

The Frank Marshall Davis FBI File



Frank Marshall Davis

**This report is published and distributed by America's Survival, Inc.
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www.usasurvival.org**

Selected pages from FBI Frank Marshall Davis file

- 1) Davis involved in underground Communist Party activities.
- 2) Davis interested in Communist Party as far back as 1931.
- 3) Davis is regarded as pro-Soviet.
- 4) Davis suggested by Communist official as a speaker for "Russian Book Week."
- 5) Davis identified by CPUSA official as member of "the church" – the CPUSA.
- 6) Davis and wife identified as member of secret communist underground "group 10."
- 7) Davis identified as CPUSA member in Chicago.
- 8) Davis said to be part of effort to infiltrate Hawaii Democratic Party.
- 9) Davis identified as interested in CPUSA as far back as 1931.
- 10) Davis admits involvement in CPUSA front organizations in Chicago.
- 11) Davis to leave Chicago for Hawaii and the ILWU.
- 12) Davis and wife involved in CPUSA.
- 13) Davis involved in CPUSA in Chicago.
- 14) Summary of Davis's involvement in CPUSA and fronts.
- 15) Davis championed policies of Soviet Russia.
- 16) The pro-Russian views of Davis.
- 17) Davis's marital difficulties interfere with CPUSA activities.
- 18) Davis said to be suspiciously photographing Hawaii coastlines.
- 19) Davis calls secret CPUSA member Paul Robeson the "great one."
- 20) Davis involved with American Committee for Foreign Born, a CPUSA front.
- 21) Davis denounces "white man's country" and "white imperialism."
- 22) J. Edgar Hoover authorizes transfer of Davis FBI file from Chicago to Hawaii.
- 23) Davis says that "white America" scared of Robeson.
- 24) Davis invited to party for communist Earl Browder.
- 25) Davis praises Russia.
- 26) Davis denounces U.S. intervention in Korean War and supports Russia.
- 27) Davis works on trip to Hawaii by Paul Robeson.
- 28) Davis involved in Hawaii Democratic Party.

- 29) Davis plants seeds of race hatred.
- 30) Davis is chairman of CPUSA front.
- 31) Davis identified as chairman of party for CPUSA official Patterson.
- 32) Davis still refuses to admit CPUSA membership.
- 33) Davis declares Hawaii CP "out of existence."
- 34) Davis labeled anti-white.

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Davis has been described by [redacted] as a former member of the CP.

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Hon. rpt., 9/30/53
Re: [redacted]
SM-C
100-405326-1, p. 4
(1) ✓

This reference sets out excerpts from Frank Marshall Davis' weekly column "Frank-ly Speaking" which appeared in the "HR" on the following dates:

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7/2, 16, 30/53; 8/13/53; and 9/10/53.

The 9/17/53 issue of the "HR" carried an article on page 8 entitled "That Fifth Amendment" by Frank Marshall Davis, "Honolulu Record" staff writer. In the article, Davis criticized the "Honolulu Star-Bulletin" for endorsing "a Senate bill intended to in effect nullify that section of the Bill of Rights which states that no person shall be compelled to testify against himself."

On 10/6/53, [redacted], former CP member, advised that in September or October 1950, he was told by [redacted] that the CP in Hawaii was going underground and reorganize into "groups of threes." [redacted] was to be contact man for four groups which included group #10 with Marshall Davis as the Chairman. In late 1950 [redacted] started his regular contacts with Davis. In April or May 1951, [redacted] took over contacting Davis but in late 1951 [redacted] resumed the Davis contact. He found his only (remaining) "group of threes" contact was with Davis. [redacted] stated that in 1952, group #10 consisted only of Davis and his wife [redacted]. Davis told [redacted] that [redacted] was one of the "three" but never revealed the identity of a third member. [redacted] said Davis was a CP member in 1952.

Hon. rpt., 10/15/53
Re: CP-USA, District 13;
IS-C
64-200-18-406, p. 11, 12, 17,
18, 20, 22, 24, 27, 34
(2, 40) ✓

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On 6/3/50, Frank Marshall Davis was a principal speaker at the "Freedom Jamboree" held at 50 S. Queen Street, Hon. He lauded the HCLC, criticized police brutality currently rampant in Honolulu and likened it to the first stages of the spread of Facism. This affair was jointly sponsored by the HCLC and the ILWU Women's Auxiliary, Local 20. (Former [redacted])

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Davis was a CP member.

[redacted] Identity known to SAC Hon.)

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Hon. rpt., 2/19/51
Re: Cominfil ILWU;

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IS-C
100-52123-907, p. 82
(13)✓
SI as par. 1 above;
100-375805-1
(16)✓

On 6/16/50, Frank Marshall Davis told [redacted] that he became interested in the CP in 1931 while he was editor of the "Atlanta Daily World". He stated that because of his newspaper work in Hawaii he had intimate contact with leaders of the Hawaii CP. He urged [redacted] to join the CP.

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On 5/22/45, [redacted] identified Davis as a member of the Carver Second Ward West CPA Club of CGO.

[redacted] A source known to the SAC)

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The 4/21/47 issue of the "New York World Telegram" carried an article captioned "Pepper Revealed As Columnist On Left-Wing Paper." The article stated that Senator Claude Pepper had been revealed as a contributing columnist to the weekly newspaper, "The Chicago Star" and that his fellow columnists were Howard Fast and Frank Marshall Davis, both of whom had been named in HCUA reports on Communist front organizations in the US.

Clipping of the above article
94-4-684-A
(8)✓

The 4/21/47 issue of the "Washington News" carried an article on page 20 captioned "Sen. Pepper's Column Shows Red Ink Blots". The article stated that Senator Claude Pepper had "showed up" as a columnist on the weekly newspaper "The Chicago Star", and that his fellow columnists were Howard Fast and Frank Marshall Davis, both of whom had been named in HCUA reports on Communist-front organizations in the US. The article stated that Fast and Davis had been listed on page 566 of the HCUA report (not further identified) as among the sponsors of the AYD.

