

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT BUREAU

NY FILE NO. 121-2457 nd:KD

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 6/16/48	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/21, 28, 6/5, 7-22, 14/48	REPORT MADE BY ALBERT J. KLEIN
TITLE JACOB NATHAN WASSERMAN, aka Jack, Jake, Chief Counsel, Bureau of Land Management U. S. Department of the Interior Washington, D. C.			CHARACTER OF CASE LOYALTY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</p> <p>Employee born 1/19/13 at NYC, his parents having been born in Russia. Graduated City College of New York 1934 with B.S. and Columbia Law School, 1933 with LL.B. Education satisfactory as to loyalty. Employment, associates, including a number of prominent attorneys, all recommend employee as to loyalty. Neighborhood reflects nothing derogatory as to loyalty. Loyalty form reflects membership in American Jewish Congress which is Communist dominated, according to New York informant. NYC credit, criminal and informant negative as to employee.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- R U C -</p> <p>REFERENCE: Bureau letter to Washington Field, 5/15/48.</p> <p>It is to be noted that the name of JAKE is being added to the title of this report, which name was reflected on the birth certificate of the employee.</p>			
<p>APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i></p> <p>COPIES OF THIS REPORT:</p> <p>6 - Bureau <i>4cc lsc</i></p> <p>2 - New York</p>			

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NOTATION

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with Jewish Communist activities, has advised that he considers the American Jewish Congress at the present time to be Communist infiltrated because of membership in the American Jewish Congress of the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order of the International Workers Order and the American Jewish Labor Council, both of which organizations this informant described as being Communist controlled. It is pointed out that the International Workers Order is an organization listed by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835. The employee was not known to this informant.

Credit and Criminal

The records of the Credit Bureau of Greater New York and of the New York Police Department were both checked and they failed to reflect a record for the employee under the name of JACOB HATHAN WASSERMAN or JACK WASSERMAN or JAKE WASSERMAN.

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JACOB NATHAN WASSERMAN, aka
Jack; Jake WASSERMAN
Chief Counsel
Bureau of Land Management
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.
LOYALTY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
June 16, 1948
New York, New York

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

Birth

The records of the Department of Health, New York City, reflect the employee's birth at New York City on January 19, 1910 under the name of JAKE WASSERMAN. According to Birth Certificate #4786, his parents, ABRAHAM and DORA ZIEHAN WASSERMAN, were both born in Russia.

Records of Appellate Division,
Supreme Court of the State of New York

The records of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, First Judicial Department, 25th Street and Madison Avenue, New York City, as furnished by Assistant Clerk THOMAS RIORDAN, reflected the employee was admitted to the New York State Bar on April 16, 1934 under the name of JACOB NATHAN WASSERMAN. These records further disclosed he was born on January 19, 1910 in New York City, and his parents, ABRAHAM and DORA WASSERMAN, were both born in Poland. His address was listed as 350 West 55th Street, New York City, and it was indicated that he had resided there from September, 1933 until the date of his application, March 15, 1934. In addition, these records reflected he had graduated in February, 1934 from the City College of New York with a Bachelor of Science degree and from the Columbia Law School in June, 1933 with a Bachelor of Law degree.

His employment was indicated to have been as follows:

July, 1923 to February, 1925

New York Law Institute,
New York City;
Librarian

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March, 1927 to November, 1929	Audubon Theater of the Fox Theaters Corporation, New York City; Chief Usher
September, 1932 to June, 1933	John Jay Dining Hall, New York City; Typist and Writer
July, 1933 to February, 1934	Professor RICHARD R. POWELL, Columbia University Law School, New York City; Researcher
February, 1934 to date of applica- tion (March 15, 1934)	Greenbaum, Wolff & Ernst, 285 Madison Avenue, New York City; Law Clerk

It was noted in the records of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of the State of New York that the employee answered "yes" in response to the following questions: "Do you believe in the principles underlying the form of Government of the United States?" and "Can you conscientiously and do you affirm that you are, without any mental reservation, loyal to the Government of the United States?". There was nothing further in this file which would bear on the question of loyalty.

Education

AGNES T. CONDON, Registrar of the evening school, City College of New York, 139th Street and Convent Avenue, New York City, advised that the records disclosed the employee had entered that college in September, 1926 and had continued there until June, 1930. In September, 1933 he reentered the college and was graduated in February, 1934 with a Bachelor of Science degree. There was nothing in the record which would bear on the question of loyalty.

