FBI File: John Whiteside Parsons

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JOHN WHITESIDE PARSONS

PART 1 OF 1

BUFILLE NUMBER: 65-59589
FILE DESCRIPTION

BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT  JOHN WHITESIDE (JACK) PARSONS

FILE NO.  65-59589
Subject, on September 15, 1950, removed certain documents pertaining to jet propulsion motors and rocket propellants without authority from Hughes Aircraft Company, Culver City, California, his place of employment. On September 16, 1950, he left same at the residence of a person in Los Angeles, who was to make typewritten copies of them. Above documents procured from him on September 25, 1950 by a security officer, Hughes Aircraft Company and writer, and placed in custody MAJOR R. J. KRENZ, U. S. Air Force, Hughes Aircraft Company, pending determination security classification. Subject voluntarily came to the Los Angeles office September 27, 1950 and in signed statement admitted removing documents without authority stating he desired to extract certain information from them as aid in computing cost proposal on jet propulsion motors. He planned to submit this with employment application through American Technion Society for employment in the country of Israel. Subject

DETAILS:

On September 25, 1950, MR. JOHN T. BERDNER, Air Provost Marshal, Los Angeles Air Force Field Procurement Office, 155 West Washington Boulevard, Los Angeles, contacted this office and advised that he had received information that one JACK PARSONS, an employee of Hughes Aircraft Company, Culver City, California, had removed certain classified information from the Hughes Aircraft Company and planned to use this material in the preparation of an application for employment which he was attempting to obtain in the country of Israel. BERDNER stated that as of that date the classified information, together with the application for employment, were in the possession of PARSONS, located in Los Angeles, California. He stated PARSONS reportedly had left this material at the residential residence with the request that prepare for him a type-written brochure of the material.

Upon receipt of the above information, a

and the writer proceeded to the vicinity of the residential residence where they contacted PARSONS who advised that the classified documents were left by PARSONS at the residence. Upon the writer with the assistance of an\n
Guided Police Department Aircraft Procurement and Federal Security Bureau, the classified documents were examined and judged to be classified material. PARSONS stated that he received the classified material were at

CONFIDENTIAL.
opinion that the material in their possession was of a confidential nature; that they had displayed it to when he visited their home on September 24, 1950 and requested to ascertain the authorized owner of the material and arrange for its return.

Shortly thereafter, and the writer proceeded to the residence where they were given the documents and papers in the possession of which had been given to her by Parsons and which, until this time, she had retained at her residence. Certain of the more significant documents were initialed by her at that time for future identification purposes.
at the

Aircraft Company, stated he is remotely acquainted with Project PARSONS
His wife, having met them once several years ago. He could furnish nothing
Hegemony nature concerning the PARSONS with the ex
ced them to be "characters and screwballs." He could furnish nothing specific
entiate this allegation.

CONFIDENTIAL
On the afternoon of the same date, September 25, 1950, the writer proceeded to the Hughes Aircraft Company where the above documents and papers were examined and photographic copies made of them by the Hughes Aircraft Company. At the same time an inventory was made of the material by the writer and the documents were found to consist of the following:

1. One handwritten draft and four typewritten drafts of tentative points for a two year minimum contract of employment.

2. One handwritten outline of personal qualifications and list of activities in which subject believes himself proficient.

3. One handwritten outline of the manufacturing process of non-nitroglycerine blasting explosives, including a list of ingredients and equipment required for their manufacture.

4. One handwritten discussion on the manufacture of rocket propellants, including a detailed discussion of the application of said propellants in specific weapons and situations.

5. Four typewritten copies of items 2, 3, and 4 above combined and partially completed.

6. Item #4 above completed in typewritten form (1 copy).

7. Typewritten instructions for the manufacture of V-307 B-3 ROCKET PROPELLANTS (1 copy).

8. Typewritten program for and materials to be used in a laboratory for the development and improvement of explosives, rocket propellants, and allied substances (1 copy).

9. One handwritten and one typewritten copy of the plant manufacturing process of explosives.

10. One handwritten and one typewritten copy of a personal letter from John T. Parsons to apparently intended as cover letter in transmission of items one to nine above.

11. One list of essential equipment at HICKLE for mixing 7-4-2 motors.

12. One complete typewritten copy of the HICKLE/AFP-4/7 Loading Procedure for 7-4-2 Motors and four incomplete typewritten copies of same.
13. One typewritten copy of proposed propellant loading plant for T-12 motors and cost estimates therefor, tables I, II, III, IV and V; and three typewritten copies of table I of the same only.

The handwritten material was in the handwriting of the subject.

On the same date this material was brought to the Los Angeles office where photographic copies were made of it.

On September 26, 1950, and the writer displayed the documents and papers to JOHN T. BERDMER, Air Provost Marshal, U.S. Army, who advised that it would be necessary for him to forward copies of them to the Chief of the Security and Policy Division, Intelligence Department, Headquarters, Air Materiel Command, Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, where the documents would be examined for the purpose of determining whether or not they contain classified or non-classified information.

Pursuant to instructions from BERDMER, the documents and papers on September 26, 1950, were placed in the custody of MAJOR E. J. KRENZ, Air Force Officer in Charge, Hughes Aircraft Company for transmittal to Wright Field.

On September 26, 1950, Hughes Aircraft Company, advised the writer that elements of at least seventeen of the above papers and documents pertaining to specifications for rocket propellant and jet propulsion motors fall within the provisions of Contract F 33038-142, and should bear the classification "Confidential." He stated that as per AIR report C-356, dated July 1, 1950, propulsion details, such as that of which the above is concerned, are to be classified "Confidential."

On September 26, 1950, JOHN W. PARSONS telephonically contacted this office and stated that he desired to come to the Los Angeles office for the purpose of speaking with an agent concerning the documents and papers which he had left at the residence.

On September 27, 1950, PARSONS was interviewed at the Los Angeles office by . At this time he volunteered to furnish the following signed statement:

"I, John Whiteside Parsons, make the following voluntary statement to be the Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I have been advised of my right to counsel, to threats and promises."

X
have been made to induce me to make this statement. I have been advised that this statement may be used in court.

"I presently reside at 1200 Esplanade, Redondo Beach, California. I was born on October 2, 1944 in Los Angeles County, California.

"I was employed by Hughes Aircraft Company on May 8, 1945 and my present capacity is that of group leader in charge of propellants, propulsion and launching group of the Research and Development Laboratories.

"In approximately October of 1946 I negotiated with a company in North Hollywood, California, for a possible position in Israel. Shortly after this I submitted to the company a suggested plan for the construction of an explosive plant. These negotiations continued for some time and in approximately June of 1950 I was requested to submit a breakdown of the detailed cost of the equipment in explosive processes which I had proposed. In July and August 1950 I prepared a revised proposal. In September 1950 I worked for Hughes Aircraft on a proposed rocket propellant loading plant which was to be built by Hughes Aircraft. My work concerned gathering data on processes to be used and cost of equipment. The proposed rocket propellant loading plant plans included detailed cost breakdowns of the type which I required in my proposal I was to submit to the company.

"On September 15, 1950 I took a portion of the Hughes Aircraft proposal for the rocket propellant loading plant from the Hughes Aircraft plant where I was employed. I carried this material out of the plant in a brief case or envelope and I showed a package and property pass to the guard at Gate 19. I took this material home and on the following day, Sept. 16, 1950, I took this material to the residence of a person in Palos Verdes, California, and requested that she type up a rough draft of the material which I had collected in order that I could organize the material in the form of a cost proposal. I explained to her that this was for the purpose of preparing a proposal for a possible project in Israel.

"I understood that this represented the same group in Israel which consisted of a number of coordinating government agencies and private industries for the purpose of technical development in Israel. The government agency referred to was then to a government agency. Through reading various technical articles I discovered that a field for this technical development..."
existed in Israel and after further investigation I contacted

with an inquiry as to possible work that I could

do there.

"I knew that the above mentioned material was of a
classified nature but it was my intention to select only the cost
of equipment and process from the Hughes aircraft material to in-
clude in my proposal to be submitted to 

"I now realize that I was wrong in taking this material
from the Hughes Aircraft Plant and presenting it to 
It was not my intent to harm the United States or to allow this
material to fall into the hands of an unauthorized person. I knew
that was loyal and had been cleared after a security
investigation. was not aware that the material was
classified.

"I received no remuneration or promise of remuneration
for removing this material nor was I ordered or requested to do so
by any person.

"I have read this statement consisting of six pages
initialed by me and it is the truth to the best of my knowledge.

"s/ John W. Parsons
September 27, 1950

"Witnessed by:

Special Agent, FBI, September 27, 1950.
Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation,

September 27, 1950."

PARSONS, at this time, furnished the following background information
concerning himself: In the year 1929 he accompanied his parents to Europe
where he visited for a short period of time. He has not traveled outside the
United States since that time. He graduated from University High School,
Pasadena, California in 1933 and since that time has taken several correspondence
and extension courses from the University of California and University of
Southern California. Since graduating from high school he has been employed
as follows:

1932 to 1934 - Hercules Powder Company, Los Angeles
1934 to 1935 - California Explosives Company, Los Angeles
1938 to 1941 - California Institute of Technology, Radiation
Laboratory, Pasadena, California
1942 to 1945 - Aerojet Engineering Corporation, Los Angeles, California;  
1946 to 1947 - Vulcan Powder Company, Pasadena, California;  
1946 to 1948 - North American Aviation Corporation, Inglewood, California;  
1948 to 1950 - Hughes Aircraft Company, Culver City, California  
and University of Southern California, Department of Pharmacology, Los Angeles.

He advised that in 1948, while employed with the North American  
Aviation Corporation, Inglewood, California, he was suspended from his employment  
in that he was alleged to have associated with Communists but that in  
1949 he was cleared and rehired.

He stated that during approximately 1948, while employed at the  
Hughes Aircraft Company, he read certain articles in some technical magazines,  
the exact names of which he could not recall, which pertained to technical  
development and scientific research in the country of Israel. He stated he  
became interested in this work which was going on in Israel and that after  
making a number of inquiries, one in North Hollywood, California, was recommended to him as being able to furnish information regarding the obtaining of employment of this nature in Israel. He stated that in  
September or October 1949 he contacted [redacted] who requested him to prepare a proposal regarding the building of an explosives plant in Israel and data concerning rockets and other armaments which PARSONS would be able to conduct research work on in Israel. PARSONS stated he submitted such a proposal to [redacted] but heard nothing from him until in August 1950, at which time he again recontacted [redacted] and [redacted] requested him to submit a new proposal pertaining to the cost of a jet propulsion development program on which PARSONS could do research work in Israel.

In the above signed statement, submitted by PARSONS to agents of this  
office on September 27, 1950, he stated he [redacted] with whom he was in contact  
concerning his attempts to obtain employment in the country of Israel, resided in North Hollywood, California. Investigation conducted by  
[redacted] has determined the above [redacted] to be identical with  
[redacted] Southern California Branch of the American
article it was stated that \[\text{[redacted]}\] of the American Technion Society, would be the principal speaker at a general membership rally of the Los Angeles Zionist organization to be held on Wednesday, October 26.

The article further stated that the American Technion Society has officially been designated by the Israel Government and industry as the "American body providing 'no-how' to enlarge modern techniques achieved by the United States so that it may benefit Israel. This source is composed of business men, technologists and scientists." It was stated that \[\text{[redacted]}\] would speak on the topic "Can Israel be Self-Sufficient?"

PARSONS advised that in 1941, while residing at 1003 South Orange Grove, Pasadena, California, he was a member of a religious cult which was alleged to have been involved in immoral activities. He said that he is no longer connected with this group and has severed all relations with it. He described himself as being an "individualist."

On September 28, 1950, PARSONS was re-interviewed by the writer at his place of residence, 1200 Esplanade, Redondo Beach, California. The writer exhibited to him seventeen photographic copies of the documents mentioned above and he identified them as being identical to the originals which he stated he had removed from the Hughes Aircraft Company on September 15, 1950. He placed his initials on the back of each page and in his own handwriting furnished the following signed certification:
"I, John W. Parsons, do hereby certify that the photographic copies, seventeen pages, are identical to the original documents composed by me and fellow employees while I was employed at the Hughes Aircraft Company; the original copies having been removed from the plant by me.

"The above photographic copies were shown to me this date by Special Agent [redacted] who has identified himself to me and whom I know to be a special agent with the F.B.I.

"No threats, duress, or promises have been used against me to have me make this certification.

"I have been advised that I do not have to make this certification, of my right to council, and that this certification may be used in a court of law against me.

