

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
 THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **BUREAU**

NY FILE NO. 123-5904 HMK:VMH

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 4/12/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 3/5,6,8,9,10,12,13,15-17,22,23,30; 4/3/51	REPORT MADE BY ARNOLD E. BRANDT (A)
TITLE <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 15px;"></div>		CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL INQUIRY-STATE DEPARTMENT PUBLIC LAW 402, 80TH CONGRESS VOICE OF AMERICA.	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

attended Wagner Memorial Lutheran College 1940 to September 1942 and December 1943 to May 1945, received BA degree 1945. Attended Columbia University part time Sept. 1945 to June 1946; Sept. 1947 to June 1948; Sept. 1950 to Feb. 1951 and summers of 1946 and 1947. All teachers recommend. Employed Esso Shipping Company from 7/30/40 to 2/8/43, record clear. Supervisor recommends. Employed as Teacher, Chester, NY High School from Sept. 1945 to June 1946 and at Nyack Junior School summer term 1945. Supervisors recommend favorable. Employed as Discussion Leader Encampment for Citizenship summers of 1949 and 1950. Applicant employed as instructor at Long Island Agricultural and Technical Institute, Farmingdale, NY 9/24/46 to date. Fellow employees describe as of excellent character and reputation. All references recommend. Connection of references ALGERNON D. BLACK and BURT JAMES LOEWENBERG with Communist front groups set out. Neighborhood inquiry favorable. Former student describes as "Communist sympathizer" in 1949. Confidential Informant describes references, BLACK and as "Communist sympathizers" in 1950. NYC CP Confidential Informants have no knowledge of applicant. No credit record. No criminal record located NYC, Rockland, Orange, Nassau Counties, NY.

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Classified by 2040
 Exempt from GDS, Category 2A3
 Date of Declassification Indefinite
 2/15/77
 EFG/TLc

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: Edward Scheidt SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
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approximately a year and a half and stated that [redacted] was an efficient and competent employee of good character and habits and that he had no reason to question the applicant's loyalty or associates.

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[redacted] Principal, Chester High School, Chester, New York, advised SA JOHN J. MC MANUS that [redacted] was employed as a teacher of English from September 1945 to June 1946. He said that he had no derogatory information concerning the applicant's character, reputation and loyalty. He stated that he did not like the applicant personally because he felt that the applicant was unable to control his classes.

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[redacted] Headmaster, Nyack Junior High School, Nyack, New York, advised SA MC MANUS that the applicant was a teacher at this school during the summer term of 1945. [redacted] stated that [redacted] was a capable and trustworthy person and seemed to be a man of excellent character and a loyal American.

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It is to be noted that information concerning the applicant's employment as a discussion leader at the Encampment for Citizenship during the summers of 1949 and 1950 is set out in this report in connection with the interview of reference, ALGERNON D. BLACK.

Professor [redacted] Long Island Agricultural and Technical Institute, Farmingdale, New York, advised SA GUSTAV S. ABRANDT that the applicant has been employed at the Institute from September 24, 1946 to date. Professor [redacted] stated that he considers the applicant a person of excellent character and reputation and without a doubt a loyal American. He characterized the applicant as having "advanced ideas" concerning community planning which was his chief interest. [redacted] stated that [redacted] appeared to believe in socializing services such as medicine but had never in his classes spoken of Communism or Russia.

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Dr. [redacted] advised SA ABRANDT that he knew the applicant as a fellow worker at the Institute and as a neighbor and that he would vouch for him as a person of good character and integrity. He disclosed that he thought the applicant was a good security risk and had no Communist sympathies but felt the applicant was a highly emotional person. He said the applicant spoke disparagingly of the American political parties and that he could not recall specifically the details.

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[redacted] advised that he had never heard the applicant speak favorably of the Soviet Union and had never heard him speak critically of United States foreign policy. He said [redacted] chief interest appeared to be community planning and that he particularly favored community control on such an enterprise as medicine.

