upon to stand up and wield his pen in behalf of democracy and freedom. Even today had he gone to Spain or China, he would surely not have come back to write a book in order to demonstrate that the 'Chinese people want good lives and comfort' or that 'the Spaniards like peace.' "

A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised in 1948 that the firm of World Video, Incorporated, was chartered in New York State on December 18, 1947, and that the firm prepared television programs. The officers of the firm include John Steinbeck as vice president and Robert Capa as assistant vice president. [REDACTED] b7.  
NYC; 100-340922-111)

b1, b3  
per  
CIA

[REDACTED]

The "New York Herald-Tribune" of May 18, 1948, contained an article captioned "Women's Rally in Rome Hears Russia Praised." The article, which was datelined Rome, May 17, reflected that the meeting was that of the Democratic Women's International Federation, whose aim was to fight "American, British and French imperialists and warmongers." The article reflected that the chief American delegate, Mrs. Muriel Draper, chairman of the women's section of the American National Committee for American-Soviet Friendship mentioned several persons converted to "the camp of war and anti-Sovietism," which included John Steinbeck.

X  
The "Los Angeles Examiner," a daily newspaper published in Los Angeles, California, on June 11, 1948, contained an article reflecting that Ring Lardner, Jr., had signed a contract with John Steinbeck and others to write a film version of Steinbeck's story "Pastures of Heaven." The article reflected this was the first Hollywood employment given "any of the 'un-friendly ten' since their refusal to answer the Communist question in Washington last fall." (100-295885-11)

The "Daily Worker" on April 1, 1955, contained an article captioned "John Steinbeck Takes a Look at Matusow and

**JOHN ERNST STEINBECK**

'Death of a Racket.' " The article was a review of an article by Steinbeck which appeared in the April 2, 1955, issue of "Saturday Review." The article reflected that Steinbeck's article captioned "Death of a Racket" was based on the book "False Witness" written by Harvey Matusow. Steinbeck's article reportedly stated:

"The Matusow testimony to anyone who will listen places a bouquet of forget-me-nots on the grave of McCarthy. The ridiculousness of the whole series of investigations now becomes apparent, even to what a friend of mine used to call peanut-munchers. Matusow will have a much greater effect than he knows. What follows cannot be worse and may be better. It will surely be funny."

The "Daily Worker" article continues, "It is impossible not to be moved by this kind of statement of an angered scorn which, if the record is to be kept straight, itself participated in, and helped to create, that very climate, those same 'winds of the time' as Steinbeck puts it, 'when certain basic nonsense was allowed to pass unnoticed.' For Steinbeck was taken in tow by the Cold War leadership to such an extent that he did not scruple even to lend the authority of his literary achievement to State Department broadcasts in fascist Spain, Italy, Vienna, etc."

The article continued "Steinbeck's contempt for the 'certain basic nonsense' which was believed under the influence of the Cold War hysteria does not lead him to a rejection of the Big Lie about the working-class Communist Party. He still says that the Communists approve of 'the climate of disunity and suspicion which has haunted us for the last few years,' and that Communists 'would much rather keep the investigations going with their harvest of fear and disruption.' . . . It suffices that John Steinbeck has expressed sentiments which a literary artist with a sense of responsibility for his nation cannot long silence without crushing his talent. . . ." (100-374988-A)

For additional information concerning Steinbeck you may desire to contact the Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, of the United States Army and the Department of State.

The above information is furnished to you as a result of your request for a name check and should not be construed as a clearance or nonclearance of captioned individual. The information is furnished for your use and should not be disseminated outside of your agency.

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JOHN ERNST STEINBECK

NOTE:

Steinbeck never investigated by Bureau. Steinbeck sent letter to Attorney General Biddle in 1942 which contained "Do you suppose you could ask Edgar's boys to stop stepping on my heels? They think I'm an enemy alien. Its getting tiresome." The AG was advised on 5/21/42 that Steinbeck was not being and had never been investigated.

The Attorney General's office telephonically requested the Bureau's file on Steinbeck on 10/27/42 and was advised only information available was two pamphlets. G-2 investigated Steinbeck in 1943 and it was recommended Steinbeck not be given Army Commission. (100-106224)

(S)(u) Per Army Letter dtd  
8-2-78 ONI-22-79  
2333  
GAG/b,i

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**THESE DAYS:**

# Steinbeck's List Proves Nothing

By **GEORGE E. SOKOLSKY**

**J**OHN STEINBECK, who writes novels and things, has compiled a list of those who could not enter the United States under its present laws. He says that it is not a joke and, of course, as it is published in the erudite "Saturday Review," it cannot possibly be a joke, but it does seem to be a futile occupation for so noble a mind. After all, every country determines who is to be admitted to it, just as every well-ordered household decides what kind of persons it wants to invite to dinner.

