(Jan[illegible] AYLOR CALDWELL

129 Greenaway Rd.
Eggertsville, N.Y.
October 4, 1940

Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

OCT 9 RECD

Gentlemen:

Because of the amused indifference of your local office in Buffalo, and its apparent lethargy, I am forced to write you direct about a matter which I believe is important in America's present attempt to run down and disperse Fifth Columnists.

Had I been a witch-hunting housewife, I might not be so indignant at the complete disinterest of your local office. However, I am an internationally-known novelist, and my books are leading best-sellers all over the world. I try at all times to maintain a logical balance and careful judgment.

Recently I purchased a home in an exclusive suburb of Buffalo - Eggertsville. I know no one in this suburb, nor have I, at any time, seen the man about whom I am writing you at this time. He remains a complete stranger to me, and I to him. In view of this, his conduct remains the more sinister.

Across the road from my new home lives a German-American by the name of Chester Brost. His address is 116 Greenaway Rd., Eggertsville. On his estate he employs a simple-minded relative of his wife.

On a certain day recently, bringing maids with me to prepare our new home, I stopped my car near the edge of this German's estate. There, prominently displayed on his lawn were two swastikas. His relative, working nearby, stopped to watch me. I was infuriated at the sight of these swastikas, and asked Brost's relative why they were planted there. He immediately threatened me with physical violence, and came at me with his fists raised, shouting that "Mr. Brost put them there!"

RECORDED & INDEXED 100-836-2

I immediately went into a stranger neighbor's home and called the local FBI. I reported the matter to some man, who seemed highly amused, vaguely promised that "something would be done, perhaps," and hung up on me. (Incidentally, nothing was done by this office.) I left the neighbor's house just in time to see Brost's son scurry across the lawn and remove the swastikas.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
OCT 7 1940

Upon inquiry, I learned that Brost is local distributor for Chrysler automobiles. I wrote to Chrysler, informing them

(Janet) LOR CALDWELL

of the kind of man they employed, and they answered me briefly that insofar as they knew he had a "good reputation." That was all.

Now I am quite well-known in Buffalo and have a large circle of acquaintances. I talked about this Brost freely to many of them. They seemed concerned, and advised me to call your local office, and when I told them of the indifference displayed, they were outragdd.

We moved into this new house. A week or two later I began to receive a number of anonymous telephone calls. One, the most significant, was from a woman with a marked German accent. She said she had heard I was interested in the anti-American activities of Brost. She told me that her husband had been a member of the German-American Bund, but had become terrified of their activities, and had left the Bund. Among the most prominent members of the Bund, but a secret one, was this Brost, she said." A day or two later a man called, and said: "Find out what makes Brost so interested in the air-port!" (We live quite close to the local airport, by the way, where bombers and other aircraft are daily flown to Canadian ports.)

Other calls were similar to this. However, a very prominent Buffalonian to whom I told my story promised to investigate. He recently told me that Brost has a "very bad reputation" as a Nazi sympathizer. I will give you this gentleman's name upon sincere request.

Upon another occasion, Brost's relative called me "a dirty Jew." As I am of old Scotch-Presbyterian stock, the Jew part merely amused me. The "dirty", however, has got me good and damn mad! On several other occasions Brost's relative has threatened injury to my little daughter, and now I am just plain terrified.

It seems incredible to me as an American, and a descendent of a Scotchman who fought on the side of the Colonists in the American Revolution, that nothing can apparently be done to inhibit the activities of anti-Americans. I know we must have "laws." But must we allow saboteurs, potential enemies, and Nazi sympathizers sabotage all that we have done, and expose us to conquest by that bestial nation, Germany? And must we continue to live in terror of them, because of the indifference of local offices?

I am ready to assist you at any time. But I believe this case merits your immediate investigation.

Very truly yours,

Janet Taylor Caldwell

RPK:GEG

100-836-2

RECORDED

October 28, 1940

Miss Janet Taylor Caldwell
129 Greenaway Road
Eggertsville, New York

Dear Miss Caldwell:

I wish to thank you for your letter of October 4, 1940, and to assure you of my interest in the matter referred to by you in this communication.