"/s/ John W. Parsons

"Witnessed this date 9/28/50

PARSONS advised the writer that he was terminated from his place of employment, the Hughes Aircraft Company, Culver City, on September 26, 1950.

On September 29, 1950, [redacted] North American Aviation Corporation, Inglewood, California, advised that PARSONS was employed with the company as a laboratory worker from 1946 to 1948. He stated that by letter dated September 21, 1948, his company was notified by the Provost Marshal, U.S. Air Force, Inspector Generals Office, that an investigation conducted by that office had determined PARSONS to be undesirable for employment on classified contracts for the departments of the Air Force, Army, and Navy. [redacted] the company terminated the subject from his employment shortly afterwards; however, he stated that by letter dated March 9, the North American Aviation Corporation was notified by the Provost Marshal, U.S. Air Force, Inspector Generals Office, that PARSONS had been published by the Industrial Employment Review Board and granted access to secret and top secret information. He advised the writer that the above information was contained in files belonging to the company, containing information as to the reasons why the subject was temporarily deemed undesirable for work on classified contracts.
On October 4, 1950, Mr. John T. Berdner, Air Provost Marshal, Los Angeles Air Force Procurement Office, 155 West Washington Boulevard, advised that the records of his office contain no information relative to the subject's denial of clearance while he was employed at the North American Aviation Corporation in 1948. He stated the records concerning the matter are presently in the custody of Major San Bruno, Chief, Security Section, Provost Marshal, Inspector General, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio.

The records of the Hughes Aircraft Company, Hawthorne, California, reflected Parsons furnished the company with the following additional background information concerning himself in 1948:

Consulting Connections: Los Angeles District Attorneys Office, Los Angeles Police Department (certified Los Angeles Superior Court);
Northrop Aircraft Company;
General Chemical Company;
National Defense Research Council;
Office of Scientific Research and Development.

Organizations of Which a Member:
American Chemical Society;
Institute of Aeronautical Sciences;
American Institute for the Advancement of Science;
Society of Sigma Xi.

In addition to the above, the subject listed a number of scientific papers of which he claimed to be the author and which relate to jet propellants and rocket propellants. He listed seven patents as inventions of a scientific nature which he stated he had developed.
A description of JOHN WHITESIDE PARSONS as procured from a biographical outline furnished by him to the Hughes Aircraft Company and as furnished to SA is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>JOHN WHITESIDE PARSONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alias:</td>
<td>JACK PARSONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex:</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age:</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Born:</td>
<td>10-2-14, Los Angeles, California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Color:</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present Residence:</td>
<td>1200 Esplanade, Redondo Beach, California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former Residences:</td>
<td>168 Terrace Drive, Pasadena, California; 1063 South Orange Grove, Pasadena, California; 3416 Manhattan Avenue, Manhattan Beach, California; 3222 Highland Avenue, Manhattan Beach, California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height:</td>
<td>6'1&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight:</td>
<td>165 pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build:</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hair:</td>
<td>Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eyes:</td>
<td>Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complexion:</td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital Status:</td>
<td>Married</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immediate Relatives:</td>
<td>Wife, MARGARET ELIZABETH PARSONS; Mother, RUTH VIRGINIA PARSONS; Father, CAPTAIN MARVEL H. PARSONS, U.S. Army (deceased).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- PENDING -

CONFIDENTIAL
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIDPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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) (b)(1),(b)(7),(b)(8) 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.

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

______________________________________________________________________________________________

☐ For your information:

______________________________________________________________________________________________

☑ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages: 65-59589-1 pages 15,17
LEADS

CINCINNATI OFFICE

At Dayton, Ohio: Will contact MAJOR SAM BRUNO, Chief, Security Section, Assistant Marshal, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Will ascertain the facts concerning the investigation conducted by that office in 1948 which resulted in the subject's being temporarily denied clearance at the North American Aviation Corporation, where he was employed in 1948.

LOS ANGELES OFFICE

At Los Angeles, California: Will, in the event pertinent documents are determined by the Security and Policy Division, Air Materiel Command, to be of a classified nature, request the Bureau to submit facts to the department for consideration as to possible prosecutive action.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Records, Command Air Provost Marshal, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, reflect subject denied access to classified information on 9-29-48 because of membership in a religious cult in Pasadena, California. Also reportedly associated with an alleged CP member. Suspension removed 3-7-49 by Industrial Employment Review Board.

DETAILS: AT DAYTON, OHIO

Major SAM BRUNO, Chief, Security Division, Command Provost Marshal's Office, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, advised that his records reflect an investigation under the date of May 17, 1948, regarding subject, by 115th Detachment, GIC, Headquarters, Sixth Army, San Francisco, California, which contains the following information:

A religious cult, believed to advocate sexual perversion, was organized at subject’s home at 1003 South Orange Grove Avenue, Pasadena, California, which had been reported subversive, and that subject had been questioned regarding this organization on two occasions but nothing of a subversive nature was learned. The report further reflects that subject reportedly associated with one [redacted] an alleged Communist Party member.

Major BRUNO further advised that on September 29, 1948, the Army, Navy, Air Force Personnel Security Board, which handles clearance of government contractor personnel, denied subject clearance for access to classified information.
On March 7, 1949, the Industrial Employment Review Board reversed the above decision concerning subject and he was given access to classified material. This Board stated that the suspension was effected without sufficient cause.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Nine of thirteen documents removed by subject from Hughes Aircraft classified "Confidential". Three of the classified documents are carbon copies of actual Hughes Aircraft material, of which Hughes has originals. Subject's association with American Civil Liberties Union set forth. Information concerning Church of thelema and subject's activities in [redacted] group set forth.

CLASSIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS:

Item 1: Unclassified
Item 2: Confidential
Item 3: Confidential
Item 4: Confidential
Item 5: Confidential
Item 6: Confidential

On November 14, 1950, Mr. John T. Herdner, Air Provost Marshal, Los Angeles Air Force Field Procurement Office, 155 West Washington Boulevard, Los Angeles, advised that photostatic copies of the documents recovered at the [redacted] residence, which had been left there by subject, had been reviewed and classified by Mr. Jack Leff, MCROA-1, and Major Frank J. Austin, Jr., Ordnance Liaison Officer, Redstone Arsenal. The following security classification determinations were made:
A description of the material in the above-listed items has been previously reported.

Hughes Aircraft Company advised November 24, 1950 that all material developed at Hughes Aircraft pertaining to Project MX901 and relating to details of propulsion is classified "Confidential" by order of Air Force Directive CD356 dated 1st July, 1950, page 4. The material in the above-listed classified material comes within the purview of this Air Force Directive, according to

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION PERTAINING TO DOCUMENTS

On November 24, 1950, Hughes Aircraft; Major E. J. KRENZ, Air Force Officer in Charge at Hughes Aircraft; and the writer examined the original documents recovered at the residence, which documents are being retained at Hughes Aircraft in a sealed envelope.

Of the classified material, it was noted that Items 11, 12, and 13 are carbon copies of actual Hughes Aircraft documents. These carbon copies were typed on green sheets of paper. Partial copies had been made of Items 12 and 13 by

advised that Items 11, 12, and 13 are part of a report written jointly by PARSONS and of Hughes Aircraft.

Hughes Aircraft, on November 24, 1950 was interviewed and advised that he presently resides at . He stated that the Items 11, 12, and 13 make up a rough draft report completed at Hughes Aircraft in September, 1950 by PARSONS and himself. The material for this rough draft report came from personal notes made by while at the Thiokol Corporation Branch at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama. According to this was a confidential report based on material taken from notes made at a confidential project, and no other reports or documents were used in the compilation of this report. advised that actually PARSONS had nothing little to
Of the Missile Project Section, Hughes Aircraft, was interviewed on November 21, 1950, and advised that he presently resides at [redacted] and stated that he can produce the originals of the documents which PARSONS had carbon copies of. Items 11, 12, and 13. The originals are now stamped "Confidential," but [redacted] explained that the classification stamp was not placed on these documents until after PARSONS was found to have the material from Hughes out of the plant.

[Redacted] advised that all the documents except Item 13 had been recovered at the residence by himself and Special Agent [redacted] of this office on September 25. Item 13 had been returned to Hughes by [redacted] on September 25, 1950 and given to Colonel John K. Brown, Director of Security and Protection, Hughes Aircraft, who, in turn, gave it to
Aircraft Company, advised on November 30, 1950 that he recalls bringing the document (Item 13) to him on September 25, which document he turned over to...

In a statement previously furnished by PARSONS on September 27, he stated he personally took the material to the residence.
On December 2, 1950 subject _________ interviewed by Agent _________ and the writer, at which time they furnished following signed statements.

Redondo Beach, Calif.
Dec. 2, 1950

I, John Mixon Flax, do make the following statement to _________ and _________ who have identified themselves to me as special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Dept. of Justice. This statement is made freely and voluntarily and I have been advised of my right to counsel. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make this statement and I have been advised that this statement may be used in court.

"I wish to correct my statement of Sept. 27, 1950 inasmuch as I now recall that I did not take the Hughes material myself to the _________ residence. I did discuss and make the arrangements with _________ for her to type copies of this material for me. I actually took the material to the _________ residence on or about the 23rd of September.

"I have read the above statement and it is true and correct in its entirety.

/s/ John Mixon Flax

Witnesse[s] this date: 12/2/50
/s/ Special Agent F.B.I. 12/2/50
/s/ Sp. Act. FBI
as special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Dept. of Justice. I have been advised of my right to counsel and no threats or promises have been made to induce me to make this statement. I have been advised that this statement may be used in court.

During the month of September, 1950 I was aware that Person X was preparing a proposal to be used as an application for a position in Israel. I did not know the source of this material but did proof-read the proposal for grammar and spelling. Arrangements were made for A to type this material. On or about Sept. 18, 1950 I took the material for the proposal to B and left same to be typed. This material I carried in a small box at this time.

I have read the above statement and it is true and correct in its entirety.

Witnessed 12/2/50

Special Agent FBI 12/2/50

Ag. FBI, Los Angeles 12/2/50

PARSONS advised that he had gone to the advice of Professor Theodore von Kármán of the California Institute of Technology. VON KáRMÁN is an acquaintance of long standing. PARSONS stated, and he had recommended him as an old friend. PARSONS advised that no time requested any particular article or proposal be prepared but only requested a paper on the subject of von KáRMÁN's own interests. The particular article prepared, PARSONS stated, was of his own interest entirely.

Regarding Theodore von KáRMÁN mentioned above, the Los Angeles Times of September 27, 1948 contained an article indicating VON KáRMÁN, director of the Aerodynamics Laboratory of Aeronautics at California Institute of Technology, had been named to receive the 1948 Gold Medal Award of the National Institute for his research on supersonic aircraft. This article mentioned von KáRMÁN has been a professor of aerodynamics at California Institute of Technology since 1945. He was chairman of the Institute's Advisory Board.
PARSONS admitted having been associated with [redacted] but stated he dropped out of this group in late 1939 or 1940 when it became too communist. [Redacted] has been previously identified in this case. PARSONS admitted he subscribed to the Daily People's World, a West Coast Communist Party organ, in 1938 and later joined the American Civil Liberties Union. A check of the Personnel Security Questionnaire completed April 11, 1949 for Hughes Aircraft revealed PARSONS indicated one of the organizations he had belonged to in 1946 was the American Civil Liberties Union.
It has been previously reported that records of the Provost Marshal's Office, Air Material Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, revealed an investigation under date of May 17, 1943 regarding subject. This investigation developed information indicating a religious cult, believed to advocate sexual perversion, was organized at subject's home, 1003 South Orange Grove Avenue, Pasadena, and that this organization was reported subversive. Investigation also developed indicated subject to be associated with one previously mentioned.

On November 1, 1942 PARSONS advised Special Agent that about three years previously he had attended meetings at the home of at which writings of KARL MARX and JOHN STRACHENAY were studied. At this time PARSONS furnished information concerning the group of which was a member.

Regarding the religious cult mentioned above with which PARSONS was associated, has advised that this group was known as the Church of Thelema.

Regarding PARSONS' association with the Church of Thelema, it is noted that during the interview of September 27, 1950 by Special Agents previously reported, PARSONS advised he was a member of a religious cult in 1941 while residing at 1003 South Orange Grove, Pasadena. He indicated at this time that he was no longer connected with the group and has severed all relations with it.

Several complaints with regard to the activities in a home at 1003 South Orange Grove Avenue, Pasadena, which, at the time, was leased in the name of PARSONS, home literature which indicated that at these premises were being held meetings of a cult which went under the name of the Church of Thelema. Descriptive literature indicates this cult broadly hinted at free love. had received several complaints of "strange goings on at this home", and that he recalled at the time that it was a gathering place of perverts.
the Church of Thelema, which organization was dedicated to spiritual advancement and improvement of self. He said a great many of the teachings and ideals of the Church of Thelema were based on the teachings of ALEISTER CROWLEY of London, England, an internationally known poet, and that the organization was sometimes referred to as Crowleyism or Crowleyites.

