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FEDERAL BUREAU

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 Date: 02-23-2017

of

INVESTIGATION

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100-HQ-405703-1

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Sec. 1

SECUR

INFORMATION

Office Memorandum

• UNITED STATES

OVER

NY

TO : Director, FBI
FROM : SAC, New York (100-109650)
SUBJECT: WALTER BROWNIE MC GHEE, was
SM - C

DATE: 10/15/53

Rerep of SA PETER C. CLEMENTE, NY, 10/15/53.

1. Subject resides at 1984 Madison Avenue, NYC, and is employed as a musician at the Village Tavern, Elizabeth, New Jersey. The subject is a member of the Negro Race.

2. Subject's spouse is RUTH MC GHEE and is employed as a housewife at 1984 Madison Avenue, NYC, caring for the subject's three minor children.

3. The subject has been reported as a member of the Harlem Music Section of the CP (no specific date known) and has been affiliated with the People's Songs Incorporated during 1947 and 1949. The subject has also participated in entertainment held by the CP and various CP front groups.

4. No information.

5. No information.

6. No information.

7. The interview is requested in order to ascertain the subject's present sympathies and to determine his membership and or activities in the CP and CP front organizations in order that this office may properly determine whether the subject should be included on the Security Index of this Division.

Bureau authority is requested to interview the subject in accordance with existing instructions relating to the interview of security subject's. If this subject is cooperative no affirmative steps will be taken at the initial interview to direct his activities but a separate communication will be directed to the Bureau setting forth the results of the interview and requesting Bureau authority to recontact the subject as a Potential Security Informant.

REGISTERED

PCC:MKC

SE-11
RECORDED-60
INDEXED-60

100-405703-1
OCT 16 1953

SECURITY INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL
APPROVED

Submit results in report
Date 10-28-53

#421686
DECLASSIFIED BY 60267/NLS/SAC/HCL
ON 2-17-99

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 12/12/52; 8/25/53	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/15/52; 3/9/53; 1,2,4,6,10,22-24/53	REPORT MADE BY PETER C. CLEMENTE
TITLE WALTER BROWNIE MC GHEE, was; Brownie McGhee, Brownie McGee, Browning McGhee, Browning McGee			CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject resides 1984 Madison Avenue, NYC, and is employed as a musician at Village Tavern, Elizabeth, New Jersey. ~~Reliable~~ Informant in 1952 reported BROWNING MC GHEE was a member of the Communist Party Music Section, Harlem, NY, and member of People's Songs, Incorporated. Reliable informants reported subject has entertained at various CP and CP front functions during 1947, 1949 and 1950.

*RAB COPY CORRECTED
BY LETTER 3/4/54*

- P -

DETAILS:

For purposes of brevity the Communist Party will hereinafter be referred to as the CP.

All confidential informants utilized in this report are of known reliability unless designated otherwise.

OF KNOWN UNRELIABILITY

This investigation is predicated upon information from T-2, to the effect that BROWNING MC GHEE was a member of the Communist Party Music Section in Harlem, New York.

BACKGROUND

A. Name and Aliases

T-1 on August 25, 1953, of unknown reliability, but who is in a position to know the subject, advised the subject stated his true name is WALTER BROWNIE MC GHEE. T-1 stated the subject advised he is known professionally as a

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPY IN FILE COPIES DESTROYED 11 AUG 14 1963 Bureau (RM) 3 - New York (100-109650) 50 NOV 9 1963		100-405703-2 OCT 16 1953	SE-11 RECORDED-60 INDEXED-60 EX-103

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SECURITY INFORMATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-109650

musician by the name of BROWNIE MC GHEE but that individuals occasionally neglect to include the "E" in his last name spelling it MC GEE.

B. Birth

T-1, previously mentioned, on August 25, 1953 reported MC GHEE advised he was born November 23, 1914 at Knoxville, Tennessee.

C. Residence

On August 25, 1953, T-1 reported the subject resides at 1984 Madison Avenue, New York, New York.

D. Employment

T-1, on August 25, 1953, reported on that date the subject advised he is a guitarist and folk singer, presently employed with a five piece band, known as the "Blue Folks" at the Village Tavern in Elizabeth, New Jersey. T-1 further reported the subject advised he has been in show business for twenty years and has had the following previous employments:

1. B. M. Studios, "Home of the Blues"
(self-employed).
2. Member of the "Folk Masters" a group of folk singers.
3. Employments by various radio systems, among others the Columbia Broadcasting System in the following positions:
 "Man Gone to War"
 "Roosevelt Story"
 (played background music).
4. Recording artist with Encore Records and other recording companies.
5. Member of "People's Songs Incorporated".

The "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications", dated May 14, 1951, prepared and released by the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., contains the following concerning People's Songs:

NY 100-109650

- "1. Cited as a Communist front which was incorporated January 31, 1946 in New York City. 'All of the productions of People's Songs Incorporated, follow the Communist Party line as assiduously as do the people behind the organization.' (California Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, 1948, p. 392.)"

E. Marital Status

T-1, on August 25, 1953 reported the subject advised he is married to RUTH MC GHEE and has three children, who are named as follows:

VEDIAZELLA (girl)
WILHELMINA (girl)
GEORGE (boy - six months old).

F. Military Service

T-1 on August 25, 1953 reported the subject advised he had no military service.

G. Status of Health

T-1 reported the subject advised he is in good health.

II AFFILIATION WITH COMMUNIST MOVEMENT

A. Membership in the CP

T-2 on February 6, and 7, 1952 reported BROWNING MC GHEE was a member of the CP in their Music Section in Harlem, New York.

B. Attendance at CP Functions

T-3 on November 19, 1949 reported on that date BROWNING MC GHEE attended a fund raising party of the Rego Park Section of the CP held at the Associated Foods Stores Cooperative Incorporated, 87-11 Lefferts Boulevard, Queens, New York. T-3 further advised the subject participated in the entertainment which was held to raise funds for the Defense of Convicted CP Leaders.

