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Document Information

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION 51884

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

SAN FRANCISCO ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>1/18/56</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>8/2, 15, 18, 24, 29, 30; 9/2, 13, 27, 28; 10/4, 18, 11/7, 10, 14-18, 21, 22, 25, 28; 12/2, 5, 6, 9, 12, 13, 23, 31/55</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>WILLIAM A. BARRETT, JR.</b>
TITLE <b>JOHN PITTMAN</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>	

SUMMARY REPORT

AGENCY *100-30067 San Francisco*  
 REQ. REC'D *2-20-56*  
 REP'T FORW. *3-8-56*  
 BY *W.A.B.*  
 DATE FORW. *1-18-56*  
 HOW FORW. *Handwritten*

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

JOHN PITTMAN resides 1227 19th St., San Francisco, and is employed at "Daily People's World", 81 Clementina St., San Francisco, Calif. Informants, who have furnished reliable information in the past, or who are in a position to furnish reliable information, advised that: JOHN PITTMAN visited CP Headquarters, San Francisco, in 1947 and discussed the method by which the Party operated in Europe; PITTMAN attended the CP State Secretariat meeting, San Francisco, 1947; PITTMAN made a special report to the Joint State and County staffs of the CP, San Francisco, in 1947, concerning his observations of CP operations in Central and Eastern Europe and his contacts with foreign CP leaders; PITTMAN attended a meeting with JACQUES DUCLOS, French CP Leader, and Communists from other countries in France in 1946; PITTMAN suggested revision of "Daily Worker" Photo Library in 1948 to the Editorial Board; PITTMAN requested BETTY GANNETT to secure approval for his attendance at a plenum in 1947; PITTMAN was elected to the Press Committee at National Convention of CP in 1950; there was indication the subject had been issued credentials to 1948 CP Convention; PITTMAN was known to one informant as a CP member prior to 1942; PITTMAN was an old-time CP member; PITTMAN, in 1953, was in the ascendancy within the leadership of the CP; PITTMAN carried a discussion at a

AGENCY *Photo CIA*  
 REQ. REC'D  
 DATE FORW. *6-13-57*  
 HOW FORW. *Handwritten*

CLASSIFIED BY *5668 SLL/...*  
 DECLASSIFY ON: 25X  
*Handwritten initials*

*Noted 1-30-56 EBS/...*  
*cc RAB, State*

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: *JLZ*  
 SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

BY \_\_\_\_\_ DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

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- 4 - Bureau (100-30067) (RM)
  - 3 - San Francisco (100-1465) (RM)
  - 1 - New York (100-58368)

100-30067-96 RECORDED-81  
 INDEXED-91  
 JAN 20 1956  
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63 JAN 31 1956 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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"Pennsylvania Worker"

The "Pennsylvania Worker" is the Pennsylvania edition of "The Worker" which is published on the weekend.

"People's Voice"

"People's Voice" has been cited as being among publications which the Committee found "to be Communist initiated and controlled, or so strongly influenced as to be in the Stalin Solar System", by the California Committee on Un-American Activities, Report 1948, page 225.

Telepress

A confidential source abroad advised on March 9, 1951, that Telepress was a Communist controlled news agency with headquarters in Prague, Czechoslovakia, and correspondents in many parts of the globe. (S)

This source stated that Telepress formed one of the most valuable news agencies at the disposal of the Soviet Union for the dissemination of its doctrines and policies, particularly since it did not use Communistic statements and phrases. Communist control of Telepress was maintained through BEDRICH GENINDER-VLTAWSKY, who was the Chief of the International Department, Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. (S)

It is further noted that T-4, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised in October, 1952, that Telepress was then out of existence.

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the "Daily Worker" City Editor, was scheduled in the near future for permanent assignment in California on the staff of the "Daily People's World".

T-11, who has furnished reliable information in the past, furnished on March 3, 1955, a document addressed to WILLIAM SCHNEIDERMAN dated February 21, 1955, who the informant identified as Chairman, Communist Party District 13, indicating that JOHN PITTMAN would take over as editor of the "Daily People's World" or would possibly go underground when the then present editor of the "Daily People's World" left.