Also in 1943 subject was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] at which time PARSONS stated the Church of Thelema was a lodge and fraternity as well as a church, and that they studied philosophy as well as religion and attempted to inform themselves concerning all types and kinds of religion. He further stated that the Church of Thelema was "dedicated to the freedom and liberty of the individual." PARSONS advised at this time that they were anti-communist and anti-fascist.

With the consent of [redacted] the residence at 1005 South Orange Grove Avenue was searched by Special Agents [redacted] in 1943, at which time nothing of a subversive nature was found.
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) (b)(7)(c) __________________________ with no segregable material available for release to you.

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☐ 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: 65-59589-3 page 10
LOS ANGELES OFFICE

At Los Angeles, California: Will, if Bureau permission is granted, present this matter to the United States Attorney for prosecutive opinion.
BEKHEMED - 563606
BEKHEMED - 563606

DATE: 9-27-69
DATE: 9-27-69

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

TORONTO
TORONTO

REMEMBER: UNITED STA
REMEMBER: UNITED STA

OFFICE MAIL
OFFICE MAIL

IT IS REQUESTED THAT THIS MATTER BE REFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT
IT IS REQUESTED THAT THIS MATTER BE REFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT

REPORT OF SA
REPORT OF SA

EXPENDABLE IS
EXPENDABLE IS

AUDITOR
AUDITOR

SUBJECT: JOHN 'HILLESIDE' PARSONS
SUBJECT: JOHN 'HILLESIDE' PARSONS

FROM: SAC. LOS ANGELES
FROM: SAC. LOS ANGELES

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
M-7, Los Angeles

Director, FBI

JOHN WILLENSIDE PAULS
SEIONAGE - IS
(Four file 6S-5131)

Fourtet December 8 last.

This matter has been presented to the Department for a prosecutive opinion.
Assistant Attorney General James N. McNerny

Director, FBI

JOHN WHITSEY PARSONS, WA. CONFIDENTIAL

ESPIONAGE - III

- There are being forwarded herewith copies of the following reports:

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated November 2, 1950, at Los Angeles, California.


On December 25, 1950, a representative of Hughes Aircraft advised that when Parsons' employment was terminated on September 26, 1950, Parsons requested the return of seven California Institute of Technology reports dated 1941 through 1944 which he had kept in his file drawer at Hughes Aircraft. These reports were all marked "confidential," and related to Air Corps jet propulsion research. Parsons was listed as coauthor of two reports.

On December 15, 1950, [redacted] advised that of these seven reports, two are confidential, two are classified, and the classification of the seventh is not known. [redacted] advised that a review of the seven reports might downgrade the present classifications. He said that during the period Parsons was employed at the Jet Laboratory security regulations were lax and it was a common practice for employees to remove reports for their own purposes. There was no charge out system of any consequence.

RECORDED: 72-65-5959

[redacted] has been requested to review these seven reports, and has advised that a final decision on the present classifications may take at least one month.

DEC 21, 1950

Attachment
You are also advised that in the report of Special Agent dated July 26, 1950, at Los Angeles in the case entitled is John Whiteside Parsons. This report was furnished you by letter dated August 6, 1950. 

You will note in the enclosed reports that Parsons stated that he intended to turn data over to

You will note on page 10 of the enclosed report of Special Agent dated November 2, 1950, at Los Angeles in this matter that Parsons advised that while residing at 1003 South Orange Grove, Pasadena, California, he was a member of a religious cult which was alleged to have been involved in immoral activities.

In the Summer of 1940, he was approached by to attend a week-end party to be held at 1003 South Orange Grove, Pasadena, California. that after his arrival at that address he learned that what he thought was to be a week-end party was actually a meeting of a cult, known as "The Church of Thelma." During the course of the week-end, initiated into this order, and stated that he does not recall anything of the initiation proceedings, except that all of the participants removed their clothes and were given robes. was apparently drugged and that he spent two days and nights at 1003 South Orange Grove, and that there were forty or fifty members of the cult. was the head of the organisation in 1941, and that Smith is assisted by said that a girl named is apparently the chieftain for the organisation.
It is requested that you furnish your opinion as to whether or not the facts contained in the enclosed reports constitute a violation of any Federal statute, and whether or not prosecution is warranted.
Pacura, John Whtncll
Pacura, Calif.

Employ of: Calif. Inst. 726th.

COO direct object support 11-3-20

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS CONFIDENTIAL
EXCEPT PHOTOS SHOWN
OTHERWISE

26-07-28

DATE OF REVIEW 4/2/34

SECRET
Ref. note to following material for supernumer M.C.Spears from Capt. W.B. Phillips, ONI, Wash. D.C.


It is to be noted that these names were transmitted lists of names with the request that they be searched against the indices of the Bureau and any relative nature to the furnished O.T. Among this appears name:

Mr. John Whithorne
12 S. Terrace Drive
Pendana, City
Date Sept. 20
no details found found for Bureau.
Attached herewith are two 100 foot
rolls of micro-film containing the
records of approximately 3,000 individuals,
provided by the captured informant.

San Fran. No. 5/24/60

Pea Hacrow No. 4770
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) (b)(1), (b)(7), (c)(6), (b)(3) 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: (b)(3) cited in conjunction with Rule (b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure relating to Grand Jury proceedings

☑ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

6-5-59589-5 enclosed pages 5 through 8a, 14a, 15, 22, 27, 29, 95
Ref. is made to signed statement (See Ser. 85) which was executed by John W. Parsons. As has been reported previously in this case, informants have cast some doubt as to the general reputation of this individual.

At the time Parsons provided the Reporting Agent with the aforementioned statement he stated, "It is probably already known to you, but I got myself mixed up with an occult group. If this info. should come into the possession of a defense attorney it might be possible for him to discredit me."

A reliable informant, was reinterviewed with regard to his knowledge of the general reputation of Parsons at which time he advised the following:

Parsons was one of the original founders of the Aerojet Engineering Corporation in Pasadena. In connection with the organization an Eastern executive was brought in to handle some of the affairs of the firm inasmuch as the incorporators were for the most part scientists and had no practical business knowledge.

Parsons was not removed, however, en masse as he was a stockholder and one of the original incorporators, but that he was gradually "ased out."

In addition, this source stated that he had heard repeated rumors to the effect that in 1943 Parsons had become involved with some sort of "mythic love cult." Source stated that he knew nothing of the exact details as to what transpired, but he understood that women of loose morals were involved and that the story of Parsons' activities had become fairly common knowledge among scientists in the area.
With regard to the activities in a home at 1003 South Orange Grove Avenue, Pasadena, which in 1943 was leased in the name of Parsons, reflect some literature which indicated that at these premises were being held meetings of a cult which went under the name of the Church of Thelena. Descriptive literature in the file indicated that this cult broadly hinted at free love and several complaints of "strange goings-on at this home" and that he recalled at the time that it was a gathering place of converts.

This source offered no info. with regard to any questionable financial dealings with Parsons, but stated that he was fully conversant with his involvement in the "love cult". Likewise, he stated that he was certain that information in this regard was fairly common knowledge among scientists in the Pasadena area.
On March 13, 1950 John W. Parsons was interviewed by reporting Agent and SA. At the time of this interview, Parsons related the extent of his knowledge concerning a secret project and stated that he would make a signed statement which would include all his knowledge in regard to:

On March 27, 1950 Parsons delivered to SA and the writer a signed statement dated 3-13-50 which is set forth hereafter:

*3-13-50*

I John W. Parsons, make the following statement to those who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the FBI. No threats of promise of reward, or duress have been used to induce me to make this statement. I have been told that it is to be used in a court of law

"In 1937 I joined with a small group of friends, students, and faculty members at the Cal. Inst. of Tech. to engage in unsponsored rocket research. It became our custom to meet at one another's houses to discuss our work and plans; these meetings also had a social and philosophical tone. The discussions were general, and several different viewpoints were presented. Some were slightly eulogistic but none were communist, and there was no explicit intent to the discussion. In the beginning, we one person seemed particularly acquainted with communist ideas of detailed communist ideas.

*In 1938, \[redacted\] was hired as a mathematics on the staff of [redacted]. He expressed an intense interest in mechanics.
and progressed from exposition on socialism in a few meeting to extreme communist views. He brought books and pamphlets to the meetings which offered to loan or sell. These included Lenin's "State and Revolution," Marx's "Capital," the Communist Manifesto, books by Palm-Sutt, Messages by Stalin, and the "People's World." I believe I got some pamphlets and papers at the time but do not recall what became of them.

"I was first curious as to his views, but after I understood them began to express opposition and some hostility, both to them and to various members of the group. He showed great interest in the formation of a reading and discussion forum from our group, and indicated to me it would be to my advantage to join. He told me that prominent faculty members and Hollywood personalities were members, that the names of these people were not revealed, and that I would run no risk in joining. He indicated that there was another "open" organization group, but that there was no necessary contact between the two, and that prominent or vulnerable people were well protected.

"On further questioning, he hedged and told me I would no more after I joined. He showed me a card, and told me that if I would sign one like it I would be eligible for meetings. He seemed to take considerable personal interest in me, and reemphasized the social value of the group and the advantages of joining. I do not recall that he ever referred to this directly as a communist group or to himself as a member of the CP.

"At this time I expressed considerable opposition to his views, and to the direction in which he was attempting to steer our group. Shortly thereafter, our relations cooled considerably, and I did not have such further contact with him. I recall making some strong statements to my friends and acquaintances in this period, but did not feel myself in a position to make definite charges.

"I probably do not recall all of the details of the events ten or twelve yrs. in the past. The foregoing represents my best recollection of the facts, and is to the best of my knowledge and belief.
interview advised that he had known John N. Parsons for several yrs. and that to his knowledge he knew of no derogatory info. concerning him other than his connection with the religious cult in Pasadena. He stated he personally believed Parsons was a loyal American citizen & that he had no info. concerning his being radically inclined. He stated that he believed that Parsons had at one time attended the Calif. Inst. of Tech. and that to the best of his knowledge Parsons had received some sort of a degree in Chemistry. He stated that Parsons was at present engaged in research work in connection with explosives and rocket propelled missiles. He stated that he did not know the name of Parsons present employer.
In connection with collateral investigations being conducted on friends of the subj., Parsons has been interviewed on several occasions. At the most recent time, he somewhat negated his previous reports to the effect that and other individuals were members of a CP group in Pasadena during the years 1938 and 1939. A review of the file indicated that his original allegations left no question as to the fact that these were CP meetings which he (Parsons) had attended, but at the time of the last interview he rather minimized these gatherings saying that they were in fact study groups and dealt with many "isms" other than Communism, etc.

Since the inception of the investigation in this case information has come to this office from the following two sources which bears on the veracity of this informant:

were consulted as to their knowledge of Parsons, and each stated that he was "a character". They amplified this statement by saying that he is regarded as being very eccentric by his fellow workers & that information received from him should be treated with extreme reserve. It is pertinent to note that Parsons, after he gave the original information re. the Communist membership of , was closely associated in business with individuals whom he had named as being part of the Professional Section of the CP in Pasadena in 1938 and 1939.
Rooms 923 and 924, 154 Nassau St., NYC, are occupied by the American Society for the Advancement of the Hebrew Institute of Technology in Haifa, Palestine, Inc. This organization publishes the Technion Yearbook and the society is also known as the American Technion Society.

Indices of this office reflect no info. of a pertinent nature concerning the society.
96-0-55 Memo from A. M. Thurston to Mr. Clegg 10-23-40
Ref. is made to ltr. from Brigadier Gen. Sherman Miles, U. S. Army, Acting Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, Washington, D. C., of 10-10-40, in which he requested that the attached lists of names be searched against the indices of the Bureau.

***************

JOHN H. TEES DE PARSONS
168 Terrace Drive
Pasadena, California

Occupation: Research Fellow in Aeronautics, California Institute of Tech. Since 1939.

NO RECORD WAS LOCATED.
Ref. is made to personal security questionnaire submitted by your company in the case of the citizen whose name appears above & to the suspension of his employment in connection with classified Army, Navy, and Air Force contracts on 9-21-48.

An appeal was made from that suspension & the case was certified to the Industrial Employment Review Board. The Board has considered the entire record, including all info. developed since the suspension, & now finds that:

A. The suspension was effected without sufficient cause.
B. The appellant accordingly is entitled to be paid the amount of the actual monetary loss sustained by him because of any unemployment or change of employment resulting from such suspension.
C. The consent of the Secretaries of the Army, Navy, & Air Force for the appellant's access to restricted, confidential, secret & top secret info. will be granted.