The theme of Davis column was stated to be that the colored and colonial peoples of the world could expect nothing good from the US. The article quoted Davis as having said, "This leaves only the Soviet Union, which has abolished racism and color prejudice. To put it more pointedly, the exploited, non-white nations are drawing close to Russia."

Clipping of above article
94-4-684-A
(24)✓

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[redacted] of the Chicago Council of American-Soviet Friendship, contacted William Patterson for suggestions regarding someone in the Negro community who would participate in a symposium on 5/3/44, during Russian Book Week, to be held at the Chicago Public Library. Patterson suggested Frank Marshall Davis of the ANP. He stated Davis was a poet, very progressive, very much interested in the Soviet Union, and was at that time, an instructor at ALS.

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[redacted]
CGO rpt., 5/4/44
Re: ALS; IS-C
100-11507-256, p. 4
(17)✓

On 4/29/44, Frank Marshall Davis visited "for a short time", a dance given by the Sweethearts of Servicemen (SOS) of the AYD, at the Majestic Hotel. CGO.

[redacted] AYD Staff member, told Davis that the University of Illinois chapter of AYD, had requested him to speak before their club on 5/18/44. Davis was a sponsor of the University of Illinois AYD chapter.

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[redacted] invited Davis to attend an SOS club meeting, but Davis was unable to attend due to his social work in Cleveland, Ohio.

[redacted] 5/10/44)
CGO rpt., 7/3/44
Re: AYD; IS-C
61-777-9-94, p. 16, 21, 22
(20)✓
SI as par. 2 above
100-333868-4
(22)✓

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The April 1944 issue of the AYD magazine "Spotlight" named Frank Marshall Davis as one of AYD's national sponsors.

Washington, D.C. rpt., 4/24/44
Re: AYD, formerly Young Communist League; IS-C
61-777-53-24
(20)✓
SI 61-777-658
(20)✓
SI 100-15252-39, p. 186
(Not listed)

In April 1944, William L. Patterson advised that Frank Marshall Davis, a new guest lecturer at ALS, was a member of the "Church", evidently referring to the CP.

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In April 1944, [redacted] and [redacted] advised that the ALS was to advertise in the "Chicago Defender", a new session of the school which would appeal to the Negro people and would feature the fact that there were four famous Negro teachers at the school, one of which was Davis.

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In April 1944, [redacted] stated ALS had a negress painter as teacher of children's art and he, [redacted] would arrange with Davis for some publicity on the course. [redacted] stated Davis ran a news service and that a Los Angeles paper had printed an article on the "Leadbelly" class at ALS, which information the paper had received from Davis' news service.

CGO rpt., 4/25/44
Re: ALS; IS-C
100-11507-247, p. 4, 15, 16
(11)
(17)

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HN 100-5082

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Employment:

Owner, Oahu Papers, 867 Ahua Street, Honolulu, and columnist for the Honolulu Record Publishing Company, Ltd., 811 Sheridan Street, Honolulu, which has been described by [redacted] self-admitted former member of the Communist Party of Hawaii from 1937-1949 and a member of the Executive Board of the Communist Party in Hawaii for several years, as publishers of the English-language weekly "Honolulu Record", whose editorial policies and slanting of the news were controlled by the Executive Board of the Communist Party in Hawaii.

T.H.

II. CONNECTIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY

[redacted] self-admitted former member of the Communist Party in Hawaii from 1947 to June 1952, made the following signed statement to SA LEO S. BRENNER on November 10, 1953:

T.H.

November 10, 1953
Honolulu, T. H.

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"I, [redacted] am going to make the following voluntary statement to LEO S. BRENNER, known to me as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I am willing to appear in court and testify to the following facts; to be cross-examined by Counsel and faced by FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS.

"I believe it was in 1949 in Honolulu, T. H. when I first met FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS at a social function sponsored by the Hawaii Civil Liberties Committee. I had previously joined the Communist Party in San Francisco in 1946 and transferred my membership in January, 1947 to the Communist Party of Hawaii. In 1950 after the Communist Party had conducted a series of control interviews [redacted] known to me as a Communist Party Organizer, told me that the Party was being reorganized and was going underground. [redacted] explained to me that the Party was being broken down into "Groups of 3's" and that I was being made chairman of Group #6 and in addition given the assignment of being contact man for my own group and four

T.H.

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HN 100-5082

"Other groups. [redacted] advised me that Chairman of Group #10 was FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS and I was to contact him at DAVIS' office, then maintained in a building of the Crown Transfer Company in the Damon Tract near the Airport.

"Late in the fall of 1950, I started contacting FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS in connection with Communist Party matters, and relaying to him information received from my superior contact in the Communist Party, either [redacted] or [redacted].

"During a portion of 1950, 1951 and part of 1952, I continued contacting FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS and also transmitted dues for the Communist Party received from him to my contact above. During the period of my contacts with FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS, he advised me that his wife [redacted] was a member of Group #10. I was never advised of the identity of a third of that group, or the fact that there was a third member in the group. During a portion of 1951 [redacted] took over contacts with the DAVIS group but I resumed contacting DAVIS in 1952 and continued meeting him on Communist Party matters until I left the Party in June of that year. T.H.

"I have previously mentioned having observed FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS at a social function of the Hawaii Civil Liberties Committee in 1949. In 1951, I was elected Treasurer of the Hawaii Civil Rights Congress, formerly the Hawaii Civil Liberties Committee. During 1951 and 1952, DAVIS was a member of the Hawaii Civil Rights Congress and attended both regular meetings and social functions sponsored by that organization.

"Of course I have also known FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS as the columnist and author of "Frankly Speaking" in the "Honolulu Record." I have attended Communist Party Section Committee meetings and know that this paper was controlled and started up by the Executive Board of Communist Party of Hawaii. In late 1950, I recall having conversation with DAVIS when he pointed out that he was the only one consistently plugging the "Peace Line." At that time, of course, "Peace in Korea" was the accepted Communist Party line.