LEONARD GOODSTEIN, Assistant to the Dean of Student Activities at the City College of New York, checked his records and advised there was nothing contained therein which would bear on the question of loyalty.

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Mrs. CAROLINE DILWORTH, Assistant to the Dean, Columbia University Law School, 116th Street and Broadway, New York City, advised her records reflect the employee was admitted to that school in September, 1930 and in June, 1933 was graduated with a Bachelor of Law Degree. According to Mrs. DILWORTH, his record was clear and there was nothing contained in the file pertinent to the question of loyalty.

JAMES P. GIFFORD, Assistant to the Dean of the Columbia Law School, stated he recalled the employee as having been an excellent law student and an editor for the "Columbia Law Review" during the period of his attendance at the Columbia Law School. GIFFORD stated that the position of editor with the "Columbia Law Review" was one held only by outstanding students. GIFFORD said that he had had no recent contact with the employee. However, based on his association with him during the employee's attendance at the school, he would consider him to be loyal to this country.

Professor PAUL R. HAYS of the Columbia Law School, stated he recalled the employee as having been an outstanding student and one whom he considered to be thoroughly loyal to the United States.

BRUNO SCHACHNER, Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, United States Court House, Foley Square, New York City, advised that he had been a fellow student with the employee at the Columbia Law School from 1930 to 1933 and had also known him in connection with their mutual association with the "Columbia Law Review" as editors. He stated that he did not get to know the employee socially during their attendance at Columbia Law School; however, he felt that he had known the employee well enough to state that had there been anything indicative of disloyalty on his part, he would have recalled the same at this time. It was his belief that the employee was loyal.

LOUIS HAIMOFF, an attorney with the law firm of Wasservogel & Sylvester, 70 Pine Street, New York City, stated that he had attended the Columbia Law School with the employee and had also been associated with the "Columbia Law Review" at the same time as was the employee. He described WASSERMAN as having been a brilliant student and one who seemed to be very mature in his actions and thinking. Mr. HAIMOFF advised that he had had no recent contacts with the employee; however, during the time he knew him at the Columbia Law School, the employee always conducted himself in a manner which would indicate he was a loyal American.

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Employment

GEORGE P. SEEBACH, Librarian, New York Law Institute, 120 Broadway, New York City, advised that he recalled the employee as having been employed by the New York Law Institute as a page boy for approximately two years some twenty years or more ago. SEEBACH stated that the records covering the actual employment were no longer available; however, it was his recollection that the employee had left the New York Law Institute of his own volition and that the position had been taken by his brother, SAMUEL B. WASSERMAN, who is now a practicing attorney at 111 Broadway, New York City. Mr. SEEBACH advised that he has had very little contact with the employee since the termination of his employment with the New York Law Institute. Based on his association with WASSERMAN, however, Mr. SEEBACH would consider him to be loyal. In addition, he stated that he has always been favorably impressed by the employee's brother, SAMUEL B. WASSERMAN, whom he also considers to be loyal to the United States.

PAUL BEHRKE, 265 Riverside Drive, New York City, advised that he had been the former Comptroller of the Fox Theater Corporation, 1560 Broadway, New York City, which Corporation had operated the Audubon Theater. Mr. BEHRKE stated that the Fox Theater Corporation had gone into bankruptcy some fifteen years ago and that, therefore, the employment records were no longer available. He could not recall the employee. It is to be noted that according to the records of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court for the State of New York, WASSERMAN was employed as Chief Usher at the Audubon Theater from March, 1927 to November, 1929.

Professor RICHARD R. POWELL, Columbia Law School, 116th Street and Broadway, New York City, advised that the employee had been a student in a number of his law classes at the Columbia Law School during his attendance there and that he had also been employed by him from July, 1933 to February, 1934 as a Research Assistant. He described WASSERMAN as being an individual of excellent character and one possessed of a keen analytical mind. Professor POWELL stated that he had had no contacts with the employee since the termination of his employment with him, but he considered him to be thoroughly loyal to the United States.