There is enclosed a grant of consent for the Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Forces for the employment of Mr. Parsons on secret & top secret contracts. There is also enclosed a communication from the Judge Advocate General outlining the procedure to be followed by Mr. Parsons to obtain any actual monetary loss of wages. Any further correspondence relating to such payment should be addressed to the Judge Advocate General, Attention: Claims & Litigation Division, Dept. of the Army.
Inclined for your info is an extract of copy of the Manhattan Engineer District Monthly Intelligence Summary for May 1945.

ESPIOTAGE

Activity re X-Metal

ADAISTRA RESEARCH - NYBC - Ref. April Summary, pg. 5
Reported by the Pasadena Branch Office that the subj. Company is apparently owned by John W. Parsons and that there is an undetermined association in the business with Parsons of E. S. Forman. Both the forementioned gentlemen are employed on DSM work at the Institute of Technology. Forman is employed on DSM work at the Institute in a subordnate position on the mechanical aspect of detonator firing control, and info. would indicate that he has little knowledge of the Project. Parsons is doing explosive work at CIT not related to DSM work, and he reportedly has been doing research in that field for a number of years. It appears that Parsons obtained the pound of x-nitrate for experimental purposes. Case HGC 24 May to NYBO where case is pending.
Parsons, 1200 Esplandade St., Redondo Beach, Calif., Physicist, Dept. of Electronics & Guided Missiles, Hughes Aircraft Co., Culver City, Calif., was interviewed & stated that in 1939 he...
were all engaged in a series of pocket research conducted on the Caltech Campus. As a result of this extended scientific association, he said, they also mixed socially. It was at one of these social gatherings that Parsons, in 1938, introduced [redacted] to the group at his home.

Parsons stated that at this time, 1938, [redacted] strongly advocated the principles of Communism and passed out CP literature at these meetings. Parsons stated that he took an opposite view to that expressed by [redacted] as such a breach developed and he did not actually become affiliated with any Communist group.

Parsons stated, however, that he is positive that the subj. definitely knew of the existence of a Communist group on the Caltech campus and likewise that [redacted] definitely expressed pro-Communist beliefs.
Believed Parsons was something of a "crack-pot" who was active in a religious cult in Pasadena, whose headquarters were at his home at 2005 South Orange Grove Avenue. However, he stated that he had since been convinced that Parsons was harmless and that he was just somewhat of a religious fanatic.
advised that Parsons upon interview admitted that he was a member of the Church of Thelma, which was in fact a small society, but because of the small size of the local organization could not become an official branch of the Temples. Parsons related that the Church of Thelma was a lodge or fraternity, as well as a church, and that they study philosophy as well as religion and attempt to inform themselves concerning all types and kinds of religion and further, that the Church of Thelma was dedicated to the freedom and liberty of the individual.

Further advised that Parsons stated that they were anti-Communist and anti-Fascist and that they were one hundred and five percent in accord with the war effort. He stated he had first become affiliated with the organization approximately three years ago; that it was entirely tolerant and was concerned with the brotherhood of all mankind and that the organization had no violent aims whatsoever but was teaching by example. He advised that he himself belonged to this organization because "it fulfills my religious needs" and that the organization was opposed to regimentation.

At this time Parsons indicated that he had registered on 10-16-40 with Local Board 84, Pasadena, Calif., and was presently classified 3-A.

He furnished the following description of Parsons: 5'10", 185 pounds, brown eyes and hair, ruddy complexion, occupation - aeronautics, rocket propulsion planes.

This reflected substantially the same information concerning Parsons that was furnished by an acquaintance of John W. Parsons and also additional information concerning him.
Church of Thelma was incorporated in Calif. April 14, 1934, as a religious organization, by Wilford Talbot Smith, who styles himself as the High Priest of the society. Total active membership is approximately twenty, & headquarters of the organization is 1003 South Orange Grove, Pasadena, Calif. The fundamental principles of the Society are "Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the law", and its purpose appears to be preservation of individual liberty and freedom. Leaders of the organization state they are anti-Communist, and are in accord with the war effort, and are fully American. There is no indication of any subversive activity, and the organization appears to be religious and perhaps a cult.

John Parsons, at 1003 South Orange Grove Drive was interviewed. He advised that the Church of Thelma was in fact a small organization, modeled very much on the "order of Oriental temples, an English society", but that because of the small size of the local organization, could not become an official branch of the temples. Stated that the C. of T. was a lodge or fraternity, as well as a church; that they studied philosophy, as well as religion, and attempted to inform themselves concerning all types of kinds of religion, & further that the C. of T. was "dedicated to the freedom & liberty of the individual".

Parsons advised that they were anti-Communist & anti-Fascist, & that they were 100% in accord with the war effort. He advised that he had first become affiliated with the organization approximately 5 yrs. ago; that it was entirely tolerant, and was concerned with the brotherhood of all mankind; that the organization had no violent aims whatsoever, but was teaching by example. He advised that he himself belonged to the organization because it fulfilled my religious needs"; that the organization was opposed to regimentation, but realizing the smallness of the organization...
...tions and realizing the need for unity and concerted effort in time of war, would make no effort whatsoever to bring their views and ideals into general practice after the conclusion of the present war; and finally, that the organization, the C. of T., was an appeal to free thinkers to come forward and act as leaders, & that through a ritualistic form of religious and philosophical training, attempted to develop its members.
I have the following information re. to the Church of Thelma which he states is also known as O.T.O. and Oriens Templus Orientus (phonetic).

He stated that in June or July of 1940 he was approached by [redacted] Long Beach, Calif, by [redacted] and invited to a party to be held over the weekend - to be held at 1003 South Orange Grove, Pasadena, Calif.

After his arrival at the Orange Grove address, learned that what he thought was to be a weekend party was actually a meeting of a cult known as "The Church of Thelma." During the course of the weekend, he was initiated into this Order & states that he does not recall anything of the initiation proceedings except that all of the participants had all their clothes removed & they wore robes for the occasion. Prior to the proceedings, he was given a glass of liquor which apparently was drugged thus causing him not to remember much of the proceedings. On this occasion [redacted] spent 2 days and nights in the house used by this Order where he met approx. 40 or 50 members.

The house at 1003 South Orange Grove is said to be occupied by one Jack Parsons who is a chemist and supposedly working in a defense plant in Pasadena during the day and doing some work in his own lab. at this address at night. Parsons is said to be connected with the U. in Pasadena.

W.T. Smith is said to be the head of the organization in Calif. at the present time. He is assisted by [redacted] who is apparently the oc
cubine for the organization.

There is also a man whose first name is [redacted] is a German Alien, who is now said to be in the organizing for the Order. [redacted] was at one time supposed to be a professor in Berlin. Orders for the activities of this organization are received from Mr. Allister in London, England.
The Church of Thelma recruits as a fraternal order under this name and publishes a book called "The Book of the Law" which book tears down everything democracy stands for. This book preaches that whatever one desires to do is the proper thing to do.
Office Memorandum - UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: A. H. Belmont

FROM: C. E. Henrich

SUBJECT: JOHN W. TESSE PARSONS, 7A.

ESPIONAGE - IS

Date: December 19, 1950

Purpose:

To inform you that the subject has admitted taking seventeen documents pertaining to jet propulsion motors and rocket propellants from the Hughes Aircraft Company, and that the matter is being referred to the Department for a prosecutive opinion.

Details:

On September 15, 1950, Parsons took seventeen documents from Hughes Aircraft Company where he is employed. He has furnished a signed statement admitting removal of the documents without authority, and stating he planned to use the data in preparing proposals for building an explosive plant in Israel, and data concerning rockets and other armaments. Parsons hoped that by so doing to obtain employment as a research worker in Israel. All documents have been recovered. Parsons intended to turn them over to Israel.

Parsons has been used as a source of information in cases involving...

Recommendation:

This is submitted for your information. A letter to the Department requesting a prosecutive opinion is attached hereto.

65-59589

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE: 2/29

BY 2333

69589-6
JOHN WHITESIDE PARSONS, WA., ESPIONAGE - IS. REMYLET DEC. EIGHT, FIF.
HUGHES AIRCRAFT ADVISED TODAY WHEN PARSONS EMPLOYMENT TERMINATED SEP-
TWENTY-SIX, PARSONS REQUESTED RETURN OF SEVEN CALIF. INSTITUTE OF TE-
HNOLOGY REPORTS DATED FORTY-ONE THROUGH FORTY-FOUR HE HAD KEPT IN HUGHES
DROWER AT HUGHES. REPORTS NOT RETURNED PARSONS. REPORTS ALL MARKED
QUOTE CONFIDENTIAL UNQUOTE AND RELATE TO AIR CORPS JET PROPULSION
RESEARCH. PARSONS LISTED AS CO AUTHOR OF TWO REPORTS.

TODAY ADVISED FOLLOWING PRESENT
CLASSIFICATION OF REPORTS-- TWO CONFIDENTIAL, TWO RESTRICTED, TWO CLASS-
IFIED AND ONE NOT KNOWN. ADVISED REVIEW OF SEVEN REPORTS MAY DOW
GRADE PRESENT CLASSIFICATION. INDICATED THAT DURING PERIOD PAR
EMPLOYED JET LAB SECURITY REGULATIONS LAX AND IT WAS COMMON PRACTICE
REMOVE REPORTS FOR OWN PURPOSES. HAD NO CHARGE OUT SYSTEM OF ANY
SEQUENCES. REQUEST BEING MADE TO REVIEW REPORTS BUT HE HAS
REVEALED A FINAL DECISION ON PRESENT CLASSIFICATION MAY TAKE AT LEAST
ONE MONTH. YOUR ATTENTION CALLED TO FACT REQUEST MADE BY REFERENCED
LETTER TO PRESENT THIS MATTER TO DEPARTMENT FOR PROSECUTIVE OPINION.

HOOD

RECORDED 132
INDEXED 132
65-5689-7

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HERETO IS CLASSIFIED. DATE 4-24-39 BY 2333
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: On December 15, 1950, Hughes Aircraft revealed subject in possession of seven "confidential" reports of Fullerton Aeronautics Laboratory, California Institute of Technology at time of termination of employment from Hughes. Present existing classification of reports as follows: 2 Confidential, 2 Restricted, 2 Unclassified, and 1 classification not known. Subject executed signed statement December 19, 1950, admitting possession of reports. Indications security regulations lax at California Institute of Technology during PARSONS' employment.

DETAILS: On December 14, 1950, the writer was advised by Hughes Aircraft, that at the time of PARSONS' termination of employment at Hughes Aircraft, he had in his possession seven reports of the Fullerton Aeronautics Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, all of which reports are stamped "Confidential." An itemized list of these seven reports is as follows:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 4-2-74 BY 2333 8960000


Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, advised on December 15, 1950, that of the above listed reports, the present existing classification is as follows:

Item 1  Unclassified
Item 2  Classification unknown.
Item 3  Unclassified
Item 4  Restricted
Item 5  Confidential
Item 6  Confidential
Item 7  Restricted.

Further advised that a review of these reports may downgrade the present classification and accordingly a request has been submitted to review these reports to ascertain if the present existing classification is correct.

Regarding PARSONS possession of these reports, advised that security regulations during the early stages of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory were lax and that it was common practice to remove reports from the Laboratory for private purposes. In some cases, personal copies were issued to the employees for private purposes and no charge out system of any consequence was in effect at this time. Stated that he will, if possible, ascertain to whom the above listed copies of these reports were signed out.

On December 1, 1940, turned over the above described seven reports to the writer and Special Agent, which reports will be retained as evidence. Advised that these reports had been turned over to him by Hughes Aircraft Corporation, of the Propulsion Section, Hughes Aircraft, December 12, 1950 at which time signed a receipt for them.

Propulsion Section, Hughes Aircraft, advised December 18, 1950, that he had obtained the seven reports described above from PARSONS at the time of PARSONS terminal of employment.
at Hughes Aircraft on September 26, 1950. According to PARSONS, it is the policy of the Propulsion Section to "check-out" an employee on termination of employment and at the time of PARSONS' termination, the seven reports were in the possession of Mr. U, appropriated to PARSONS so that he could not let him take these documents from Hughes since they were indicated to be classified "Confidential". PARSONS then requested to clarify the present classifications of the reports and return them to him if at all possible. He advised that on December 12, 1950, he turned over these seven reports to PARSONS and executed a receipt dated December 19, 1950. He advised that he has retained this receipt executed by PARSONS.