CONFIDENTIAL - 3 -

NY 100-109650

T-4 on December 21, 1949 reported the subject entertained by singing and playing the guitar at a meeting of the Lower WestSide Section of the CP held at 405 West 41st Street, New York City, on February 24, 1949.

SA AUGUST J. MICKEL, on August 25, 1953, reported the files of the New York City Police Department, Bureau of Special Services and Investigation, reflect that BROWNIE MC CHEE entertained at a meeting of the Lower WestSide Section of the Communist Party at the Yugoslav-American Home, 405 West 41st Street.

According to Confidential Informant T-5, the Yugoslav American Home Incorporated located at 405 West 41st Street, New York City is one of the largest centers of Yugoslavian Communist Party activity in the New York area.

G. Affiliation with CP Fronts

T-1, herein before described, reported that the subject advised he had been a member of the "People's Songs Incorporated" (see supra). T-2 on November 27, and 28, 1951 and February 6, and 7, 1952 reported BROWNING MC CHEE was a member of "People Songs Incorporated".

T-6 on November 28, 1952 advised the subject was a member of People's Songs and used to record with ERNIE LEIBERMAN and PETE SREGAR, "People's Artists Incorporated".

CP *NY* *NY* *CP*
"People's Artists Incorporated" has been cited as a Communist front by the California Committee on Un-American Activities, report, 1948, page 392.

PETER SREGAR according to T-2 was a CP member.

ERNIE LEIBERMAN according to T-7 was known to him as a member of the CP.

On October 27, 1947 it was ascertained from T-8 that BROWNIE MC CHEE was among the entertainers featured in "Fun With Music" held October 11, 1947 at Town Hall, New York City. T-8 further advised that tickets for the affair were being sold at the Box Office and by People's Songs Incorporated, 126 West 21st Street, New York City.

NY 100-109650

On December 12, 1947 it was ascertained from T-8 that BROWNIE MC GHEE was one of the featured performers at a hootenanny to be held by the People's Songs Incorporated on December 13, 1947 at Carnegie Hall.

The "Daily Worker" of March 6, 1949, page 10, column 6, reflects an advertisement of a performance to be held on March 7, 1949 for which BROWNIE MC GHEE is listed as one of the performers.

The "Daily Worker" issue dated March 5, 1950, page 8, column 1, under the caption "What's On In Manhattan" reflects BROWNIE MC GHEE would be among the "Square Dance Callers" at the American Folksay Group's Seventh Celebration Square Dance Jamboree.

T-7 on March 12, 1951 and June 12, 1951 advised that the American Folksay Group provided training for young pro-Communists who wished to enter the entertainment field.

T-2 on February 6 and 7, 1952 stated that the American Folksay was originally the Cultural Division of the American Youth for Democracy.

American Youth for Democracy is an organization which has been cited by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 10450.

T-9 advised the subject, BROWNIE MC GHEE, on March 9, 1949 received \$22.50 in payment from People's Songs Incorporated.

On February 24, 1950 it was ascertained from T-10 that BROWNIE MC GHEE was listed on a handbill advertising the Seventh Anniversary Celebration of the American Folksay Group to be held March 24, 1950.

D. Miscellaneous CP Activities

"Daily Worker" issue of December 12, 1948, page 10, column 4, under the caption "What's On in the Bronx" reflects BROWNIE MC GHEE and his songs would be the entertainment at a party in honor of the People of Melrose to be held at 1530 Walton Avenue, Bronx, New York, Melrose Youth and Community Groups of the Communist Party. Admission to the aforementioned party was listed as fifty cents or a subscription to "The Worker".

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NY 100-109650

"Daily Worker" issue dated November 14, 1950, page 5, column 3, announces a hootenanny and dance to be held November 22, 1950 at which BROWNIE MC GHEE, among others, is to entertain. The article reports tickets are available at the Workers Bookshop and People's Artists, 106 East 14th Street, New York City.

T-11 on March 13, 1947 stated the Workers Bookshop is definitely tied in with the CP or is part of its organization.

The "Daily Worker is an East Coast Communist publication of which "The Worker" is the Sunday edition.

III MISCELLANEOUS

T-12, T-13, T-14 and T-15, who are familiar with some members of the CP and their activities in the New York area, advised they have no knowledge of the subject.

IV DESCRIPTION

The following description of the subject was obtained from T-2:

Name:	WALTER BROWNIE MC GHEE
Aliases:	Brownie McGhee, Brownie McGee, Browning McGhee, Browning McGee.
Race:	Negro
Born:	November 23, 1914, Knoxville, Tennessee
Hair:	Black
Complexion:	Dark
Eyes:	Maroon
Height:	5'8"
Weight:	Approximately 170 lbs.
Sex:	Male
Relatives:	
Wife	RUTH MC GHEE
Children	VEDIAZELLA
	WILHELMINA
	GEORGE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~SECRET~~ ~~TOP SECRET~~

NY 100-109650

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

IDENTITY OF SOURCE	DATE OF ACTIVITY AND/OR DESCRIPTION OF INFO	DATE RECEIVED	AGENT TO WHOM FURNISHED	SERIAL AND FILE WHERE LOCATED
T-1 Pretext tele- phone call by SA PETER C. CLEMENTE to WALTER BROWNIE MC GHEE, Filmore 8-9616	Name Birth Residence Employment Marital Status Status of Health	8/25/53 " " " " " " " " " "	SA PETER C. Instant report CLEMENTE " " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " " " "
	Membership People Songs Inc. Document PETER SEEGAR " ERNIE LIEBERMAN	" " " " " "	" " " " " "	" " " " " "
T-2 HARVEY MARSHALL MATUSEW who testified at Public Hearing of HCUA, Washington, D.C. Feb. 6, 7 - 1952 and executive meeting on 11/27, 28/51	Membership CP and People's Songs Membership People's Songs	11/27, 28/51 2/6, 7/52		100-94014-1A 100-109650-2
T-3 [Redacted]	11/19/49	11/19/49	[Redacted]	
T-4 Operator 54 NYCPD Lt. THOMAS F. CRANE orally furnished info obtained by operator 54	Attendance at meeting of Lower West Side Section of CP 2/24/49	12/21/49	SA HERBERT PL LARSON, orally	100-0-54952
T-5 [Redacted]	Document Yugoslav American Home			

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

NY 100-109650

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE CONT'D.

