ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/14/89 BY SP1AG/jac

File No. 100-15433-1A.1

Date Received 4-2-58

From PASSPORT OFFICE
(Name of Contributor)

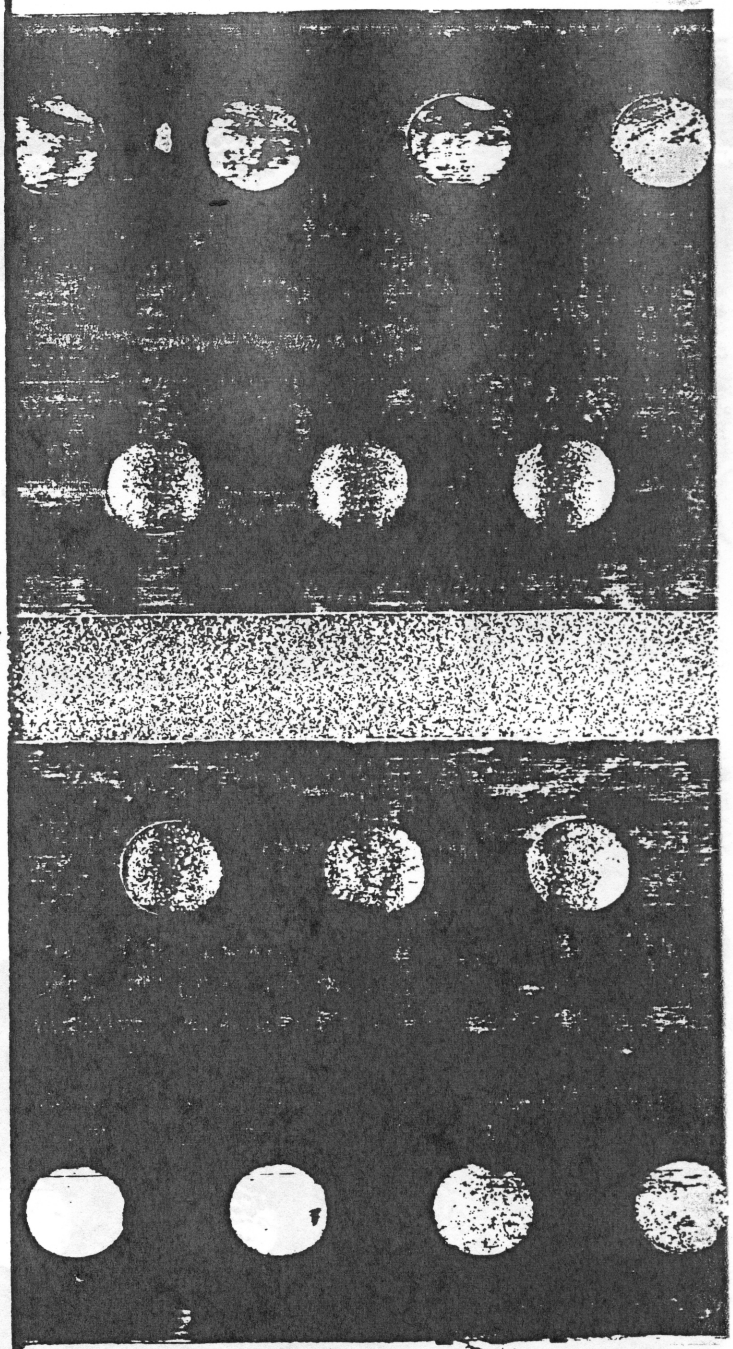
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
(Address of Contributor)

By [redacted] b7c
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned Yes ( )
No (✓)

Description:

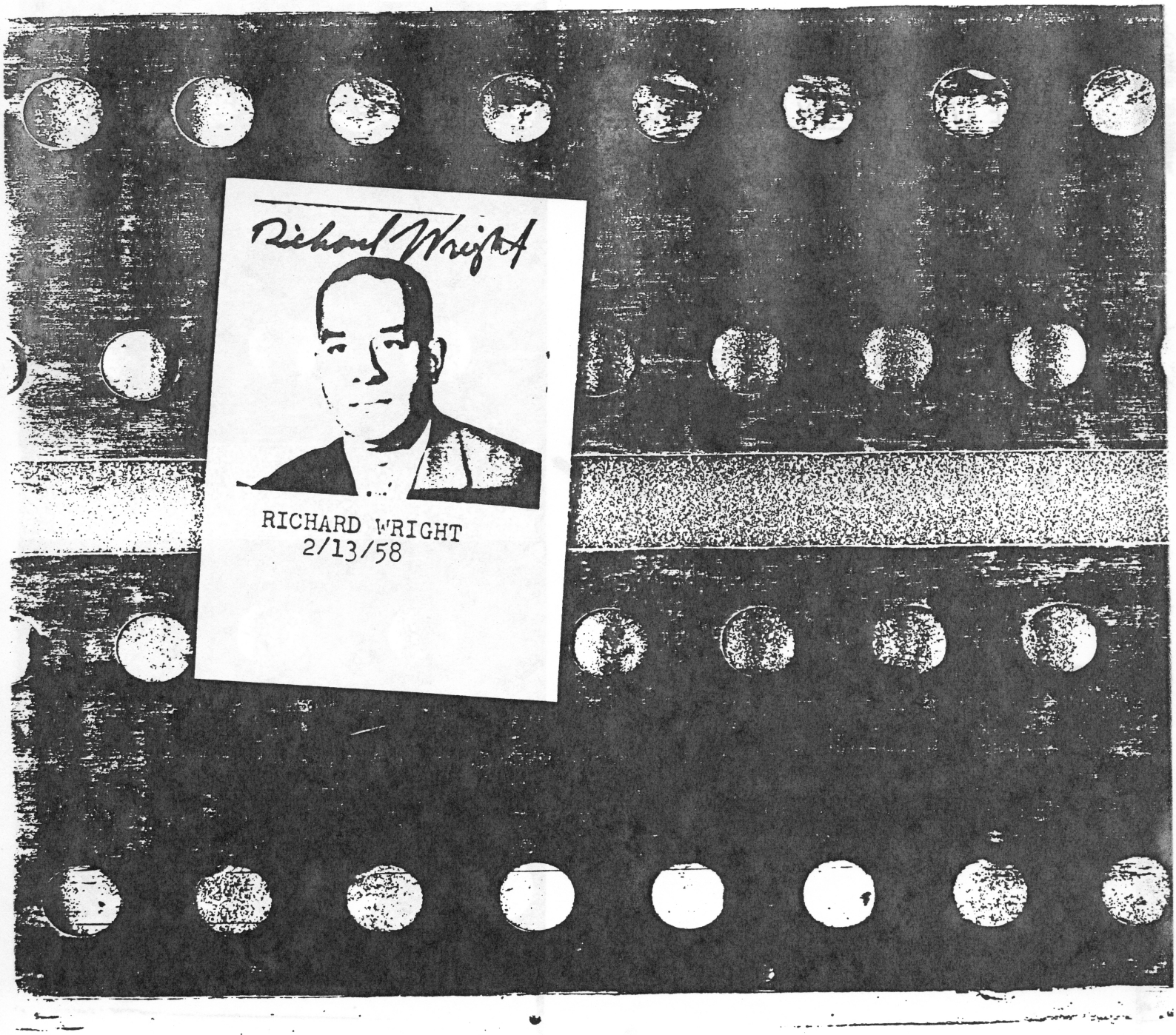
1 PHOTO OF RICHARD WRIGHT [redacted] b7c



WRIGHT, R. 53

14

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/14/89 BY SP1A6/sac




WRIGHT, R. 54

FD-71

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**
**United States Department of Justice**

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2/14/89 BY SP1AG/jac

COMPLAINT FORM

ICHARD WRIGHT
ject's Name and Aliases

C324
Name of Complainant

Address of Complainant

Telephone Number of Complainant

1-24-44
Date and Time Complaint Received

ress of Subject
ecurity Matter - C
racter of Case

67D

TS OF COMPLAINT:

[redacted]

No main file on subject, but see following references:

[redacted]

b2
b7C

(If additional space needed use reverse side)

ON RECOMMENDED BY AGENT:

Open case

105-15733-1

[redacted]
Special Agent

b7C

DISPOSITION BY SAC:
Open New Case:
Assign to Agent
Assign to P.D.
Defer
Route to Agent
No Action Necessary:
File In

Special Agent in Charge
Supervisor

185

WRIGHT, R. 56

4-750 (Rev. 4-17-85)

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

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

2- 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 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):

_____

_____

☐ For your information: _____

_____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
WFO 100-15433-1A2

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

WRIGHT, R. 55

14

FBI/DOJ

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, WFO (100-15433)

DATE: 3/6/58

FROM : SA [redacted] b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/14/89 BY SP1AG/jac

SUBJECT: RICHARD WRIGHT
SM-C
(OO:NY)

On 3/6/58, the Passport Office, Dept. of State, made available the subject's passport file. It indicated the subject was born 9/4/08 at Natchez, Miss.