On December 19, 1950, PARSONS came to the Los Angeles Office and furnished the following signed statement:

"Los Angeles, Calif.
Dec. 19, 1950

I, John Whiteside Parsons, make the following statement to declare to me that I have identified seven documents to me as Social Security numbers of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Dept. of Justice. This statement is made freely and voluntarily and I have been advised of my rights to counsel. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make this statement and I have been advised that this statement may be used in court.

I have had exhibited to me this date, 7 reports of the Suggen-
ham Aerospace Laboratory. California Institute of Technology identified as follows: (1) Galact Project 1, Progress Report 
1, copy 12, dated 11/14/43 (2) Galact Project 1, Operating Manual 1, copy 24, dated 11/1/42 (3) Galact Project 1, Pro-
gress Report 1, copy 24, dated 11/14/43 (4) Galact Project 1, Report 15, copy 24, dated 12/16/42 (5) Galact Project 1, Progress Report 16, copy 24, dated 11/15/43 (6) Galact Project 1, Report 24, copy 10, dated 9/7/41 (7) Galact Pro-
ject 1, Test Report 1, copy 24, dated 7/20/43. I recognize these 7 documents as the ones I turned over to PARSONS of Hughes Aircraft at the time of my termination of employment there."
"These 7 documents came into my possession at the time of my employment with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory or the Aerojet Engineering Corporation. I cannot more specifically recall the time these documents came into my possession, nor can I recall the manner they came into my possession. I considered the reports to be my own personal copies and as such retained them. I used material from these reports in my work while at Aerojet and Hughes Aircraft. I do not recall ever having permitted anyone to see these reports except during the time I was at Hughes Aircraft when it is possible other Hughes employee may have seen them.

"At no time did it occur to me that I illegally had these reports in my possession until the incident arose at Hughes Aircraft involving me with the removal of some Hughes documents. At the time of this incident, it occurred to me these 7 reports may also be in question and accordingly, I turned them over to the Office of Clarification of the classification of the reports. I was aware that the material was originally classified as confidential but it was my impression that the reports had been down graded or reclassified.

"I have read this statement consisting of three pages and it is true to the best of my knowledge. I have initialed all corrections on each page.

/s/ "John N. Parsons

Witness: Special Agent F.B.I. 12/19/50
CA, U.S., Los Angeles 12/19/50"

At the time of furnishing the signed statement, PARSONS identified the seven reports that were turned over to the writer as being identical with the reports he had in his possession at Hughes Aircraft. Accordingly PARSONS signed the back of these reports as "R.H. PARSONS," with the date December 19, 52. At this time the writer initialed the back of each report. PARSONS identified the printed notation "J.K. Parsons personal copy" appearing on the front of items 1, 5 and 6 as being in his own handwriting.
THE ICS FIELD OFFICE,
At Los Angeles, California:

Will report results of review of seven Guggenheim Aeronautics Laboratory reports obtained from subject by Hughes Aircraft being made by Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, to ascertain if the present existing classification of these reports is correct.

Will take such further punitive action as is directed by the Bureau.

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent dated 12/7/40 at Los Angeles, California.

Los Angeles telegraph to the Bureau dated December 15, 1945.
CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

16 November 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. E. S. SANDERS, Liaison Agent

RE: JOHN WHITESIDE PARSONS
ESPIONAGE

1. Upon receipt of advice from FBI that PARSONS had at one time been denied clearance to Air Force Top Secret information, a check was made to determine the circumstances.

2. The records of the Army-Navy-Air Force Personnel Security Board indicate that subject's case was considered on 18 August 1948, and the Board directed that subject be denied access to Top Secret information.

3. On 7 March 1949, the Industrial Employment Review Board reversed the decision of the Personnel Security Board thereby authorizing subject's access to military information through Top Secret.

DONALD A. DETWILER
Major, USAF
Room 5E 177
Extension 72776

[Signature]

NOV 17 1950

[Handwritten notes on the page]
DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL USAF
8TH DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
AD SPECIALIZED DEPOT, BOX 310, MAPLEWOOD, CALIF.

120 1-109
29 September 1950

STF INTELLIGENCE REPORT

SUBJECT: JOHN WILKES PARSONS
DECLASSIFIED BY J. R. MEYER
ON 2/19/77

TO: Director of Special Investigations
Headquarters United States Air Force
Washington 25, D.C.

1. HISTORY: A letter received from the Los Angeles Office of the FBI, dated 22 September 1950, states the FBI was advised by the Los Angeles Procurement Field Office, Air Material Command, that JOHN WILKES PARSONS was believed to be a security risk, having been issued a Letter of Denial by the Maritime Board. Inquiry by the FBI revealed subject was employed by Hughes Aircraft, Culver City, California. Hughes Aircraft had been informed by the Air Material Command that PARSONS had been cleared for access to Secret and Top Secret contracts. The FBI letter also states that...

On 26 September 1950, 8th CSI District was informed by the Plant Protection Office, Hughes Aircraft, that PARSONS had been discharged that date for removing classified material from Hughes Aircraft without authority, and that the FBI and Security Inspector in Charge, Los Angeles Plants Unit, Air Material Command, had been notified. Additional information from the FBI indicates PARSONS was interviewed and willingly admitted taking classified material. No charge was placed against subject at this time.

2. DETAILS

a. 8th District CSI was informed in a letter from the Los Angeles Office of the FBI, dated 22 September 1950, that the FBI had been contacted by the Los Angeles Procurement Field Office, Air Material Command, regarding JOHN WILKES PARSONS. They advised the FBI that PARSONS was believed to be employed by the North American Aviation Corporation, and was a security risk, having been issued a Letter of Denial by the Maritime Board. Inquiry by the FBI revealed that PARSONS was presently employed as a Research Physicist at Hughes Aircraft, Culver City, California, and that Hughes Aircraft had been advised in a letter from the Air Material Command, dated 15

S
6-4 JAN 25 1951
65-595-89-9
March 1949, that PARSONS had been cleared for access to Secret and Top Secret documents.

Files of the FBI contained no derogatory information identifiable with PARSONS and confidential informants of the Bureau familiar with Communist Party activities in the Los Angeles area in the 1940's have no information regarding Subject.

b. On 26 September 1950, information was received from [redacted] of the Plant Protection Office, Hughes Aircraft, Culver City, California, that PARSONS had been dismissed that date for removing Secret information from the plant. [redacted] stated that he had received information from a representative of North American Aviation, Inc., Los Angeles, who informed [redacted] that he had been contacted by [redacted] at an address unknown at this time. [redacted] is reported to have told the North American representative that [redacted] PARSONS and that he had asked her to type some copies of documents for him. PARSONS was interviewed by [redacted] and admitted taking the documents for copying, which were of a highly classified nature. According to [redacted] PARSONS was going to transmit the copies to [redacted], who is believed to reside in North Hollywood, California, and to be a business consultant. [redacted] stated that [redacted] is also a representative of the Israeli Government. The Los Angeles Office of the FBI and the Security Inspector in Charge, Los Angeles Plants Unit, Air Material Command, were immediately notified.

c. 18th District FBI was advised by the Los Angeles Office of the FBI, on 27 September 1950, that PARSONS was interviewed on that date and had admitted taking the classified material from Hughes Aircraft, from which he had been discharged. The FBI further advised that Subject was co-operative and that no charge had been placed against him at that time. The Bureau will inform this office of further developments and will furnish a copy of their report, when available.
CONFIDENTIAL

16D 1-100
SUBJECT: JOHN WHITENIDGE PARSONS

29 September 1950

3. ACTION: The Security Inspector in Charge, Los Angeles Plant
Unit, Air Material Command, was notified on 27 September 1950.

S. O. KEES
Colonel, USAF
District Commander
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) (b)(7)(C) ______________________ with no segregeable 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:

65-59589 - Net Recorded 11/3/81
Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

FROM: James M. McInerney
Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division

SUBJECT: John Whiteside Parsons, Wa.
Espionage - IS

DATE: January 18, 1951

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED By: DEPT. OF JUSTICE LETTER

Dated 1-5-59

Reference is made to your memorandum of December 20, 1950, requesting an opinion as to whether or not the facts as developed constitute a violation of any Federal Statute.

It would appear that there is a violation of Section 793 and possibly Section 794 of Title 18, U.S. Code.

However, before a decision is rendered as to whether prosecution is warranted it is requested that you take the necessary steps to ascertain the following:

1. An expression of opinion from the appropriate source in the Department of the Army as to whether the documents involved "relate to the national defense".

2. Is there any objection on the part of the Department of the Army to having the documents in question introduced in evidence in the event of prosecution?

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated December 7, 1950, at Los Angeles, California, wherein on page 6 information appears pertaining to one Professor Theodore Von Karman. According to this information, Parsons had gone to Los Angeles at the suggestion of Von Karman. Your attention is invited to the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated November 30, 1950, at Washington, D.C., in the case entitled [redacted].

The Department would be interested in knowing whether the Von Karman in the Perl case is identical with the individual having the same name in instant case, and if so, whether the Bureau has any information indicating these two matters are at all related.

RECORDED: 59
5/11/59-10
JAN. 22 1951

CONFIDENTIAL
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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) ____________________________ with no segregable material available for release to you.

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☐ 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: 65-59589-10
This Bureau has no information indicating that the cases of
the persons are related other than that information which has
been previously furnished you and that which is herein set out.

There is furnished for your additional information the
results of a review of the files of this Bureau concerning the name

[Redacted text]
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) (b)(1), (b)(7), (c), (d) 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:

65-59589-10 containing pages 3, 4, 5
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORT MADE AT:
LOS ANGELES

DATE WHEN MADE:
1/20/51

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE:
1/3, 8, 9/51

REPORT MADE BY:

CHARACTER OF CASE:
ESPIONAGE - IS

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:
Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, advises present active classification of reports in possession of subject at termination of employment Hughes Aircraft as follows: 3 confidential, 1 restricted, 3 unclassified. Jet Laboratory advises possibility exists all reports could be downgraded to unclassified Air Forces.

DETAILS:
67D
Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, advised by letter December 29, 1950 that the classification of the seven reports of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in the possession of PARSONS at the termination of his employment at Hughes Aircraft are, in the present active sense, as follows:

1. Unclassified

2. Confidential
   Air Corps Jet Propulsion Research Project, GARCIT Project No. 1, Operating Manual No. 1: OPERATING MANUAL FOR TH

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

15-59589

COPY IN FILE

PROPERTY OF FBI. THIS CONFIDENTIAL REPORT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE LOANED TO YOU BY THE FBI AND ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE OF FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.
3. Unclassified
Air Corps Jet Propulsion Research, GACIT Project No. 1,
Progress Report No. 15 for the AAF MATERIAL CENTER, AIRCRAFT
LABORATORY: SOME PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF VACUUM MIXED
ASPHALT-BASE SOLID PROPELLANTS, E. W. Hough, J. Green, and
E. H. Sage, Copy No. 25, classified CONFIDENTIAL, California
Institute of Technology, March 25, 1944.

4. Restricted
Air Corps Jet Propulsion Research, GACIT Project No. 1,
Report No. 15: THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ASPHALT BASE SOLID-
PROPELLANT, J. W. Parsons, M. W. Mills, Copy No. 33, classi-
ified CONFIDENTIAL, California Institute of Technology, Oct-
ober 16, 1942.

5. Unclassified
Air Corps Jet Propulsion Research, GACIT Project No. 1,
Progress Report No. 12 for the AAF MATERIEL CENTER, AIRCRAFT
LABORATORY: PROGRESS REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANUFACTURING
FACILITIES FOR PERCHLORATE CHEMICALS, Joseph C. Schumacher,
Chief Engineer, Western Electrochemical Co., Copy No. 22,
classified CONFIDENTIAL, California Institute of Technology,
November 15, 1943.

6. Confidential
Air Corps Jet Propulsion Research, GACIT Project No. 1,
Report No. 9: RESULTS OF FLIGHT TESTS OF THE ERCOUPE AIR-
PLANT WITH AUXILIARY JET PROPULSION SUPPLIED BY SOLID
PROPELLANT JET UNITS, F. J. Malina and J. W. Parsons, Copy
No. 42, classified CONFIDENTIAL, California Institute of
Technology, September 2, 1944.

7. Confidential
Air Corps Jet Propulsion Research, GACIT Project No. 1,
Test Report No. 1: REPORT ON THE TESTS OF THE AEROJET
XAS-1000 TYPE JET UNITS, M. W. Mills and W. E. Johnson,
Copy No. 15, classified CONFIDENTIAL, California Institute
of Technology, July 20, 1943.
It is noted that these classifications are different, in some cases, than those previously furnished by [redacted].