IDENTITY OF SOURCE	DATE OF ACTIVITY AND/OR DESCRIPTION OF INFO	DATE RECEIVED	AGENT TO WHOM FURNISHED	SERIAL AND FILE WHERE LOCATED
T-6 [redacted]	Membership People's Songs Inc. Encore Records	12/28/52 orally 9/2/53	SA RICHARD H. BLASSER " " "	100-109650-3 Instant report
T-7 HERBERT ROMMERSTEIN 2236 Straus Street	Document American Folksay Group Document ERNIE LIEBERMAN			
T-8 KATIE RUNRANT 1406 Townsend Avenue, Bronx, who made available trash from ALICE CITRON above address	Post card reflecting subject in Fun With Music	10/31/47	SA ROBERT C. BURNS	100-16071-1A8
	Circular of People's Songs, Inc.	12/12/47	SA ROBERT C. BURNS	100-16071-1A9,10
T-9 WILLIAM MORGAN, Assistant Manager, Manufacturers Trust Co.	Payment from People's Songs, Inc.	Unknown	SA CHRISTOPHER J. MORAN	100-16071-100-p2
T-10 SAS WILLIAM F. HARTMAN JAMES N. JULIANA	handbill of American Folksay Group	2/20/50	SA WILLIAM F. HARTMAN SA JAMES N. JULIANA	100-96020-1A

T-11

To Document Workers Bookshop

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

- 8 -

NY 100-109650

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE CONT'D.

IDENTITY OF SOURCE	DATE OF ACTIVITY AND/OR DESCRIPTION OF INFO	DATE RECEIVED	AGENT TO WHOM FURNISHED	SERIAL AND FILE WHERE LOCATED
T-12 [REDACTED]	Negative	9/4/53	ALEXANDER G. BURLINSON orally	Instant report
T-13 [REDACTED]	Negative	8/27/53	SA C. A. REILLY	" "
T-14 [REDACTED]	Negative	8/31/53	SA JOHN W. DOOLEY	" "
T-15 [REDACTED]	Negative	8/31/53	SA JOHN W. DOOLEY	" "

LEAD

NEW YORK

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

At New York, New York

Will await the Bureau's decision concerning the request
to interview the subject.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT MEMPHIS	DATE WHEN MADE 10/28/53	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/16/53	REPORT MADE BY SE JOHN D. JONES ER
TITLE WALTER BROWNIE MCGHEE, was., Brownie McGhee, Brownie McGee, Browning McGhee, Browning McGee			CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Unable to locate record of subject's birth at Tenn. Division of Vital Statistics, Nashville, Tenn. - R U C - DETAILS: Mrs. MARTHA LAMB, clerk, Tennessee Division of Vital Statistics, 420 Sixth Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee, advised that she was unable to locate a birth record for the subject on the information furnished. G. I. R. -7 - R U C - ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2/17/99 BY 60267/MJS/SA/Hc COPIES DESTROYED 11 AUG 14 1963 APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>CEW</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 3 - New York (100-109650) 1 - Memphis (100-3042) COPY IN FILE DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 100 + 405703 - 3 RECORDED-46 NOV 24 1953 24 NOV 24 1953			

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ME #100-3030

- ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE -

REFERENCE:

New York letter to Knoxville dated 9/23/53.
Knoxville letter to New York dated 10/10/53.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 12/7/53	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11/24/53	REPORT MADE BY PETER C. CLEMENTE cas/enk
TITLE WALTER BROWNIE MC GHEE, was: Brownie Mc Ghee, Brownie Mc Gee, Browning Mc Ghee, Browning Mc Gee			CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject was interviewed on 11/24/53 by Bureau agents at his apartment at 1984 Madison Ave., NYC. MC GHEE admitted membership in People's Songs, Inc. but denied CP membership or activity and membership in the Folksay Group.

- C -

DETAILS: The subject was interviewed on November 24, 1953 at his apartment at 1984 Madison Avenue, New York City, by SAS JOE N. HATHAWAY and PETER C. CLEMENTE. MC GHEE advised he has never been a member of the Communist Party (CP) or knowingly engaged in CP activity.

T-1, of known unreliability, on February 6 and 7, 1952, reported MC GHEE was a member of the CP Music Section in Harlem, New York.

MC GHEE stated he has never knowingly attended a CP meeting and indicated his only function at the affairs he attended was to provide entertainment for a monetary consideration.

The subject admitted membership in People's Songs, Incorporated, and advised he joined the organization in order to advance himself professionally and to secure employment. He declared that he was unaware of any affiliation between People's Songs, Incorporated and the CP. The subject stated he made numerous professional appearances while affiliated with People's Songs, Inc.

It is to be noted that T-1 of February 6 and 7, 1952, and November 27 and 28, 1951, reported the subject to be a member of People's Songs, Incorporated.

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NY 100-109650

MC GHEE advised he is acquainted with PETER SEEGER and was associated with him during his affiliation with People's Songs.

The subject declared that he was unaware of PETER SEEGER'S political inclinations and said he had never identified himself to him (MC GHEE) as a Communist.

The "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications," dated May 14, 1951, prepared and released by the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., contains the following concerning People's Songs:

"People's Songs

- "1. Cited as a Communist front which was incorporated January 31, 1946, in New York City. 'All of the productions of People's Songs, Inc., follow the Communist Party line as assiduously as do the people behind the organization.' (California Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, 1948, p.392.)"

The "Daily Worker" issue dated March 5, 1950, page 8, column 1, under the caption "What's On In Manhattan," reflects BROWNIE MC GHEE to be among the "square dance callers" at the American Folksay Group's Seventh Celebration Square Dance Jamboree. T-5 on March 12, 1951, and June 12, 1951, advised that the American Folksay Group provided training for young pro-Communists who wished to enter the entertainment field. T-1 on February 6 and 7 of 1952 stated that the American Folksay Group was originally the Cultural Division of the American Youth for Democracy.