It is gratifying, indeed, to know that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has the assistance and cooperation of loyal, patriotic Americans in the very important work which we are now doing in the field of general intelligence. Needless to say, interest such as yours is highly essential in this activity.

I have instructed Mr. H. T. O'Connor, Special Agent in Charge of our Buffalo Field Office, to arrange for a Special Agent of that office to interview you in the immediate future concerning the matter reported in your letter. You may be sure your cooperation in fully discussing this matter during such interview will be most helpful.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc-Buffalo (with copies of incoming) (by cover letter)

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ OCT 28 1940 ★
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
DEPT OF JUSTICE

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Buffalo, N.Y., 11/8/40

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the Bureau's communication dated October 28, 1940 (Bureau file 100-836), transmitting copies of the complaint of Miss JANET TAYLOR CALDWELL, 129 Greenaway Road, Eggertsville, NewYork.

Please be advised that immediately upon receipt of this letter Special Agent (A) [redacted] was assigned to interview the complainant at her home, at which time MISS CALDWELL furnished in detail the information previously brought to the attention of this office by her on August 5, 1940 and subsequently by the Detroit Field Division's letter of August 21, 1940. MISS CALDWELL did, however, make some additional allegations against subject CHESTER BROST, all of which appear to fall within the rumor category since they are seemingly based on her thorough dislike for this individual.

Special Agent [redacted] has advised me that he was amazed at the attitude taken by MISS CALDWELL in this matter. He found that her charges "of the indifference and apparent lethargy" against the Buffalo Field Division in the handling of her complaint were based on our failure to conduct a sensational raid on the BROST home. She also seemed disappointed that he was not tried and convicted in the Federal Court as a result of her complaint. According to [redacted] MISS CALDWELL is an admirer of the Fascist system of government which would deal summarily with individuals displaying Swastikas or otherwise indulging in activities subversive to the existing form of government. Throughout her conversation with this agent, MISS CALDWELL referred to BROST and German Nazis as "beasts" and in very emphatic tones stated that it was her firm opinion it was time "to drag these people out of their homes and shoot them in the streets".

[redacted] courteously explained in great detail to this complainant that the Bureau in conducting all of its investigations is bound by the Federal laws and that the handling

RECORDED

100-836-3

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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of complaints such as hers would generally in no way be obvious to the public at large. It was further impressed upon her that the Buffalo Field Division was at all times eager to receive any complaint or report of information regardless of its source in order that we might determine the basis of any alleged subversive activity and that the absence of publicity in such investigations should in no way be interpreted as indifference.

[redacted] adds that this complainant, for a good part of the interview, smoked cigarettes in chain fashion and appeared very nervous and high strung. She is obviously accustomed to much attention and was undoubtedly disappointed in not receiving some publicity in this instance.

b7c

During [redacted] visit MISS CALDWELL related an incident that occurred when she visited the German Consul General in New York City recently, in an effort to expedite receipt of royalties due her from the sale of her books in Germany. She stated that in the course of the visit the Consul left the room and after being gone for about fifteen minutes she decided to leave, only to discover that the door was locked. She became frightened and frantic, but waited a few minutes and again tried the door, when suddenly it opened and the Consul appeared on the other side of the door. She stated she left immediately, after accusing the Consul of locking her in, and threatened to give the whole story to the newspapers. She relates having informed the Consul that her husband was a Department of Justice official and would have investigated had she not appeared on the outside in a few minutes. She further stated that it was only because of her husband's insistance that no fuse be made that she made no mention of the incident to newspaper reporters. She told [redacted] that she wondered if she should now give the story out, and also mentioned that she had thought of giving out the story about BROST and about mentioning the indifference of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. [redacted] advises that as tactfully as possible he indicated that any stories about investigations being conducted by the FBI would be harmful to the Bureau's objects, with which he felt that she was in whole-hearted sympathy and support. She agreed not to violate [redacted] confidence.

b7c

For the Bureau's information, MISS CALDWELL'S husband is MARCUS REBACK, an Inspector with the U. S. Immigration Service. In this connection it will be noted that in complainant's communication of October 4, 1940, she refers to BROST'S relative calling her "a dirty Jew" and further relating that she is not Jewish but a descendant of a

Scotchman. During this interview with [redacted], MISS CALDWELL offered that her husband is Jewish, and continued that BROST has the reputation of being against the Jews. In connection with BROST'S attitude toward the Jews she referred [redacted] to DR. FINK, a prominent Jewish Rabbi in Buffalo, who is active in the Anti-Defamation League, and who is alleged to be in possession of information concerning BROST.