I shall take the first five names on Steinbeck's list as an example of his thinking and because the entire list would add nothing to the reader's knowledge, except perhaps to wonder at Steinbeck's logic:

NAME	CHARGE
ADAM	Morals
CAIN	Murder
NOAH	Alcoholism, cruelty to animals
SAUL	Assault with intent to kill
DAVID	Revolution"

Of course, John Steinbeck has a perfect right to understand the book of Genesis, in the Bible, as he chooses, in whatever language he has learned to read it. However, if he accepts the theories of the Hebrews on the subject of Adam, that progenitor of the human race bears no moral stigma, except the Fall which made us humans instead of angels, seraphim and other disembodied spirits. So, Steinbeck's trouble is not that he does not understand a Semitic folk-tale, but its mystical meaning is beyond him altogether.

As for Cain, naturally we should keep him out. A man who kills his brother is undesirable in any society. Would Steinbeck have him admitted? Would he build an arch of triumph for him? I saw a preview of Leo McCarey's picture, "An Affair to Remember," and I could not help thinking that these are perfectly normal, healthy human beings—nothing dirty about a one of them. Does John Steinbeck object to such a picture? Must we welcome murderers to our company to please Steinbeck?

## Teaches Respect for Parents

His next objectionable character is Noah, who built the Ark. The story of Noah is particularly significant in Hebrew folklore because it teaches respect for parents. Noah liked his wine and he lay asleep, uncovered and improperly exposed. Shem covered the shame of his father with respectful delicacy. Perhaps Steinbeck does not, in this age of sophisticated ignorance, grasp the beauty of this tale, or even know of it.

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Boardman \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*file*

*BAIRD STONER*

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

100-106224-A-  
NOT RECORDED  
46 JUN 12 1957

- Wash. Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_
- Wash. News \_\_\_\_\_
- Wash. Star \_\_\_\_\_
- N. Y. Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_
- N. Y. Journal-American 14
- N. Y. Mirror \_\_\_\_\_
- N. Y. Daily News \_\_\_\_\_
- N. Y. Times \_\_\_\_\_
- Daily Worker \_\_\_\_\_
- The Worker \_\_\_\_\_
- New Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Date JUN 10 1957

63 JUN 12 1957

So we come to Saul, having skipped ~~over many~~ Biblical characters that Steinbeck might have used if he knew of them, for instance, Lot and his wife, and all the progenitors of the Semitic peoples who were polygamists and each had several wives which was not prohibited by local law or custom. Saul was a king at a time when kings ruled autocratically and when a king had power of life and death over his subjects. The Hebrews, however, had a control over the kings, namely that there were prophets, holy men who were regarded by the people as being the voice of God. Saul was bawled out by a prophet when his conduct became too oppressive. After all, if we admitted King Saud, a descendant of Ishmael, probably way back an Edomite, and housed him in Blair House as a guest of the nation, we would surely have admitted Saul. The precedents are against Steinbeck. Also we admitted Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, a descendant of David by way of Solomon and the Queen of Sheba.

No, he objects to David as a revolutionist, which David was not at all because he was obeying the will of God, which cannot be said of Lenin or Trotsky who denied God. David killed Goliath and saved his people which was a very proper thing to do then as now. Thereupon David and the King's son, Jonathan, became pals. But it was the Lord's intent that David should rule and it is so clearly stated. And one reason was that David was a very holy man who wrote many psalms, some of which have come down to us to this day and which are read at all Jewish and Christian religious services.

It is perfectly clear that of John Steinbeck's first five, four could have come into the United States and would have been received either by President Eisenhower or John Foster Dulles. The fifth, who killed his brother, Steinbeck can keep for himself.

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Boardman \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*file copy*  
*W.C. Sullivan*  
*Q*

# These Days

By George E. Sokolsky

## What Does It Prove?

A13

JOHN STEINBECK, who writes novels and things, has compiled a list of those who could not enter the United States under its present laws. He says that it is not a joke and of course, as it is published in the erudite "Saturday Review," it cannot possibly be a joke, but it does seem to be a futile occupation for so noble a mind. After all, every country determines who is to be admitted to it, just as every well-ordered household decides what kind of persons it wants to invite to dinner.



Sokolsky

I shall take the first five names on Steinbeck's list as an example of his thinking and because the entire list would add nothing to the reader's knowledge, except perhaps to wonder at Steinbeck's logic:

Name	Charge
Adam	Morals
Cain	Murder
Noah	Alcoholism, cruelty to animals
Saul	Assault with intent to kill
David	Revolution"

Of course, John Steinbeck has a perfect right to understand the book of Genesis, in the Bible, as he chooses, in whatever language he has learned to read it. However, if he accepts the theories of the Hebrews on the subject of Adam, that progenitor of the human race bears no moral stigma, except the fall which made us humans instead of angels, seraphim and

other disembodied spirits. So, Steinbeck's trouble is not that he does not understand a Semitic folk-tale, but its mystical meaning is beyond him altogether.