American Youth for Democracy is an organization which has been cited by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

The subject advised he had no recollection of his appearances at the Folksay Group's Square Dance Jamboree and stated that he was never a member or otherwise affiliated with the American Folksay Group. He stated that he could very well have been at the celebration as set forth in the "Daily Worker," but that he could not recall the specific activity.

T-2 on November 19, 1949, reported on that date the subject attended a fund-raising party of the Rego Park Section of the CP held at the Associated Food Stores Cooperative, Incorporated, 87-11 Lefferts Boulevard, Queens, New York. The informant further advised the subject participated in the entertainment which was held to raise funds for the defense of the convicted CP leaders.

NY 100-109650

T-3, on December 21, 1949, reported the subject entertained by singing and playing the guitar at a meeting of the Lower West Side Section of the CP, held at 405 West 41st Street, New York City, on February 24, 1949. SA AUGUST J. MICEK, on August 25, 1953, reported the files of the Bureau of Special Services and Investigation, New York City Police Department, reflect that BROWNIE MC GHEE entertained at a meeting of the Lower West Side Section of the CP at the Yugoslav-American Home, 405 West 41st Street, New York City.

According to T-4, of known reliability, the Yugoslav-American Home located at 405 West 41st Street, New York City, is one of the largest centers of Yugoslav CP activity in the New York area.

MC GHEE declared he had no recollection of the aforementioned activity and restated that he has never knowingly participated in CP activity. He stated that after rendering his part of the entertainment at functions, he customarily leaves after receiving his compensation. MC GHEE stated he is not interested in the CP and is wholly unfamiliar with its doctrines and principles. He added that he is a loyal American citizen who is prepared to defend his country against any of its enemies.

The subject reported he is employed at the present time by Billy's Tavern in Elizabeth, New Jersey. He further advised he was born in Knoxville, Tennessee, on November 23, 1914. Mrs. MARTHA LAMB, clerk, Tennessee Division of Vital Statistics, 420 6th Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee, has advised that she is unable to locate a birth record for the subject.

DESCRIPTION

The following description of the subject was obtained from T-1 and through observation of the reporting agent:

Name	WALTER BROWNIE MC GHEE, with aliases
Race	Negro
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	November 23, 1914
Place of Birth	Knoxville, Tennessee
Hair	Black and curly
Complexion	Dark
Eyes	Maroon
Height	5' 8"
Weight	Approximately 170 lbs.
Marks and Peculiarities	Subject has an emaciated right leg, the aftermath of a childhood attack of infantile paralysis

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - SECURITY INFORMATION

NY 100-109650

Relatives

X
Wife, RUTH MC GHEE
Children, VEDIA ZELLA,
WILHELMINA, GEORGE
MC GHEE

MRS. WALTER BROWN MC GHEE

N.Y.

- C -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - SECURITY INFORMATION

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NY 100-109650

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

INFORMANTS

<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 No. Where Located</u>
T-1 HARVEY MARSHALL	Used to document PETER SEEGAR.			
MATUSOW, who testi- fied at public hear- ings of the House Committee on Un-Amer- ican Activities, Wash- ington, DC, on 2/6,7/52 and Executive hearing, 11/27,28/51.	Membership in People's Songs, Inc.	11/27,28/51		100-109650- photostatic copy.
	Membership in the CP.	2/6,7/52		100-109650-
T-2 [REDACTED]	11/19/49	11/19/49	Unknown	[REDACTED]
T-3 Operator 54, NYCPD, Lt. THOMAS F. CRANE orally furnished information obtained by Operator 54.	Attendance at meeting of Lower West Side Sec- tion of CP.	12/21/49	SA HERBERT P. LARSON (orally)	100-0-54952
				FOIA (b) (7) - (D)
T-4 [REDACTED]	Used to document Yugoslav- American Home.			
T-5 HERBERT ROMMERSTEIN, 2236 Straus St., NYC.	Used to document American Folksay Group.			

MISCELLANEOUS

The subject's employment previously reported in the report of SA PETER C. CLEMENTE dated 10/15/53, to the effect that the subject was employed at the Village Tavern, Elizabeth, New Jersey, is incorrect. It was obtained through the use of a pretext call and Billy's was mistaken for Village.

SAC, New York (100-109650)

January 6, 1954

Director, FBI (100-405703)-5
EX-112

RECORDED-16

WALTER BROWNIE MC GHEE
SECURITY MATTER - C

Reurlet dated December 7, 1953, and accompanying report of Special Agent Peter C. Clemente.

In view of subject's denial of Communist Party membership in face of information to the contrary from an informant of known reliability, the Bureau is of the opinion that subject should be included in the Security Index. You are instructed to submit form FD-122.

NOTE ON YELLOW ONLY:

Harvey Marshall Matusow is the informant who placed subject in the CP. He also identified subject as a member of "people's Songs" a Communist front, which membership subject readily admitted in interview. An unidentified informant of the New York City Police Department has advised that subject attended a meeting of the Lower West Side Section of the CP about 2-24-49 in the capacity of entertainer.

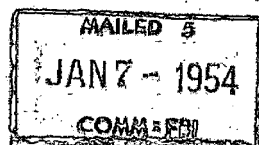
OTM:jal

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-17-99 BY 60267/MS/SAC/Hc

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Harbo _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Gearty _____
Mohr _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Miss Gandy _____

JAN 11 1954

JAN 11 1954



Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-405703)

DATE: January 22, 1954

FROM : SAC, New York (100-109-650)

SUBJECT: WALTER BROWNIE MC GHEE, was
SM-C3 x 5
Card Filed
2-8-54

G.I.R.-7

x It is recommended that a Security Index Card be prepared on the above-captioned individual. The Security Index Card on the captioned individual should be changed as follows: (Specify change only)NAME WALTER BROWNIE MC GHEE, was:ALIASES Brownie Mc Ghee, Brownie Mc Gee, Browning Mc Ghee, Browning Mc GeeNATIVE BORN x NATURALIZED ALIEN COMMUNIST x SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST LEAGUE MISCELLANEOUS (Specify) TAB FOR DETCOM TAB FOR COMSAB RACE Negro SEX MaleDATE OF BIRTH 11/23/14 PLACE OF BIRTH Knoxville, Tenn.BUSINESS ADDRESS (Show name of employing concern and address) Billy's Tavern, Elizabeth, New Jersey

KEY FACILITY DATA:

GEOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE NUMBER RESPONSIBILITY INTERESTED AGENCIES RESIDENCE ADDRESS 1984 Madison Avenue, New York, New York

RM

RWLS:LPB

FEB 10 1954

RECORDED-33
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/11/99 BY 60261 NS/SR/HC

JAN 26 1954

A.E. LEON

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-405703)

DATE: 8/3/54

FROM : SAC, New York (100-109650)

SUBJECT: WALTER BROWNIE MC GHEE, was
SM-C

Card U.T.D.