The file had Thermofax copies of FBI reports by the WFO and New York offices.

The subject, on2/13/58, executed an affidavit in which he admitted CP membership from 1932 to 1942. He is in Paris, France at the present time.

It is suggested that the subject's case be opened and assigned in order that all pertinent information may be obtained. The file is now available.

R10 + Agent

100-15433-5

SEARCHED ____ INDEXED ____
SERIALIZED ____ FILED ____
MAR - 7 1958
FBI - WFO

b7C

WRIGHT, R. 59

CC-181

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**
**United States Department of Justice**
**Washington, D. C.**

100-157464

January 20, 1943

b7c

Special Agent in Charge
New York, New York

Sent file

RE: RICHARD WRIGHT
INTERNAL SECURITY - SEDITION

Dear Sir:

The Bureau desires that it be advised as to the exact status of this case at the present time.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 289-582
DATE 12-19-88 BY SP1AB52

100-46737-13
F. B. I.
JAN 22 1943
17
N. Y. C.

b7c

Advise Bur. Case assigned
report will be submitted
as soon as possible

b7c

FOR DEFENSE
BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

WRIGHT, R. 60

190

WRIGHT, Richard (CP) [redacted] 3ND
New York City (Evaluation TRUE)

Subject's name appears on a list of sponsors of the Citizens' Non-Partisan Committee to elect Benjamin J. DAVIS, Jr., Communist Party candidate for the New York City Council from Manhattan.

ONI-FBI-MID 2SC
11-15-43

Copy for B7-A
B7-CP

[redacted]
100-41674
FBI
b2, b7C
(2 num refs)

Declassified [redacted]
Auth: COMNISC
Date: 2-10-89 Unit: OOJ

100-41674-1
F. B. I.
NOV 30 1943
N. Y. C.
ROUTED TO [redacted]

FBI
b7C

WRIGHT, R. 61

100-100-41674

191

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 289852
DATE 12/22/88 BY SP1AP/AGS/C

Richard Wright

Richard Wright

100-41674-12
F. B. I.
MAY 9 1944
N. Y. C.
ROUTED TO: [redacted]

b7C

WRIGHT, R. 62

19

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

234 U. S. Court House
Foley Square
New York, 7, New York

100-41674

b7C [redacted]

b7E [redacted]

June 3, 1944

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/22/88 BY SP1 AGJC

Dear Sir:

In connection with an investigation being conducted by this Bureau it is requested [redacted]

b7E [redacted]

Please refer to our file No. 100-41674, when forwarding to this office:

b7E [redacted]

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

E. E. CONROY
Special Agent in Charge

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

9K

WRIGHT, R. 63

100-41674-

93

PITTSBURGH COURIER

AUGUST 5, 1944 EDITION

It took Richard Wright "Native Son" fame, from 1933 to 1944 to discover that Communists are "narrow-minded, bigoted, intolerant and frightened at new ideas which don't fit into their own." He has also discovered at this late date a "lamentable regression" in the Reds position on the American Negro. The story is told in the August Atlantic Monthly. Their militancy on the Negro has vanished, he charges.

* * *

ALL THIS WAS obvious to honest, alert minds from the beginning. As agents of a foreign government, secretly committed to the overthrow of American institutions, the Reds are only loyal to Stalin and his Asiatic Tammany. They dumped the Scottsboro racket when it was no longer profitable, abandoned the "Black and White" film to speed U. S. recognition and have now soft-pedaled agitation for equal rights because it might interfere with the war effort. They have double-crossed everybody.

* * *

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 289882
DATE 12/22/88 BY SP1 AGS/SC

AUG 8-1944

[redacted] bx

100-[redacted]-1

WRIGHT, R. 66

# Red Richard Wright Quits 'Em

It took a long time for Richard Wright, [illegible] author,

Where, until recently, he was one of the high priests of the Communist Party staunchly defending Red ideology as the only possible political philosophy for his race, today he was hurling epithets at his former Communist comrades.

"Bigoted! Intolerant! Narrow-minded!," were a few of the choicest labels applied to all Communists by the author of "Native Son" and other books.

**REDS LIVE A LIE.**

Wright's abrupt about-face from the left to the right was revealed in an article written for the August "Atlantic Monthly" under the title of "I Tried to Be a Communist."

Elaborating on the article Wright discussed why he "took a walk" on the Communist Party back in 1940 after discovering that the Reds live a lie to their ideals.

At the same time Wright advised all members of his race to take a walk with him. He described the Communist Party position on the American Negro as a "lamentable regression" and declared that the "militancy on the Negro question has passed into the hands of right-wing Negroes."

**"HAVE LOT TO LEARN.**

"I do not regard the Communists today as effective instruments for social change," Wright said. "The Communists have a terrible lot to learn about people.

"Communists peculiarly are too much the victims of the very society they are trying to change. This too often finds expression in intolerance and narrowness. And I mean general intolerance in an imperious way of working.

"What it amounts to is that they are narrow-minded, bigoted, intolerant and frightened of new ideas which don't fit into their own, whether these ideas are right or wrong."

"They tried to tell me how I should react as a Communist," he said. "But our attitudes were irreconcilable."

Wright got an idea of what Communists think of "racial equality" in 1935 when he attended a Communist party writers' congress in Carnegie Hall. Wright had come on from Chicago by hitchhiking with several members of his race.

"I asked about housing accommodations and all white members of the Communist Party looked embarrassed." [illegible] white

[illegible] Communist called another white Communist to one said and discussed what should be done to get me, a black Chicago Communist, housed."

One of the white Communists went out and returned "frantic-eyed and sweating" to announce he had had no luck.

"I'm going to call someone I know,' he said, desperately. "Say, how about a nickel for the phone?"

Wright, disgusted, resolved to sleep standing up on the sidewalk until, he said a white woman Communist took pity on him and took him to ther home where she introduced him to her husband.

100-41674

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 12/22/58 BY SP1 AB JC 28988

---Mr. Conrad
---Mr. Wland
---Mr. Crowl
---Mr. Doyle
---Mr. B. C. Brown
---Mr. Charters
---Mr. Gandes
---Mr. Granville
---Mr. Kirkland
---Mr. [illegible]
---Mr. [illegible]
---Mr. Ostheimer
---Mr. [illegible]
---Mr. [illegible]
---[illegible] Work
---Training Div.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
AUG 2 1944
NEW YORK CITY FIELD OFFICE

CLIPPING FROM THE
N. Y. JOURNAL AMERICAN
JUL 28 1944
DATED
FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION

67C

Ser - 41674-20

WRIGHT, R. 66

19

# Office Memorandum · UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: SAC, NEW YORK

FROM: SAC, WASHINGTON

SUBJECT: RICHARD WRIGHT
SECURITY MATTER - C

It has come to the attention of this office that an article written by the above-named subject appears in the August issue of the Atlantic Monthly magazine. It is said that this article relates WRIGHT's joining the Communist Party and his subsequent resignation from it. In this connection, it has also been noted that in the column "The World Today," by GEORGE S. SCHUYLER, appearing in the August 5, 1944, edition of the Pittsburgh Courier, there are two paragraphs with regard to WRIGHT's article in the Atlantic Monthly.

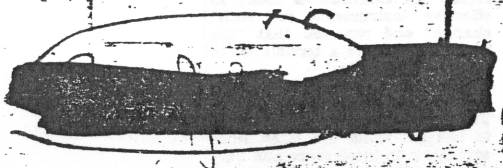
This information is being furnished to you for whatever value it may have and a clipping from the Pittsburgh Courier, as mentioned above, is being enclosed for your further information.

b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 289882
DATE 12/22/88 BY DIAG SC

[redacted]
100-15433
Encl.

100-41679-D2
1
AUG 8- 1944



b7C

Searched
Serialized
Indexed
Filed

WRIGHT, R. 67

# Negro Author Criticizes Reds As Intolerant

## Wright, Discussing His Own Break With Communists, Says Party Fears New Ideas

The Communist position on the American Negro has undergone a "distinct and lamentable regression" in recent years, Richard Wright, Negro author and former party member, said here yesterday in describing Communists as "narrow-minded, bigoted, intolerant and frightened of new ideas which don't fit into their own."

Mr. Wright's remarks were prompted by questions growing out of an article which he has written for "The Atlantic Monthly" for August under the title of "I Tried to Be a Communist." In this article, the author of "Native Son" and other books discusses his earliest experiences as a Communist party member in Chicago, touching on the problems he faced in trying to present his own ideas to the party.

The August "Atlantic Monthly" describes the article as the first of two installments and Mr. Wright said yesterday that he would not discuss the specific details of his Chicago break with the Communists because these will be covered in the second magazine article.

Mr. Wright said that his Communist party membership covered the period, roughly, from the latter part of 1932 or early 1933 to 1940. His early association with the Communists in Chicago, he said, was broken in 1937, when he was "ejected" from the party.

On the outs with the party from about May until August, 1937, Mr. Wright said that he was reinstated in New York in 1937 and "maintained a relationship" with the party until 1940 when, he said, he left the party.