AS FOR CAIN, naturally we should keep him out. A man who kills his brother is undesirable in any society. Would Steinbeck have him admitted? Would he build an arch of triumph for him?

His next objectionable character is Noah, who built the Ark. The story of Noah is particularly significant in Hebrew folklore because it teaches respect for parents. Noah liked his wine and he lay asleep, uncovered and improperly exposed. Shem covered the shame of his father with respectful delicacy. Perhaps Steinbeck does not, in this age of sophisticated ignorance, grasp the beauty of this tale, or even know of it.

So we come to Saul, having skipped over many Biblical characters that Steinbeck might have used if he knew of them for instance, Lot and his wife, and all the progenitors of the Semitic peoples who were polygamists and each had several wives which was not prohibited by local law or custom. Saul was a king at a time when kings ruled autocratically and when a king had power of life and death over his subjects. The Hebrews, however, had a control over the kings, namely that there were prophets, holy men who were regarded by the people as being the voice of God. Saul was bawled out by a prophet when his conduct became too oppressive. After all, if we admitted King Saud, a descendant of Ishmael, probably we

an Edomite, and housed him in Blair House as a guest of the Nation, we would surely have admitted Saul.

NOW, he objects to David as a revolutionist, which David was not at all because he was obeying the will of God, which cannot be said of Lenin or Trotsky, who denied God.

It is perfectly clear that of John Steinbeck's first five, four could have come into the United States and would have been received either by President Eisenhower or John Foster Dulles. The fifth, who killed his brother, Steinbeck can keep for himself.

(Copyright, 1957, King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

- Wash. Post and Times Herald A13
- Wash. News \_\_\_\_\_
- Wash. Star \_\_\_\_\_
- N. Y. Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_
- N. Y. Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_
- N. Y. Mirror \_\_\_\_\_
- N. Y. Daily News \_\_\_\_\_
- N. Y. Times \_\_\_\_\_
- Daily Worker \_\_\_\_\_
- The Worker \_\_\_\_\_
- New Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Date JUN 10 1957

63 JUN 13 1957

100-106224-4

NOT RECORDED JUN 12 1957

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

MAILED  
DEC 2 1958  
NAME CHECK

RA

John E. Steinbeck

December 1, 1958

JOHN E. STEINBECK *Sullivan 465214*  
Born: February 27, 1902  
Salinas, California

You are referred to our memorandum dated  
March 1, 1954, concerning the captioned individual.

~~(62-60527-37567)~~

The April 1, 1955, issue of the "Daily  
Worker" and the April 7, 1955 issue of the "People's  
World" carried articles relating to a review by John  
Steinbeck of Matusow's "False Witness" which originally  
appeared in the April 2 issue of the "Saturday Review  
of Literature." In the article captioned "Death of a  
Racket," Steinbeck speaks with "harsh contempt" of the  
"Anti-Communist Hired Informer." (100-375988-A Daily Worker 4/1/55)

The "Daily Worker" was an east coast communist  
newspaper which suspended publication on January 13, 1958.  
The "Daily People's World" has been cited by the Special  
Committee on Un-American Activities, House Report 1311, dated  
March 29, 1944 as "the official organ of the Communist  
Party on the west coast." *do*

The foregoing information is furnished to  
you as a result of your request for an FBI file check and  
is not to be construed as a clearance or a nonclearance  
of the individual involved. This information is loaned  
for your use and is not to be disseminated outside of  
your agency.

Orig and one to USIA  
Req rec'd: 11/18/58  
B? V. Gronquist/ckb  
(4) *pk*

*GHEX - 132*  
*OPM*  
*REC-11*

*100-106224-70*

DEC 2 1958

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Boardman \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

66 DEC 5 1958 *pk*

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

11-28  
11-19, 1958

- Name Check Unit - Room 6523
- Service Unit - Room 6524
- Forward to File Review
- Attention [REDACTED]
- Return to [REDACTED] Supervisor Room Ext.

b7c

Call 11/16

Type of References Requested:

- Regular Request (Analytical Search)
- All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
- Subversive References Only
- Nonsubversive References Only
- Main \_\_\_\_\_ References Only

Type of Search Requested:

- Restricted to Locality of \_\_\_\_\_
- Exact Name Only (On the Nose)
- Buildup  Variations
- Check for Alphabetical Loyalty Form

Subject Steinbeck John E.  
 Birthdate & Place \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

7 NOV 14 1958

Localities

R# (97) Date 11-19 Searcher Initials 876  
 FILE NUMBER SERIAL

Uld from 100-106224-9 Sum 3-27-57  
John Ernest (du)  
100-106224  
100-115040-3 Sum 3-10-54  
100-106224-9 Sum 3-27-57  
John Ernest (du)  
SI  
John  
40-47279  
100-106224-8 Sum 10-31-56  
62-60527-37567 Sum 3-1-54  
138-450-40 Ep 8A