8-12-54 Allen

It is recommended that a Security Index Card be prepared on the above-captioned individual.

X The Security Index Card on the captioned individual should be changed as follows: (Specify change only)

NAME _____

ALIASES _____

NATIVE BORN _____ NATURALIZED _____ ALIEN _____

COMMUNIST _____ SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY _____ INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST LEAGUE _____

MISCELLANEOUS (Specify) _____

TAB FOR DETCOM _____ TAB FOR COMSAB _____ RACE _____ SEX _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ PLACE OF BIRTH _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS (Show name of employing concern and address)
Musician - no steady place of employment

KEY FACILITY DATA:

GEOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE NUMBER _____ RESPONSIBILITY _____

INTERESTED AGENCIES _____ 100-405703-

RESIDENCE ADDRESS _____ NOT RECORDED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/17/99 BY 10026/10454/HC

21 AUG 13 1954

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-405703)

DATE: 2/7/55

FROM : SAC, New York (100-109650)

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

SUBJECT: WALTER BROWNIE MC GHEE, was
SM - C

There is attached hereto five copies of amended page one of report of SA PETER C. CLEMENTE, 12/27/53 at NY in which the following correction has been made: "of known unreliability" has been inserted after symbol T-1 of the second paragraph of the details on page one.

This page is to replace the original in above report and NY copies have been corrected.

Encs. - 5

ENCL.

*with filed in serials -
Coro 2 - 17-55*

1 - NY 100-94014 Sub A

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/17/99 BY 60267/NLS/sk/dc

100-405703-✓
NOT RECORDED
27 FEB 9 1955

MJB:EMK

FBI
INTERVIEW RECORD

FEB 10 11 04 AM '55

RECEIVED

INT. SEC.

CONSOLIDATION

58 MAR 11 1955

SAC, New York (100-109650)

March 4, 1955

Director, FBI (100-405703)

WALTER BROWNIE MC GHEE
SECURITY MATTER - C

Reurlet dated February 7, 1955.

Inasmuch as the only informant placing the subject in the Communist Party is Harvey M. Matusow, a question arises as to whether the subject should be continued on the Security Index. You are requested, therefore, to review this case under the provisions as set forth in SAC Letter #55-8, dated February 2, 1955.

A review of Bureau files reflects that suggested corrections have not yet been received from your office for the report of Special Agent Peter C. Clemente dated October 15, 1953, at New York. Unless you have already done so, you should handle this matter immediately.

NOTE ON YELLOW:

SAC Letter 55-8 provides for SAC review of SI subjects to see if inclusion on the Index is warranted.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/11/99 BY 60267/NLS/MLC

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

JJB:hif
(4)

RECORDED - 30

EX-121

MAR 9 1955

MAILED 8

MAR 4 - 1955

COMM - FB

MAR 11 1955

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-405703)

FROM : SAC, New York (100-109650)

SUBJECT: WALTER BROWNIE MC GHEE, was
SM - C

DATE: 3/1/55

FOIA (b) (7) - (D)

In this connection, reference is made to the report of SA PETER C. CLEMENTE, 10/15/53, NY.

Page 1 of rerep should be corrected to reflect that T-2 is of known unreliability.

The NY copies of this report are being corrected accordingly.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/17/99 BY 60267/NS/SAD/HK

RECEIVED
MAR 1 10 30 AM '55
FBI NEW YORK

EXP. PROC.

Memo to RAB, Dept.
LIB 3-4-55

RECORDED-89

100-405703-8

1 - NY 100-94014-Sub A

EX-103

MAR 3 1955

SPC:JM

INTERNAL SECURITY SECTION

MAR 1 10 45 AM '55

RECEIVED

100-405703-8

5-2

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2- 1. and dupl.
1- 11low copy
1- 1. Belmont
1-Mr. Glascock
1-Mr. Bagley
1-Consolidation Unit, Records
March 4, 1955 Sec.

Mr. Armando di Girolamo
Chief
Records Administration Branch

Director, FBI

100-405703-8
WALTER BROWNIE MCGHEE
SECURITY MATTER - C
100-405703

RECORDED-89

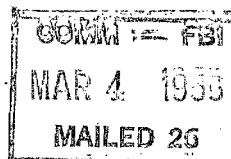
Reference is made to the report of Special Agent Peter G. Clemente dated October 15, 1953, at New York. Information is set forth in paragraph 3 of the Details on page 1 of this report as having been furnished by T-2. This informant is Harvey Matusow, now characterized as of known unreliability. It is also pointed out to you that in the Synopsis of this report it is stated, "Reliable informant in 1952 reported Browning McGhee....." This is based on the information supplied by T-2 and, therefore, the term "reliable" is no longer accurate. You may wish to adjust your records accordingly.