[redacted]

With specific reference to MISS CALDWELL'S telephone call to this Field Division on August 8, 1940, this call was handled by Special Agent [redacted], who subsequently reported her complaint for appropriate attention. In his memorandum, Special Agent [redacted] second paragraph reads: "MRS. REBACK (MISS CALDWELL'S married name) advised that she was very upset over this situation and that she desired something to be done about it immediately." This attitude, plus the fact that BROST was not severely dealt with in public, without question gave rise to complainant's letter to the Bureau dated October 4, 1940.

Special Agent [redacted] questioned MISS CALDWELL concerning this telephonic contact with an agent of this office and she stated emphatically that he had not been discourteous, but that she had felt that he was simply indifferent because he probably thought the call was coming from a "hysterical housewife". She did not dwell on the subject at all and gave [redacted] the impression that her complaint concerning indifference was based on the fact that she observed no action against BROST.

I believe that the foregoing is sufficient to absolve Special Agent [redacted] of any charges of indifference or discourteousness. I may add that this agent while assigned to this office was always a gentleman, patient, obliging and very courteous to all with whom he had contact.

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson

DATE: March 30, 1956

FROM : L. B. Nichols

SUBJECT: MRS. MARCUS REBACK
aka Taylor Caldwell

Tolson
Boardman
Nichols
Belmont
Harbo
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Sizoo
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

For record purposes, [redacted] and known to this office, called from [redacted] He advised that he saw some references in Dan Smoot's "Newsletter," knowing Smoot was a former FBI Agent, which referred to correspondence of Mrs. Marcus Reback with Smoot wherein Mrs. Reback alleges she has been persecuted for years by the Internal Revenue Service and claims that she has advised the FBI of these matters and got a letter from Coleman Andrews last January apologizing for the treatment she received at the hands of the Internal Revenue Service. [redacted] wondered if we would investigate shakedowns and irregularities which Mrs. Reback claimed are back of the Internal Revenue persecutions of her and as to whether any reliance could be given to the references Smoot makes in his "Newsletter."

[redacted] was advised that the Bureau could not endorse Dan Smoot for anything he did since leaving the FBI years ago, and as to Mrs. Reback [redacted] was informed that the FBI, of course, would not investigate such irregularities and that insofar as the specifics Mrs. Reback complained of, we were not in a position to make any comment.

After checking the Bureau files, [redacted] was recontacted and again advised that we had made a check and that as he had been previously advised, we could make no comment and that this matter had been handled by the Treasury Department.

cc: Mr. Boardman
Mr. Rosen
JJM:arm
(4)

SE 44

100-836-7

RECORDED-57
INDEXED-57

8 APR 4 1956

ENCLOSURE

50 APR 13 1956

EX. - 107

CRIME REC.

PERS. FILE

4-750 (2-7-79)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

3 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.

☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____ _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

_____

_____

☐ For your information: _____

_____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
100-836-3 (enclosure

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
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Buffalo, N.Y.
November 8, 1940

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

RE: CHESTER BROST;
JANET TAYLOR CALDWELL, Complainant.

Following the recent complaint of JANET TAYLOR CALDWELL, (MRS. MARCUS REBACK), and her letter to the Bureau, I talked with [redacted] and has proved to be a dependable source of information to this office. Today [redacted] advised that he had inquired into complaints concerning CHESTER BROST and had learned that the whole matter centered around a complaint originating from MRS. MARCUS REBACK. He had not been informed by me of this incident. [redacted] stated that next to MR. BROST'S property, a new lawn had been started and MRS. REBACK had been in the habit of parking directly in front of this property and getting out on the property side of the car and consequently stepping on the newly seeded grass. BROST'S gardener, to stop this practice, and thinking MRS. REBACK Jewish, made up, from a regular memorandum size sheet of paper, a sign on which he printed "KEEP OFF THE GRASS" and added a drawing of a swastika. This, when seen by MRS. REBACK precipitated the commotion which has previously been related, with MRS. REBACK and the gardener calling each other names, etc.

b7D

[redacted] added that the gardener had reported the incident immediately to MRS. BROST, who indignantly ordered the removal of the sign, saying such a thing was un-American.

b7D

[redacted] stated that MRS. REBACK had then written a three page letter of protest to the Chrysler people, who had become very much concerned and had called MR. BROST in for an explanation. It seems MR. BROST has been very much upset by the report of the incident with which he had no connection or previous knowledge.