REFER TO DATA RE

PLEASE SENT YOUR  
CY ON

2-1 11/16

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

September 13, 1961

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Evans \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Malone \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ingram \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. DeLoach:

RE: MENTION OF FBI IN THE BOOK  
"THE WINTER OF OUR DISCONTENT"  
BY JOHN STEINBECK

The above book, a recent Literary Guild selection, is a novel laid in the fictitious town of New Baytown, New York, and concerns the problems of a young grocery store clerk whose family had at one time been among the leaders of the community. The book is written in the first-person as though being told by the "hero." At the beginning of the book he describes various persons of the town including one Stonewall Jackson Smith, the Chief of Police, whom he characterizes as being of above average intelligence for the town and who "even took the FBI training at Washington, D. C."

Later in the story, just a weekend before the local elections, the Grand Jury indicts the city manager and other high officials for corruption, etc. Immediately prior to the announcement of the indictments, Chief "Stoney" Smith had made a trip to the State Capitol and in a subsequent conversation between the Chief and the grocer clerk, in which the Chief is clearly suffering from a guilty conscience, it becomes evident that he has been excluded from the indictments because he chose to "turn state's evidence," so to speak, and furnish information against the other town officials.

OBSERVATION

While Steinbeck does not belabor the fact that the Chief of Police is FBI trained, nevertheless a careful reader cannot fail to recall the reference in the initial introduction to the Chief when his behavior concerning the indictments comes up.

By contrast, Steinbeck's references to a Justice Department investigator who appears in the story investigating the illegal entry into the United States of one of the townspeople are of the highest caliber.

RECOMMENDATION

For information.

1961  
ULG:kmd

M. A. Jones

BI 2

RECEIVED  
SEP 21 1961  
100-106224-11  
EX-102  
REC-38  
SEP 21 1961  
JPM  
Cons  
ECC  
103

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Records Branch

, 1957

Name Check Unit - Room 6523  
 Service Unit - Room 6524  
 Forward to File Review  
 Attention [REDACTED]  
 Return to [REDACTED] 7637  
Supervisor Room Ext.

Type of References Requested:

Regular Request (Analytical Search)  
 All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)  
 Subversive References Only  
 Nonsubversive References Only  
 Main \_\_\_\_\_ References Only

Type of Search Requested:

Restricted to Locality of Salinas, Calif  
 Exact Name Only (On the Nose)  
 Buildup  Variations  
 Check for Alphabetical Loyalty Form

Subject John Ernest Steinhilber  
 Birthdate & Place \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

Localities add to 100-106224 11/56

R# \_\_\_\_\_ Date 3/28 Searcher Initials 5211  
 FILE NUMBER SERIAL

- 100-106224
- John Ernest (You)
- SI 100-106224-9 (Sum)
- John
- NP 40-47279
- NP 9-4583
- SI 100-106224-8
- SI 100-115040-3 "
- SI 62-60227-37867-
- NP 66-6200-145-88
- NI [REDACTED]
- NP 9-4321-19
- NP 62-74669-9-6
- Steinhilber, John, Investigator
- NP 100-339317-11
- Steinhilber, One
- NP [REDACTED]
- NP [REDACTED]
- 62-62736-1126; 041, 174 Vol 4, p. 24
- NI [REDACTED]

b7c

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_

# Steinbeck in Moscow Impressed by Progress

By ART SHIELDS

MOSCOW — America's youth is much concerned with the question of war or peace, said John Steinbeck, in a talk with Soviet journalists.

The author of "Grapes of Wrath" is making his first visit to the USSR since the middle 1940's. He is much impressed with the changes he is seeing.

Steinbeck's novels are popular here. I find them in all the libraries of the factories, farms and ships that I visit.

He was eagerly questioned by two writers for the *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, the youth newspaper, as he was about to begin a travel tour.

Steinbeck was asked whether the present young American writers reminded him of his own first steps in literature.

"I don't think so," he replied. I began to write some decades ago. I was much influenced by the severe economic depression in America at that time. I think that the youth now is more concerned with this issue of war or peace."

He did not think however that they see the way clearly at this time, and he thought the most pronounced feature of American youths is the "concern" and "uneasiness" they have been feeling through the post-war years.

"I think the main cause," he continued, "is the absence of a concrete goal. Absence of a target to which they can dedicate their whole lives."

But Steinbeck is glad that the youths are seeking. They are seeking something different from their present environment, he

said, and their seeking are being expressed by many young writers in America today.

Steinbeck wants his fellow American writers to be "for" not merely "against" something. He noted at one point that some young American writers give too much attention to denouncing everything in the past.