T-10, previously mentioned, advised on August 30, 1955, and November 20, 1955, that JOHN PITTMAN is employed at the "Daily People's World", 81 Clementina Street, San Francisco, California.

### III. AFFILIATION WITH THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT

#### A. Communist Party Membership

On January 4, 1947, a confidential source abroad reported that in the latter part of 1946 several Communists from different countries had held conferences with the French Communist Leader, JACQUES DUCLOS. (S)

According to the informant one such meeting was held at the headquarters of the Central (S)

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Committee of the French Communist Party, 44 Rue Le Pelitier, Paris, and had been attended by many leading Communists as well as DUCLOS. The informant reported that PITTMAN attended this meeting and acted as the interpreter. (S)

The informant also pointed out that one of the main items discussed at this meeting was the methods that could be used by the Communist Party, USA, to effect a merger of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) and the American Federation of Labor (AFL) and how such a merger would benefit the Communist Party, USA. (S)

T-12, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on June 2, 1947, that JOHN PITTMAN visited Communist Party Headquarters, San Francisco, on that date and discussed with the Communist Party leaders the method by which the Party operated in Europe, especially in Bulgaria and Yugoslavia.

He also indicated to the informant, at this time that he would live in New York City and would probably be assigned to the Harlem Branch of the Communist Party.

T-12 advised on June 3, 1947, that JOHN PITTMAN attended the Communist Party State Secretariat meeting held at headquarters at San Francisco, on June 3, 1947.

The informant also advised on June 11, 1947, that JOHN PITTMAN made a special report to the Joint State and County of San Francisco Staffs of the Communist Party, and on that date, concerning his

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The article continued that "Anyone can see with the naked eye, even from here, that there are no Soviet planes, ships, soldiers, bases and investments. Who's the Imperialist?"

The article continued that "wherever we build alliances and rush arms ostensibly to promote 'stability and security', there immediately develops tension ---- instability and insecurity of the peoples involved."

G. Miscellaneous Communist Party Activity

On July 21, 1948, a confidential source abroad advised that PITTMAN had been a delegate to the International Conference of Aid to Democratic Greece, held in Paris, France, April 10-11, 1948. (S)

On September 13, 1949, T-2, previously mentioned, advised that JOHN PITTMAN was in contact with SAMUEL SILLEN, identified by informant as the editor of the publication "Masses and Mainstream" in 1949.

According to the informant, SILLEN had approached PITTMAN about the publication of a story in "The Worker".

T-15, previously mentioned, has previously identified SAMUEL SILLEN as a member of the Communist Party.

"The Worker", issue of February 2, 1950, section one, page ten, column two, stated that JOHN PITTMAN was to address the HENRY FORBES Section of the Communist Party on that date speaking on the subject "Significance of Negro History Week".

T-2, previously mentioned, advised on August 10, 1950, that JOHN PITTMANN had contributed toward sending CARE packages to aid imprisoned Greek Communist journalists incarcerated on Makronessos Island.

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On November 10, 1950, T-46, who was in a position to furnish reliable information, advised that on that date JOHN PITTMAN held a conference with ARNOLD JOHNSON who the informant identified as National Legislative Director, Communist Party, USA.

On November 21, 1950 T-2, previously mentioned, provided a schedule of section conventions for the New York County Communist Party. This list reflected that PITTMAN was scheduled to attend the convention of the Lincoln Square Section, Communist Party, November 28, 1950.

A confidential source abroad advised on March 9, 1951, that JOHN PITTMAN had visited Europe in 1947 and had contacted Telepress correspondents while in Europe (S)

On September 4, 1951, T-47, who has furnished reliable information in the past, furnished a program captioned "Negro History Week" reflecting a week's entertainment given by the Prospect Section of the Communist Party. The subject was listed as a guest speaker.

The publication "Morning Freiheit" issue of February 21, 1952, page six, columns one through three, contained an article concerning a plenum of the Yiddisher Kultur Farband held at Adelphi Hall, New York City, on February 9, 1952. According to this article, the plenum was addressed on Sunday, February 10, 1952, by JOHN PITTMAN on "Themes in Jewish and Negro Sufferings and Struggles".