Discussing what he described as the "lamentable regression" in the Communist party position on the American Negro, Mr. Wright said that he does not know the reason for this.

"Publicly," he said, "Communists will deny that there is any substantial change in their militancy but privately they offer any handy excuse. The militancy on the Negro question has passed into the hands of right-wing Negroes. That was not true eight years ago. Most of the battles then were led by Communists."

In answer to the question as to what caused the Chicago rift between him and the Communists, Mr. Wright said:

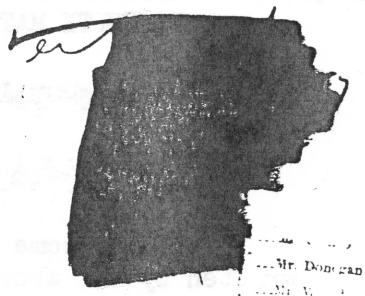
"It was an accumulation of many things—not so much a leaving as an ejection over a difference of opinion. I had my way of expressing my conception of Negro experience in my writing. I thought it would be of value to them. They had their ideas of how I should react as a Communist. There was an irreconcilable gap between our attitudes."

Mr. Wright said that "I do not regard the Communists today as effective instruments for social change" and observed that "the Communists have a terrible lot to learn about people."

"Communists," he added, "peculiarly are too much the victims of the very society they are trying to change. This too often finds expression in intolerance and narrowness. I mean, general intolerance, in an imperious way of working.

"What it amounts to is that they are narrow-minded, bigoted, intolerant and frightened of new ideas which don't fit into their own, whether these ideas are right or wrong."

62,670



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 289882
DATE 12/22/88 BY SP1AGS

CLIPPING FROM THE
N. Y. HERALD TRIBUNE
DATED JUL 28 1944
FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION

100-41674-26

WRIGHT, R. 67

4-750 (Rev. 4-17-85)

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

# 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) b2, b7C 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):

_____

_____

☐ For your information: _____

_____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
NY 100-41674-32 pg 2

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

WEIGTR, R. 72

20

FBI/DOJ

b7C

[redacted]

Re: WILD MARGINALIA
INTERNAL SECURITY (C)

In a tribute to ANNA DAMES, former secretary of the International Labor Defense, appearing in the form of a pamphlet entitled "Equal Justice and Democracy in the Service of Victory" published in September 1944 by the I. L. D., the following individuals were listed as officers and members of the national committee of the I. L. D. These individuals listed below are all located in New York City.

b2,b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 289882
DATE 12/22/88 BY SP1 AGS

National committee members

[redacted]

b2,b7C

[redacted]

FBI
NOV 25 1944
N. Y. C.

b7C

WRIGHT, R 73

100-41674-32

20

4-750 (Rev. 4-17-85)

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

# 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, b7C, b7D with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

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

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

_____

_____

☐ For your information: _____

_____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
NY 100-41674-34

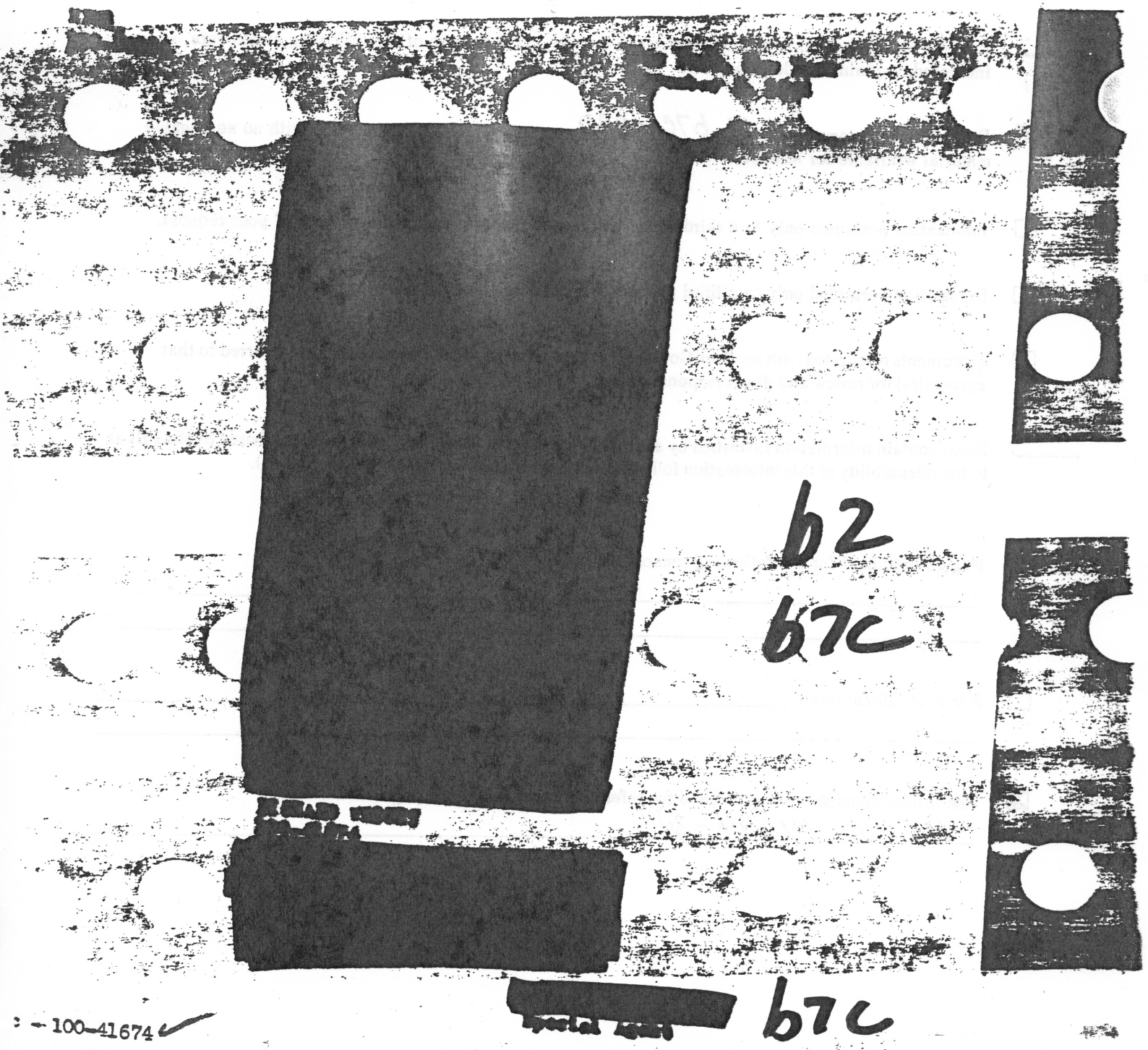
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

WRIGHT, R. 74

20

FBI/DOJ




- 100-41674

WRIGHT, R. 75



206

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, New York

DATE: May 7, 1945

FROM : John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

SUBJECT: RICHARD NATHANIEL WRIGHT
SECURITY MATTER - C

100-41674
F.B.I.
MAY 8 - 1945
N.Y.C.
FILE

Reference is made to your letter of April 17, 1945, in the above captioned matter.

In view of the militant attitude of the subject toward the Negro problem, as set forth in your letter of February 26, 1945, it is believed that you should submit a recommendation for the preparation of a Security Index Card in this case.

You may consider this letter as the Bureau's approval of such a recommendation and you should place a Security Index Card in your files at this time.

5-18-45
Card made + placed in Security Index.
Richard Nathaniel Wright - Native Born - Communist
Apt. C-23, 99 Lefferts Place, Brooklyn, NY (Res.)
Free lance writer at residence (Bus.)

Searched .....
Serialized .....
Indexed .....
Filed .....

100-41674-36

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/22/78 BY SP1 AGS/PC
26982

WRIGHT, R, 76

208

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York 7, New York

June 18, 1946

MEMO

RE: RICHARD NATHANIEL WRIGHT;
SECURITY MATTER - C

The records of Selective Service Board #178, 44 Court Street, Brooklyn, reflected that as of March 21, 1946, the subject's address was apartment 3F, 82 Washington Place, New York City.

In view of this fact it is suggested that a Security Index Card be appropriately changed and the Bureau advised.

[redacted] b7c
SA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/22/58 BY SP1 AGS
259882

100-41674

b7c

100-41674-3
F. B. I.
JUN 19 1946
N. Y. C.
ROUTED TO

WRIGHT, R. 77

209

4-750 (Rev. 4-17-85)

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

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

2 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) b2, b7C, b7D with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

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

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

_____

_____

☐ For your information: _____

_____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
NY 100-41674-42

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

WRIGHT, R. 78

21C

FBI/DOJ

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, New York

DATE: February 3, 1948

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: RICHARD NATHANIEL WRIGHT;
SECURITY MATTER - C
Your File 100-41674

Send file
#7

MR. SCHEIDT
MR. BELMONT
MR. [illegible]
MR. [illegible]
[illegible] SUPERVISOR
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

In accordance with your recommendation, the Security Index Card relative to the captioned individual has been cancelled and you are authorized to place your copy thereof in the investigative case file.