The correspondents wanted to know what Soviet writers were plied that Sholokhov, Ehrenburg and Simonov were best known and liked.

Unfortunately most other Soviet writers have not yet been published in America, he said.

He has been working on a new novel since summer. It will be a long novel that will take another two years. And it will deal with the morals of American society, he stated.

"THE WORKER"  
OCTOBER 29, 1963

1cc to CSC  
4/25/69

100-106224

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

- The Washington Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_
- The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_
- The Evening Star \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Mirror \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Daily News \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Post \_\_\_\_\_
- The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_
- The Worker P.5 (Midweek)
- The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_
- The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_
- The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_
- People's World \_\_\_\_\_

Date 10/29/63  
100-106224-17  
NOT RECORDED  
141 NOV 8 1963

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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, b3 per CIA   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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  100-106224-12  

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
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Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Records Branch

2/27 . 19 64

Name Searching Unit - Room 6527  
 Service Unit - Room 6524  
 Forward to File Review  
 Attention  
 Return to 61251B Supervisor Room Ext.

Type of References Requested:

Regular Request (Analytical Search)  
 All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)  
 Subversive References Only  
 Nonsubversive References Only  
 Main References Only

Type of Search Requested?

Restricted to Locality of \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exact Name Only (On the Nose)  
 Buildup  Variations

67c Wtd Ser 1957 Am

Subject John Ernest Steinbeck  
 Birthdate & Place \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

Localities \_\_\_\_\_  
 Re \_\_\_\_\_ Date 2/27 Searcher Initials 527

Prod. \_\_\_\_\_ FILE NUMBER SERIAL

- MF 100-106224 2
- MF 100-106224-9 (Ser 3/27/57)
- MF 100-106224-3 (Ser 3/10/54)
- 67c ✓ 100-115040-3 (Ser 3/10/54)
- John Ernest Steinbeck
- MF 100-106224-9 (Ser 3/14/52)
- John E. Steinbeck
- MF 100-106224-10 (Ser 12/1/54)
- John Steinbeck
- 65-67235-152 up 6
- 65-34794-239 p 14
- 100-39548-276 p 15
- 105-81470-7
- 105-62469-14 p 17
- 138-450-40 up 8 A
- 410-47279
- MF 100-106224-8 (Ser 3/1/54)
- 8 (Ser 10/21/54)

(Ser 2/1/54 returned  
 to lab)

REC-19

100-106224-12

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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March 4, 1964

EX-115

**JOHN ERNST STEINBECK** Summary  
Born: February 27, 1902  
Salinas, California

*original copy furnished 3/6/64 WTB*

A review of FBI files reveals the following information which may pertain to captioned individual.

Enclosed is a copy of an article appearing on page five of the "Worker" midweek edition dated October 29, 1963, captioned "Steinbeck in Moscow Impressed by Progress."

The "Worker" is an East Coast communist publication.

Your attention is directed to the following reports and memoranda which have been sent to your agency;

1. Memorandum dated April 12, 1957, captioned "John Ernst Steinbeck" sent April 15, 1957.
2. Report dated August 24, 1959, by SAA [redacted] at New York captioned "Bulgarian Funds, New York Division" sent August 31, 1959.
3. Memorandum dated May 26, 1960, Chicago, Illinois, captioned [redacted] Internal Security-PO" sent June 8, 1960.
4. Report dated February 14, 1964, at New York, by SA [redacted] captioned "Rusky Golos Publishing Company."

b7c

(100-106224-10, 65-34794-239, 105-81470-7, 100-39588-276)

Enclosure

Original & 1-CIA  
Request Received-2-27-64

*GHS  
DML*

*JSP:bss*  
(4)

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI, and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency. This is in answer to your request for a check of FBI files.

64 MAR 13 1964

# Memorandum

Belmont	✓
Mohr	✓
DeLoach	✓
Casper	✓
Callahan	✓
Conrad	✓
Felt	✓
Gale	✓
Rosen	✓
Sullivan	✓
Tavel	✓
Trotter	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Holmes	✓
Gandy	✓

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 7-20-65

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: JOHN ERNST STEINBECK

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

per Army letter dtd  
8-2-78  
DECLASSIFIED BY 2333  
ON 1-22-79 G-44/bia

In response to Mr. Tolson's request, the following data is being set out as a result of a check of our files on captioned individual.

JOHN ERNST Steinbeck  
Mr. Steinbeck was born at Salinas, California, on February 27, 1902. He was a student at Stanford University for five years but did not graduate. He married Carol Henning in 1930 and was divorced from her in March, 1943. He married Gwyn Conger on March 29, 1943, and Elaine Scott on December 28, 1950. He has been the author of a number of books and was awarded the Pulitzer prize in 1940. He was also employed as a war correspondent and as a writer for the "New York Herald Tribune" during 1943, 1944, 1947 and 1948.

