

Agency Information

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PAUL M. RAIGORODSKY
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

SA FILE NO. 100-4329

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| REPORT MADE AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS | DATE WHEN MADE 1-7-44 | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/10, 16; 11/3, 29; 12/8, 24, 30/43 | REPORT MADE BY ARTHUR J. NORSTROM |
| TITLE CHANGED: ETHEL M. MCCALED RAIGORODSKY, alias Rita Raigorodsky; PAUL MARK RAIGORODSKY | | | CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

ETHEL RAIGORODSKY presently residing at Austin, Texas, where she is teaching English at The University of Texas. She apparently is taking an active part in the affairs of the Communist Party there, inasmuch as she has attended a number of meetings at the city branch and was in attendance at the State Committee Meeting at Houston, Texas, on December 12, 1943. Her husband, **PAUL RAIGORODSKY**, presently believed to be with the Petroleum Engineering Company at Houston, Texas.

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DATE 12-18-94 BY SPAM/LEH
(JFK)

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REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent **JEROME J. O'DRISCOLL**, San Antonio, dated October 28, 1943.

DETAILS:

The title of this case is being changed to add the additional alias of **RITA RAIGORODSKY** for **ETHEL M. MCCALED RAIGORODSKY** and to include the name of her husband, **PAUL MARK RAIGORODSKY** as an additional subject.

AT AUSTIN, TEXAS

Confidential Informant T-1 reported that on October 5, 1943, **RITA RAIGORODSKY**, whose true name is **ETHEL RAIGORODSKY**, was in attendance at a meeting of the Texas Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax and came in company with **MAC STRAUSS** and Mrs. **INA BULL**. At that time it was learned by the informant that Mrs. **RAIGORODSKY** was teaching English at The University of Texas and had offices in the Main

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Building. She was likewise reported to be driving a 1941 Packard sedan bearing Texas license 909-370. STRAUSS mentioned to the informant at that time that Mrs. RAIGORODSKY was very rich and had contributed generously to the party fund. She was thereafter placed on a membership committee of the Texas Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax, together with Dr. ALBERT MARTIN OLSEN and ANTHONY DEWITT GLOVER of The University of Texas.

On November 29, 1943, T-2 reported she was present at a meeting of the city branch of the Communist Party in Austin at the home of MAC STRAUSS, 401 West 33rd Street and was likewise present at a meeting when DAVE CARPENTER, State Secretary of the Communist Party, met with the city group in Austin. On the latter date she informed those present that she would attend the State Committee meeting of the Party at Houston, Texas, with MAC STRAUSS, RAPHAEL WEINER, and Mrs. INA BULL on December 12, 1943, and agreed to drive those present to Houston in her automobile.

T-2 further reported that at a meeting of the Communist Party at the home of MAC STRAUSS on December 8, 1943, Mrs. RAIGORODSKY reported on current political events in Texas and spoke of her close knowledge of political affairs in Washington, inasmuch as she and her husband had resided there for a period of time while her husband was with the Petroleum Administration for War under Secretary HAROLD ICKES of the Department of the Interior. She likewise mentioned at that meeting that she has been in correspondence with MASON SMITH, known Negro Communist in Austin.

Informant T-1 reported that she was in attendance at a meeting of the Party at the home of STRAUSS on December 22, 1943, and that she had been requested at that time to write to Representative WORLEY of the House of Representatives about the Green-Lucas Bill. During that meeting she talked of her experiences in Germany and Vienna, where she had traveled in 1923.

The records of The University of Texas reflect that ETHEL McCALEB RAIGORODSKY was born February 9, 1903 in New Orleans, Louisiana, and entered The University of Texas on February 12, 1924. At that time she resided at 117 North Cerrando, Los Angeles, California, and was the daughter of W. F. McCALEB, banker. She obtained a BA degree from Western Reserve University in 1922 and an MA degree from The University of Texas in 1929. She now resides at 4403 Barrow Avenue, Austin, Texas, and is a tutor in the English Department. She receives her mail through P. O. Box 1819, University Station.

The records likewise indicate that PAUL MARK RAIGORODSKY, her husband, obtained a BS degree in civil engineering from The University of Texas in 1924. He was born August 25, 1898, in Praskovow, Russia, and had previously attended the University of Prague in Czechoslovakia from 1919-1920 and the University of Kiev, Russia, 1918-1919. He is of the Greek Orthodox religion and his father, name not shown, was a physician. The

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files of the San Antonio office reflect previous investigation on PAUL RAIGORODSKY, Petroleum Engineering Company, Tulsa, Oklahoma. That file reflects that he appeared in the United States on May 20, 1920, and entered the U. S. Army on January 5, 1921, and was granted citizenship by military petition on April 28, 1921.

Confidential Informant S3 of the Washington Field Division revealed that RAIGORODSKY emigrated to the United States in 1920 and has since resided in Los Angeles, Tulsa, and Kerrville, Texas, and by occupation was a consulting engineer. He apparently was engaged in the export of gasoline absorption plants to the Amtorg Trading Corporation and was working under the trade name of the Petroleum Engineering Company of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

RAIGORODSKY is described as:

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| Age | 45 |
| Height | 5' 4-3/4" |
| Eyes | Blue |
| Complexion | Ruddy |
| Hair | Dark brown |

Files of the Ex-students' Association of The University of Texas reveal that RAIGORODSKY resided in Fullerton, California, from 1926 to 1927, and in 1928 was connected with the Engineering Research and Equipment Company of Dallas, Texas. In 1929 he was shown to be vice-president and general manager of the Petroleum Engineering Company of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and the Glen Rose Petroleum Company at Tulsa. He later built a country home at Kerrville, Texas, and was employed with the Natural Gas and Gasoline Section of the Office of the Petroleum Coordinator, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C. According to JOHN M. McCURDY, Secretary of the Ex-Students' Association, RAIGORODSKY is presently residing at Houston, Texas, and is one of a committee of scientists assisting Dr. E. P. SCHOCH of the Physics Department of The University of Texas, who is presently conducting a confidential experiment to use acetylene gas as a basis for synthetic rubber. Mr. McCURDY advised that MORTON H. MARR and RAIGORODSKY, both oil operators at Houston, have voluntarily investigated Dr. SCHOCH's project and are presently assisting him on the experiment. The chairman of this committee is Dr. A. M. McAFEE, Research Chemist for the Gulf Petroleum Company. In this connection the files of the San Antonio office reflect

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SOURCES OF INFORMATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ INFORMANT T-1 is SA 411, whose identity is known to the Bureau.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT T-2: Conversations overheard by Special Agent ARTHUR J. NORSTROM at the home of MAC STRAUSS on November 23 and December 8, 1943.

1019-3-1703