100-157464

Serial 7
M.D.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 289882
DATE 12/22/88 BY SP1 AGW

FEB 4 1948
N.Y.C.
ROUTED TO FILE

100-41674-77

WRIGHT, R. 79

Director, FBI

February 11, 1960

[redacted]

b7C per Army

Subject WRIGHT, according to this report, resides at 14 rue Monsieur le Prince, Paris 6.

The following information was set forth in the above-referenced U. S. Army report:

b7D per Army

"In December 1951, [redacted] stated that Richard WRIGHT is active in the French Communist Party and has been engaged in spreading communist doctrine through the



WRIGHT, R. 43

17

Director, FBI

February 11, 1960

CONFIDENTIAL

FAFG. Mrs. Richard WRIGHT is the active communist member of the family and has made a point of insulting Negro personnel who hold views other than communist.' Two acquaintances of Source who had attended some meetings stated that as far as they had been able to discover, the FAFG was devoting all of its time to very uncontrolled discussion of the things that were 'wrong with the US.' Source stated that WRIGHT had boasted that he had 'the State Department in my pocket--they call me in for conferences, the fools.'

"In January 1952, an American Negro male student then attending the University of Paris stated that in about June or July 1950, Richard WRIGHT asked Source to join a 'protest' group aimed at 'forcing the employment of more of the Americans of African ancestry' in US government jobs in Paris. Source told WRIGHT that it would be better to be certain of facts before 'going off half-cocked.' WRIGHT then accused Source of having an 'Uncle Tom attitude.' Later the organization tried to interfere with the French policy of employment and held protest meetings at which the members discussed the fact that Algerians, Africans, and French colonials were not employed in other than menial capacities in Paris."

The above data is being furnished to the Bureau and the New York Office for purposes of information and possible interest.

No further action is being taken in this matter but in the event pertinent information is received in the future on captioned subject, it will be furnished to the Bureau and NYO.

RUC.

CONFIDENTIAL



WRIGHT, R. 44

0-19 (Rev. 1-11-60)

Central Research Section

Tolson ____
Mohr ____
Parsons ____
Belmont ____
Callahan ____
DeLoach ____
Malone ____
McGuire ____
Rosen ____
Tamm ____
Trotter ____
W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room ____
Ingram ____
Gandy ____

# Richard Wright, Novelist, Author of 'Native Son'

PARIS, Nov. 30 (AP).—Richard Wright, the Negro author, died of a heart attack Monday night.

The Mississippi-born writer, a longtime Paris resident, is best known for his novels such as "Black Boy" and "The Outsider" dealing with the problems of the Negro in American society.

Mr. Wright, 52, who had suffered recently from intestinal trouble, was hospitalized Saturday for treatment.

Mr. Wright's latest work dealt with a theme he spent a lifetime exploring. Titled "Fishbelly," the book traces the impact of American racial attitudes upon the Negro.

Mr. Wright was born near Natchez, Miss., on September 4, 1908. He attended a Seventh Day Adventist school near his home but quit and went to work in Memphis, Tenn., at the age of 15.

He did his first writing during the depression under the auspices of the Federal Writers Project, first in Chicago in 1935 and then in New York in 1937.

Mr. Wright began contributing articles and stories to small literary magazines and to the Daily Worker and New Masses, both Communist publications. He first attracted national attention with "Uncle Tom's Children" in 1938.

"Native Son," published in 1940, established him as one of the foremost American contemporary authors.

Mr. Wright was identified by a Government investigation witness in 1952 as a former Communist who broke with the party.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-25-81 BY SP8BTG/bw

The Washington Post and Times Herald ____
The Washington Daily News ____
The Evening Star B5
New York Herald Tribune ____
New York Journal-American ____
New York Mirror ____
New York Daily News ____
New York Post ____
The New York Times ____
The Worker ____
The New Leader ____
The Wall Street Journal ____
Date 11/30/60

100-157464-A
NOT RECORDED
149 DEC 2 1960

50 DEC 5 1960

WRIGHT, R. 45

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Paris 8, France

Date: December 7, 1960

To: Director, FBI (100-157464)

From: Legat, Paris (100-697)

Subject: RICHARD WRIGHT
SM - C

Re Paris letter 2/11/60.

Enclosed is a clipping from the 11/30/60 issue of the "New York Herald Tribune", European Edition, Paris, reflecting the death of the subject at Paris on 11/28/60.

RUC
2 - Bureau (Enc. - 1)
1 - Paris
[redacted]:CM
(3)

b7c

1-9-67
Xerox made sent to Legat, Paris with Paris let 12/19/66. /sc [redacted] /sc note [redacted] attached it. gdw

b7c

REC- 30 100-157464-50

17 DEC 13 1960

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-25-81 BY [redacted]

WRIGHT, R. 46

172

*From The God That Failed:*

# WHY I QUIT COMMUNISM

By Richard Wright

The Communist Party fraction in the John Reed Club in Chicago instructed me to ask my party cell—"unit," as it was called— to assign me to full duty in the work of the club. I was instructed to give my unit a report of my activities, writing, organizing, speaking. I agreed and wrote the report.

I went to my first unit meeting—which was held in the Black Belt of the South Side—and introduced myself to the Negro organizer.

"Welcome, comrade," he said, grinning. "We're glad to have a writer with us."

The time came for me to make my report, and I took out my notes and told them how I had come to join the Party, what few stray items I had published, what my duties were in the John Reed Club.

I finished, and waited for comment. There was silence. I looked about. Most of the comrades sat with bowed heads. Then I was surprised to catch a twitching smile on the lips of a Negro woman. Minutes passed. The Negro woman lifted her head and looked at the organizer. The organizer smothered a smile. Then the woman broke into unrestrained laughter, bending forward and burying her face in her hands. I stared. Had I said something funny?

During the following days, I learned through discreet questioning that I seemed a fantastic element to the black Communists. I was shocked to hear that I, who had been only to grammar school, had been classified as an INTELLECTUAL.

I learned, to my dismay, that the black Communists in my unit had commented upon my shined shoes, my clean skirt, and the tie that I had worn. Above all, my manner of speech had seemed an alien thing to them.

"He talks like a book," one of the Negro comrades had said. And that was enough to condemn me forever as bourgeois.

**PARTY DUTIES BROKE** into my efforts at expression. The club decided upon a conference of all the Left-Wing writers of the Middle West. I supported the idea and argued that the conference should deal with craft problems. My arguments were rejected. The conference, the club decided, was a definite political activity. Both, was the answer. Write a few hours a day and march on the picket line the other hours.

The conference convened with a leading Communist attending as adviser. The question debated was: What does the Communist Party expect from the club? The answer of the Communist leader ran from organizing to writing novels. I argued that either a man organized or he wrote novels. The Party leader said that both must be done. The attitude of the Party leader prevailed and Left Front, for which I had worked so long, was voted out of existence.

RICHARD WRIGHT
*The Names They Called Him!*

The ideas I had expounded at the conference were linked with the suspicions I had roused among the Negro Communists on the South Side, and the Communist Party was now certain that it had a dangerous enemy in its midst. It was whispered that I was trying to lead a secret group in opposition to the Party. I had learned that denial of accusations was useless. It was now painful to meet a Communist, for I did not know what his attitude would be.

**I AVOIDED UNIT MEETINGS** for fear of being subjected to discipline. Occasionally, a Negro Communist—defying the code that enjoined him to shun suspect elements—came to my home and informed me of the current charges that Communists were bringing against one another. To my astonishment I heard that Buddy Nealson had branded me a "smuggler of reaction."

Buddy Nealson was the Negro who had formulated the Communist position for the American Negro; he had made speeches in the Kremlin; he had spoken before Stalin himself.

"Why does Nealson call me that?" I asked.

"He says that you are a petty bourgeois degenerate," I was told.

"What does that mean?"

"He says that you are corrupting the Party with your ideas."

I sought an appointment with Buddy Nealson. He was a short, black man with an ever ready smile, thick lips, a furtive temper, and a greasy, sweaty look. He suffered from asthma and would snort at unexpected intervals.

"They tell me you write."

"I try to," I said.

"You can write," he snorted. "I read that article you wrote for the New Masses about Joe Louis. Good stuff. First political treatment of sports we've yet had. Ha-ha."

I waited.

"Dick," he began, "we're short of forces. We're facing a grave crisis."

"The Party's always facing a crisis," I said.

His smile left and he stared at me.

"You're not cynical, are you, Dick?" he asked.

"No," I said. "But it's the truth. Each week, each month, there's a crisis."

"You're a funny guy," he said, laughing snorting again. "But we've a job to do. We're alerting our work. Fascism's the danger, the danger to all people."

"I understand," I said.

"We've got to defeat the Fascists," he said, snorting from asthma. "We've discussed you and know your abilities. We want you to work with us. We've got to crash out of our narrow way of working and get our message to the church people, students, club people, professionals, middle class."

