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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA**

FILE NO. **100-1465**

REPORT MADE AT <b>SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>6/9/41</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>3/7;5/19/41</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>OTHO A. EZELL G.C.</b>
TITLE <b>JOHN PITTMAN</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY (C)</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** Subject reportedly born Georgia resides 1667 Hyde St., San Francisco, and is employed as Foreign Editor of Peoples World, West Coast Communist newspaper, San Francisco. Confidential Informant SF-2 reports subject is negro; is married to MERLE BETH PITTMAN, white, who is employed as stenographer for Communist law firm of Gladstein, Grossman, Margolis & Sawyer, attorneys for HARRY BRIDGES. Custodial detention memorandum being submitted. ~~SA~~

- P -

**DETAILS:** The following is a summary of the information appearing in the files of the San Francisco Office concerning the above named subject, whose name is being submitted to the Bureau for consideration for custodial detention in the event of a national emergency. A custodial detention memorandum is being submitted.

**NAME:** JOHN PITTMAN

**ADDRESS:** 1667 Hyde Street, San Francisco, California.  
 Former addresses: 1028 Montgomery Street, 1403 1/2 Montgomery Street, 2327 Dana Street, Berkeley.

**OCCUPATION:** Subject is employed as Foreign Editor for the PEOPLES WORLD, West Coast Communist newspaper, 583 Market Street, San Francisco, California.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>M. J. L. Liper</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">100-30067-1</div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">                     JUN 17 1941  <i>HL</i> </div>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 2 - Washington Field 1 - G-2, Presidio, San Francisco 2 - San Francisco <i>1 copy to [unclear] 6/14/41</i>	[Empty space for stamps and notes]

CITIZENSHIP: The San Francisco Police Department reports subject was born in Georgia. Therefore, he is probably a U. S. citizen.

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA: Confidential Informant SF-296 reports that a member of the Communist Party from September 1936 to February 1937 had occasion to view the records of the Newspaper Guild Fraction of the Communist Party, and among the names listed was the name of the subject, who is identified as holding a position at the PEOPLES WORLD newspaper, a Communist organ. According to this informant, subject attended Communist Party meetings of the Newspaper Guild Fraction during the time from September 1936 to February 1937 while this informant was a member of the Party.

Confidential Informant SF-296 further advises that subject's wife MERLE PITTMAN, is believed white, and quit her position at the C.I.O. to accept a position at the state headquarters of the Communist Party, 121 Haight Street, San Francisco.

Confidential Informant SF-2 advised that subject, a negro, is employed as Foreign Editor of the PEOPLES WORLD newspaper, West Coast Communist organ, and stated that he and his wife reside at 1667 Hyde Street. This informant reports that subject's wife, MERLE PITTMAN, is believed to be employed as a stenographer at the offices of Gladstein, Grossman, Margolis & Sawyer, local Communist attorneys who are defending HARRY BRIDGES.

This informant, SF-2, further states that subject associates with WILLIAM SCHNEIDERMAN, Secretary of the 13th District of the Communist Party for the State of California; that subject met with JAMES W. FORD, Vice-Presidential candidate of the Communist Party in Los Angeles, California in October 1940. The 1940 register of Voters in the general election reflects that subject's wife, Mrs. MERLE PITTMAN, residing at 1028 Montgomery Street, is a registered voter of the Communist Party. This lists her occupation as a stenographer.

A San Francisco newspaper recently carried an article which stated that "Vanessi's" a prominent restaurant, refused to seat a mixed party of white and black, which party included the singer PAUL ROBSON, and others who consisted of JOHN PITTMAN, a negro, a white woman also named PITTMAN, as being part of the party. It is believed that this was JOHN PITTMAN's wife, MERLE PITTMAN, and the Communist attorneys are now suing "Vanessi's" restaurant.