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[redacted] Instructor at the Institute, disclosed to SA ABRANDT that he knew the applicant and his wife quite well. He described the applicant's wife as being rather "conservative" but stated that the applicant appeared to be in favor of vast expansion of Government control and was particularly outspoken in favor of socializing medicine. [redacted] stated that he did not consider the applicant a Communist and had never seen any evidence of such sympathy and that he, likewise, considered the applicant a man of excellent character. He noted, however, that [redacted] appeared to him to be very immature.

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[redacted] Instructor, advised SA ABRANDT that he had worked with the applicant at the school since 1946 and that he considers [redacted] a loyal American of excellent character and reputation. [redacted] said that [redacted] gave not the slightest indication of having Communist sympathies. [redacted] disclosed that [redacted] was highly idealistic, was strongly opposed to racial discrimination and in his field of community planning the applicant appeared to favor a greater control of most industries by the Government.

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References

Dr. ALGERNON D. BLACK
2 West 64th Street,
New York City.

BLACK advised that he is the leader of the Ethical Culture Society at this address; that he has known the applicant for about three years; that he originally met him when [redacted] became a faculty member on the staff of the Encampment for Citizenship which was a summer camp operated by [redacted] the Ethical Culture Society. BLACK stated that [redacted]

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had been a discussion leader at the encampment during the summers of 1949 and 1950. BLACK described the encampment, of which he was Educational Director, as a project in Citizenship Training for young adults between the ages of 17 and 23. BLACK indicated that the encampment has as its purpose the teaching of a proper understanding of community problems, international relations and the responsibility of citizens. BLACK explained that the program had three broad objectives:

1. an understanding of the meaning of democracy
2. an analysis of the main issues of our times
3. the development of scholars and educators for effective citizenship.

BLACK described [redacted] as being a very intelligent and hard-working young man with fine ideals and a high moral sense. He said that he would recommend him very highly for a position of confidence and trust with the United States Government. BLACK noted that he was convinced that the applicant would not be a Communist because he was an individual who had too much respect for a person's rights .

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The following information is to be noted concerning
ALGERNON D. BLACK:

The "Daily Worker" for September 22, 1948, page 5, column 2, carried an article which said in part that DR. ALGERNON D. BLACK, New York Society for Ethical Culture, was among 93 prominent educators, churchmen and other individuals who formed a "Committed of Welcome" for the "Very Reverend HEWLETT JOHNSON, D.D., Dean of Canterbury Cathedral."

In connection with HEWLETT JOHNSON, it is to be noted that the "New York World Telegram" for December 13, 1948, carried an article which stated that the State Department had originally refused to issue a visa to JOHNSON because his visit to the United States was under the auspices of the National Council of Soviet American Friendship which has been decreed by the Attorney General to be within the purview of Executive Order 9835. The article further reflected that the State Department had made it clear to JOHNSON that he could visit this country as an individual under the proper auspices. The article is partially quoted as follows:

"The Communists and their Russian First travelers will have a field day at Madison Square Garden tonight—they will ballyhoo and

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"pay homage to one of the most effective apologists for Soviet Communism outside of Russia's borders. He is the Very Reverend HEWLETT JOHNSON 'Red Dean' of Canterbury and member of the governing board of the Communist London 'Daily Worker'".

The "Daily Worker" for February 28, 1949, page 2, column 3, carried an article which said in part that "ALGERNON BLACK, Ethical Cultural Leader," was among the speakers who addressed the general and panel sessions at the three day meeting of the Cultural and Scientific Conference for World Peace, March 25-27, 1949, at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York City.

The "Daily Worker" for February 21, 1949, page 2, column 2, carried an article which said in part that DR. ALGERNON BLACK was one of the sponsors of the Cultural and Scientific Conference for World Peace under the auspices of the National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions in New York City, March 25-27, 1949 at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

Concerning the ~~National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions~~, the following information will be noted:

Confidential Informants New York City T-1 and T-2, of known reliability, have advised that the ~~Progressive Citizens of American~~ was brought into existence through an amalgamation of the ~~Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions~~ and the National Citizens Political Action Committee in December of 1946. The ICCASP, although losing identity through the amalgamation, has, since the dissolution of the PCA, again assumed an independent identity as the National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions, to which many prominent artists, scientists and other professional persons belong.