JJB:lw
(7)

DECLASSIFIED BY 60267/NLS/SA/Hc
ON 2-17-99

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



DATE: March 4, 1955

FOIA (b) (7) - (D)

FROM

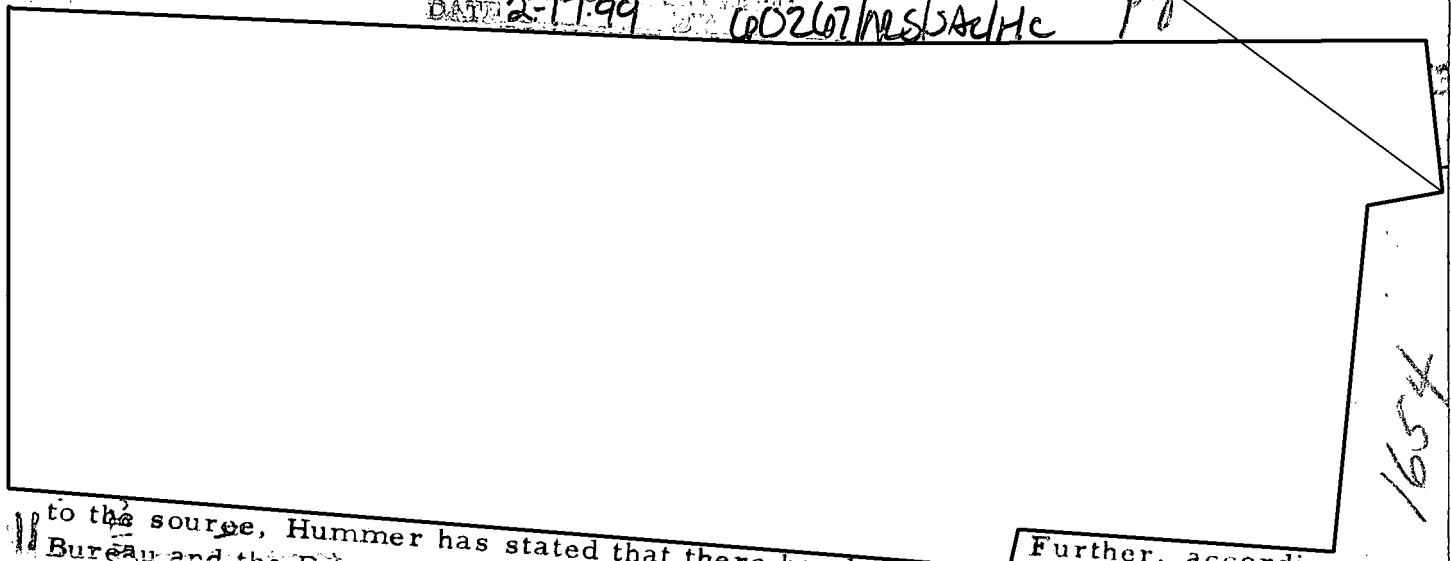
SUBJECT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2-17-99

60267/MS/AC/Hc

173



to the source, Hummer has stated that there has been hell to pay in both the Bureau and the Department; that the Director was very much agitated and had taken strong action in the situation.

In line with my discussion with the Director, as soon as Tompkins returned to his office late yesterday afternoon, I went down to see him. I pointed out to Tompkins that we had received reports of Hummer's statements as above reflected; that we were coming directly to him since it was outrageous that someone in the Department would be circulating such vicious talk. I told him that there was nothing wrong in what the Bureau did. On the other hand, it was the only decent thing to do and that we did not appreciate in any way the Machiavellian tone which is being circulated on this action. Tompkins stated he did not appreciate it either; that he could not understand how Hummer even knew about the matter and that he would talk to Hummer about it.

I then told Tompkins that while we were on the subject, I thought he should know that a week ago we received a report from a very reliable source on the Hill who wanted to tip us off that the Senate Post Office and Civil Service Committee was getting ready to lay a trap for the Director; that the Bureau had been changing files and destroying records.

cc: Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
LBN:arm
(4)

INITIALS OF ORIGINAL

100-4405703-1

RECORDED
18 MAR 22 1955

1654
ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 100-4405703-1

51 MAR 30 1955 F265

At this point I interrupted and asked bluntly, "Why in the hell didn't you pick up the phone and call the Bureau?" - that in ten or fifteen minutes time we could have given him the answers and given him the facts. I told him that we had always operated on the basis that when you are working under the same roof for the same purpose and anything comes up, the thing to do is to go to the people directly. Tompkins stated he, of course, should have done this and was sorry he hadn't.

I then pointed out that the very first thought that went through the Director's mind when the above-mentioned reports regarding Hummer were called to our attention was to get in touch with Tompkins immediately and that was why I had come by to see him. He, of course, stated that he appreciated this and he should have done the same, and that in the future when anything comes up like this, he certainly will contact us because he should have known that there would be an explanation and a reason.

I then told Tompkins that I had not known of the ink changes being made; that it had been my understanding that the changes had been effected by inserting new pages. Tompkins stated that what he originally was upset about was the ink changes. I asked him if he could give me a reference to any specific files. He stated that all of the files were presently being reviewed. He, accordingly, sent for three files. The three files did reflect ink changes, obviously in a woman's hand.

[REDACTED]

Tompkins stated that after he had learned what happened, he of course thoroughly understood and he felt the files should be changed. He then pointed out that a lawyer is always thinking in terms of questions that might come up on cross-examination and questions that might come up if records are produced and how to meet such situations. He then commented that in the New York Office, Ed Lumbard had told him the Bureau had stamped reports [REDACTED] but had not dated or initialed the reports.

I told Tompkins this was correct; however, there was a copy of a letter in the file showing to whom the amended pages had been sent; the date of this letter, the initials on the letter could establish the date when the file was stamped and who stamped it and that we could reconstruct the whole story.

I told Tompkins that if there was any fault, it was that the Bureau bent over backwards in trying to be meticulous; rather than put a memorandum on the top of the file showing the change, we had elected to change each page of the reports so that nobody could be led astray; and that if being overly conscientious about a matter such as this was wrong, then that was just too bad. Tompkins agreed that it was not wrong and this is the way it should be.

Tompkins then stated that he would talk to Hummer. He asked if we thought Hummer circulated the information on the Hill. I told Tompkins that I had not even intimated we suspected Hummer of this. We did not know who circulated it on the Hill. We were certain that Hugh Finzel, who had gone up on the Hill, would not do a thing like this because Finzel was of a different stripe. In fact, so far as we could ascertain, Finzel did not even know about it; but that obviously somebody was doing it; however, we were not indicating Hummer did it and I wanted it clearly understood that we were not indicating it. I said that what we were indicating was that according to a reliable report, Hummer was talking out of school and in-correctly reporting what happened. He stated he would talk to Hummer, and that if any situation ever occurred

in the future, he would contact us immediately.