"/s/ I have read the above statement. It is the truth.

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnessed this 10th day of November, 1953, at Honolulu, T.H.
/s/ Leo S. Brenneisen, SA, FBI, Honolulu, T.H. "

HN 100-5082

B. RESIDENCE

Care of Hauula Post Office, Oahu, T.H.; House is located between Kaliuwa and Punaluu, Oahu, about 100 feet beyond the turn to Sacred Forest, and is the third house from the Ching Tong Sing Store on the beach side toward Hauula.

II. CONNECTIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY

Confidential Informant [] of known reliability, and a former member of the Communist Party from September 1946 to February 1948, advised on March 5, 1953, that she understood DAVIS to be a Communist Party Member because DAVIS had acknowledged his membership to her, and she recalled seeing him at a few meetings of the Communist Party Cultural Club in Chicago. Informant also advised that DAVIS taught a course entitled "Jazz" at the Abraham Lincoln School in Chicago in 1946.

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The Abraham Lincoln School, Chicago, Illinois, has been cited as a subversive organization by the U. S. Attorney General under Executive Order 10450.

Confidential Informant [] of known reliability, who is acquainted with Communist activities in the Territory of Hawaii, advised on September 7, 1953, that he knew of no information that would connect the subject directly to the Communist Party in the Territory of Hawaii.

III. ACTIVITIES IN COMMUNISTS FRONTS

A. HAWAII CIVIL RIGHTS CONGRESS (HCRC)

The Hawaii Civil Rights Congress, an affiliate of the Civil Rights Congress, is a subversive organization coming within the purview of Executive Order 10450 under which the U. S. Attorney General cited the Civil Rights Congress and all of its affiliates and subversive organizations.

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Confidential Informant [] of known reliability, advised on May 31, 1953, that as of that date the subject had been elected President of the HCRC and upon accepting the presidency, stated that as Americans we are at the Stalingrad point in human rights. It is time to defend such rights with our lives, he continued, stating everyone should let people know the HCRC stands behind the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and that all members should become thoroughly familiar with the Bill of Rights. By doing this, the members can alleviate the fear some people may have in participating in current HCRC activities.

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Honolulu File 100-5082

"And if there is no shooting war at the moment, is not the next best thing a brink-of-war economy with billions set aside to purchase the products of this industry for stockpiling to be used when another war can be arranged?"

"That, it seems to me, is the key to our present powder-keg diplomacy with Russia and any other nation not willing to let our monster billion dollar corporations step in and grab huge profits. We call it 'preserving democracy' when the real purpose obviously is preserving dividends."

VII. POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Confidential Informant [] advised in April of 1950, that it appeared that members of the subversive element in Honolulu were concentrating their efforts on infiltration of the Democratic Party through control of Precinct Clubs and organizations. He said they were spending considerable time urging support for their candidates in these Precinct Club elections. In this regard, he noted on April 6, 1950, that subject had been elected Assistant Secretary and Delegate to the Territorial Democratic Convention in his Precinct Club, which is the Third Precinct of the Fifth District.

The attendance of DAVIS at the Territorial Democratic Convention was verified by Confidential Informant []. This convention took place on April 30 at Kalakana Intermediate School.

[] advised that on May 10, 1950, subject issued a check drawn on the Bishop National Bank in the amount of \$60.00 to []. The purpose of the check, as noted on the face of it, was "Loan to Democratic Precinct Club."

This information cannot be used in court without the issuance of a subpoena.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

[] ascertained that on September 10, 1950, DAVIS entertained a small group of people at his home. On this occasion, he passed out petitions issued by the Civil Rights Congress in New York and told

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT HONOLULU, T. H.

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT HONOLULU, T. H.	DATE WHEN MADE 11-13-50	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11/2-6/50	REPORT MADE BY WAL J. KNAPP	MFS
TITLE FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

yes

Subject's business address is now 406 P Road, Honolulu. He admitted to an informant he became interested in the Communist Party in 1931 and urged informant to join the Communist Party. However, he claimed Communist Party of Hawaii was built around a group of white chauvinists who do not fully understand the basic principles underlying the Communist Party. In recent months he has sent two checks to the International Workers Order. Subject has been active in affairs of the Hawaii Civil Liberties, a Communist front, and occupies the position of Chairman of the Legal Action Committee of this organization. On June 29, 1950, he issued a \$500.00 check to the Honolulu Record. He continues to write a weekly column for this publication and in recent months has condemned the conviction of HARRY BRIDGES, the House Committee on Un-American Activities, United States intervention in Korea, and the Communist Control Bill. Subject is Assistant Secretary of his Democratic Party Precinct Club and was a Delegate to the Territorial Democratic Convention.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 12-1-83 BY SP-10/BJK

COPY DESTROYED
 8117 JAN 4 1960

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: *Joseph W. Logue*
 SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES		EX - 83
100-3787-20	RECORDED - 78	
	INDEXED - 78	

- 5 - Bureau (100-328955)
- 3 - Honolulu

COPY IN FILE

Honolulu File 100-5082

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recruits for the Communist Party among members of the International Workers Order. This informant stated that [redacted] said she had been charged by the Chicago Executive Board of the Communist Party with the responsibility of organizing negroes throughout the nation into an autonomist national group society and that subject was working with her in this connection.

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Confidential Informant [redacted] of Chicago, reported on March 6, 1945 that [redacted] organizer for the South Side Council, Communist Political Association, told this informant that DAVIS was at that time a member of the Communist Political Association in Chicago.