Mrs. MARIAN NUGENT, Clerk, John Jay Dining Hall, Columbia University, 116th Street and Broadway, New York City, advised that she had no record of the employment of WASSERMAN as a waiter and typist from September, 1932 to June, 1933. She advised that the records covering that period of time were no longer available.

MORRIS L. ERNST, an attorney with the law firm of Greenbaum, Wolff

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& Ernst, 285 Madison Avenue, New York City, advised that WASSERMAN had been employed as a law clerk for approximately four or five months in 1934. He explained that at that time his law firm represented the New York State Superintendent of Insurance in connection with Mortgage Reorganizations and that in connection therewith, he had applied to Professor RICHARD POWELL of the Columbia Law School for a bright young student. Professor POWELL had referred the employee to him and during his employment with Greenbaum, Wolff & Ernst, WASSERMAN had done a very fine job. Mr. ERNST described the employee as having a fine character and as being a very conscientious and diligent worker. He stated that he believed the employee to be loyal to this country.

Miss PAULA GROSS, Secretary to MORRIS L. ERNST, stated that she recalled the employee as having been employed at Greenbaum, Wolff & Ernst for a few months some fifteen years ago and that to the best of her knowledge he was loyal to the United States.

HAROLD P. SELIGSON of the law firm of Marshall, Bratter & Seligson, 150 Broadway, New York City, advised that WASSERMAN had been employed as a law clerk from August 1, 1934 until April 9, 1938 when he resigned. Mr. SELIGSON described WASSERMAN as a very capable attorney and one whom he considered to be loyal to the United States. According to Mr. SELIGSON, the employee's address was listed in the records as having been 808 Adeo Avenue, Bronx, New York.

Mr. JAMES MARSHALL of the law firm of Marshall, Bratter & Seligson, advised that he recalled that the employee came to that law firm from Greenbaum, Wolff & Ernst and in his opinion, WASSERMAN was an above average young lawyer. Mr. MARSHALL considered him to be a loyal American.

HERBERT WECHSLER, Professor of Law at the Columbia Law School, advised that he knew the employee very well, he having met WASSERMAN in connection with their both assisting Senator ROBERT F. WAGNER of New York. Mr. WECHSLER advised that he had formerly been Legal Counsel for Senator WAGNER in 1938 for approximately six months at the New York State Constitutional Convention in Albany, New York and that during that time the employee had assisted him, WECHSLER, in connection with his official duties for Senator WAGNER. It was his opinion that the employee was a loyal American.

Residences

350 West 55th Street, New York City

Mrs. EDITH GRAHAM, Receptionist, Bing & Bing Corporation, 119 West 40th Street, New York City, stated that Bing & Bing were the real estate agents

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for the apartment house located at 350 West 55th Street, New York City. Mrs. GRAHAM also advised that the records disclosed that JACOB WASSERMAN had been a resident at that address from September, 1933 until July, 1934.

EDGAR DUNKLEY, elevator operator at 350 West 55th Street, advised that he recalled WASSERMAN having been a tenant at this address some ten or fifteen years ago. It was his recollection that WASSERMAN was a very quiet and reserved individual and one who kept to himself most of the time. It was his belief that at that time WASSERMAN was attending college. He stated that during the residence of WASSERMAN at this address nothing came to his attention which would bear on the question of loyalty.

Mrs. JACK JORDAN and Mrs. JOSEPH P. COLEMAN, both tenants of 350 West 55th Street, New York City, for over fifteen years, were contacted but they could not recall the employee.

808 Adea Avenue, Bronx, New York

PERETZ HURWITZ, 808 Adea Avenue, Bronx, New York, advised that he had been a resident at this address since 1927 and recalled the WASSERMAN family having resided there for some three or four years. He stated that they moved in about 1938. Mr. HURWITZ stated he had had only a casual acquaintance with the WASSERMAN family and it was his recollection that the employee was residing there with his parents. He stated the WASSERMAN family had a good reputation and as far as he knew they were loyal to this country.

Mrs. ANNA PERLAUTTER, another tenant at this address, advised she vaguely recalled the employee having lived at this address some ten or fifteen years ago, but she could not furnish any information concerning him which would bear on the question of loyalty.

The following residents of 808 Adea Avenue, Bronx, New York, all of whom have resided there for fifteen years or more, were also contacted, but they could not recall the WASSERMAN family: Mrs. REGINA HUBERMAN, and Mrs. BESSIE FURMAN.