Although he has never been investigated by the FBI, he wrote Attorney General Biddle in May, 1942, as follows: "Do you suppose you could ask Edgar's boys to stop stepping on my heels? They think I am an enemy alien. It is getting tiresome."

Army Intelligence (G-2) investigated Steinbeck during 1943 to determine suitability to hold commission in Army, but was recommended unfavorably. Carol Steinbeck (first wife, divorced 1943), registered as a Communist in California in 1938 to see reaction it would cause. Steinbeck opposed his wife's action, and he was registered as a Democrat. (X)(u) Per Army

Steinbeck reportedly associated with communists during early days of his writings, 1936-1941, to gather material for books but was not interested in advancing the cause of the Party. Many of his writings, including "Grapes of Wrath," 1939, were about poverty-stricken migrant workers and portrayed the sordid side of American life. Due to the nature of his writings they were translated into foreign languages and widely distributed by enemies of the United States (both Nazis and Soviets), as examples of life in the United States even though the communists were reportedly at odds with him as they did not feel he adequately portrayed American communists or life in Russia.

1 - Mr. Tolson

1 - Mr. DeLoach

REC-40 100-106224-13

JCF:jol  
(6)

50 JUL 28 1965

JUL 23 1965

CRIME RESEARCH

CLASSIFIED BY  
 EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
 DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE

M. A. Jones to DeLoach  
RE: JOHN ERNST STEINBECK

He has been connected to a limited extent with various organizations and publications that have been cited by the Department, the House Committee on Un-American Activities or state legislative committees during the period 1936-1946. Some of these organizations included the following: the Western Writers Congress (1936); the League of American Writers (1939); the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties (1941) and the Simon T. Lubin Society, Inc. (1938). In 1938, he organized and served as chairman of the John Steinbeck Committee to Aid Agricultural Workers which was widely supported by communists. Among Communist Party members reportedly attempting to make a communist out of Steinbeck (1937-1940) were Ella Winter, California Communist Party functionary, and Carey McWilliams described by Budenz as under communist discipline.

(100-115040)

The "New York Herald Tribune" of May 18, 1948, contained an article concerning a meeting in Rome, Italy, of the Democratic Women's International Federation whose aim was to fight "American, British and French imperialists and warmongers." At this meeting, John Steinbeck was publicly criticized as one of several persons who had been converted to "the camp of war and anti-Sovietism."

The 4-1-55 issue of the "Daily Worker" contained a review of an article Steinbeck had prepared concerning the book, "False Witness," written by Harvey Matusow in which Steinbeck criticized Matusow's testimony. The "Daily Worker" article was critical of Steinbeck on this occasion because he had asserted that the communists were also responsible for the climate of disunity and suspicion throughout the world during this period.

In 1959, a reliable source advised the FBI that John Steinbeck was on the mailing list of the Japan Council Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs. Another reliable source has described this organization as a communist-infiltrated organization in Japan.

In April, 1964, a reliable source advised the FBI that on March 12, 1964, John Ernest Steinbeck had received the sum of \$420 as an author's fee from the Soviet publication, "Novyi Mir." (62-5-19610)

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

V.

JAM.

TS

**SECRET**

March 18, 1968

BY LIAISON

Mrs. Mildred Stegall  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

Reference is made to your name check request for a review of FBI files concerning the following individuals subsequent to the date of the previous name check request as noted following each name.

[REDACTED]

John Ernest Steinbock

May 10, 1964

[REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED BY [REDACTED]  
EXEMPT FROM GDS, CATEGORY 3  
DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE

[REDACTED]

ORIGINAL FILED IN 62-5-30576

Delivered to Mildred Stegall  
on 3-18-68  
67c

- Tolson
- DeLoach
- Mohr
- Bishop
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- Felt
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

ENCLOSURE

1 - Mr. DeLoach (sent direct)

1 - Mr. Gale (sent direct)

ENCLOSURE

66 MAR 17 1968

REC-74

100-106223-14

NOT RECORDED

126 MAR 21 1968

See note next page.

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

RB

Mrs. Mildred Stegall

~~SECRET~~

b1  
b7c

[REDACTED] (S)

The files of the Identification Division were checked and found to contain no additional pertinent data concerning the above individuals.

A copy of this communication has not been sent to the Attorney General.

Sincerely yours,

- 2 -

b7c NOTE: Our files reflect that the final results of our name check concerning [REDACTED] were sent by memorandum dated 9-12-63, rather than 9-4-63. The additional information was developed subsequent to the prior summary memorandum furnished in 1963.

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

112

SECRET

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

May 20, 1964

CLASS. & EXT. BY 3908 11-29-79  
REASON-FOUO VI. 1-2.4.2  
DATE 11/29/89

~~SECRET~~  
JOHN ERNST STEINBECK- Summary

John Ernst Steinbeck has never been the subject of investigation by the FBI.