On May 22, 1945, Confidential Informant [redacted] furnished information that subject was at that time a member of the Carver Second Ward, West, Communist Political Association Club of Chicago, Illinois. Information was received from the Kansas City Office, as furnished to that office by Confidential Informant [redacted] in May, 1949. According to this informant, WALTER S. STEELE, Editor of the National Republican, had testified before the Un-American Activities Committee, that FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS was a faculty member of the Abraham Lincoln School, a Communist front organization where Communist philosophy is taught, in Chicago, Illinois. STEELE was said to have described DAVIS as the leader of the American Negro Congress, which he said is alleged to have become chiefly financed by the Communist Party. He further testified that DAVIS at one time was a member of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Star which he described as a left-wing publication, backed by the Communist Party.

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Confidential Informant [redacted] reported that [redacted] subject's wife, was a member of the Paul Robeson Communist Party Club in Chicago, Illinois and her membership number for 1947 was 62109.

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IV. ADMISSIONS OF MEMBERSHIP IN FRONT ORGANIZATIONS

On December 11, 1948, DAVIS admitted to [redacted] previously referred to, that he was on the "Washington Subversive List" because of his affiliation with the Abraham Lincoln School of Chicago, the American Youth for Democracy and the Civil Rights Congress. DAVIS stated that he has taught art classes at the Abraham Lincoln School, said he is an officer in the American Youth for Democracy and is a functionary of the Civil Rights Congress.

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Chicago File 100-15799

On December 4, 1948 [redacted] advised that DAVIS was giving up his apartment number 301 at 3852 South Lake Park Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

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Employment

On March 23, 1949 [redacted] of the Honolulu office advised that DAVIS had under consideration an offer to take some unspecified position with the International Long Shoremen and Warehousemen Union - CIO in Honolulu which would put him "on easy street" if he succeeded in obtaining this position.

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On November 13, 1949 [redacted] advised that FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS and his wife were going to leave for Honolulu where DAVIS would be employed by the International Long Shoremen and Warehousemen Union - CIO.

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II. ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS

Communist Political Association Membership

On May 22, 1945 Chicago [redacted] furnished information that FRANK M. DAVIS of 3559 Vincennes Avenue, was a member of the Carver Second Ward West Communist Political Association Club. FRANK M. DAVIS gave his occupation as a newspaper man.

[redacted] now deceased, advised that FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS at this time resided at 3559 Vincennes Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

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Communist Party Activities

On May 26, 1944 Chicago [redacted] advised that FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS on April 1, 1944 recruited [redacted] to the Second Ward Branch of the Communist Party.

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On June 23, 1946 [redacted] furnished a report of a meeting of the Carver Communist Party Club held at 4241 Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. He advised that FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS was present at this meeting.

On July 8, 1946 [redacted] furnished a printed financial bulletin issued by the South Side Section of the Communist Party. This bulletin listed a group of persons active in the Communist Party financial campaign to raise funds. The name of F. DAVIS appears on the list. [redacted] was unable to furnish any additional identifying information regarding the F. DAVIS listed.

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On April 16, 1947 [redacted] advised that a meeting of the Negro Commission of the Communist Party, District No. 8, Chicago, Illinois, was held on this date

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F.B.I. TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Egan	_____
Mr. Gurnea	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Pennington	_____
Mr. Quinn Tamm	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

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[Redacted]

27-118-100-100

Byrd

CONF. TWO STATIONS WASHINGTON AND HONOLULU

WASHINGTON 10 AND HONOLULU FROM CHICAGO 14 8:08 PM FGK

DIRECTOR, FBI AND SAC, HONOLULU

FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS, IS - C. RE HONOLULU TEL [Redacted] (C)
 FOLLOWING INFORMATION FURNISHED RE SUBJECT. DAVIS HAS BEEN
 CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH TOP COMMUNIST PARTY LEADERS, DISTRICT
 EIGHT, FOR PAST SEVERAL YEARS. WAS EXECUTIVE EDITOR OF CHICAGO
 STAR, COMMUNIST PARTY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER, WHICH CEASED PUBLICATION
 SEPTEMBER 11, 1948. REPORTED MEMBER OF COMMUNIST PARTY. WAS
 ACTIVE IN AYD, CHICAGO, AND ABRAHAM LINCOLN SCHOOL, COMMUNIST
 PARTY FRONTS. LAST ADDRESS IN CHICAGO 3852 SOUTH LAKE PARK
 AVENUE, APARTMENT 301. WAS EMPLOYED AS EXECUTIVE EDITOR OF
 ASSOCIATED NEGRO PRESS, 1905 ARKANSAS CITY, KANSAS. CHICAGO
 5609 ADVISED MRS. FRANK M. DAVIS WAS ACTIVE IN COMMUNIST PARTY.
 SUBJECT IN SS FORM DATED APRIL 14, 1943, LISTED WIFE AS THELMA
 B. DAVIS. HER DATE OF BIRTH MAY 8, 1903. HONOLULU ADVISE
 SUBJECT'S ADDRESS AND EMPLOYMENT SINCE CHICAGO 5609 ADVISES
 DAVIS MAY TAKE EMPLOYMENT IN HONOLULU WITH LONG SHOREMAN UNION.

G.I.R.-2

MC SWAIN

RECEIVED:

[Redacted]

Cb: 41 PM

MWJ

CLASSIFIED BY *SP4 BJA/OK*
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X *131*

THIS MESSAGE WAS SENT TO HONOLULU VIA BUREAU RADIO.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

RECORDED - 42

INDEXED - 42
EX-13

[Redacted]

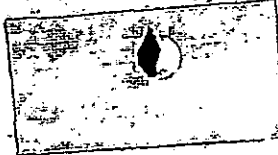
328953-4

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If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated
outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in
order to protect the Bureau's coding systems.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

13



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

FILE NO. **100-15799**

REPORT MADE AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS	DATE WHEN MADE 7/5/44	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/30, 51, 6/3, 7, 10, 19, 29/44	REPORT MADE BY NED E. NEUTZLING NEW:LMC
TITLE FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS		CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject, a negro poet and author, reported to be member of Communist Party and instructor-guest lecturer Abraham Lincoln School. Is reported to associate with high functionaries in the Communist Political Association in Chicago and active as Secretary in organization of National Negro Museum Historical Foundation. Subject also reported to have lectured to gatherings of American Youth for Democracy and Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee, and similar groups, and to have written President ROOSEVELT urging him to intervene in the deportation proceedings against Mrs. BROWDER. Subject was born 12/31/04, Arkansas City, Kansas, and resides 3559 Vincennes. Is employed as Executive Editor of Associated Negro Press. Registered Local Draft Board 82, classified 1A(H). No criminal or credit record. Description set out.