[redacted] advised that in reviewing these reports, it is the considered opinion of the Laboratory that all this material could be downgraded to unclassified. The Jet Propulsion Laboratory has no authority to downgrade these documents, however, this authority being vested only in the U.S. Air Forces inasmuch as the research which led to their publication was sponsored by the Air Forces. [redacted] stated that Items 3, 4, 5 and 6 above were, according to their records, delivered to the Aerojet Engineering Corporation for specific use of engineers at that agency. It has been previously reported that PARSONS was formerly employed by Aerojet.

Mr. H. M. CLARK, Air Provost Marshal’s Office, Los Angeles Air Force Field Procurement Office, 155 West Washington Boulevard, Los Angeles, advised on January 9, 1951 that a review of the reports in question by the Air Forces would have to be made by the office of the Air Provost Marshal, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio.
For the information of the Cincinnati Office, Hughes Aircraft revealed on December 15, 1950 that subject was in possession of the above listed seven reports from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the time of his termination of employment at Hughes. These documents were turned over to the Los Angeles Office on December 18, 1950.
LEADS:

CINCINNATI OFFICE:

At Dayton, Ohio: Will, through the Air Provost Marshal's Office, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, ascertain if the present classification of the seven reports of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, in question as furnished by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory are correct and the name of the individual who can testify as to their classification.

LOS ANGELES OFFICE:

At Los Angeles, California: Will take such further prosecutive action as is directed by the Bureau.

To, Inspector

Dear Sir,

J. R. ROE FISHER, et a
BACON FISHER

For your information, the facts in this case were presented to the Criminal Division of the Department on December 20, 1950, for an opinion as to whether or not there has been a violation of any Federal Statute, and whether prosecution is warranted.

You will be advised of the Department's decision in this matter.

65-5978

JAN 31 1951

COMPLETED

65-59589-12

JAN 20 1951
Assistant Attorney General James M. McInerney, January 16, 1951

CONFIDENTIAL

Reference is made to my memorandum to you dated December 20, 1950 requesting an opinion regarding prosecution.

There is enclosed for your assistance one copy of the report of Special Agent [redacted] Los Angeles, California, dated January 5, 1951.

[Signature]

Fx-128

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN CLASSIFIED

65-59589-18

[Signature]
Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: Director, FBI
FROM: SAC, Los Angeles
SUBJECT: JOHN WHITESIDE PARSONS, WA.

SPIONAGE - NS

Retel today.

Being forwarded under separate cover by registered mail are photographic copies of documents described in report of Special Agent [redacted] dated November 2, 1950, at Los Angeles. It is noted that a number of these photos had been initialed by the subject and it is accordingly requested that these photos be returned to the Los Angeles office after they have served their purpose at the Bureau in order that they might be retained.

RIR: JGJ
65-5131
cc: Package
AISD
REGISTERED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREBY IS CLASSIFIED
DATED 2-27-65 BY 2333

FILED - 65 59589-1/4

Ex-84
JANUARY 27, 1931
SAC, LOS ANGELES

URGENT

JOHN WHITELINE PARSONS, D.A., ESTIMATES - 15. FORWARD
BUREAU IMMEDIATELY SET OF PHOTOGRAPHIC COPIES OF
DOCUMENTS DESCRIBED IN REPORT OF SAFETY LA,
DATED NOVEMBER TWO LAST.

HOOVER

[Handwritten notes and markings]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS CLASSIFIED
DATE 2-2-2480 222222222

[Redacted text]

RECEIVED 99
JAN 30 1931

EX. 32

3-090 0

[Other markings and stamps]
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORT MADE AT: CINCINNATI, OHIO
DATE WHEN MADE: 2-24-51
PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 2-21-51 to 2-23-51

REPORT MADE BY: [REDACTED]

TITLE: JOHN WITKOWSKI PARSONS, aka Jack Parsons

CHARACTER OF CASE: 
ESPIONAGE - IS

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Security Classification Section, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio, advises Jet Propulsion reports declassified October, 1945.

- RUG -

G. I. R. - 7

DETAILS:

AT DAYTON, OHIO

Mr. H. W. J. GATES, Security Classification Section, Security Policy Division, Intelligence Department, Building 269-B, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, advised that the reports relating to Jet Propulsion were prepared in connection with Air Material Command project EX-121 which was instituted in 1941.

In October, 1945, this entire project was declassified and as a result all reports prepared and written in connection with the project were declassified at this time.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS DECLASSIFIED
DATE __2_9_9__ BY __5__

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGI-

COPY IN FILE

COPY OF THIS REPORT:

1 - Bureau (65-59588)(MISD)
2 - Los Angeles (65-5151)(1,661)
3 - Cincinnati

FILE: 65-1752

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Office Memorandum - UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: A. H. Belmont
FROM: C. E. Henrich

DATE: January 27, 1981

SUBJECT: JOHN WHITECIDE PARS, WA.
ESTIMATED SHIP DATE: 15

PURPOSE

To have Liaison deliver reports in captioned matter to OSI and secure answers to two questions propounded by the Criminal Division.

DETAILS

As you will recall, the subject has admitted in a signed statement removal of 17 documents without authority from the Hughes Aircraft Company, Los Angeles, California, where he was formerly employed. Parsons stated he planned to use the data in preparing proposals for building an explosives plant in Israel and also for research work on rockets and other armaments in Israel. Parsons intended to turn the documents over to a friend through whom he hoped to obtain employment as a research worker in Israel.

Copies of reports have been prepared for dissemination to OSI by the Liaison Section.

This matter has been presented to the Department for an opinion and the Department has now advised that it appears there is a violation of Section 793 and possibly Section 794 of Title 18, U.S. Code, but that before a decision is rendered as to whether prosecution is warranted the Department requested we ascertain the following:

1. An expression of opinion from the appropriate source in the Department of the Air Force as to whether the documents involved "relate to the national defense."

2. Is there any objection on the part of the Department of the Air Force to having the documents in question introduced in evidence in the event of prosecution?
RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that our Liaison Section deliver copies of reports to OSI and secure answers to the above questions.

2-1-51. OSI checking

2-22-51. OSI advised that Research & Development Board stated this contract under Army, 2nd Army, Army Service in checking with Army.

[Signature]
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOG ANGELES

FILE NO. 65-531

REPORT MADE AT
DATE WHEN MADE
PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE
REPORT MADE BY
CHARACTER OF CASE

DAY NO. 155
3/1/51
1/27/51; 2/1, 2, 6-9,
13-17/51.

JOHN H. PERSONS, aka
Jack Persons

ESCHARGE - IS

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

D O T V:
The subject's birth at Los Angeles, California, was verified February 15, 1951. The record of this birth is contained in Book 107, First Card of the Bureau of Vital Statistics, City of Los Angeles.

A signed statement furnished to the Hughes Aircraft Company on September 26, 1950 is as follows:

"JOHN H. PERSONS, make the following requested signed statement.

I, as Assistant, Security Department, Hughes Aircraft Company, Culver City, California, knowing first, that I do not have to make the statement and that any statement I make can and will be used against me in the event I am ever held for trial and that no threats nor promises have been used in any manner, causing me to make this statement.

'I have been employed as an Assistant Propellant, Propulsion and Propellents Divisions of the Research and Development Laboratories. In October of 1949, I entered into negotiations in regard to a position in Israel. During this period I submitted a proposal of suggested activities which included the construction of radionuclide plants and the development and manufacture of rockets and other armaments which could be done with the approval of the United States. These negotiations continued for sometime until June of 1950 when a request was submitted a breakdown of detailed costs of the equipment and materials which I have proposed. In July and August, I prepared

property of FBI - This confidential report and its contents are loaned to you by the FBI and are not to be distributed outside of the agency to which loaned.

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- Washington Field Office
- New York
- San Diego
- Los Angeles

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65-59589-18

CONTAINED

PAGE 5
I revised a proposal. In October I worked for H.A.C. on a proposed rocket engine loading plant. The proposal included detailed cost break downs of the type which I required in my proposal to Israel. I once met with the president of H.A.C. in San Diego, California, with the request that she type a rough draft of the material. The president promptly typed it but I did not provide the typed material to her since I did not know her husband for a period of over five (5) years. I knew that both she and her husband had been cleared to work on classified projects after an extensive investigation and that clearance for her husband was current.

Among the materials from which I asked her to type extracts there was included a rough draft of a portion of a Provenant Loading proposal at H.A.C. which had been marked "Confidential." The rough draft of the material from which I intended to prepare my proposal was partially typed in the period of September 16 to September 25, 1955. I understand that on September 28, this material was picked up by the F.B.I., and the matter was referred to H.A.C. It was not in any way my intention to transmit any portion of the material which had been classified to Israel or to any other unauthorized person. It was my intention to select only the cost of equipment and expense from the material to include in my proposal. It was further my intention before proceeding to submit details of the proposal to the State Department both in regard to the possibility of attaining a passport and the advisability of proceeding with any proposed activities. I had selected her to do the typing since I knew that she was a highly responsible, an expert person, and there was no possibility of any link thru her or her husband, an unauthorized person. I feel that any action in sending classified material which was the property of H.A.C. to come into the hands of a person, who was not responsible, was not directly authorized to receive this material, was a serious error in judgment. It is my understanding that I removed this material from H.A.C. in violation of H.A.C. rules. I did not remove them with the expressed or implied permission of any person in H.A.C. by removal of any person in H.A.C. or to any other person with the exception of myself. To my knowledge, there was no knowledge that Confidential material was being used in any unusual manner.

To the best of my knowledge, I do not now have in my possession, any classified material belonging to the Hughes Aircraft Company, or any other classified material of any sort. If I should find any such classified material among my possessions, I will immediately return same to H.A.C.
I have read the document consisting of two (2) pages and
attached the statement therein and it is true to the best of my knowledge and
belief. No threats nor pressures have been made to cause me to INITIAL the
preceding pages nor to sign this statement.

/s/ JOHN N. PERGOS
JOHN N. PERGOS

WITNESS:

/s/ [Redacted]
Los Angeles, Calif.

/s/ [Redacted]
Los Angeles, Calif.
They stated that the PERCEIVED are an odd and unusual pair in that they do not live by the commonly accepted code of married life and are both very fascinated by anything unusual or morbid such as voodooism, cults, homosexuality, and religious practices that are "different." Subject seems very much in love with his wife but she is not at all affectionate and does not appear to return his affection.

She is the dominating personality of the two and controls the activities and thinking of subject to a very considerable degree. It is the opinion if subject were to have been in any way willfully involved in any activities of an intentional espionage nature, it would probably have been on the instigation of his wife.
Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

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☐ 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: 65-59589-18 page 57 494 8
The check of records of the Bureau of Vital Statistics, previously mentioned, was made on February 15, 1951 by Special Employee [redacted].

The Registrar of Voters of Los Angeles County, checked February 16, 1951 by the writer, revealed no record of subject or subject’s wife.

For the information of the New York and Washington Field Offices, the subject in September, 1950, removed certain classified material from Hughes Aircraft Company, Culver City, California, his place of employment, for the purpose of using material from these documents in preparing a cost proposal on jet propulsion motors. He planned to submit this proposal with an application for employment through the American Technion Society for employment in the country of Israel. On termination of employment at Hughes Aircraft Company, subject was found to have in his possession certain classified material of the Guggenheim Aeronautical Laboratory, California Institute of Technology.

The facts of this case were presented to the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice on December 20, 1950, and are presently under consideration.

For the assistance of the Washington Field Office, the following known information concerning NARUSEL ELIZABETH CAYKAN PER CH 5 is set forth:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>About 30 to 32 years.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Height</td>
<td>5'6&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight</td>
<td>126 pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hair</td>
<td>Red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eyes</td>
<td>Blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complexion</td>
<td>Fair with freckles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth</td>
<td>Davenport, Iowa (?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans administration</td>
<td>7002299 (?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claim Number</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present Address</td>
<td>1200 Esplanade, Redondo Beach, California.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former Address</td>
<td>3416 Manhattan Avenue, Manhattan Beach, California.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3212 Highland Avenue, Manhattan Beach, California.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LEADS

NEW YORK OFFICE

At New York City: Will furnish any pertinent information appearing in the files of the New York Office concerning [redacted].

WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE

At Washington, D.C.: Will at the Office of the Director of ZZ and E Service, Veterans Administration, review file of MARJorie Cameron, Ca 700229, to ascertain if this file is for subject's wife. If file is for subject's wife, will ascertain a history of her studies under the "GI Bill" and her Navy serial number.

Will, if MARJorie Cameron Parsons' Navy serial number is ascertained from her Va file, furnish same to the New York Office in order to have a review made of her military service file (U.S. Navy - WAVES) at Garden City, Long Island.

