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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

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(OIRA) 1603

(EO) 12958
02

2 October 1959

Chief, 4A
ATTN: Chief, Italian Branch
Senior Representative, (Rome)

(15-9)

Conversation with Mrs. Anna BRADY

Ref: (OIR) 3304, (OIR) 3346

1. In a cocktail conversation which Dobbs had with subject at his home on 3 July 1959, the following information, relative to referenced reports, emerged.
2. According to subject, she does not know Mrs. Luce very well. In 1946, shortly after Mrs. Luce entered the Church, subject wrote her a letter in which she outlined her work and requested her to assist in the apostolic effort of CIP by becoming a sponsor of the organization. As subject put it, a name like hers would of course be of tremendous prestige value. Mrs. Luce replied in a cordial letter without committing herself beyond saying that she would always encourage their great work. According to subject they exchanged two or three letters but subject always avoided meeting Mrs. Luce when they both lived in New York.
3. According to subject the only time she has spoken to The Ambassador was at the July 4th (1959) reception held at Villa Taverna. At that time she presented herself in the receiving line as Mrs. Brady of CIP. The Ambassador, recognizing the name, observed that she worked with Fr. MORLICH, to which Mrs. Brady nodded assent.
4. If, as references state, there is a connection between The Ambassador and subject, subject is certainly not admitting it. Dobbs is of the opinion that subject was telling the truth and speaking quite freely and sincerely. Dobbs also received the impression that Mrs. Brady may consider that her first efforts at soliciting Mrs. Luce's aid had been rebuffed and that she may harbor a bit of womanly jealousy or resentment towards Mrs. Luce. This impression was gained from subject's various remarks toward The Ambassador in which she referred to Mrs. Luce as "her ladyship" and "she may be a much nicer and kinder person now that she has arrived and doesn't have to step on any more noses."
5. In an oblique way subject associates herself with Mrs. Luce as a career woman. Subject has remarked that she, like the Ambassador, faces many problems as a woman executive working in Italy and that in a way she considers herself as having blazed a path for Mrs. Luce, since she worked in Italy as a woman executive long before Mrs. Luce arrived.

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6. Shortly before Mrs. Luce left New York to assume her ambassadorial post, she received Fr. Morlion at dinner. The dinner was held at Henry LUCE's insistence. The Ambassador, much harried by pressing appointments, was not able to spend the whole evening at dinner. Fr. Morlion, however, remained to talk with Mr. Luce, who donated \$15,000 to CIP. Later Fr. Morlion confided to subject that he thought Mr. Luce had even greater spiritual substance than his wife. (It might be that Morlion measures spiritual substance by the amount of aid contributed to his cause.)

7. According to subject she has met Cardinal SPILLMAN only twice. Her first meeting with him was in 1946 when Spillman came to Rome to receive his red hat. Together with Fr. Morlion, subject called on Spillman at his hotel. Morlion outlined the work of CIP and solicited the Cardinal's financial aid. Subject, however, states that it was she who was successful in persuading the Cardinal to make a contribution. She said that she presented her case on two points, simply and directly: 1) That CIP was an apostolic work and as such was worthy of support, and 2) That she was a New York resident and, as such, the Cardinal was her bishop and the logical person to whom she should direct her appeal. At the end of her presentation the Cardinal took out his check book, asked subject's Christian name, and wrote her a check payable to Anna Brady for \$100.00. Subject cited the above incident as an example of the way the Cardinal works. She said that she was very careful that the check was cleared and recorded through the bank account of CIP.

8. Shortly before coming to Rome, subject visited Spillman at his New York home, at which time the Cardinal asked if she were in need of funds for her personal maintenance, indicating that he would offer his support to the extent that she would be able to personally continue her work. Subject told him that she still had a little money of her own and would not require any funds for her personal maintenance, but would welcome any donations to CIP.

9. According to subject, Cardinal Spillman is a man of political cunning but is not intellectually great. She criticized the Cardinal for surrounding himself with small men and said that to owe his position solely to the personal friendship of Pius XII, whom she blind spot is to see as wrong in his friends. According to subject, Spillman is much hated among the American hierarchy because of his rigid insistence on complete control and his general conduct as a "little tin god". The same traits make him a dog and man among Church real estate groups in New York. Recalling the Eleanor Roosevelt incident of a few years back, subject stated that Spillman's recommendation was at the specific direction of the Holy Father.

10. Subject apparently has been very successful in soliciting funds from the American bishops, among them Archbishop CUSHING of Boston, who donated \$1000.00 with the promise of continued support. Another heavy contributor to CIP is Mary GANN, prominent Catholic laywoman of Boston.

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11. Subject lives very modestly and shows no evidence of wealth in her home, its appointments or in her dress and manner of living. On the contrary, she frequently refers to the fact that she has to be careful in her expenditures, giving the impression that she is restricted in the matter of personal expenses. Subject maintains a personal checking account at the Vatican which is apparently not large since she said that in opening the account she had to agree that should she die the balance of her account would become Church property. She indicated that she did not therefore transfer a large sum from her New York bank to the Vatican.

12. According to Subject, Mme. BJ AMELIA was placed in CIP by Mme. MARCEL and acts as Marini's eyes and ears in the organization.

13. The above report should be read in connection with the referenced Bureau/1 and Washington/2 reports.

Prepared by Bette
1 Oct 53

Frederick V. Gilman

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