DETAILS:

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS:

This investigation is predicated upon information received from confidential informants that Subject was a national sponsor of the American Youth for Democracy, and a guest lecturer at the Abraham Lincoln School for the spring session of 1944.

I. RESIDENCE AND BUSINESS ADDRESS

Subject's residence at 3559 South Vincennes Avenue was verified, as was his employment at 3507 South Parkway.

*COPY DESTROYED
R 117 JAN 4 1960*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1-18-77 BY 504 Bm/BJK
368588

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 328955	RECORDED & INDEXED EX-68
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 3 - Chicago		
19 COPY IN FILE 30 JUL 25 1944		

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

14

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-328955)

DATE: JUL 30 1962

FROM : SAC, HONOLULU (100-5082)

SUBJECT: FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS
SM-C

not return
JMB
Handwritten initials and scribbles

Included as enclosures, 4 copies of report of SA LEO S. BRENNER, concerning above captioned subject.

Review of instant file reflects FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS, a Negro male, was active in the CP in Chicago prior to coming to Hawaii in 1948. Shortly after his arrival in Hawaii, both he and his wife [redacted] became active in the CP and continued that membership until at least 1952. Thereafter, the Party in Hawaii ceased operations. DAVIS, during the late 1940s and early 1950s, was active in several CP front groups and was the columnist in the old communist line "Honolulu Record", a weekly newspaper of Honolulu, which ceased existence in 1957. Since that time, there has been little pertinent activity on the part of DAVIS. The last front group to operate in Hawaii ceased existence in the fall of 1956. In late 1956, DAVIS refused to testify before the Senate Internal Security Sub-Committee holding hearings in Honolulu. In December, 1960, his name was listed on material distributed on the Mainland as one of the sponsors for the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born. However, this organization has not been active in Hawaii and there is no indication that DAVIS has done other than lend his name to that organization.

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Due to the inactivity of DAVIS over a lengthy period of time, it is felt he does not presently fit the criteria for the Security Index. It is therefore recommended that he be deleted from the Security Index of the Honolulu Division. In the event, he is deleted, he will be placed on the Reserve Index B.

2 - Bureau (Encls) (RAM)
1 - Honolulu
LSB:jem
(3)

ENCLOSURE

*Let to Honolulu
BM & P. hmt
F-15-62*

EX 100

100-328955-58

REG-8

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DATE 4-25-97 BY SP4 Bja/PAK

AUG 1 1962

SUBV. CONTROL

15

SAC, Honolulu (100-5082)

August 15, 1962

REC-135

Director, FBI (100-328955) - 58

1 - Mr. Pettit

FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS
SECURITY MATTER - C

Reurlet 7-30-62.

Subject is a Negro male, 56 years of age, who has been employed most of his life as a reporter. He was a Communist Party (CP) member in Chicago from 1945 until 1948 when he moved to Hawaii. He was very active in the Party there until Party activity as such ceased in 1952. He was active in front groups in a leadership capacity until such front groups became inactive in 1956. When questioned before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee in 1956, Davis took the Fifth Amendment.

He wrote a column which constantly followed the CP line in the now defunct "Honolulu Record" until 1957. In 1958 he frequented the premises of this newspaper. He contributed to "The Worker" prior to 1956.

He was listed as a sponsor for the 27th National Conference of the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born in December, 1960.

In 1957 he championed the policies of Soviet Russia.

His name is being retained on the Security Index at this time.

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Relet recommended deletion from SI.

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DATE 4-25-97 BY SP4 BJA/OK

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AUG 16 1962
COMM-FBI

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Malone _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Rm. _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

BGLP:bmt
(4)

56 AUG 22 1962

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HAF
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HN 100-5082

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reported that subject's wife gave birth to twin daughters at Honolulu on [redacted]

II. EVIDENCE OF COMMUNIST PARTY ACTIVITY

On May 15, 1958, Confidential Informant [redacted] [redacted] subject, reported that DAVIS stopped writing his column for the "Honolulu Record" as a vacation break and to gain an opportunity to attempt to recoup his financial fortune rather than because of any ideological break with the Communist Party line or the editorial policy of the paper. Informant explained that in recent months the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) has indicated an intention of purchasing the "Honolulu Record" and subject still maintains that he hopes to resume work at the paper when this is accomplished. [redacted] reported that DAVIS continues to regularly frequent the premises of the "Honolulu Record" and, although he has no information concerning any recent Communist Party Front activity on the part of DAVIS, it is his opinion DAVIS is inactive in that regard only because of the nonexistence of any Front group in the Territory at present.

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On May 24, 1958, Confidential Informant [redacted] who was a member of the Communist Party prior and subsequent to World War II, reported he knew of no recent Communist Party activity on the part of DAVIS; however, he stated that the Communist Party is now inactive in Hawaii. Informant related that subject continues to be friendly with former Honolulu Smith Act Defendants, and he has never heard any rumor to the effect that DAVIS might have defected from his former political leanings.

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him that staff members of the "Honolulu Record" had been advised that negotiations were underway for the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) to purchase the "Honolulu Record" and operate it as a biweekly newspaper. Informant stated that DAVIS has recently advised that the Union will not decide on the purchase of the paper until after termination of the present negotiations in the sugar industry. Informant states that DAVIS had reiterated that he still intends to return to the "Honolulu Record" as a columnist when the ILWU takes over the paper.

Informant, who has been familiar with some phases of Communist Party front activity, reported he had no information of any recent Communist Party or Communist Party front activity on the part of subject; however, informant related that he does not believe DAVIS has changed any of his basic political concepts.