Will check records of Passport Division, Department of State, for information pertaining to MARJorie Elizabeth Cameron Parsons' having been issued a passport and any background data therefrom.

SAN DIEGO OFFICE

At Laruna, California: Will verify marriage of MARJorie Elizabeth Cameron and John Whiteside Parsons, believed to have taken place in 1945 or 1947, noting any background information concerning both parties and will furnish copies of this verification to the Washington Field Office in order to be able to assist in identifying records of subject's wife.

LOS ANGELES OFFICE

Will take such further prospective action as is directed by the Bureau.
INFORMANTS

Reference is made to a memorandum to you in the above-captioned matter from Mr. Hennrich dated January 27, 1951, which requested the Liaison Section to deliver reports in the above-captioned matter to OSI and to exhibit at the same time to them evidence in this matter in order to determine (1) an expression of opinion from the appropriate source in the Department of the Air Force as to whether the documents involved "relate to the national defense" and (2) if there is any objection on the part of the Department of the Air Force to having the documents in question introduced in evidence in the event of prosecution.

This matter was discussed with representatives of OSI by Mr. Sanders and they have advised after checking into the matter that the contract in question is under the jurisdiction of the Army. This is to advise that the evidence has been made available to Colonel Paul J. Craner of J-2 and he stated that he would attempt to obtain from the Army the answers to the questions propounded.

This matter will be followed with Colonel Craner as to the developments.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORT MADE AT: SAN DIEGO, CALIF. 3/21/51
DATE WHEN MADE: 3/15/51
PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE:

REPORT MADE BY: 67C
CHARACTER OF CASE:
ESPIONAGE - IS

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

JOHN WHITESIDE PARSONS and MARGORIE ELIZABETH CAMERON married San Juan Capistrano, California 10-19-46. PARSONS native of California then a resident of Pasadena. His wife native of Iowa, a painter by occupation, was a resident of Pasadena at that time.

AT SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA:

Book 267, page 423, Orange County Recorder's Office reflects that a marriage license was issued to JOHN WHITESIDE PARSONS, native of California, age thirty-two, white, resident of Pasadena, California and to MARGORIE ELIZABETH CAMERON, native of Iowa, age twenty-four, resident of Pasadena, California. The marriage license was issued October 19, 1946. They were married by MARCO P. MORRIS, Justice of the Peace in the presence of EDWARD COPEMAN and JOANNE FOREMAN, who were also residents of Pasadena. The vital statistics section of the record reflects that JOHN WHITESIDE PARSONS resided at 11003 South Orange Grove, Pasadena, California. He was white, age thirty-two, divorced. This was his second marriage. He was born in California, the son of MARVEL M. PARSONS who was born in Massachusetts and RUTH VIRGINIA WHITESIDE, who was born in Ohio. PARSONS' occupation was given as that of a chemist.

COPY IN FILE

65-57589-20

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

5 - Bureau (65-57589)
3 - Los Angeles (65-5131)
1 - New York (Info)
1 - Washington Field (Info)
2 - San Diego

APR 23 1957
P.O. DEPARTMENT HEADER COPY - 65-57589-20

REC'D 4-22-57 1092
RECORDED 4-22-57
Marjorie Elizabeth Cameron of 1002 South Orange Grove Avenue, Pasadena, California was white, twenty-four, single. It was her first marriage. She was born in Iowa, the daughter of Hill Leslie Cameron who was born in Illinois and Carrie C. Hendon who was born in Iowa. She listed her occupation at that of a painter.
One copy of this report is designated for the Washington Field office and for the New York office for their information in view of pending investigation in each of those offices.

REFERENCE:

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) (b)(1), (b)(7)(C) 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:

Not Recorded 3/28/51 page 23
SAC, Los Angeles
Director, FBI

JOHN WHITSEIDE PARSONS
ESPIONAGE - A

April 23, 1951

Fruitit 3-26-51.

On the basis of the information furnished no information could be located in the Bureau files identifiable with one

In addition to a search of Bureau indices, examination was also made of French Communist periodicals available to the Bureau but no name was located approximating

In view of the meager information available, the foregoing should not be considered by you as precluding the existence of the individual described in your letter.

EX-3

DEd:bred

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN EXPEDITED DATE 4-29-53

DATE 4-29-53
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, WFO
SUBJECT: JOHN WHITESIDE PARSONS,
         AKA, JACK PARSONS
         ESPIONAGE - INTERNAL SECURITY

Rerep Special Agent [REDACTED] at Los Angeles dated
March 8, 1951 requesting this office obtain Naval serial number of subject's
wife.

For information of New York, the subject in September, 1950
removed certain classified material from Hughes Aircraft Company, Culver
City, California where he was employed and was found in possession of
classified material of Guggenheim Aeronautical Laboratory, California
Institute of Technology upon termination from Hughes Aircraft. The case
is presently under consideration by Criminal Division of Justice Depart-
ment.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO THE
DATE 4-27-51 BY 23333. [REDACTED]
RECORDED - 116
INDEXED - 116
APR 10 1951

60 APR 18 1951
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS CONFIDENTIAL

DATE: E-2-794B, 1-2-22

TO: 69-0

TOTAL: 65-0

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

SUBJECT: JOHN MITCHELL PARRS, AKA

OFFICE MUR, LAW, UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT
previously reported to be a friend of subject's wife, the following sources have been checked revealing no record of this individual:

Los Angeles County Registrar of voters, March 21, 1951, by

Los Angeles Office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service on March 23, 1951, by

Los Angeles Police Department and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office on March 15, 1951, by

the New York Office has advised that files of the New York Office contain no identifiable derogatory information regarding these individuals.
LOS ANGELES OFFICE

At Los Angeles, California: Will take such further prosecutive action as is directed by the Bureau.

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**Form No. 7**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WASHINGTON, D. C.</th>
<th>Date When Made</th>
<th>Period For Which Made</th>
<th>REPORT MADE BY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APR 26 1951</td>
<td>3/20; 4/1, 3/5, 12/51</td>
<td></td>
<td>mld/kwt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Character of Case**
ESPIONAGE - IS

**Synopsis of Facts:**

- 5/5 z/DK (as noted by the FBI) 6-7-5
- D. J. Intell. Div. 6-3-5
- 152 z/1 3/4 12-13-51
- 152 z/1 3/4 12-13-51
- 152 z/1 3/4 12-13-51

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREWITH SHIELDED**

**Date:** 6-3-51

**RUC**

**Approved and Forwarded:**

**Special Agent in Charge:**

**Do Not Write in These Spaces:**

**Copy of this Report**

- 655589
- 59589
- 9-25
- 1
- APR 27 1951
- 10

**Indexed: 108**

**Property of FBI** - This confidential report and its contents are intended to be used only by the FBI and are not to be distributed outside of the agency to which loaned.
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) (b)(6), (b)(7)(c) ________________ 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(s) is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

65-59589-25pa 234
The indices of the Washington Field Office contained no record of the subject, [his wife].

ENCLOSURE FOR LOS ANGELES

2 photographs and 1 negative of [redacted]

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN
REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent, Los Angeles, dated March 8, 1951.
Washington Field Office letter to Director, New York and Los Angeles dated April 9, 1951.
Reference is made to your memorandum dated May 9, 1951 in the captioned matter, wherein you supplied additional information that had been requested of you by the Department.

For your information, this case is being referred by the Department to the United States Attorney for the Southern District of California for his opinion relative to prosecution. In this connection it would be appreciated if you would make available to the United States Attorney at Los Angeles, California, all information in this case developed through your investigation to date in order that he might have the benefit of same in reaching a decision.
June 1, 1951

[Signature]

Attended hereon is a copy of a confidential memorandum from the Department dated May 17, 1951, in which the Department advised that this case is being referred to the United States Attorney for the Southern District of California for his opinion relative to prosecution. You will note the Department requests we make available to the U. S. Attorney at Los Angeles, California, all information in this case developed through investigation to date in order that he might have the benefit of same in reaching a decision.

You should immediately comply with the Department's request and furnish to the U. S. Attorney at Los Angeles copies of all pertinent reports in this case and such other data as he may require to reach a decision. For your information, the Bureau has furnished the Department copies of all investigative reports prepared in this case.

In this connection, your attention is directed to the Bureau memorandum dated May 9, 1951, to the Department, copies of which were furnished you setting forth information received by the Bureau from the Department of the Army as to the security classification of pertinent documents in this case. You should immediately prepare an investigative report, incorporating therein the information received from the Department of the Army and furnish a copy to the U. S. Attorney at Los Angeles.

The Bureau is also returning herewith the photographic copies of the 12 documents which you forwarded to the Bureau under date of January 7, 1951. These photographs have been exhibited to the Department of the Army for current security classification, and you have been vicariously advised of the Army's reply.

You should advise the Bureau promptly of the U. S. Attorney's decision in this matter.
MEMORANDUM FOR: DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
ATTN: Mr. Reynolds

SUBJECT: Classification of Documents

1. Reference is made to the attached letter from the Federal Bureau of Investigation dated 27 February 1951, and your verbal request of 5 March 1951, relative to the determination of the classification of certain documents and the desirability of introducing these documents as evidence.

2. For your information the military security classification of the material in question is as follows:

   a. Items 1 through 6, inclusive, and items 9 and 10 are unclassified.

   b. Item 7 contains information bearing a military security classification of RESTRICTED.

   c. Items 8, 11, 12 and 13 contain information bearing a military security classification of CONFIDENTIAL.

3. The documents referred to in paragraph 2 b and c above, relate to the national defense. The Department of the Army has no objection to the use of Items 1 through 7, inclusive, and Items 9 and 10 as evidence. The information contained in Items 8, 11, 12 and 13 relates to current CONFIDENTIAL research and development and as such should not be divulged to unauthorized persons.

FOR THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF G-2:

Paul T. Havard, BGen, GSC

PUAUL G. CRAMER  
Colonel, GSC  
Chief, Security Division

For the record:  
May 22, 1951  
13

5-ber
1. A survey of the specific documents mentioned in paragraph 1a, disclosed that decisions on military security classifications rest with the Department of the Army, Office, Chief of Ordnance, since this work at California Institute of Technology was and has been continued under the administrative direction of that Department.

2. It will be difficult to arrive at recommendations regarding military security of the documents cited under paragraph 1b, unless the details could be examined in the complete documents. These details are likewise related to Army Ordnance contracts which the Air Force has requested them to conduct.

3. It is urged that all papers be submitted to a competent technical authority in the Army Ordnance Department (e.g., Dr. James R. Youmans, Rocket Development Branch, Room 2D 370g, The Pentagon, phone Ext. 52033) who could prepare authoritative and final recommendations on present security classifications on all the documents cited.

4. It is desired to emphasize that although some of these documents may be considered "Unclassified" from the military security viewpoint, they may contain certain proprietary information which the U.S. Government is not permitted to disclose to unauthorized persons. Also, there may be questions of U.S. Patent Secrecy agreements involved in one or more process disclosures. Such possible disclosures can be decided also by the Army Ordnance Department to protect the rights of their contractors (i.e., Aerojet Engineering Corporation and Thiokol Corporation).

5. In reply to the inquiry of paragraph 2b, it is recommended that none of these documents classified for reasons of military security or proprietary security, be presented before a civil court if it is necessary that they be made a part of the open records of that court.

DECLASSIFIED BY: Dept. of Air Force

Norman C. Appold
Colonel, U.S. Air Force
Chief, Propulsion Branch
Directorate of Research and Development
Office, Deputy Chief of Staff, Development

ENCLOSURE
From
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
To

February 27, 1951

Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
Department of the Army
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C.

Attention: Security Group

Dear Sir:

For your information, I am attaching hereeto communications which may be of interest to you.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ENCLOSURE

65-59589-27
SAC, Los Angeles

Director, FBI

John Whiteside Parsons, Wa
AFL-CIO

May 6, 1951

Re: You have advised me that the facts in
this case had been presented to the Criminal Division of
the Department for an opinion as to prosecution.

For your information, the Department has advised
that the facts indicated a possible violation of Sections
793 and 794 of Title 18, U.S. Code, but before rendering a
decision as to whether prosecution would be warranted, the
Department requested that steps be taken to ascertain
whether the documents involved "relate to the national
defense," and whether, in the event of prosecution, the
Department of the Army would have any objection to these
documents being introduced as evidence.

These questions were submitted to the Department
of the Army, and in a confidential memorandum dated April 6,
1951, answers were furnished by Colonel Paul G. Geman, GSC,
Chief, Security Division, G-2, Department of the Army,
Washington, D. C. A copy of the Army's memorandum is attached
hereeto for your information.