When I returned to the Bureau, Seyfarth, of course, had gone home. He was not feeling well. I had Supervisor Wendell Eames talk to Seyfarth about this. Seyfarth stated that in five or no more than six cases wherein changes occurred on the front page of the report, Mrs. Longnecker, in the Division of Records file room, had made the change in ink rather than to reprocess the front page which had date stamps, file markings, file numbers and so forth. Chris agreed to this procedure but insists that this procedure was not done at his direction, although Chris stated a year or so ago, DiGirolamo had the Division of Records start the practice of making minor changes in pen and ink which was a practice we were then following.

Seyfarth was sick this morning and I, accordingly, sent Wendell Eames out to his home to interview him in detail and tie this thing down, after which a separate memorandum will be prepared.

I have now informed Mr. Rogers of my conversation with Tompkins. Rogers was disturbed about this. He inquired as to whom Hummer made the statement. I told him frankly I did not know; that it came to us from a very reliable source. He stated if we could prove there was such a statement as this and establish the identity of the person to whom the statement was made, he would take disciplinary action.

✓ V10
This was absolutely wrong.
J. d.

Wm
Jolson
3-5-55
LBN

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-405703)
 FROM : SAC, New York (100-109650)
 SUBJECT: WALTER BROWNIE MC GHEE, was
 SM - C

DATE: 6/8/55

Re SAC letter 55-30, 4/12/55.

Security Index card cancelled

SUCCINCT RESUME OF CASE

1- Informant on 2/6 and 7/52, reported BROWNING MC GHEE was a member of the CP in the Music Section in Harlem, NY. (HARVEY MARSHALL MATUSOW, known unreliability. Information not substantiated by other sources).

2- Informant by report of 11/19/49, reported that on 11/19/49, BROWNING MC GHEE attended a fund raising party of the Rego Park Section of the CP held at the Associated Food Stores Cooperative, Incorporated, Queens, NY. Subject participated in the entertainment to raise funds for the defense of convicted CP leaders. () reliable).

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

3- Files of the BSSI, NYCPD, reflect that BROWNIE MC GHEE entertained at a meeting of the Lower West Side Section of the CP at the Yugoslav-American Home, 405 West 4th Street, on 2/24/49.

Informant advised that the Yugoslav-American Home, Incorporated, located at 405 West 41st St., NYC, is one of the largest centers of Yugoslavian CP activity in the NY area.

4- The subject when interviewed on 11/24/53, admitted membership in People's Songs, Incorporated, dates thereof not specified.

Informant advised on 11/28/52, that the subject was a member of People's Songs (specific date not shown) and used to record with ERNIE LEIBERMAN and PETE SEEGER. () reliable).

"Peoples Songs" has been cited by the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

RM
 MJN:EHR

CANCELLED

JUN 22 1955

EX-126

11 JUN 9 1955

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 2/1/99 BY 60267/NS JMS/SEC

60 JUN 28 1955

Recher

F208

SA [signature]

Letter to Director
NY 100-109650

5- Informant advised that BROWNIE MC GHEE received \$22.50 on 3/9/49, in payment from People's Songs, Incorporated. (WILLIAM MORGAN, Assistant Manager, Manufacturer's Trust Co., reliable)

6- "Daily Worker" issue of 12/12/48, page 10, column 4, under the caption, "What's On in the Bronx" reflects BROWNIE MC GHEE and his songs would be the entertainment at a party in honor of the People of Melrose to be held at 1530 Walton Avenue, Bronx, NY, sponsored by the Melrose Youth and Community Groups of the CP. The "Daily Worker" is an East coast Communist newspaper.

7- Subject, when interviewed on 11/24/53, denied CP membership.

RECOMMENDATION

I agree
sen

Remove from Security Index. Subject does not come under standards reflected in SAC letter 55-30, 4/12/55.

DETCOM TABBING

- 1- Not tabbed DC and/or CS
- 2- Not tabbed
- 3- Recommendation: Remove from Security Index

SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Brownie, McShee *6/18/58*R# 101 Date 10/21 Searcher Number 88

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

NR

OCT 21 1959

McShee, Brownie
 IE 100-405703 PC 23
 SI 100-350776-3
 SI 62-68272-A Daily Worker
 3/7/49
 SI 100-346689-4 Pg. #3
 IE 100-3-75-A Daily Worker 5/5/49
 IE 100-149163-A Daily Worker
 11/2/49
 SI 61-10149-458
 SI 100-350776-9 Pg. #17
 SI 100-336131-10
 I 100-7061-A The Worker
 7/11/43

~~Walter~~ (alias)

NOV 3 1959

 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 2/17/99 BY 60267/MS/sk

SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Brownie, McSheeR# 0 Date 10/21 Searcher Number 88

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

NR

McShee, Brownie (Var)
 SI 61-7582-1866 Pg. #72
 IE 100-375988-54 Pg. #108
 Brownie (Var)
 SI 100-3-2192 Pg. #106
 McShee, Brown (Var)
 NR 44-3685
 McShee, Brownee (Var)
 SI 61-10149-466
 McShee, Brownie (Var)
 IE 100-405703
 SI 100-3-7-264
 McShee, Browning (Var)
 SI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2-17-99 BY 60267/MS/sk

MAILED
NOV 6 - 1959
NAME CHECK

Photo -
CC TO: R.C.M.P.
REQ. REC'D. 3/17/65
MAR 24 1965
ANS. BY: W.F.W. JAC.

November 6, 1959

WALTON
BROWNIE MCGHEE - SUMMER
Born: 1916
North Carolina

In 1953, inquiries were conducted by this Bureau concerning Walter Brownie McGhee, 1984 Madison Avenue, New York, New York, who was reportedly born November 23, 1914, at Knoxville, Tennessee. This individual was married to Ruth McGhee and had three children, Vediazella, Wilhelmina, and George.

