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(Rev. 12-7-57)

Date June 28, 1961

OF O 880015

Mr. Fred M. Mesmer, Sen. Subcomm. on Imm.
To New Senate Ofc., Bldg. Room 2306

- Approval
- Comment
- Necessary action
- Per telephone conversation
- Note & Return
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- Signature
- Call me Ext.
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- As requested
- For your information

Remarks

July 10
87/H.R. 1395 passed the House on June 27,
1961 and is now pending before your committee.

HR 1395

Passed Senate May 29, 1962

C.B. Doughty, I&NS PBCU Room 624

DECLASSIFIED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE INTERAGENCY
 SECURITY CLASSIFICATION APPEALS PANEL.
 E.O. 13526, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)
 ISCAP No. 2016-081, document 20

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1-1-59
U. S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization
Service

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COVER SHEET

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COVER SHEET

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MEMORANDUM OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION FROM
INTELLIGENCE AND INFORMATION SERVICE FILES RE
SIDNEY CROSSON, BENEFICIARY OF H. R. 1395

The Committee is referred to the Bureau of Security
and Consular Affairs, Department of State, for informa-
tion concerning the beneficiary and his wife, Flora Lewis.

This information is classified "Confidential" because it pertains to the national
defense of the United States. It is to be controlled, stored, transmitted, and
disposed of in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 11652, as amended,
and the provisions of the Intelligence Security Manual, which prohibit the disclosure of
this information to unauthorized persons.

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MEMORANDUM OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION FROM IMMIGRATION AND
NATURALIZATION SERVICE FILES RE SYDNEY CRUSON, BENEFICIARY OF
H. R. 1395

This Service is in receipt of information from another government agency to the effect that:

At a press luncheon held on December 1, 1943 in Washington, D. C. under the auspices of the Institute of Pacific Relations, the wife of the beneficiary was one of many newspaper correspondents expected to attend; and that according to a report issued in July 1952 by the Senate Subcommittee on Internal Security, the IIR had been considered by the American Communist Party and by Soviet officials as an instrument of Communist policy, propaganda, and military intelligence which disseminated and sought to popularize false information, including information originating from Soviet and Communist sources. Further, that the small core of officials responsible for directing the activities and policies of the IIR were either Communists or pro-Communists;

At a cocktail party given by Sydney Cruson and his wife aboard the SS "Batory", upon its departure from the United States in August 1947, there was among the guests the former President of the Polonia Society of the International Workers Order, who was also active in Communist circles in the United States. The IWO had been cited by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450;

Information received [redacted] in May 1952 indicated that in November 1947, Sydney Cruson, then residing in Warsaw, was anti-Communist; but that in June 1948 he was reported as probably a Marxist but not a Communist; that he enjoyed good relations with the Polish authorities, whereas his wife, Flora, described as a sincere believer in Marx, had experienced the opposite relations, the Polish authorities having received her dispatches coldly. The [redacted] wife had shown unscrupulous professional conduct on several occasions and could not be wholly trusted;

[redacted] in November 1950 that the names of the beneficiary and his wife appeared on a list of names and addresses in the possession of a person who was the subject of an espionage investigation, the significance of this information being unknown;

Information received in February 1952 indicated that Sydney Cruson retained pro-Communist sympathies according to a personal acquaintance; and that Cruson had stated at that time at a dinner party in Mexico City that the United States was the aggressor in Korea;

E.O. 13526, section 3.3(b)(1)

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This material contains information which is exempt from the national defense of the United States under the espionage laws of the United States and 194, the transmission or communication of this information to an unauthorized person is prohibited.

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In May 1952, in a conversation concerning Communism in Mexico, the impression was gained by the listener that Sydney Gruson and his wife retained pro-Marxist views. Information [REDACTED] in September 1952 did not indicate that Sydney Gruson had taken part in Communist Party activities in Mexico City prior to that time;

In June 1952 it was learned [REDACTED] be reliable, that Sydney Gruson, although known as an outspoken and unorthodox journalist, did not give the impression of any definite left-winged persuasion, [REDACTED] noting that the "New York Times" was very careful in the selection of its representatives from this point of view;

On November 16, 1953, [REDACTED] by a certain named individual, while he was under the influence of alcohol, that Sydney Gruson, a reporter of the New York Times in Mexico City, was a secret member of the Communist Party; that Gruson was also a friend of Judith Coplon and Marion Berdecio. The next day the individual [REDACTED] if he had mentioned Gruson and the others during the previous evening's conversation. Upon learning that he had, he became upset and requested the informants not to repeat the information inasmuch as it was a relationship which he should not have mentioned. It was reported that the person who did the talking was a frequent visitor at the Berdecio home, and that he and Berdecio had a common interest, in that they were among the organizers and chief proponents of the organization recently formed in Mexico City known as "Amigos Del Cine" (Friends of the Motion Picture), for the purpose of seeking financial backing for motion pictures of "social significance", or which followed the Communist Party line;

According to an article which appeared in the February 3, 1954 issue of the "Washington Star", a Washington, D.C., daily newspaper, Sydney Gruson, "New York Times" correspondent for Mexico and Central America, was one of two U.S. newsmen expelled by the Guatemalan leftist Government, having been accused of trying to discredit the Guatemalan Government;

Information [REDACTED] in April 1954 indicated that Sydney Gruson had been referred to by various members of American Communist groups in Mexico City as having pro-Communist sympathies. [REDACTED] stated that Gruson did not associate with the Communist groups at their special gatherings, but that members of the group appeared to be personally acquainted with him.

E.O. 13526, section 3.3(b)(1)

Investigation conducted by this Service does not reveal any derogatory information concerning the beneficiary and his wife.

The Committee is referred to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to the Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs, Department of State, for additional information concerning the beneficiary and his wife.

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~~This material contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws, Title 18, U.S.C., Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.~~

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