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100-17828

SECRET

BY COURIER SERVICE

Date: April 28, 1954

To: Captain John A. Waters
Director of Security
Atomic Energy Commission
Room 2514, F-5 Building
16th and Constitution Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Mr. C. Arthur Rolander, Jr.

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

Subject: DR. J. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

17-13-94
Classified by SP5 [unclear]
Declassify on: OADR (SFA)

It is observed that in Oppenheimer's testimony before the Atomic Energy Commission Personnel Security Board, Oppenheimer stated he had known John Pittman, who he stated wrote for the "People's World." Oppenheimer testified he thought Pittman and his wife were probably Communists.

John Pittman mentioned above is possibly identical with John Pittman who has been the subject of an investigation by this Bureau. In connection with our investigation of Pittman, a copy of the report of Special Agent Thornton M. Wood dated October 16, 1953, at New York, New York, captioned "John Pittman, Internal Security - C," was furnished to the Atomic Energy Commission on April 27, 1954, through Liaison channels. One copy each of the following additional reports concerning our investigation of Pittman is attached as of possible interest to you:

Summary report of Special Agent Wilbert H. Kehe dated December 13, 1946, at San Francisco, California.

Report of Special Agent Cecil James Fleming dated November 17, 1947, at San Francisco, California.

- Tolson _____
- Ladd _____
- Nichols _____
- Belmont _____
- Clegg _____
- Glavin _____
- Harbo _____
- Rosen _____
- Tracy _____
- Mohr _____
- Trotter _____
- Winterrowd _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holloman _____
- Miss Gandy _____

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HEW:epa gja

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Report of Special Agent Joseph V. Waters
dated February 9, 1948, at New York,
New York.

Report of Special Agent Albert F. Chestone
dated November 25, 1950, at New York,
New York.

Report of Special Agent Wilbert H. Kehe
dated December 16, 1953, at San Francisco,
California.

It is observed that as of October, 1953, Pittman was employed as Foreign Editor for the "Daily Worker" and "The Worker," having been so employed since April 24, 1951. He was previously Associate Editor of the "Daily Worker" and "The Worker." [He reportedly attended a meeting in Europe in 1946 with William Z. Foster and French Communist leaders. An alleged Comintern representative also reportedly attended this meeting.] Pittman attended the 1950 convention of the Communist Party held in December, 1950, at New York City and he was elected to the convention's Press Committee. In September, 1951, Pittman covered the San Francisco Japanese Peace Treaty Conference for the "Daily Worker" and the "Daily People's World." He has been an instructor for the Jefferson School of Social Science since 1949 and has written for the publications "People's Voice," "Jewish Life," and "Masses and Mainstream." He has been a speaker at Communist Party meetings. [S]

In view of Pittman's close Communist affiliations over a period of years and his present employment with the "Daily Worker," there appears to be no reason to believe he would be cooperative. An interview with him at this time is not contemplated.

Attachment

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