"I don't know if I fit into things," I said openly.

"We want to trust you with an important assignment," he said.

"What do you want me to do?"

"We want you to organize a committee against the high cost of living."

I was in the midst of writing a novel and he was calling me from it to tabulate the price of groceries.

"Comrade Nealson," I said, "a writer who hasn't written anything worth while is a most doubtful person. Now, I'm in that category. Yet I think I can write. I don't want to ask for special favors, but I'm in the midst of a book which I hope to complete in six months or so. Let me convince myself that I'm wrong about my hankering to write and then I'll be with you all the way."

"Dick," he said, turning in his chair and waving his hand as though to brush away an insect that was annoying him, "you've got to get to the masses of people."

"Dick," he spoke seriously now, "the Party has decided that you are to accept this task."

I went out, angry with myself, angry with him, angry with the Party. Well, I had not broken the decision, but neither had I accepted it wholly.

**I ATTENDED THE NEXT** unit meeting and asked for a place on the agenda, which was readily granted. When my time came to speak, I said:

"Comrades, for the past two years I've worked daily with most of you. Despite this, I have for some time found myself in a difficult position in the Party. What caused this difficulty is a long story which I do not care to recite now; it would serve no purpose. But I tell you honestly that I think I've found a solution to my difficulty. I am proposing here tonight that my membership be dropped from the Party rolls.

"No ideological differences impel me to say this. I simply do not wish to be bound any longer by the Party's decisions. I should like to retain my membership in those organizations in which the Party has influence, and I shall comply with the Party's program in those organizations. I hope that my words will be accepted in the spirit in which they are said. Perhaps sometime in the future I can meet and talk with the leaders of the Party as to what tasks I can best perform."

I sat down amid a profound silence.

"Is there any discussion on Comrade Wright's statement?" the secretary asked finally.

"I move that discussion on Wright's statement be deferred," Nealson said.

The next night two Negro Communists called at my home. They pretended to be ignorant of what had happened at the unit meeting. Patiently, I explained what had occurred.

"Your story does not agree with what Nealson says," they said.

"And what does Nealson say?" I asked.

"He says that you are in league with a Trotskyite group, and that you made an appeal for other Party members to follow you in leaving the Party."

Perhaps, since I was leaving the Party, I thought, out of my feelings I could fling a spark into this darkness. I would try, not because I wanted to, but because I felt that I had to if I were to live at all.

I would hurl words into the darkness and wait for an echo, and, if an echo sounded, no matter how faintly, I would hurl other words to tell, to march, to fight, to create a sense of the hunger for life that gnaws at all, to keep alive in our hearts a sense of the inexpressibly human.

## The Author

Richard Wright was born in 1908 on a plantation 25 miles from Natchez, Miss; of poor Negro parents. Deserted by his father, his mother, a washerwoman brought him up. At 15 he left home and worked for two years in Memphis, where he read H. L. Mencken's "Book of Prefaces' and decided to become a writer. With $15 in his pocket he went to Chicago and earned his living by odd jobs until the depression put him out of work.

His books are: "Uncle Tom's Children" (short stories), "Native Son" and "Black Boy."

*From the book THE GOD THAT FAILED. Copyright 1949 by Richard Wright. Published by Harper & Bros.*

W: Why Stev[illegible] Communism


Internal Security - Espionage

SEP 25 1950

TITLE

CLASS

FROM NY Red & Home News

DATE JUL 13 1950

FORWARDED BY [illegible] DIVISION

INDEXED - 127

NOT RECORDED

85 SEP 22 1950

EX-14

FIVE

WRIGHT, R. 51

SAC, NEW YORK

August 5, 1944

SAC, WASHINGTON

RICHARD WRIGHT
SECURITY MATTER - C

It has come to the attention of this office that an article written by the above-named subject appears in the August issue of the Atlantic Monthly magazine. It is said that this article relates WRIGHT's joining the Communist Party and his subsequent resignation from it. In this connection, it has also been noted that in the column "The World Today," by GEORGE S. SCHUYLER, appearing in the August 5, 1944, edition of the Pittsburgh Courier, there are two paragraphs with regard to WRIGHT's article in the Atlantic Monthly.

This information is being furnished to you for whatever value it may have and a clipping from the Pittsburgh Courier, as mentioned above, is being enclosed for your further information.

[redacted] b7c

100-15433
Encl.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/14/89 BY SP1AG/jac

100-15433-3

WRIGHT, R. 57

184

Indices Search Slip
FD-160 (Rev. 6-11-56)

TO: CHIEF CLERK

Date 2/2/7

Subject Richard Wright

Aliases

Address

Birth Date 9-4-08

Birthplace Mississippi

- [ ] Exact Spelling
- [ ] All References
- [ ] Main Subversive Case Files Only
- [ ] Subversive References Only
- [ ] Main Criminal Case Files Only
- [ ] Criminal References Only
- [x] Main Subversive (If no Main, list all Subversive References)
- [ ] Main Criminal (If no Main, list all Criminal References)
- [ ] Restrict to Locality of

| File & Serial Number | Remarks | File & Serial Number | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|
| [redacted] | | | |
| 100-154237 | | | |
| [redacted] | | | |
| [redacted] | | | |

b2
b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/14/89 BY SP1AG/jac

Requested by [redacted] Squad 6 Extension File No.

Searched by _____ (date)

Consolidated by _____ (date)

Reviewed by _____ (date)

b7C

100-154337-4

[redacted] INDEXED
SERIALIZED [redacted] FILED
FEB 7 1958
FBI — WASHINGTON

[redacted]

File Review Symbols

I - Identical
NI - Not identical
? - Not identifiable
U - Unavailable reference

WRIGHT, R. 58

187

# Negro Author Criticizes Reds As Intolerant

## Wright, Discussing His Own Break With Communists, Says Party Fears New Ideas

The Communist position on the American Negro has undergone a "distinct and lamentable regression" in recent years, Richard Wright, Negro author and former party member, said here yesterday in describing Communists as "narrow-minded, bigoted, intolerant and frightened of new ideas which don't fit into their own."

Mr. Wright's remarks were prompted by questions growing out of an article which he has written for "The Atlantic Monthly" for August under the title of "I Tried to Be a Communist."

In this article, the author of "Native Son" and other books discusses his earliest experiences as a Communist party member in Chicago, touching on the problems he faced in trying to present his own ideas to the party.

The August "Atlantic Monthly" describes the article as the first of two installments and Mr. Wright said yesterday that he would not discuss the specific details of his Chicago break with the Communists because these will be covered in the second magazine article.

Mr. Wright said that his Communist party membership covered the period, roughly, from the latter part of 1932 or early 1933 to 1940. His early association with the Communists in Chicago, he said, was broken in 1937, when he was "ejected" from the party.

[redacted] with the party [redacted] about May until August, [redacted] Mr. Wright said, when he was reinstated in New York in 1937 and "maintained a relationship" with the party until 1940 when, he said, he left the party.

Discussing what he described as the "lamentable regression" in the Communist party position on the American Negro, Mr. Wright said that he does not know the reason for this.

"Publicly," he said, "Communists will deny that there is any substantial change in their militancy but privately they offer any handy excuse. The militancy on the Negro question has passed into the hands of right-wing Negroes. That was not true eight years ago. Most of the battles then were led by Communists."

In answer to the question as to what caused the Chicago rift between him and the Communists, Mr. Wright said:

"It was an accumulation of many things—not so much a leaving as an ejection over a difference of opinion. I had my way of expressing my conception of Negro experience in my writing. I thought it would be of value to them. They had their ideas of how I should react as a Communist. There was an irreconcilable gap between our attitudes."

Mr. Wright said that "I do not regard the Communists today as effective instruments for social change" and observed that "the Communists have a terrible lot to learn about people."

"Communists," he added, "peculiarly are too much the victims of the very society they are trying to change. This too often finds expression in intolerance and narrowness. I mean, general intolerance, in an imperious way of working.

"What it amounts to is that they are narrow-minded, bigoted, intolerant and frightened of new ideas which don't fit into their own, whether these ideas are right or wrong."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 289882
DATE 5/22/86 BY SP1 AGS

100-41674-17
FBI
JULY 27 1944
N.Y.C.

CLIPPING FROM
NEW YORK HER
DATED 7-28-44
FORWARDED BY [redacted]

WRIGHT, R. 64

Richard Nathaniel Wright

NEW YORK

# Negro Author Criticizes Reds As Intolerant

## Wright, Discussing His Own Break With Communists, Says Party Fears New Ideas

The Communist position on the American Negro has undergone a "distinct and lamentable regression" in recent years, Richard Wright, Negro author and former party member, said here yesterday in describing Communists as "narrow-minded, bigoted, intolerant and frightened of new ideas which don't fit into their own."

Mr. Wright's remarks were prompted by questions growing out of an article which he has written for "The Atlantic Monthly" for August under the title of "I Tried to Be a Communist."