In May, 1952, T-48, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that JOHN PITTMAN had accepted an invitation to attend a reception held at the Czechoslovakian Delegation, (S)

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Identity of Source	Date of Activity and/or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to Whom Furnished	File Number Where Located
T-1 NY 367-S	Used in Documentation of Freedom			
T-2 NY 426-S (former) (Former ND 426)	Used in Documentation of Freedom			
	Subject on the payroll of Freedom of the Press, Inc.	7/18/47	SAS W. W. LYNCH SE J. O'SHAUGNESSY	100-88368-2
	Report by the subject to Editorial Board "DW" 2/12/48	5/18/48	SA E. K. DEANE SE A. E. FALLER	100-88368-33
	Subject wrote letter to EUGENE DENNIS	7/20/48	SA H. P. LARSON SE S. W. JENNINGS	100-88368-1A-12
	Subject listed in winter catalogue JSSS 1948-1949	12/8/48	SA E. K. DEANE	100-51820-1A 366

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Identity of Source	Date of Activity and/or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to Whom Furnished	File Number Where Located
T-2 - Continued				
NY 426-S (former) (former ND 426)	Subject's name on list as being recommended for teacher JSSS	4/7/49	SA E. K. DEANE SE A. E. FALLER	100-51820-184
	Subject in contact with SAMUEL SILLEN	9/13/49	SA HERBERT P. LARSON SE S.W. JENNINGS	100-99571-1A 22
	Subject scheduled to hear report by FRED FINE	6/6/50	SA E. K. DEANE	97-169-2578
	Subject contributed to Greek Communist Journalists	8/10/50	SA HERBERT P. LARSON SE S. W. JENNINGS	97-169-2716
	Subject's letter to BETTY GANNETT made available	8/9/50	SA DAMON W. PITCHER	100-88368-80
	NY county CP Section Convention schedule	11/21/50	SA HERBERT P. LARSON SE S. W. JENNINGS	100-26603-C-42-1298
	Subject issued credentials CP Convention 1948	8/6/51	SA HERBERT P. LARSON SE S.W. JENNINGS	100-26603-1A-6181

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<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity and/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Agent to Whom Furnished</u>	<u>File Number Where Located</u>
T-3 LA 3011-S	Used in Documentation of Los Angeles May Day Rally			
T-4 [NY 779-S*] (S)	Used in Documentation of Telepress			
	Pittman in the ascendency within leadership of CP	1/22/53		
	Pittman present at meeting of "DW" CP members	1/22/53		
	Second child born to subject	10/22/53		
	subject employed as Foreign Editor "The Worker"	5/19/54 and 11/22/54		
	Subject scheduled for assignment on staff "DPW"	3/2/55		
	7/14/55	7/15/55		

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INFORMANTS - Continued

Identity of Source	Date of Activity and/or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to Whom Furnished	File Number Where Located
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T-5  
 D. L.  
 LAMBERT  
 Postal  
 Inspector in  
 Charge San  
 Francisco,  
 California

Used in Documentation  
 of Mrs. C. B. PITTMAN

T-6  
 SF [1357] S (S)  
 (Former)

JOHN PITTMAN  
 [applied for USSR  
 citizenship] (S)(u)

7/10/48

SA JOHN  
 G. HAUCK

SF 100-24095-  
 631A (S)

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Identity of Source	Date of Activity and/or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to Whom Furnished	File Number Where Located
T-7 ND 183 (Former) (deceased)	Subject's residence address	11/2/47	CHARLES F. HEINER	62-7956-869
	Subject employed by "DW"	8/7/47	"	62-7956-742
T-8 CSNY 21-S	Subject's residence address	2/18/49	SA M.E. MURPHY	100-88368-36
T-9 MR. LANDOW Postal Inspector NYC	Removal notice for subject	8/16/54	SA LEO P. KELLY	100-88368-307
T-10 SF 1050-S*	8/30/55 and 11/20/55	8/30/55 and 11/20/55		
T-11 CSSF 2140-S*	3/3/55	3/3/55		
	Subject in contact with WILLIAM SCHNEIDERMAN	4/8/55		