Informant pointed out that in a conversation with DAVIS during the first week of November he had pointed out to DAVIS Khrushchev's statement appearing in local newspapers to the effect that the United States would be crushed in the event of war with Russia. Informant stated that DAVIS declared that Russia wants peace, but when he questioned him as to how he could account for Russia's effort to plant seeds of dissension in non-Communist countries, DAVIS remarked that Russia feels from experience that socialism is the best way of life for people and that she will, therefore, do everything to help bring it about wherever possible. Informant stated that during this conversation DAVIS answered him in the affirmative when he questioned him if he believed in the dictatorship of the proletariat. Informant related that he pointed out that such a theory had not worked out in Russia but dictatorship had resulted. DAVIS answered by stating that socialism cannot be expected to take the same form in every country, but that the customs and traditions of each country must be considered. DAVIS went on to declare that whatever form it did take in this country, the socialist countries would be standing by to assist.

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HN 100-5082

of 1958. Informant pointed out that for the past six months the DAVIS couple has had a great deal of marital difficulties. In May 1957 DAVIS advised informant that he intended to divorce his wife. Shortly thereafter the DAVIS couple appeared to be reconciled and Mrs. DAVIS consulted a social worker. Thereafter informant reported that DAVIS stated he believed his wife was a psychopath with a father fixation.

In the middle of July 1957 the couple became estranged and subject moved to the Atkinson Drive YMCA. In late August the couple again began living together. Informant stated that DAVIS has advised him that his wife had been keeping company with a Mainland musician who was employed in a Waikiki night spot. Informant stated that the musician had departed for the Mainland and apparently the couple had reconciled.

On November 27, 1957, Confidential Informant [] reported that DAVIS is employed as a salesman by The Osborne Company, 1888 Kalakaua Avenue, Honolulu.

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II. EVIDENCE OF COMMUNIST PARTY ACTIVITY

It is noted that a review of the files of the "Honolulu Record" reflects that DAVIS last wrote his column "Frank-ly Speaking" in the May 16, 1957 issue of that newspaper.

On June 25, 1957, Confidential Informant [] reported that he had learned that DAVIS was no longer submitting his column to the "Honolulu Record" because he had been having marital difficulties.

On December 4, 1957, Confidential Informant [] reported that he had seen DAVIS a few weeks previous for a brief conversation and DAVIS had remarked that he intended to resume writing his column in the near future. [] who was a member of the Communist Party both prior and subsequent to World War II, related he had no information of any recent Communist Party or Communist Party front activity on the part of subject.

On November 27, 1957, Confidential Informant [] explained that during September of 1957 DAVIS had advised

Hon. 100-5082

This informant advised that Subject also attended a farewell party held for [redacted] on July 23, 1949 when the [redacted] thought they were returning to the Mainland. It should be noted that [redacted] has been identified as a member of the Communist Party by [redacted] who furnished this information to Confidential Informant [redacted] an informant of known reliability. [redacted] also admitted her own membership in the Communist Party to this informant.

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[redacted] wife of [redacted] has been identified as a member of the Communist Party by [redacted] who advised [redacted] that she had admitted her membership in the Communist Party to him.

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[redacted] reported that during the HCLC picnic held on September 17, 1949 at Manners Beach the Subject was observed photographing large sections of the coastline with a camera containing a telescopic lens. Informant stated that DAVIS spent much of his time in this activity. He said that this was the third different occasion DAVIS had been observed photographing shorelines and beachfronts. Informant advised that it did not appear he was photographing any particular objects.

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This informant further advised on November 1, 1949 that the Subject escorted several Negro correspondents from Mainland papers throughout Oahu during their stay on the Island for Miki operations conducted by the U. S. Army. Informant stated that one of the correspondents, [redacted] stated that the Subject attempted to influence the correspondents' opinion of the treatment of Negroes in Hawaii and to have them so color their dispatches to Negro periodicals.

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[redacted] further advised that DAVIS was present at a farewell party held for [redacted] on January 14, 1950 at the home of [redacted] in Honolulu. [redacted] advised that [redacted] admitted to him his membership in the Communist Party. Informant advised that during the evening FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS, in a conversation with several others, lauded "militant Negroes" such as frequent Honolulu's Smith Street underworld.

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Honolulu File 100-5082

In addition, DAVIS described himself as a member of the HCLC who had "recently joined". Part of this statement was set out in the HONOLULU RECORD in its edition of May 5, 1945 in an article by DAVIS appearing on page 5, columns 1 and 2. Again, in this article, he admitted that he had joined the HCLC. In this article he further states:

"I have learned that alone neither I nor anyone else who faces discrimination can get his guarantees of freedom and equality and justice and so I have worked with others who have the same goal of democracy for all regardless of color, religion, national origin or economic status. As long as I am convinced they are genuinely interested for the fight for complete equality, I shall join hands with Republicans, Democrats and Communists; with Baptists, Catholics and Holy Rollers"

Confidential Informant [] reported that DAVIS was present at the May 2, 1949 meeting of the HCLC which was the first meeting following the press announcement that the organization had been listed by the Attorney General as a Communist organization. According to informant, subject at this meeting urged the HCLC to take TOM CLARK to court for listing the HCLC as subversive and suggested that the HCLC immediately vote to affiliate itself with the Civil Rights Congress. He stated:

"We are going to have to keep on fighting no matter who calls us Communists or how often, until we have gained our rights."

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He referred to Attorney General TOM CLARK as a typical prejudiced Texan and said that the placing of the HCLC on the subversive list was for the purpose of splitting ranks. [] reported that at the HCLC meeting of May 16, 1949, DAVIS was introduced as the guest speaker of the evening. ROBERT GREENE, in introducing the subject, stated that he would speak on the program of the Civil Rights Congress, an organization which the HCLC "has now considered being affiliated with".