In this article, the author of "Native Son" and other books discusses his earliest experiences as a Communist party member in Chicago, touching on the problems he faced in trying to present his own ideas to the party.

The August "Atlantic Monthly" describes the article as the first of two instalments and Mr. Wright said yesterday that he would not discuss the specific details of his Chicago break with the Communists because these will be covered in the second magazine article.

Mr. Wright said that his Communist party membership covered the period, roughly, from the latter part of 1932 or early 1933 to 1940. His early association with the Communists in Chicago, he said, was broken in 1937, when he was "ejected" from the party.

On the ends with the party from [illegible] he was [illegible] maintained a relationship" with the party until 1942 when, he said, he left the party.

Discussing what he described as the "lamentable regression" in the Communist party position on the American Negro, Mr. Wright said that he does not know the reasons for [illegible]

"Publicly," he said, "Communists will deny that there is any substantial change in their militancy but privately they offer any handy excuse. The militancy on the Negro question has passed into the hands of right-wing Negroes. That was not true eight years ago. Most of the battles then were led by Communists."

In answer to the question as to what caused the Chicago rift between him and the Communists, Mr. Wright said:

"It was an accumulation of many things—not so much a leaving as an ejection over a difference of opinion. I had my way of expressing my conception of Negro experience in my writing. I thought it would be of value to them. They had their ideas of how I should react as a Communist. There was an irreconcilable gap between our attitudes."

Mr. Wright said that "I do not regard the Communists today as effective instruments for social change" and observed that "the Communists have a terrible lot to learn about people."

"Communists," he added, "peculiarly are too much the victims of the very society they are trying to change. This too often finds expression in intolerance and narrowness. I mean, general intolerance, in an imperious way of working.

"What it amounts to is that they are narrow-minded, bigoted, intolerant and frightened of new ideas which don't fit into their own, whether these ideas are right or wrong."

100-41674-18

F. B. I.

JUL 28 1944

N. Y. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 289882 DATE 12/22/88 BY SP1 AGS SC

New York Herald Tribune

July 28, 1944

b1C

WRIGHT, R. 65

19

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 28488
DATE 12/22/88 BY SP1AGJSC

# Reds All Wrong, Wright Quits 'Em

It took a long time for Richard Wright, the Negro writer, to learn his lesson.

Where, until recently, he was one of the high priests of the Communist Party staunchly defending Red ideology as the only possible political philosophy for his race, today he was hurling epithets at his former Communist comrades.

**"Bigoted! Intolerant! Narrow-minded!," were a few of the choicest labels applied to all Communists by the author of "Native Son" and other books.**

**REDS LIVE A LIE.**

Wright's abrupt about-face from the left to the right was revealed in an article written for the August "Atlantic Monthly" under the title of "I Tried to Be a Communist."

Elaborating on the article Wright discussed why he "took a walk" on the Communist Party back in 1940 after discovering that the Reds live a lie to their ideals.

At the same time Wright advised all members of his race to take a walk with him.

**"HAVE LOT TO LEARN.**

**"I do not regard the Communists today as effective instruments for social change," Wright said. "The Communists have a terrible lot to learn about people.**

**"Communists peculiarly are too much the victims of the very society they are trying to change. This too often finds expression in intolerance and narrowness. And I mean general intolerance in an imperious way of working.**

**"What it amounts to is that they are narrow-minded, bigoted, intolerant and frightened of new ideas which don't fit into their own, whether these ideas are right or wrong."**

Wright got an idea of what Communists think of "racial equality" in 1935 when he attended a Communist party writers' congress in Carnegie Hall. Wright had come on from Chicago by hitchhiking with several members of his race.

**"I asked about housing accommodations and all white members of the Communist Party looked embarrassed," he said.**

One of the white Communists went out and returned "frantic-eyed and sweating" to announce he had had no luck.

N.Y. Journal American
7/28/44

100-41674-27
FBI
AUG 30 1944
N. Y. C.
ROUTED TO
b7C

WRIGHT, R. 68

# Broadway

AUGUST 28, 1944

By DANTON WALKER

## *The Home Front*

General Douglas MacArthur is in line for a Cabinet post (probably Secretary of War) if F. D. R. gets his Fourth Term. . . . Vice President Wallace, due to start actively campaigning for Roosevelt next month, will be rewarded with the No. 1 food job of the world, as head of a commission to create a permanent United Nations relief setup. . . . Anna Roosevelt Boettiger may become official secretary for her father; even now, those who formerly approached Harry Hopkins for Presidential favors must now see Mrs. Boettiger. . . . James Byrnes, the "Assistant President," will quit his war mobilization post after the election and accept a $100,000 job with Ben Cohen's law firm. . . . France will get an Ambassador from the U. S. some time next month, and Norman Armour is highest on the list of candidates at present. . . . Diplomatic Rumor of the Week is that Hitler has been out of Germany since Aug. 1, and a double will soon oblige by being assassinated. . . . Lloyd's of London now offers 6 to 5 that Germany surrenders unconditionally before Oct. 31.

Jon Hall

Anna Boettiger

* * *

Donald Nelson's mission to China is to iron out differences between Allied chieftains in that sector. Upon his return he will be groomed to replace a prominent New Dealer, now out of favor. . . . Mme. Kung, wife of the Minister of Finance, is now the most influential lady in China. . . . Col. Carlos P. Romulo, Pulitzer Prize winner, is due to succeed Joaquin Miguel Elizalde as Resident Commissioner of the Philippines. . . . Judge Juvenal, Marchisio, who has been loaned by the local Domestic Relations Court to American Relief for Italy, departs for Rome shortly. . . . The present United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration is on the verge of liquidation. . . . On the heels of the liberation of France, a new French Purchasing Commission will buy $200,000,000 worth of supplies in this country. . . . Another by-product of France's release will be an outbreak of Broadway musical comedies with a Paris background. . . . Washington has proof of secret Nazi war prisoner camps where thousands are held, without possibility of outside relief.

* * *

Sidney Hillman is due to be given the air by F. D. R. "right after the election," according to a prominent Chicago Democrat whose entire political future depends on a Fourth Term. . . . Richard Wright, author of "Native Son," has started an uproar with his two-part serial in the Atlantic Monthly called "I Tried to Be a Communist." . . . Plan for a Federation of Catholic States of Europe, with the okay of Stalin and Churchill, has been submitted to the Pope. . . . William Bullitt is said to be the unofficial liaison officer for communications between Vatican City and Moscow. . . . Dr. Floyd Black, president of the American College of Istanbul, played an important role in negotiations for Bulgaria's withdrawal from the war. . . . Brig. Gen. William O'Dwyer, now in Italy, notifies New York friends that he'll retire from politics when his terms as Brooklyn District Attorney is over. . . . Lieut. Dave Hopkins, son of Harry, is back here for a new assignment,

N.Y. Daily News. 8/28/44

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 12/23/98 BY 241+CAC

100-41674-28
F.B.I.
AUG 30 1944
N.Y.C.
ROUTED TO [redacted]

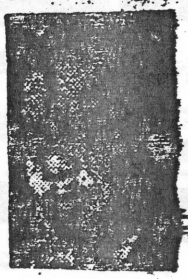
WRIGHT, R. 69

67C

201

# A DISSERVICE TO THE NEGRO

Richard Wright, author of the popular novel, Native Son, has written two articles for the Atlantic Monthly entitled, "I Tried to Be a Communist." I have just finished reading these articles. They are a conglomeration of anti-Communism and anti-Semitism, hidden behind the cry that the Communists stood in the way of his creative writing. They are also against the interest of the Negro people and they reveal a lack of understanding of social problems. Referring to a time when he was called upon to accept an assignment to head a committee against the high cost of living, Wright says:



"I was in the midst of writing a novel and he (the Communist) was calling me from it to tabulate the price of groceries. . . . I gritted my teeth as the daily value of pork chops was tabulated, longing to be at home with my writing."

This clearly reveals Wright's whole outlook and attitude.

Wright's shameful manner of writing about Negroes is disgusting and damaging to their dignity. He refers to his failure to organize a theatre among Negro actors in Chicago. These actors, sensing how the dignity of Negroes should be upheld, protested against one play Wright submitted. Referring to this incident, Wright says, ". . . a delegation of Negro men came to my office and took out their pocketknives and flashed them in my face." Wright, expressing contempt for these Negro actors, hides behind what he terms Communist inspired actions against him.

## CARICATURE

Wright caricatures Negroes, whether in the Communist movement or outside, as if they were children.

But what Wright has done is a bad turn to the Negro people. Objectively it is an act to isolate and divert them from their best allies in the labor and progressive movement. If it had not been for the Communist Party and the progressive labor movement and the militancy and the fortitude of the Negro people, where would [illegible]? As a result a similar [illegible] with Wright, like the one he complains about in Chicago. It was in Harlem in the days of the unemployed struggle. I was editor of the Harlem Division of the Communist Party. Wright was a reporter for the Daily Worker assigned to Harlem to write about the problems of the people. We were in the midst of serious struggles of the unemployed.