Mr. Steinbeck was born at Salinas, California, on February 27, 1902. He was a student at Stanford University for five years but did not graduate. He married Carol Henning in 1930 and was divorced from her in March, 1943. He married Gwyn Conger on March 20, 1943, and Elaine Scott on December 23, 1950. He has been the author of a number of books and was awarded the Pulitzer prize in 1949. He was also employed as a war correspondent and as a writer for the "New York Herald Tribune" during 1945, 1946, 1947 and 1948.

According to the annual report of the House of Representatives Committee on Un-American Activities published in 1939, during the Fall of 1936 a group of liberal and communist writers issued a call for a conference to be held in San Francisco, California, on November 13, 1936, under the auspices of the Western Writers' Congress. The report indicated that one of the sponsors of this Congress was John Steinbeck. A reliable informant of the FBI advised in 1948 that John Steinbeck was one of the writers who attended the Western Writers' Congress in 1936. In 1944, this Congress was described by the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HCUA) as a communist front.

According to a reliable informant of the FBI, Sam Darcy, in 1937, indicated to Ella Winter that he was pleased to hear about "Steinbeck's new book." Darcy commented that Steinbeck could write and with the education "I am told you and our friends have been giving him, he ought to make the grade better than he did in his early book." The informant furnished no additional information to identify the Steinbeck mentioned, and it is not known if this person is identical

John Ernst Steinbeck.

CLASSIFIED BY 1229  
EXEMPT FROM GDS, CATEGORY 3  
DATE OF RECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE 10/15/88

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Evans \_\_\_\_\_
- Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

CJH:smg/ear  
(10)

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

SECRET ENCLOSURE

100-106224-14  
19670  
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b7c [REDACTED]

A pamphlet entitled "Their Blood Is Strong" by John Steinbeck was published in April, 1933, by the Simon J. Lubin Society of California, Incorporated (SJLSCI). This pamphlet consisted of material which Steinbeck had published elsewhere and which had been reprinted in pamphlet form with Steinbeck's permission. The California Committee on Un-American Activities (CCUA) in its report published in 1943 described the SJLSCI as a communist front for California agrarian penetration.

A pamphlet captioned "Writers Take Sides" was published by the League of American Writers (LAW), New York, New York, in May, 1939, and was described as containing letters about the war in Spain from 416 American authors. On Page 56 of this pamphlet there appeared a letter from John Steinbeck. The "Daily Worker," an East coast communist newspaper, on April 25, 1939, contained an article noting that 30 prominent writers, including John Steinbeck, had made public a letter urging support of the Federal Arts Project and indicating that the individuals were acting on their behalf as well as on the behalf of the LAW. The article noted that one of the vice presidents of the organization was John Steinbeck.

The records of the Department of State, State of New York, in 1941 reflected a certificate of incorporation was filed in 1939 for the LAW. John Steinbeck, of Los Angeles, California, was one of the directors who was appointed to act until the first annual meeting of the corporation.

The LAW has been cited as subversive pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

The report of the hearings before a subcommittee of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the United States Senate, 81st Congress, on Page 1504, contained information attributed to "The New York Times" of January 31, 1939, which consisted of an open letter urging that the embargo against Spain be lifted. John Steinbeck appeared as one of the persons urging that the Spanish embargo be lifted, and it was indicated that the organization sponsoring the plea was the Washington Committee to Lift Spanish Embargo. This organization was cited as a communist front in the 1943 report of the CCUA.

In 1950, a reliable informant of the FBI advised that Carey McWilliams was the author of the book, "Factories in the Field," published in 1939, which was the foundation of John Steinbeck's book, "Grapes of Wrath." According to the informant, McWilliams was under communist discipline and this had a great deal to do with the way this book was handled as well as Steinbeck's book because McWilliams at that time was supposedly making a communist out of Steinbeck.

In 1940, a reliable informant of the FBI advised that the Committee To Aid Agricultural Workers was organized under the leadership of John Steinbeck, and it had the support of many prominent people in California. In the informant's opinion, they were all people who had been active in behalf of "communist united front organizations."

In 1941, a reliable source advised the FBI that the name of John Steinbeck, Los Gatos, California, appeared in the active indices of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties. This organization has been cited as subversive pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

In 1944, the records of the Office of Naval Intelligence indicated that one John Steinbeck, New York, New York, had received literature and daily newspapers from Moscow, Russia, during 1942 and 1943. The United States Office of Censorship advised in 1944 that this same John Steinbeck had received a copy of the "Moscow News," a newspaper published in Russia.