DAVIS, in his talk, outlined his affiliations with the Civil Rights Congress and said he was a member of its National Board and had been active in the organization in the State of Illinois. Following his talk he was presented with a picture of PAUL ROBESON by GOTTFRIED SEITZ. Upon receipt of the picture, DAVIS showed it to the audience and said, "This is the great one".

HN 100-5082

reference to the Paradise Paper Company, informant related that in addition to selling for the Wright Company, DAVIS has from time to time taken on several small lines in his sales work, but his primary occupation is still that of salesman for the Wright Company.

II. EVIDENCE OF ANY
COMMUNIST PARTY ACTIVITY

On December 24, 1959, Honolulu [] made available a copy of a booklet entitled "The Legacy of Abner Green," issued by the American Committee for the Protection of Foreign Born (ACPFB), for the 27th National Conference which was held on December 19-20, 1959, at Hotel Belmont Plaza, 49th Street and Lexington Plaza, New York City.

The ACPFB has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States, pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

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On the inside of the booklet there was a program of conference events and a list of the names of the officers and sponsors of the ACPFB. Under the list of sponsors was FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS, Honolulu.

On July 15, 1960, Honolulu [] a member of the Communist Party in Honolulu prior and subsequent to World War II, related that he has heard no information of any recent Communist Party or Communist Party activity on the part of DAVIS. Informant pointed out that he has not heard DAVIS' name being mentioned recently by persons who are known to him as former members of the Communist Party in Honolulu.

On July 21, 1960, [] Commission on Subversive Activities to the Legislature, State of Hawaii, reported the files of his office contain no information concerning any recent Communist Party or Communist Party front activity on the part of DAVIS. [] stated that he had recently interviewed [] who is organizing a local chapter of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People in Honolulu. [] stated that DAVIS had evidenced some desire to become active in the organization, but his overtures were met with a rebuff because of his former connections with the Communist Party and front organizations in Honolulu.

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Honolulu File 100-5082

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"In addition to miffing a chance for moral leadership we have given the colored people of the globe still another court against the U. S. as a nation. The U. S. is considered to be a white man's country. You may be sure that the spectacle of white Americans shooting down the Orientals of North Korea will not be ignored by the rest of Asia and Africa who are struggling to throw off the yoke of what they call 'white imperialism.

"

"But that was not enough. We made sure that none of the colonial peoples would separate us from the camp of white imperialism by announcing support to the French Masters in their effort to stamp out the Vietnamese independence movement. This of course is in line with our financial aid to the Dutch imperialists in the same part of the world. We seem unflinchingly committed to support of the masters and to helping kick in the teeth the exploited. No matter how corrupt and mercenary and cruel a government may be, let its spokesmen say they are against Communism and our pocket book flies open."

He continues in this same vein in his column of July 27, 1950, stating:

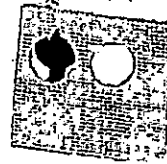
"Is it our purpose to save Asia from Communism, or is it to preserve the rule of the imperialists and their puppets who are hated by the masses?"

"This is the key question in our intervention on the side of the discredited RHEE government in the Korean civil war, our promise to defend the feudal Chinese Nationalists on Formosa, and our aid to the French in their attempt to crush the independence move in Viet Nam.

"

22

CC-294



100-328955 ✓

May 6, 1949

Special Agent in Charge
Chicago

Re: FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS
SECURITY MATTER - C
Your file 100-15799

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of April 25, 1949
requesting that the division of origin be changed in the above en-
titled case.

You are hereby authorized to designate Honolulu
as the division of origin.

Upon receipt of this communication, you are requested to
carefully check your file and make certain that the new division of
origin has all serials in the case containing important data.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-18-99 BY SP4 Bja/PA

cc - Honolulu

WEL:dbb

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Ladd _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Mr. Egan _____
- Mr. Gurnea _____
- Mr. Harbo _____
- Mr. Mohr _____
- Mr. Pennington _____
- Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Mr. Nease _____
- Miss Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 13
★ MAY 6 1949 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

GRAY
127

FBI

Honolulu file #100-5082

HONOLULU RECORD, February 22, 1951:

"What frightens and angers White America is the hard, true fact that PAUL ROBESON has the largest following of any U. S. Negro. When he hits at discrimination and Jim Crow, he speaks the mind of the overwhelming majority of nearly 15,000,000 less articulate Negroes -----."

HONOLULU RECORD, March 1, 1951:

"Anyone who cares to use his brain knows by now that it is not merely Communists that the Un-American Committee is after, but anybody who dares to criticize the status quo or raise his voice in behalf of the badly treated.

"But most important, it shows that the Committee is not after Communists but is gunning for anybody who has the courage to consistently speak out against White Supremacy and to support human dignity."

HONOLULU RECORD, March 8, 1951:

"Those who believe the world is divided strictly along the hard line of Communism and anti-Communism are engaging in both dangerous and wishful thinking. The vast majority of the world is not interested in Communism as such, but in ending what is widely known as 'white imperialism'.

"You will notice that the Western European Nations and our own country, together with South Africa and Australia, are the backbone of the anti-Communist front. You will note also that these are the nations accused of white imperialism, white supremacy or colonialism.

HON File 100-5082

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[] stated that they also discussed deportation proceedings against Mrs. EARL BROWDER and DAVIS agreed to write a letter to President ROOSEVELT on behalf of Mrs. BROWDER. EARL BROWDER, husband of Mrs. BROWDER, was former general secretary of the Communist Party in the United States until 1945. The Abraham Lincoln School in Chicago, Illinois, was cited as an adjunct of the Communist Party by the Attorney General on December 4, 1947.

In June, 1944, Confidential Informant [] stated that FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS was one of numerous guests to be invited to a cocktail party for EARL BROWDER in the apartment of [] in Chicago in the near future.