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<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity and/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Agent to Whom Furnished</u>	<u>File Number Where Located</u>
T-12 SF 1425-S*	6/2/47	6/2/47		
	6/3/47	6/3/47		
	6/11/47	6/11/47		
T-13 NY 559-S* (u) (S)	12/28/50	1/12/51		
T-14 PAUL CROUCH (deceased)	CP Affiliation of subject prior to 1942	9/12 & 17/51	SA CRAWFORD W. WILLIAMS	Photostat 100-4931- 1B 483 (original not available)
T-15 NY 588-S Used in	Identified PITTMAN as CP member	10/14/52	SA ARBOR W. GRAY	134-66- 1B 109-P 47
	Used in Documentation of MARGARIT ADLER			
	Used in Documentation of SAMUEL SILLEN			
T-16 SFCS 71-X*	4/15/53	4/15/53		

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Identity of Source	Date of Activity and/or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to whom Furnished	File # Where Located
T-21 GORDON KOBERNOT Associate Warden, US Penitentiary Lewisburg, Pa.	1951 Christmas card to CARL WINTER	1/7/52	SA W. JAMES WOOD (Philadelphia)	100-27539- 416 (original not avail- able)
T-22 PH [61] S (S)	Subject spoke at meeting of Friends of the Penna Worker	2/5/51	SA JAMES E. HELMER	Philadelphia 66-2137- Sub A
	Subject spoke at meeting sponsored by Freedom of Press Association, Philadelphia 1952	3/4/52	SA JAMES E. HELMER	Philadelphia 66-2137-3- 611
	Subject spoke at meeting sponsored by Freedom of Press Association, Phila. 1953	1/19/53	SA JAMES E. HELMER	Philadelphia 134-29 SubA 108
T-23 CSNY 301-S (former)	Subject keynote speaker at Queens- Nassau Freedom of Press Conference	8/20/52	SA R.H. BLASSER SE PAUL MITCHELL	100-88368- 196
T-24 LA 3582-S	Subject spoke at LA May Day Rally 1953	5/1/53	SAS ROMMEY STEWART W. NATHAN PROVINSE	LA 100-1763- 1A Transcript in NY 100-88368- 230

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Identity of Source	Date of Activity and/or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to Whom Furnished	File Number Where Located
T-25 SF 2059-S*	Subject scheduled to meet individual from California Labor School 1953	10/15/53		
T-26 SL 981-S	Subject spoke at Freedom of the Press meeting St. Louis 2/3/55	2/4/55	SA FRANCIS I. LUNDQUIST	ST. LOUIS 134-30A-123
T-27 SL 944-S	Subject spoke at Freedom of Press meeting St. Louis 2/3/55	2/10/55	SA WALTER A. HILGENDORF	St. Louis 134-23A-75
T-28 CG 5982-S	Subject spoke at Chicago, Illinois, 2/4/55	2/7/55	SA GENE E. ARNOLD	Chicago A-134-362-57
T-29 [CG 5890-S] (S)(u)	Subject spoke at Chicago, Ill. 2/4/55	2/7/55	SA JOHN E. KEATING	Chicago 134-190A-106 (S)(u)

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<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity and/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Agent to Whom Furnished</u>	<u>File Number Where Located</u>
T-30 CG 5042-S	Subject spoke at Freedom of Press meeting Chicago, Ill. 2/4/55	2/17/55	SA GROVER C. THOMPSON	Chicago A) 134-3- 523-A
T-31 CG 5972-S	Subject spoke at Chicago, Ill., 2/4/55	2/17/55	SA GROVER C. THOMPSON	Chicago A) 134-257-A 50
T-32 MI 211-S	Subject spoke at Freedom of Press meeting Milwaukee, Wis. 2/6/55	2/9/55	SA ROBERT E. SCHOENECKER	Milwaukee 134-83A- 111
T-33 MI 217-S	Subject spoke at Wisconsin CRC meeting Milwaukee, Wis. 2/7/55	2/17/55	SA WALTER L. ROETHKE	Milwaukee 134-123A- 61
T-34 MP 2288-S	Subject spoke at meeting of Minnesota Committee for Freedom of Press Minneapolis, Minn. 2/9/55	2/15/55	SA MICHAEL J. FOX	100-88368- 388