The report of the House of Representatives Committee on Un-American Activities, published on March 29, 1944, described The National Maritime Union of America as having "toed the Communist Party line through all its changes in recent years." The report continued, "These ships of the American Merchant Marine are being supplied with libraries for the seamen to read while at sea... John Steinbeck's 'Grapes of Wrath' is naturally present, as it would be in any Communists' selection."

b1 [REDACTED]

(100-106224-9) (S)

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b7c [REDACTED]

(100-145-365-71) (S)

A reliable informant of the FBI advised in May, 1945, that the American Youth for Democracy, an organization which has been cited as subversive within the purview of Executive Order 10450, issued a list of recommended reading which contained the book entitled "The Moon is Down" by John Steinbeck.

In 1945, a reliable informant of the FBI advised that letters had been prepared to be sent to John Steinbeck, among others, requesting that he prepare a testimonial to the "valliant Spanish exiles and the work of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee." This organization has been cited as subversive within the purview of Executive Order 10450.

A reliable source, in April, 1946, advised the FBI that the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship in New York City was planning to give a reception in New York City in honor of three visiting Soviet literary figures. According to the informant, John Steinbeck was indicated to be one of those persons who would receive an invitation to attend this reception.

"The New York Times," on February 21, 1946, described the formation of a cooperative publishing concern under the name of the Associated Magazine Contributors, Incorporated. The article set forth the initial list of owner-contributors, which included the name of John Steinbeck. The 1946 report of the CCUA discussed communist infiltration of various publications. The report reflected that communist influence was established through such news services as the Associated Magazine Contributors, Incorporated, and others.

b1 [REDACTED] (S)

The October 24, 1947, issue of the "Daily Worker" contained an article concerning a report which had been read at the Herald Tribune Forum. John Steinbeck was coauthor of this report. The report expressed sympathy for the sufferings of the Russian people during the war and indicated that the Russian masses would strongly approve the halt of the "vicious and insane games" of recrimination between Russia and the United States.

The "Daily Worker" on April 16, 1948, contained a book review of John Steinbeck's "A Russian Journal." The article stated, "John Steinbeck's warm sympathy for people, as evidenced in his 'A Russian Journal,' (published today) is the one positive feature of an account of a visit to the Soviet Union which is otherwise overrun with frivolous provincialism and a coy disinclination to face political realities."

This article continued to criticize Steinbeck for his favorable references to the American form of government, including his statements that "our government is designed to keep anyone from getting too much power or, having got it, from keeping it," and "we agreed that this makes our country function more slowly, but that it certainly makes it function more surely."

The "New Leader," a weekly magazine, on August 21, 1948, also reviewed Steinbeck's "A Russian Journal" and criticized Steinbeck as a Soviet apologist. The article indicated that Steinbeck had visited the homes of millionaires and implied that from this Steinbeck had concluded that the Russians have plenty to eat and that the quality of Russian clothing had improved. The article noted that Steinbeck constantly made excuses for the Russians, and it pointed out that when he admitted that a collective farm had put on a big show for him, he also insisted that "any Kansas farmer" would do the same for his guests.

The "New York Herald Tribune" of May 18, 1948, contained an article concerning a meeting in Rome, Italy, of the Democratic Women's International Federation whose aim was to fight "American, British and French imperialists and warmongers." At this meeting, John Steinbeck was publicly criticized as one of several persons who had been converted to "the camp of war and anti-Sovietism."

The "Los Angeles Examiner," on June 11, 1948, contained an article reflecting that Ring Lardner, Jr., had signed a contract with John Steinbeck and others to write a film version of Steinbeck's story, "Pastures of Heaven." The article reflected that this was the first Hollywood employment given "any of the 'un-friendly ten' since their refusal to answer the communist question in Washington last fall."

The "Daily Worker," on April 1, 1955, contained an article, "John Steinbeck Takes a Look at Matusow and 'Death of a Locket.'" The article was a review of an article Steinbeck had prepared concerning the book, "False Witness," written by Harvey Matusow. The Steinbeck article was obviously critical of Matusow and stated that as a result of Matusow's testimony, the "ridiculousness of the whole series of the investigations now becomes apparent." The "Daily Worker" article was critical of Steinbeck, especially when he asserted that the communists approved of "the climate of disunity and suspicion which has haunted us for the last few years," and that the communists "would much rather keep the investigations going with their harvest of fear and disruption." (100-106224-9)

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In 1959, a reliable source advised the FBI that John Steinbeck was on the mailing list of the Japan Council Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs. Another reliable source has described this organization as a communist infiltrated organization in Japan. (105-62469-14)

In 1959, a reliable source advised the FBI that during July of that year John Steinbeck, in care of McIntosh and Otis, Inc., New York, New York, had been paid the sum of \$192.70 from the New York account of the National Bank of Bulgaria. It was not known to the source if this individual was identical with John Ernst Steinbeck. (65-34794-239)

In April, 1964, a reliable source advised the FBI that on March 12, 1964, John Ernest Steinbeck had received the sum of \$420 as an author's fee from the Soviet publication, "Novyi Mir." (65-28939-3046)

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