## CENTER OF STRUGGLES

The Communists of Harlem were in the center of these struggles trying to organize them. We wanted Wright to aid these struggles with his writings. We sought to put him to writing about pork chops, high rents, crowded houses, child welfare and relief. Wright was dissatisfied with this assignment. He hid it, however. But he complained to a number of people, never to our committee directly, that he did not want to write for the Daily Worker.

This revealed again a fundamental weakness in Wright. Not having previously had direct contact with mass struggles, this work could have equipped him still more for creative writing, which the Communists did not want to stifle but to aid!

He did not understand that writing for the Daily Worker would have afforded him a broad platform to reach masses of people. It showed failure on his part to grasp the role of an artist to serve effectively the interests of the people by writing about their problems, inspiring them and helping them to better prepare and organize their struggles.

## N. Y. EXPERIENCE

The explanation of this weakness is that Wright never identified himself with his people. He preferred to be aloof from them, isolated from them and left alone "at home with his writing."

It seems strange that Wright in his Atlantic Monthly articles did not mention his experience in the Communist Party and his honorable record in the Communist Party and its honorable record of the Communist Party's appreciation of him.

I understand the two articles which appeared in the Atlantic Monthly were taken from a forthcoming autobiography. I have not read this book and do not know whether or not it contains the [illegible] there. There were certainly a number of significant incidents here that could throw more light on Wright's charges. That is why the absence of them in these two articles seems so strange to me.

From my knowledge I know that the cry that the Communists tried to hold him down is not what prompted Wright to do what he did.

Reading Wright's articles in the Atlantic Monthly, no fair-minded person could lay them aside feeling that Wright has made a case of himself, unless it is a rationalization of his own weaknesses. A few things are clear. What Wright did is like making a bargain to get into the good graces of those who have an anti-Communist axe to grind.

Does Wright think that the highest achievements of the artist is the Westbrook Pegler type of red-baiting, labor-baiting, Negro-baiting an anti-Semitic slanders?

Now we are faced with a crucial election when the Negro people are trying to choose between progress and reaction. There are people who are trying to confuse and divide the people. Wright's act fits right into this pattern. But the Negro people are discerning and they will repudiate these methods as they have done in the past.

100-41674-30
F.B.I.
SEP 26 1944
N.Y.C.
ROUTED TO | FILE

CLIPPING FROM THE DAILY WORKER

DATED SEP 5 1944

FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/22/88 BY [illegible]
289882
b7C

REQUEST INFORMATION FROM THE F.B.I., NEW YORK, ON THE FOLLOWING:

FILE NO: 296513

SECTION: DISAFFECTION SQUAD

DATE: 3 Oct 1944

NAME AND ALIASES WRIGHT, RICHARD N.

HOME ADDRESSES (for the past three yrs.) (?) Lefferts Place Bklyn NY;

[redacted] NY.

BUSINESS ADDRESS (for the past three yrs.) Auther of "Native Son"

Contributer "New Masses"; Daily Worker; Spenser Writers School 381 4th Ave NYC

EMPLOYED BY

AGE _____ BORN _____ PLACE _____

DESCRIPTION: COLOR C HEIGHT _____ WEIGHT _____ EYES _____ HAIR _____

REMARKS: (Include any other data that will assist in identifying person.)

b7c

HEADQUARTERS SECOND SERVICE COMMAND
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR, SEC. & INTEL. DIV.
GOVERNORS ISLAND, NEW YORK

---

FOR USE OF F.B.I.

REFERENCES:

100-41674

* 100-41674

file

b2
b7c

Information reflected in files furnished to:

A. E. Walen

G-2

DATE 5 Oct 44

BY [redacted] b7c

FORM #13

IMMEDIATE ACTION
OCT 5 B4C
N.Y.C.

WRIGHT, R. 71



20

4-750 (Rev. 4-17-85)

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

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

6 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) b2, b7C, b7D with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

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

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

_____

_____

☐ For your information: _____

_____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
NY 100-41674-55 and 56

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

WRIGHT, R. 80

FBI/DOJ

n13

1

New York, New Yor
November 3, 1950

MEMO:

RE: RICHARD NATHANIEL WRIGHT
SM - C

[redacted] b7c b7D

[redacted] SA b7c

51 Card previously cancelled. (Rev. 4-6)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/22/88 BY CPIACGJ
28988 2.

[redacted] b7c
100-41674

FBI - NEW YORK
NOV 6 1950
[redacted]

b7c

WRIGHT, R. 81

7.17

4-750 (Rev. 4-17-85)

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
# FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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

☒ Deleted under exemption(s) b7C, b7D with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

_____ 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):

_____

_____

☐ For your information: _____

_____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
NY 100-41674-57

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

WRIGHT, R. 82

FBI/DOJ

4-750 (Rev. 4-17-85)

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

# 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) b2, b7C, b7D with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

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

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

_____

_____

☐ For your information: _____

_____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
NY 100-41674-58

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

WRIGHT, R. 83

FBI/DOJ

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

American Embassy
Paris 8, France

Date: November 21, 1958

To: Director, FBI

From: Legat, Paris (100-697)

Subject: RICHARD WRIGHT
SECURITY MATTER - C

Re Paris letter 10/29/58.

b1
b7D

[redacted]

RUC.

2 - Bureau
1 - Paris
[redacted] CM
(3)

b7C

Classified by 2640
Exempt from GDS Category 1
Date of Declassification Indefinate

AGENCY CC-Fuzz
REQ. RECD. —
DATE FORW. 12-8-58
HOW FORW. 6-24(G)
BY [redacted]

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AIT FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) CD 2640 by JMF
DATE 6-9-77

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

b7C

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AIT FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) Class
DATE 10-27-87

SUBV. CONTROL

WRIGHT, R. 84

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
American Embassy
Paris 8, France

Date: October 29, 1958

To: Director, FBI

From: Legat, Paris (100-697)

Subject: RICHARD WRIGHT
SECURITY MATTER - C

Re Paris letter 8/21/58.

b1

[redacted]

P.

DATE OF REL... 8-25-81
8-25-81

2 - Bureau
1 - Paris
[redacted]:CM
(3)

Classified by 2240
Exempt from GDS Category 1
Date of Declassification Indefinate
6-9-77

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) 2240
DATE 6-9-77

b7

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

NOV 1 10 03 AM '58
FBI
INVESTIGATIVE SECTION
RECD

REC'D TL

100 - 157467 - 44

NOV 4 1958

[redacted]

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) Clear
DATE 10-21-81

SUPV CONTROL

AGENT CCS my
REQ REC'D
DATE FORW 11-10-58
HOW FORW 45-0-225
BY [redacted]

b7c

WRIGHT, R. 85

164

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
American Embassy
Paris 8, France

Date: August 21, 1958

To: Director, FBI

From: Legal Attache, Paris (100-697)

Subject: RICHARD WRIGHT
SECURITY MATTER - C

Re Paris let 7/7/58.

[redacted] b1

P

2 - Bureau
1 - Paris
[redacted]:AM
(3)

Exempt from GDS Category 1
Date of Declassification Indefinate
6-9-77

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
DATE 6-9-77

cc-NY by l/s (0-25)
9-3-58

[redacted]

CLASS. & EXT BY SP8 TAM/bce
REASON - FOIPA II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 8-25-81

REC-93 100-15-7464-43

13 AUG 26 1958

EX-135

52 SEP 4 1958

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ATTACHED ROUTING
SLIP(S) Class
DATE 10-21-81 ens

WRIGHT, R. 86

16

CONFIDENTIAL

United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation

STATE

Washington, D. C.
July 7, 1958

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP3 BSK/ca
REASON - FCIM II, 1.2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 8-25-81
8-25-81

RICHARD WRIGHT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

b1
b7D

[redacted]

S

S

S

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) 2040 buy (K)
DATE 6-9-77

(Classified by 2040
Exempt from GDS Category 1
Date of Declassification Indefinate
DRC-6-9-77

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) CE
DATE 6-22-77

cc - State buy (0-14 h)
CIA buy (0-14 f)
ACSI buy (0-14 h)

AGENCY NY buy (0-25)
REQ. REC'D
DATE FORW. 7-22-58
HOW FORW. R/S
BY [redacted]

STATE

CONFIDENTIAL
ENCLOSURE

WRIGHT, R. 87

16

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
American Embassy
Paris 8, France

SECRET

ALL INFORMATION CO
HEREIN IS UNCLASSI
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Date: July 7, 1958

To: Director, FBI

From: Legat, Paris (100-697)

Subject: RICHARD WRIGHT
SECURITY MATTER - C

CLASS. & EXT. BY SCP
REASON - FCIM II, 1241
DATE OF REVIEW 8-25-77

Re Paris letter 6/26/58.

[redacted]

Any additional information coming to the attention of this office concerning the subject will be forwarded to the Bureau.

One extra copy of this letter is provided for transmittal to New York, office of origin.

P.