According to [redacted] he could uncover nothing connecting BROST with the Bund or any anti-Semitic actions or sentiments, and that Jewish people have been guests at BROST'S home. The gardener is a distant relative of MRS. BROST, who is believed to have been born in this country, and comes from the west where he lost his job or met with some sort of trouble and the BROSTS gave him a position to help him out. [redacted] did not learn his name.

b7D

[redacted] added that had MRS. REBACK made the complaint to him and admitted writing the letter to the Chrysler people he would have reprimanded her severely for such an unjust and unkind action based on so little foundation.

b 7c

Submitted,

[redacted]

b 7c

ACS:MS

Special Agent in Charge

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Buffalo, N. Y.

February 5, 1941

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to my letter dated November 8, 1940 concerning a complaint made by MISS JANET TAYLOR CALDWELL (MRS. MARCUS REBACK), 129 Greenaway Road, Eggertsville, New York, concerning a report she had made to this office in regard to alleged pro-Nazi activities on the part of one CHESTER BROST.

To supplement the information which was furnished in my letter of reference concerning this incident to which MISS CALDWELL referred in her letter to the Bureau dated October 4, 1940, I am quoting a report made to this office by [redacted] b7D

"Chester Brost resides at 116 Greenway Road, Eggertsville, New York and is president of Brost Motors, 1290 Main Street, Buffalo, New York. This man has been in the automobile business for a number of years, formerly operating a sales room in Depew, New York. He is an American citizen and bears a good reputation in the community and his loyalty to the United States is unquestionable.

RECORDED & [redacted] per

100-836-4

"An investigation of the incident complained of by Mrs. [redacted] Marshal Reback of 129 Greenway Road, Eggertsville, New York which occurred on August 5th, 1940, from an interview with Mr. Brost discloses the following.

FEB 7 1941
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

"He stated that he knew of the incident that had occurred at his home last summer. That the trouble started and developed due to the fact that Mrs. Reback kept stepping on the newly seeded lawn of his home. Mr. Brost has a gardener in his employ by the name of [redacted] This man is a cousin of his wife and has been in his employ for about a year. The gardener warned Mrs. Reback on several occasions to keep off the lawn. He finally became so incensed at her that he made a swastika out of a piece of paper and put on the bottom of the swastika "A.H." and placed this on the lawn adjoining the two homes. This evidently was the grounds for the complaint sent b7C

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Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Buffalo, N. Y.
Feb. 5, 1941

in by Mrs. Reback. Apparently it was done without any un-American motive and merely to prevent trespassing.

"Mr. Brost stated that he was very sorry this incident occurred and if Mrs. Reback had taken the time to complain to him he would have reprimanded the gardener for placing the swastika on his lawn.

"It would appear that the incident complained of is of a trivial nature and as stated above Mr. Brost is a reputable citizen and in no way has any tendencies that may be pro-Nazi or un-American and unless requested by the F.B.I. no further investigation will be made."

In view of the information concerning this entire incident which has already been submitted to the Bureau, no further investigation of this matter is being made at the present time.

Very truly yours,

H. T. O'CONNOR
Special Agent in Charge

ACS:AW
65-1032

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
BUFFALO, NEW YORK

June 14, 1941

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Re: JANET TAYLOR CALDWELL,
alias Mrs. Marcus Reback.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to previous correspondence concerning the above named individual, particularly letters to the Bureau from this office dated November 8, 1940, and February 5, 1941, concerning the handling by this office of a report of allegedly subversive activities made by Mrs. REBACK, who writes under the pen name of JANET TAYLOR CALDWELL, and resides at 129 Greenaway Road, Eggertsville, New York.