2558 Creston Avenue, Bronx, New York

MYRON EISENSTEIN, a partner in the firm of the Bronx Land Management Corporation, 4140 Broadway, New York City, advised that the Bronx Land Management

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Corporation owns the apartment house located at 2558 Creston Avenue, Bronx, New York. Mr. EISENSTEIN stated that the records reflected that WASSERMAN had resided at that address from September, 1937 until October, 1939. Mr. EISENSTEIN stated there was nothing in the record which would bear on the question of loyalty and he also advised he could not recall the employee.

E. F. CRANZ, who occupied the adjoining apartment to the one occupied by the employee during his residence at this address, advised he had been a resident there for the past twenty years but he could not recall the employee.

In addition, the following residents at this address were contacted, none of whom could recall the employee: Mrs. S. GIBELMAN, Miss IRENE M. McKENNA, and SOL NATHANSON.

Acquaintances

SAMUEL F. BENDER, Dentist, 2119 Tiebout Avenue, Bronx, New York, advised that he had been a friend of the employee for approximately the past twenty years, his sister being married to the employee's brother, SAMUEL WASSERMAN. Dr. BENDER stated that up until the time that the employee moved to Washington, D. C. they had been very close friends and had had numerous social contacts. He stated that since the employee's departure from New York City, their acquaintance has been more casual, but they continued to occasionally visit one another. Dr. BENDER thus felt that he had had an intimate enough contact with the employee during the past twenty years to form a definite opinion on the question of his loyalty, and he stated that that opinion was that WASSERMAN was undoubtedly a loyal American.

Mrs. SAMUEL F. BENDER, wife of Dr. BENDER, advised that she too had known the employee for approximately twenty years and that she could not speak too highly of him. She considered both the employee and his wife to be people of high integrity and in regard to the loyalty of the employee, Mrs. BENDER stated, "there was not a particle of doubt".

Organizations

It is to be noted that the Request for Report on Loyalty Data form executed by the employee on September 15, 1947, reflects he is affiliated with the American Jewish Congress. In regard thereto, it is pointed out that Confidential Informant New York City T-1, a reliable informant who is acquainted

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with Jewish Communist activities, has advised that he considers the American Jewish Congress at the present time to be Communist infiltrated because of membership in the American Jewish Congress of the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order of the International Workers Order and the American Jewish Labor Council, both of which organizations this informant described as being Communist controlled. It is pointed out that the International Workers Order is an organization listed by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order #9835. The employee was not known to this informant.

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CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT

The confidential informant mentioned in the report of SA ALBERT J. KLEIN, dated June 16, 1948 at New York, is identified as follows:

New York City T-1

Former New York Confidential
Informant ND 372.

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ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

The birth check was made by S.E. RICHARD F. O'HARA.

Columbia Law School check was made by SA JOHN DORMER.

New York City Police Department check was made by SA AUGUST J. WICK.

Credit check was made by SE RALPH G. MURDY.

Contact of New York City T-1 was made by SA JAMES J. MCCARTHY.

The following investigation was conducted by SA GEORGE H. VALENTINE:

City College of New York check.

Appellate Division check.

New York Law Institute employment check.

A teletype was sent to the Bureau and Washington Field Office on June 1, 1948 advising that the Birth Records reflect employee's name as JAKE WASSERMAN.

A teletype was sent to the Bureau on June 3, 1948 requesting authority to interview MORRIS L. ERNST.

A Bureau teletype was received on June 5, 1948 authorizing the interview of MORRIS L. ERNST.

A teletype was sent to the Bureau and Washington Field Office advising that WASSERMAN was employed from October to November, 1938 by the Independent Citizens Committee for Re-election of Senator of ROBERT F. WAGNER. The Washington Field Office was requested to verify the same through Miss MINA RUPERT, Secretary to Senator WAGNER.

The Bureau was advised that New York did not contemplate interviewing Senator WAGNER because of his illness.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CONFIDENTIAL

Title: JACOB NATHAN WASSERMAN
also known as "Jack", Jake Wasserman
Chief Counsel
Bureau of Land Management
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.
LOYALTY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Report of: Special Agent Albert J. Klein

Date and Place: June 16, 1948, New York, New York

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