In view of the fact that NCASP is the successor to the ICCASP, it will be noted that on December 30, 1946, Confidential Informant T-3, of known reliability, stated that the initial discussion concerning the formation of the ICCASP took place in the office of the "Daily Worker." T-3 advised that LIONEL BERMAN, of the New York State Committee of the Communist Party; ALEXANDER TRACHTENBERG, a former member of the Communist Party National Committee; JOE FIELDS and BOB REID, Communists active in the cultural field, were among those present at the meeting.

At this meeting BERMAN said that the full strength of the Communist Party in the cultural field was not being utilized and he was getting up a Cultural Committee which was to be headed by JOE DAVIDSON.

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BERMAN stated that DAVIDSON would be a good choice since he had been associated with the viewpoint of the Communist Party for many years.

On April 27, 1949, Confidential Informant T-4, New York City, of known reliability, advised that DR. ALGERNON BLACK, 2 West 64th Street, New York City, was invited to attend a party at the Polish Consulate on April 4, 1949, in honor of the delegates who attended the Cultural and Scientific Conference for World Peace which was held at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York City. ~~S~~

The "Daily Worker" for January 3, 1949, page 7, column 1, carried an article in which the name of DR. ALGERNON D. BLACK, Ethical Culture Society, New York City, appears among signers of an open letter "to members of the 81st Congress urging abolition of the House Un-American Activities Committee."

Confidential Informant T-5, of known reliability, in 1944, advised that he believed ALGERNON BLACK was a sincere and patriotic American but that he was very much interested in racial issues and was more or less a dreamer.

Confidential Informant T-6, of known reliability, in 1944, advised that ALGERNON DAVID BLACK was chairman of the City wide Citizens Committee of Harlem and that he was elected about 1941 when the committee was formed after charges of a crime wave in Harlem and that it was strictly a remedial measure. T-6 further advised that this organization was not a pressure group but a committee to get results through the contact of internationally known people in high Government connections and social circles. T-6 further advised that there were some Communist Party members on the committee but stated that it was his opinion BLACK was not a member of the Communist Party but leaned more in the direction of the Socialists.

On December 16, 1946, the "New York World Telegram", under FREDERICK WOLTMAN's by-line, published an article entitled "Anti Franco group loses backers after absorption into Red front." This article stated that the recent merger with the National Committee to Win the Peace had started a series of withdrawals of sponsors of the Action Committee to Free Spain Now. It is to be noted that both of these organizations come within the purview of Executive Order 9835, as cited by the Attorney General. ALGERNON D. BLACK was listed in this article as having been one of the sponsors who withdrew.

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LOEWENBERG noted that he has seen the applicant several times since 1949 socially and professionally; that he believes the applicant a person of good mental ability and that his character is unimpeachable. He stated he knows of no reason why he could not be a trustworthy and valuable Government employee.

It is to be noted that on March 28, 1949, Confidential Informant T-7, of known reliability, advised that the name of BERT JAMES LOEWENBERG appeared on the final program of the Cultural and Scientific Conference for World Peace held at New York from March 25 - 27, 1949. LOEWENBERG's name is listed after "panel members." The same informant also advised that the name of BERT JAMES LOEWENBERG appeared on the program committee for the dinner held at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, March 25, 1949 in connection with this same conference.

In connection with the Encampment For Citizenship it is to be noted that Confidential Informant T-8, of known reliability, advised in August, 1950 that he had attended the final meeting held by the Encampment For Citizenship at Fieldston school on August 4, 1950 and that all the talks at this particular meeting, according to the informant, followed the "Party line." The informant could not be specific as to what was said with the exception that he heard one [redacted] who was one of the leaders, speak on this occasion against the war in Korea. T-8 advised that in his opinion [redacted] ALGERNON D. BLACK and [redacted] were Communist sympathizers.

Miss [redacted]
712 FULTON Street
Farmingdale, Long Island

Miss [redacted] advised SA ABRANDT that she is a teacher at Farmingdale High School and that her home address is 16 Royal Oak Road, Staten Island, New York. She stated that she has known the applicant and his wife since 1941; that she attended college with [redacted] and that the applicant is an absolutely loyal American with no "Communist Party leanings" and that he is a man of fine character, habits and reputation.

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