For the information of the Bureau, Mrs. REBACK called at the Buffalo Field Division on June 9, 1941, and in a considerably agitated manner complained about threats that she stated she had been receiving by mail and by telephone which she interpreted as threats against her life.

RECORDED 100-836-5

At the time of her call she exhibited an ordinary penny post card addressed to her recently, calling her an undesirable Jew and classing her with Dorothy Thompson, Senator Claude Pepper, and Chauncey Hamlin, the latter individual being the head of the Niagara Frontier Defense Committee. The post card made other disparaging remarks about Mrs. REBACK and her attitude, and ended up by upholding Charles Lindbergh and his associates. The card was signed by the "Christian Mothers Club", which organization is not known to this office.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 23 1941
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Several months ago, Mrs. REBACK had turned over to this office, through her husband, an inspector in the Immigration and Naturalization Bureau, a similar post card bearing the same signature and again calling her an undesirable Jew and making other remarks of a similar nature. Mrs. REBACK went on to state that she had received several communications, but had torn them up. She also stated that she had been receiving telephone calls, one of which she quoted as saying, "We didn't get you last time, but we'll get you this time." It appears that she had been receiving such telephone calls from both men and women. She of course attributes these calls to a general conspiracy which she feels is being built up against her, and again mentioned CHESTER BROST,

117

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who is the subject of her original complaint and who is her neighbor across the street.

This interview with Mrs. REBACK is being reported to the Bureau because of the fact that she has previously written to the Director, complaining about the apathy and indifference of the Buffalo Field Division, and because of her attitude on this particular occasion and her general nature it is believed that she may again criticize this office, either by writing to the Director or by making some public statement.

b7c

She was informed, of course, by Special Agent [redacted] (A), with whom she talked, that this office was definitely interested in any violation over which we have jurisdiction, and explained to her that any communication, either by letter or telephone, which she received which was of a definitely threatening nature should be reported to this office, and that letters particularly should be preserved and turned over to us for appropriate attention. Mrs. REBACK stated that she was hiring some private investigators to run this matter down, and requested the return of the post cards, which were given back to her inasmuch as they did not at this time constitute a violation over which this Bureau does have jurisdiction. She was informed, however, that any mail containing obscene remarks or slanderous comments should be reported to the Post Office authorities.

As was pointed out in previous letters referred to, Mrs. REBACK is a prominent writer and has published several books recently, and she is of a very highly nervous and emotional character. She has also given several interviews to the local press in which she has advocated the immediate declaration of war by the United States against Germany. Strangely enough, she admits that her books have been best sellers in Germany and have won very favorable reaction there, and she commented, of course, in her interview that she was quite friendly with the German Consul in New York, with whom she has apparently had business dealings in regard to the transfer of royalties due her from her books.

No further action will be taken in this matter unless Mrs. REBACK does furnish to this office any information indicating a violation over which the Bureau does have jurisdiction.

Very truly yours,

J. T. Madigan

J. T. MADIGAN,
Special Agent in Charge.

ACS:ME
65-1032

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson

DATE: June 4, 1954

Tolson
Boardman
Nichols
Belmont
Glavin
Harbo
Rosen
Tamm
Tracy
Mohr
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Miss Gandy

FROM : L. B. Nichols

SUBJECT: MRS. MARCUS REBACK
aka TAYLOR CALDWELL

[redacted] of [redacted] called. They have received a lengthy report from Taylor Caldwell, the prominent authoress, who is violently anti-Communist. Her report reflects she has called to the attention of the Bureau shakedowns and irregularities in the Bureau of Internal Revenue and has also raised questions involving the possibility of security breaches in Internal Revenue. [redacted] realizes we would not investigate such irregularities, but he was checking to see if we could give him any guidance as to the reliability of this authoress so he can determine whether he should go to Buffalo to see her. I told him we were not in a position to make any comment and that we had checked and this matter had been handled by the Treasury Department.

cc: Mr. Boardman
Mr. Rosen

LBN:MP

RECORDED - 26
INDEXED - 26

100-836-6

JUN 8 1954

EX. - 107

55 JUN 16 1954