Also attached for your information is a copy of the
Army's memorandum to the Department dated May 7, 1951,
requesting that the Department advise whether, in view of the
above, prosecution in this case is warranted.

When a reply is received from the Department, you
will be advised.

Attachments

Page 27
Office Memorandum - UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: [Name]
FROM: [Name]
DATE: April 17, 1951

Reference is made to my memorandum in the above captioned matter which indicates that an effort had been made to obtain the opinion of the Department of the Air Force regarding the classification of certain documents, and as to whether or not the documents could be introduced as evidence in the event of prosecution in the above captioned matter. As indicated in the reference memorandum, the representatives of OSI advised

Sirs: What is the question under the jurisdiction of the

There is attached hereto a memorandum to the attention of Mr. Reynolds entitled, "Classification of Documents," dated April 6, 1951. It encloses a copy of the memorandum prepared for OSI by the Air Force dated February 29, 1951, as well as for the

The memorandum indicates that items 1-6, and 9 are unclassified. Item 7 is classified as "restricted," and items 8, 11, 12, and 13 are "confidential." The memorandum further indicates that there is no objection to items 1-7, and 9, 11 and 12 being used as evidence. However, since the information in items 8, 11, 12, and 13 relates to current confidential research and development, they should not be divulged to unauthorized persons.

It is recommended that this be forwarded to the Department section for their information.
Reference is made to your memorandum in captioned matter dated January 18, 1951, your reference JM 8061-bb, wherein you advised that the facts indicated a possible violation of Sections 793 and 794, Title 10, U.S. Code. However, before rendering a decision as to whether prosecution is warranted, you requested that steps be taken to determine whether the documents involved in this case "relate to the national defense" and whether, in the event of prosecution, the Department of the Army would have any objection to these documents being introduced as evidence.

As you will recall, the subject admitted that on September 15, 1950, while he was employed at the Hughes Aircraft Company, Culver City, California, he removed from that plant, without authority, a total of 13 documents containing jet propulsion motors and rocket propellents. These documents are described by number in the report of the Los Angeles, California, dated November 8, 1950, a copy of which has been previously furnished you.

The questions propounded by you have been referred to the Department of the Army, and in a confidential memorandum to this Bureau dated April 6, 1951, answers were furnished by Colonel Paul C. Creaser, JSC, Chief, Security Division, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C. Pertinent portions of the Army's memorandum are quoted as follows:

"For your information the military security classification of the material in question is as follows:

(a) Items 1 through 6, inclusive, and items 9 and 10 are unclassified.

(b) Item 7 contains information bearing a military security classification of RESTRICTED.

(c) Items 8, 11, 12 and 13 contain information bearing a military security classification of CONFIDENTIAL."
"The documents referred to in paragraphs 2 b and c above, relate to the national defense. The Department of the Army has no objection to the use of Items 1 through 7, inclusive, and Items 9 and 10 as evidence. The information contained in Items 8, 11, 12 and 13 relates to current CONFIDENTIAL research and development and as such should not be divulged to unauthorized persons."

The numbered items refer to the 13 documents enumerated and described in the above-mentioned Los Angeles report dated November 2, 1950.

As your records will reflect, since the date of your referenced memorandum, four FBI investigative reports in this matter have been forwarded to you, dated as follows: January 20, 1951, at Los Angeles; February 21, 1951, at Cincinnati; March 8, 1951, at Los Angeles, and March 21, 1951, at San Diego. In addition, there is enclosed herewith one copy of each of the following investigative reports concerning this matter: Report of Sg t. Los Angeles, dated April 21, 1951, and report of Sg t. Washington, D. C., dated April 26, 1951.

It is requested that you advise, after reviewing these reports and the above information from the Department of the Army, whether prosecution in this case is warranted.

Attachments
 Subject: JACOB, M. 182 NSCHS.

The records of Naval Records Management Center,

A composite description of [redacted] as obtained from

height:
weight:
oes:
hair:
complexion:

ears & nose:

Last known address:
Prior address:

Next of kin:

Employment:

Order destroyed
26 November 1930

cc: Los Angeles

Recorded 15
Indexed 15

SERIAL 18
65-59589-29
Letter to Director
NY 65-15639

Character Reference:

(Handwritten note: 674)
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORT MADE AT
LOS ANGELES

DATE WHEN MADE
6/9/51

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE
5/8/51

REPORT MADE BY
67C

FILE NO. 65-5131

CHARACTER OF CASE
ESPIONAGE - IS

TITLE
JOHN WHITESTONE PARSONS, aka Jack Parsons

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:
Col. PAUL G. CRAVER, GSC, Chief, Security Division, G-2, Department of Army, Washington, D.C., advised that of the documents removed by subject from Hughes Aircraft Company, Culver City, California, one bears military security classification of Restricted and four bear the military security classification of Confidential.

DETAILS:

On April 9, 1951, Col. PAUL G. CRAVER, GSC, Chief, Security Division, G-2, Department of Army, Washington, D.C., advised by memorandum that the following are the military security classifications of the items listed on Page 5 in the report of SA [redacted] Los Angeles, California, dated November 2, 1950. These items were left at the home of [redacted], Palos Verdes, California, by the subject in September of 1950.

- Items 1 through 6, inclusive, and Items 9 and 10 are unclassified.
- Item 7 contains information bearing a military security classification of Restricted.
- Items 8, 11, 12 and 13 contain information bearing a military security classification of Confidential.

APPROVED AND
FORWARDED:

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

45-59589-30

COPIES OF THIS REPORT

5 - Bureau (45-59589)
1 - USA, Los Angeles
3 - Los Angeles
COPY IN FILE

INDEXED - 42
In answer to the question that "In event of prosecution would the Department of Army have any objection to these documents being used as evidence?" Col. CHANEY advised as follows. The Department of Army has no objection in the use of Items 1 through 7 inclusive, and Items 9 and 10 as evidence. Items 8, 11, 12 and 13 relate to current confidential research and development in relation to national defense and as such should not be divulged to unauthorized persons.
LEADS:

LOS ANGELES OFFICE:

At Los Angeles, California: Will keep in contact with the U. S. Attorney, Los Angeles, for his prosecutive opinion regarding this case.

REFERENCES:

Bureau letter to Los Angeles dated May 9, 1951
Bureau letter to Los Angeles dated June 1, 1951
Report of SA Los Angeles, dated April 21, 1951.
Assistant United States Attorney ANGUS D. MCEACHEN, Los Angeles, declined prosecution due to lack of sufficient evidence of intent or reason to believe that information obtained by subject was to be used to injure United States, or to the advantage of another nation. Evidence returned to owners per instructions of the Assistant United States Attorney, Los Angeles.

On October 25, 1951, Assistant United States Attorney ANGUS D. MCEACHEN, Los Angeles, California, advised that prosecution was declined in this case due to the lack of sufficient evidence of intent or reason to believe that information obtained was to be used to injure the United States or to the advantage of a foreign nation.

Assistant United States Attorney MCEACHEN directed that evidence obtained during the investigation should be returned to its proper owners.
On October 31, 1951, Colonel E. J. KRENZ, United States Air Force Plant Representative, Hughes Aircraft, Culver City, California, was advised by Special Agents and that the documents in his custody belonging to the Hughes Aircraft Company should be returned to that company, as they were no longer needed as evidence. Hughes Aircraft Company, Culver City, California, who is now administrative Assistant in the Research and Development Laboratory, Experimental Fabrication Department, was present when Colonel KRENZ was informed as above stated. present as representative of the Hughes Aircraft Company, and accepted the Hughes Aircraft documents.

The documents obtained from Hughes Aircraft Company, Culver City, which were turned in to a representative of the Hughes Aircraft Company when the subject left their employment, and which were identified as belonging to the California Institute of Technology, California Jet Laboratory, were returned to that laboratory on November 1, 1951, by Special Agents and, and a receipt was obtained from Security Officer.
REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated June 9, 1951,
at Los Angeles
Bureau letter to Los Angeles dated June 1, 1951
TO: Mr. W. S. Brannick
FROM: W. E. Oglesby
DATE: December 14, 1951

SUBJECT: JOHN WHITECIDE PARSONS, a.k.a. REYNOLDS - 19

PURPOSE: To recommend that instant case be placed in a closed status.

DETAILS:

As you will recall, this investigation was based on information furnished by a representative of Hughes Aircraft Company, Culver City, California, who ascertained that subject, an employee of that corporation, had removed certain classified documents pertaining to jet-propulsion motors and rocket propellants from the files of that company without authorization on September 15, 1950. He subsequently turned these documents over to [redacted] whose husband was employed by Hughes Aircraft Company, who in turn reported the matter to that company. Subject had asked [redacted] to prepare typewritten copies of these documents and, in a signed statement, readily admitted to agents of the Los Angeles Office that he had removed these documents without authority and planned to extract certain information from them as an aid in computing the cost for a proposed factory to be established in Israel for the manufacture of jet-propulsion motors.

He was preparing this cost estimate at the suggestion of the Southern California Chapter of the American Technician Society. This society, according to the October 21, 1949, issue of the Midwest Engineer, is composed of businessmen, technologists and scientists and is the American body designated by the Israeli Government and industry to provide United States technical know-how for the benefit of Israel. Investigation has disclosed that Parsons was interested in securing employment in Israel by reason of his background in pyrotechnics and propellants for jet propulsion.

Of the 13 items removed from the file by Parsons, 8 were found to be unclassified, one carried the security classification of restricted and 4 carried the security classification of confidential.
G-2 advised that the item classified as restricted and the unclassified items could be used as evidence in a trial, however, the items classified as confidential related to current research and development and, as such, G-2 advised that they should not be divulged to unauthorized persons. This information was presented to the Department in memorandum dated May 9, 1951, with a request that the Department advise whether prosecution in this case was warranted. The Department by memorandum dated May 17, 1951, advised the case was being referred to the U. S. Attorney at Los Angeles and requested that pertinent reports be submitted to him.

Assistant United States Attorney Amous D. McEachon, Los Angeles, California, advised that office that he declined prosecution due to lack of sufficient evidence of intent or reason to believe that the information obtained by subject was to be used to injure the United States or to the advantage of a foreign nation. McEachon directed that the evidence obtained during the investigation should be returned to its proper owners.

A review of the Bureau indices fails to reveal any new information concerning subject since the institution of this investigation.

RECOMMENDATION:

In view of the fact that the U. S. Attorney for the Southern District of California has declined prosecution, it is recommended this investigation be closed.

Pertinent information has been disseminated to Records Administrative Branch, State Department, CIA, OSI, and G-2, ONI.
9 January 1952

Dear Mr. Parsons:

Reference is made to the decision of the Industrial Employment Review Board, 7 March 1949, in which you were granted access to military information and/or material classified up to and including Top Secret.

In view of extraordinary matter contained in investigative reports submitted by the Department of the Air Force under date of 30 October 1951, the Industrial Employment Review Board, in accordance with the provisions of its charter, criteria and procedures, copies of which are enclosed herewith, has reconsidered your case on its own motion.

The Board has decided as of 7 January 1952 to revoke the clearance granted you through Top Secret on 7 March 1949, and to withdraw access to Department of Defense classified information and/or material.

The grounds for withdrawal of clearance are as follows:

That you do not possess the integrity, discretion and responsibility essential to the security of classified military information in that it has been reported that on or about 25 September 1950 you knowingly and willfully and without proper authority removed and applied to your own use and benefit documents and papers containing classified military information, from Hughes Aircraft Company, Duarte City, California, your place of employment, property of the said company, and that you delivered this classified material to persons not duly authorized to receive it.

The foregoing and all the evidence in the case file, when considered with the duties and responsibilities of any position in which you may be engaged with Department of Defense classified contract work, indicate that you might voluntarily or involuntarily act against the security interest of the United States and constitute a danger to the national security.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

J. Edward Parsons
Chairman
Industrial Employment Review Board

1500 Eastwood
Los Angeles, California

Enclosures

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
SAC, Los Angeles

Director, PGI (65-59589)

JOHN WHITFORD PAXONS, WA.
ESPIONAGE - 18

Enclosed herewith for your information is a photocopy of a letter from the Munitions Board to subject dated January 9, 1952, which is self-explanatory.

Enclosure

NEO: PCC: 21

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREBY SEIZED

REASONS: 42

DATE OF REVIEW

65-59589-34

RECOPED: 160 FLB 19-1952
Attached hereto for your information is a photostatic copy of a letter from the Industrial Employment Appeals Board of the Department of Defense, dated January 9, 1952, addressed to subject, which is self-explanatory.

65-5939

Attachment

WEO:REG. 64-3