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<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity and/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Agent to Whom Furnished</u>	<u>File Number Where Located</u>
T-35 DE 515-PSI	Subject spoke at meeting celebrat- ing Negro History week Detroit, Michigan, 2/11/55	2/16/55	SA JOHN L. SHELBURNE	Detroit 134-265R-25
T-36 DE 467-S	Subject spoke at Detroit, Michigan, 2/11/55	2/21/55	SA ROBERT A. MOFFATT	Detroit 134-184R- 182
T-37 CSDE 448-S	Subject speaker at meeting sponsored by "MICHIGAN EDITION- THE WORKER" Detroit, Michigan, 2/15/55	2/21/55	SA WILLIAM R. BILLING	134-189R-133
T-38 NY 1212-S	subject guest speaker at LYL meeting NYC 6/16/55	6/17/55	SA LIONEL E. BELANGER	100-88368- 448
T-39 ND 400 (Former)	Subject listed as Faculty member JSSS Feb. 1949	2/10/49	SA E. W. BUCKLEY	100-88368- 35

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<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity and/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Agent to Whom Furnished</u>	<u>File Number Where Located</u>
T-40 NY 359-S (Former ND 286)	Subject listed as instructor catalogue, winter 1950	1/9/50	SA RICHARD T. CLANCY	100-88368- 61
T-41 NY 388-S* (Former ND 303) (former Bureau JA-1)	Subject listed in spring 1950 catalogue as instructor	3/31/50		
T-42 Confidential mail box	Subject listed in summer catalogue 1951 as instructor	5/31/51	SA JOHN T. MURPHY	100-88368- 121
T-43 NY 384-S*	Used in Documentation of WILLIAM L. PATTERSON			
T-44 ND 516-S* (former NYT 26)	PETTIS PERRY left message for subject CP headquarters 1951	3/29/51		
T-45 FRANK LOVELAND Assistant Director Bureau of Prisons	Subject a proposed visitor and correspondent of JOHN GATES	8/31/51	SAC, NY Bureau mail 130	100-88368-

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<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity and/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Agent to Whom Furnished</u>	<u>File Number Where Located</u>
T-46 ND 591-S* (Former)	11/10/50	11/10/50		
T-47 CSNY 408-S (Former)	Negro History week program 2/14/51	9/4/51	SA RICHARD H. BLASSER	100-26603- C40-814
T-48 (NY 526-S*) (S)	5/52	5/52		
T-49 ALEX BRADLEY Depty Sheriff Allegheny County, Pitts., Pa	STEVE NELSON correspondence with subject	11/12/52	SA PAUL L. SCOTT	100-47211- 973 original not available
T-50 CG 5824-S*	PITTMAN in conflict with JOE CLARK and JOE STAROBIN	2/11/54	SA MICHAEL R. CARRANO (orally)	100-88368-29

Used in Documentation of  
ALBERT BLUMBERG.

Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed and T symbols were utilized in the report only in those instances where the identity of the sources must be concealed.

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ADMINISTRATIVE

The confidential source abroad mentioned in this report which furnished information concerning the subject's attendance at a meeting in France in 1946, at which JACQUES DUCLOS was present, is mentioned in Bulet to NY, 6/2/47, captioned "WILLIAM ZEBULON FOSTER, was; IS-C" (S)

The confidential source abroad mentioned in this report which furnished information regarding to the subject's contact with Telepress correspondents, is mentioned in Bulet to NY, 2/19/51, captioned "TELEPRESS; IS-C" (S)

The confidential source abroad mentioned in this report who furnished information that the subject was a delegate to the International Conference of Aid to Democratic Greece, is mentioned in Bulet to New York, 7/9/48, captioned: "American Council for a Democratic Greece, Security Matter - C; Registration Act." (S)

The pretext telephone call mentioned in this report was conducted by SA HEINRICH VON ECKARDT in November, 1950. The nature of the pretext is unknown.

REFERENCE

Report of SA NEIL P. DIVERS, 7/8/55.

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