The inquiries which were conducted revealed that confidential informants, who have furnished reliable information in the past, advised that McGhee had entertained at various Communist Party and Communist Party front functions during 1947, 1949, and 1950.

On November 24, 1953, McGhee was interviewed by representatives of this Bureau and advised he had never been a member of the Communist Party and that he had never knowingly attended a Communist Party meeting. He stated his only function at the affairs he attended was to provide entertainment for a monetary consideration.

McGhee admitted during the interview that he was a member of People's Songs, Incorporated, and advised he joined that organization in order to advance himself professionally and to secure employment. He declared that he was unaware of any affiliation between People's Songs, Incorporated, and the Communist Party. He stated he had made numerous professional appearances while affiliated with People's Songs, Incorporated.

Orig. and one to State (CU/CP)
Req. rec'd 11-2-59
A. D. Short/msb (4)

REC-7

EX 104

NOV 6 1959

NOTE: Information being disseminated in above form per instructions of Supervisor D. R. Roderick. Reports not believed suitable for dissemination inasmuch as they indicate investigation based on information from informant of known unreliability (Harvey Matusow).

Tolson
Belmont
DeLoach
McGuire
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency. This is in answer to your request for a check of FBI files.

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Brownie McGhee

The California Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, 1948, page 392, cited People's Songs as a communist front which was incorporated January 31, 1946, in New York City. "All of the productions of People's Songs, Inc., follow the Communist Party line as assiduously as do the people behind the organization." (100-405703-2, 5)

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Records Branch

19__

☐ Name Searching Unit - Room 6527
☐ Service Unit - Room 6524
☐ Forward to File Review
☐ Attention _____
☐ Return to _____
 Supervisor Room Ext.

Type of References Requested:

☐ Regular Request (Analytical Search)
☒ All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
☐ Subversive References Only
☐ Nonsubversive References Only
☐ Main _____ References Only

Type of Search Requested:

☐ Restricted to Locality of _____
☐ Exact Name Only (On the Nose)
☐ Buildup ☐ Variations

Subject

McGhee, Walter Browne

Birthdate & Place

Address

Localities

R# _____ Date 6/6 Searcher Initials 129

Prod. _____

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

100-405703 SS 10/21/59

100-405703

100-405703-10 Sum 10/6/59

Walter

124-1-8-305

Browne

ST

Browning (Var)

ST

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2/1/99 BY 60267/NLS/sa/dk



NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY
19 OBSERVATORY CIRCLE, NW,
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

31 May 1973

(Attention Mr J. Wright Brown)

Dear Sir,

In accordance with standing arrangements, I have to request a name check on the following person:

Name: Walter (Brownie) MCGHEE
m'rup MCGHEE

Place and date of birth: 30 November 1915 Knoxville, Tennessee

Present address: 540 37th Street, Oakland, California.

Previous place of permanent residence:

Name of spouse:

Place and date of birth of spouse:

Subject's employment history:

Blues singer

6-11-73
3CC *urban*

JUN 11 1973 32

RECORD ATTACHED WHICH
MAY BE IDENTICAL
WITH ABOVE SUBJECT
FBI IDENTIFICATION DIVISION
1-929-507

REC 22
EX-112

MCT-21

100-405703 //
Yours sincerely,

JUN 19 1973

(R.L. Jermyn)
Minister

The Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
WASHINGTON D.C.

1cc, Act
Hints New Zealand Embassy
TFM: ysc 6/15/73

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-17-99 BY 60261 NLS/S4/Hc

6TFM/78

MAILED

1 - Mr. Brown

JUN 19 1973

NAME CHECK

REC 22

EX-112

June 15, 1973

WALTER (BROWNIE) MC GHEE

D.P.O.B. 11/23/14 KNOXVILLE, TENN.

Reference is made to your communication dated May 31, 1973, requesting a name check on the above-captioned individual.

Enclosed for your information are two copies of FBI Identification Record Number 1 929 507 for Walter B. McGee, which record may or may not be identical with the subject of your inquiry.

In 1953, inquiries were conducted by this Bureau concerning Walter Brownie McGhee, 1984 Madison Avenue, New York, New York, who was reportedly born November 23, 1914, at Knoxville, Tennessee. This individual was married to Ruth McGhee and had three children, Vediazella, Wilhelmina, and George.

The inquiries which were conducted revealed that confidential sources, who have furnished reliable information in the past, advised that McGhee had entertained at various Communist Party and Communist Party front functions during 1947, 1949, and 1950.

On November 24, 1953, McGhee was interviewed by representatives of this Bureau and advised he had never been a member of the Communist Party and that he had never knowingly attended a Communist Party meeting. He stated his only function at the affairs he attended was to provide entertainment for a monetary consideration.

Original and 1 - New Zealand Embassy, Attention: Donald J. Robertson.

Mr. Felt _____
Mr. Baker _____
Mr. Callahan _____
Mr. Cleveland _____
Mr. Conrad _____
Mr. Gebhardt _____
Mr. Jenkins _____
Mr. Marshall _____
Mr. Miller, E. _____
Mr. Soyars _____
Mr. Thompson _____
Mr. Walters _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Baise _____
Mr. Barnes _____
Mr. Bowers _____
Mr. Herington _____
Mr. Conmy _____
Mr. Mintz _____
Mr. Eardley _____
Mrs. Hogan _____

MAIL ROOM ☐

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

#421686
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-17-99 BY 60267 nls/sr/mc

Walter (Brownie) McGhee

McGhee admitted during the interview that he was a member of the People's Songs, Incorporated, and advised he joined that organization in order to advance himself professionally and to secure employment. He declared that he was unaware of any affiliation between People's Songs, Incorporated, and the Communist Party. He stated he had made numerous professional appearances while affiliated with People's Songs, Incorporated.

The California Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, 1948, page 392, cited People's Songs as a communist front which was incorporated January 31, 1946, in New York City. "All of the production of People's Songs, Inc., follow the Communist Party line as assiduously as do the people behind the organization." (100-405703-2, 5)

Enclosures (2)