Enclosures - 5

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND ALLIED OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF 2640 dated
DATE 6-9-77

Late O. D. Classification Indefinate
6-9-77

(4) CM

1cc - NY dtd 7/8/58 (1-25)
7-22-58

REC-42 100-157464-42

15 JUL 14 1958

5 ENCLOSURE

REC-42 1-9-67
2 Xerox made sent to
Legat, Paris with Paris ltr
2-19-66 /pc

SUBVERSIVE CONTROL

WRIGHT, R. 88

6 JUL 22 1958

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

American Embassy
Paris 8, France

SECRET

Date: June 26, 1958

To: Director, FBI

From: Legal Attache, Paris (100-697)

Subject: RICHARD WRIGHT
SECURITY MATTER - C

Re Washington Field Office let to Bureau 4/4/58.

[redacted]

P

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF
DATE

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF class
DATE 10-21-80 ons

Exempt: 25X1 6 ODS Category 1
Date of Declassification Indefinite
6-9-77

CLASS. & EXT. BY...
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2.4.2...
DATE OF REVIEW...
8.25.81

EX-124

REC-24 100-157464

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

SECRET

52 JUL 8 1958

WRIGHT, R. 89

[redacted] b7c

157464-V

May 29, 195[redacted]

[redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL

COMPLAINT

CLASS. & EXT. BY spsato/bm
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2.4 b: 3
DATE OF REVIEW 5-25-91

TO: SACS, NEW YORK
CHICAGO

FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted]

[redacted] b2, b7c

INTERNAL SECURITY - C
SMITH ACT OF 1940

b7c

Re CG airtel May 24, 1958, requesting that the Bureau authorize NY to contact Richard Wright concerning Mr. [redacted] possible knowledge of [redacted]

A review of Bufiles reflects that Wright, on February 13, 1958, executed an application for passport at Paris, France, on which he stated that he has resided outside of the U. S. since September, 1949, and that his date of returning to the U. S. is indefinite. On February 28, 1958, the Department of State authorized the issuance of a passport to Wright.

[redacted] b1 b7c

CONFIDENTIAL

Cc 100-157464 (Wright)

[redacted]:pet

b7c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

YELLOW
DUPLICATE
MAY 30 1958
MAILED

APPROPRIATE AGENCI
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF [redacted]
DATE 10-21-91 [redacted]

7 JUN 18

60 JUN 10 1958

MAIL ROOM

WRIGHT, R. 90

CG [redacted] 62,67c

Chicago. [redacted] the person believed to be WRIGHT was highly regarded by [redacted] 67c

Indices of the Chicago Office reflect that RICHARD WRIGHT, the author of "Native Son" in 1936 and 1937 was using the address of Apartment Number 1, 3743 Indiana Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

BUREAU 67c

It is requested that the New York Division be permitted to contact RICHARD WRIGHT concerning his possible knowledge of [redacted] It is particularly desired that information be developed of WRIGHT concerning any statements made by [redacted]

THE NEW YORK DIVISION

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Will on receipt of permission from the Bureau, interview RICHARD WRIGHT along the lines set out above.

[redacted] 67c



WRIGHT, R. 91

15

AIRTEL

b2, b7c

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted] DATE: 5-26-58

FROM : SAC, CHICAGO [redacted]

SUBJECT: [redacted]
INTERNAL SECURITY - C;
SMITH ACT OF 1940

b7c

ReBulet dated May 2, 1958 entitled "U.S. V. [redacted] SMITH ACT MEMBERSHIP RETRIAL)" and New York letter to Bureau May 13, 1958 entitled [redacted] IS-C" and my airtel of May 22, 1958.

[redacted] RICHARD WRIGHT, the author of "Native Son". [redacted] could not place WRIGHT in the CP but recalled [redacted] had numerous discussions with person believed to be WRIGHT concerning a manuscript of a publication being prepared by WRIGHT. [redacted] the individual believed to be RICHARD WRIGHT was employed at the settlement house at 39th and Langley Avenue, Chicago, Illinois and was connected in some way with the Abraham Lincoln School of

(3) - Bureau (RM)
4 - New York (RM)
[redacted]
(2-100- RICHARD WRIGHT) b2, b7c
5 - Chicago
[redacted]
(1-100-New RICHARD WRIGHT)

[redacted]:JVK
(12)

b7c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-25-81 BY SP8 Bty/bce

WRIGHT, R. 92

15

WFO 100-15433

On February 13, 1958, RICHARD WRIGHT appeared before AGNES SCHNEIDER, Consul of the United States of America at Paris, France, being duly sworn, stated he was submitting the following statement as part of his application for a passport which he executed on February 13, 1958. In that statement, subject stated he was not then a member of the Communist Party, but had been a member of the Communist Party from 1932 to 1942, and called attention to the statement he had executed at the American Embassy, Paris, France, on September 16, 1954, for further details in that regard.

The Communist Party has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

On September 16, 1954, RICHARD WRIGHT appeared before AGNES SCHNEIDER, Consul of the United States of America at Paris, France, being duly sworn, furnished a statement consisting of answers to questions annexed to his statement. In that statement, subject identified himself as being the same RICHARD WRIGHT whose experiences in the communist movement were included in the book, "The God That Failed." Subject stated he could not fix the exact time of his joining the Communist Party because he was a functionary in the Communist Party before he actually joined the Communist Party. He explained that the method used by the Communist Party in recruiting is of such a nature that the line or date of determining the exact membership is very difficult. He stated that to the best of his recollection, the date (about 1933) shown in his book, "The God That Failed", is correct. Subject stated that he is the RICHARD WRIGHT who wrote a letter to the League of American Writers expressing his views on the Spanish Civil War, which was published in May, 1938, in the booklet, "Writers Take Sides."

The League of American Writers has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

Subject stated at the time of writing the above-mentioned letter he was a member of the Communist Party. He stated he is not now a member of the Communist Party of any country of the world.



WRIGHT, R. 93

Subject stated that he disaffiliated with the Communist Party of the United States sometime during the year 1942, and that his disaffiliation came about because of a series of ideological disputes he had with the following Communist officials: [redacted] and others. He stated his decision to break with the Communist Party was predicated upon his disagreement with the Communist Party's position upon the Negro question in the United States. He stated that [redacted] at that time urged him to become a member-at-large of the Communist Party, but that he refused to heed that suggestion. Subject stated that two years later, in 1944, he publicly indicated his disaffiliation with the Communist Party by means of a press conference held in the office of his agent in New York, PAUL REYNOLDS, and a few months later he wrote two articles in the "Atlantic Monthly" indicating he was no longer affiliated with the Communist Party.

Subject was asked if he was acquainted with [redacted] in the Office of War Information. Subject stated that he has a slight acquaintanceship with [redacted] and it dates exactly from the period which he did some voluntary work for the Office of War Information in 1942. He stated he met [redacted] in the Office of War Information in 1942, and as he recalls was introduced to [redacted] and that this introduction took place in the presence of [redacted] Subject stated that [redacted] was known to him as a member of the Communist Party, and he described [redacted]

In regard to [redacted] subject stated he was not known to him as having any affiliation with the Communist Party at that time. Subject stated he was somewhat surprised and taken back when [redacted] and the manner of his being introduced to him implied that [redacted] understood the subject's political position very well. Subject stated that [redacted]



WRIGHT, R. 94

[redacted] one of the leading communists of the United States, approached him shortly after his introduction to [redacted] and asked him to make a formal application to work for the Office of War Information. Subject stated he told them that this would be rather difficult since he was a publicly known communist writer and had been Chief of the Harlem Bureau of the "Daily Worker."

The "Daily Worker" was an East Coast communist newspaper which suspended publication on January 13, 1958.

Subject stated that [redacted] informed him that the Communist Party knew exactly what it was doing in asking him to make this move, and that he should forthwith get an application blank [redacted] would aid him in filling out the application blank. Subject stated he obtained the application blank and [redacted] called at his home, which at that time was at 11 Revere Place, Brooklyn, New York, and they jointly filled out this application. Subject stated the application reflected that he was a member of the Communist Party and objected to the linking of communism with fascism, as the application implied, and indicated that subject was a patriotic person wishing to make a contribution to the war effort. Subject stated he took this application before a Notary Public and swore to the truthfulness of its contents, an act which at the time made him, perhaps, the only sworn Communist in the United States. Subject stated he took this application [redacted] the Office of War Information and handed it to them. He stated they read it and had a consultation about it in his sight, but out of reach of his hearing. Subject stated that their comment to him was, "You are really intransigeant." Subject stated he returned to his house and waited anxiously for some days to hear from his application, and he began to suspect that they never actually turned it in. He stated he does not know what happened to it, for he never had a reply to that application. Subject stated he consulted with [redacted] about why he never heard about his application, and [redacted] astounded him in his home in Brooklyn by telling him he had no recollection of having helped subject make out such an application. Subject stated that upon reflection, he realized that the Communist Party had undoubtedly decided he was too well known as a communist to be sponsored for work in the Office of War Information, and they had, therefore, chosen someone else less politically prominent to take the job



WRIGHT, R. 95

15