In January, 1944, Confidential Informant [] of known reliability, stated the Subject had been considered as a possible instructor in a course on the outline of Negro History, and also that [] branch organizer for the Third Ward Branch of the South Side Section of the Communist Party in Chicago had obtained the Subject as a speaker for a mass meeting of the American Youth for Democracy to be held at the Central YMCA in Chicago, January 9, 1944.

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[] stated on February 4, 1944 that the Subject was one of those to be invited to the Abraham Lincoln School Anniversary Party scheduled for February 13, 1944. [] further stated that the Subject would give a short speech at the anniversary party of National Negro History Week and was scheduled to speak at a Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee party in Chicago February 12, 1944, in a celebration of American Night.

The Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee was cited as subversive and Communistic by the Attorney General on December 4, 1947.

Confidential Informant [] of known reliability, stated in April, 1944, that WILLIAM L. PATTERSON, Assistant Director of the Abraham Lincoln School, had told him in April, 1944, that the Subject was very progressive, was very much interested in the Soviet Union and that at the present time he was an instructor at the Abraham Lincoln School.

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Confidential Informant [] of known reliability, stated on February 14, 1944, that the Subject was associated with the ASSOCIATED NEGRO PRESS and was a member of the Communist Party.

On November 18, 1944, [] advised that a Communist front organization known as the "Cultural Group" was sponsoring a Cultural Conference on the Chicago South Side. [] stated Subject was one of the committee members.

TO : Director, FBI (100-328955)

DATE: January 4, 1952

FROM : SAC, Honolulu (100-5082)

SUBJECT: FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

ReBulet 10/9/51 captioned "COMMUNIST PARTY, USA (Prosecution of Additional Communist Functionaries under the Smith Act - Hawaii) INTERNAL SECURITY - C."

DAVIS, a Security Index subject, continues to write a weekly column for the "Honolulu Record," which publication is edited by [redacted] one of the Smith Act subjects of this office. In this column, DAVIS closely follows the Communist Party line. He is violent in his denunciation of U. S. policy in Korea and throughout the world, while praising Russia on every opportunity. He continues his close association with CHARLES FUJIMOTO, publicly admitted Chairman of the Communist Party of Hawaii, who is also one of the Smith Act subjects under indictment in Honolulu.

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In view of these facts, no consideration will be given to interviewing him regarding the Smith Act subjects, UACB.

A prosecutive summary will be prepared on this subject as soon as possible.

WEK:bjb

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-23-97 BY SP4 BJA/BJK

RECORDED - 126

INDEXED - 126

100-328955-27

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Handwritten signatures and initials:
PUM...
R...

Vertical handwritten notes:
COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY
EMPLOYED BY
HONOLULU RECORD
KONTA ARIYOSHI
(EMPL CARD)

26

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

HONOLULU

Honolulu

FILE NO. 100-5082 fwp

REPORT MADE AT HONOLULU, T. H.	DATE WHEN MADE 5/12/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/5-8/51	REPORT MADE BY WADE E. KNAPP
TITLE FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject has stated that he was submitting a bid on carload lots of paper for the government of Siam. His entire supply of paper and stationery supplies valued at \$8000.00 to \$10,000.00 were destroyed by fire on 3/26/51. DAVIS was elected a member of the Executive Committee of the Hawaii Civil Rights Congress for 1950. This is the Hawaiian affiliate of the Civil Rights Congress which has been listed as a Communist organization coming within purview of Executive Order 9835. In 12/50, DAVIS wrote a check in amount of \$5.52 payable to the International Workers Order. Subject continues to write a weekly column for the Honolulu Record, reportedly Communist controlled publication, and in recent months has been critical of the United States for intervening in Korea, practicing the doctrines of white supremacy, and attempting to start another war. At the same time he has upheld and supported Russia in his writings.

sd/AC
6-5-51
Post
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 5-19-92 BY SP-1/BJ

DETAILS:

AT HONOLULU, T. H.

I. RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT

Confidential Informant of known reliability, has advised that FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS continues to reside in the Kapapa District of Windward Oahu, and

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Jan 4, 1960

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>Joseph J. Rogue</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau (100-328955) 3 Honolulu	100-328955-25 MAY 17 1951 13	RECORDED - 73 INDEXED - 73 EX-72

STAT. SECT.

PROPERTY OF FBI—THIS CONFIDENTIAL REPORT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE LOANED TO YOU BY THE FBI AND ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE OF AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED.

55 JUN 6 1951

Honolulu File 100-5082

This telegram was sent in under the name of the Hawaii Civil Liberties Committee.

[redacted] advised that DAVIS was present at the HCLC Executive Committee meeting on [redacted] held at the home of [redacted] at which time the agenda of the meeting was confined to the report of [redacted] on his conference with the officials of the Civil Rights Congress in New York. [redacted] advised those present that the Civil Rights Congress would be glad to have the HCLC affiliate and would cooperate by sending WILLIAM PATTERSON, Executive Secretary, to Hawaii to help them get a good start and would also send PAUL ROBESON. All members of the Executive Committee present voted to recommend to the general membership that the HCLC affiliate with the Civil Rights Congress.

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Subject was appointed a member of a four man committee to work out the details of the trip to Hawaii of WILLIAM PATTERSON and PAUL ROBESON.

The informant further advised that subject passed out reprints of an editorial from the St. Louis Post Dispatch to those present. This reprint carried a footnote addressed to the United States Attorney General urging him to support the right to bail for the eleven convicted American Communist leaders.

It was reported by [redacted] that DAVIS was present at a special meeting of the Executive Committee of the HCLC held at the home of [redacted] on [redacted]. On this occasion, he passed out a magazine entitled "Uncensored News" and asked if those present approved of the publication. It was noted that this magazine was published by the Civil Rights Congress and is a consolidation of the news items and incidents that have been highlighted by the Civil Rights Congress in the past year. Those present agreed to purchase five hundred copies of this publication for distribution in Hawaii.

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At the regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the HCLC, held on [redacted] at the home of [redacted] DAVIS was present and according to [redacted] read an analysis of the McCarran Communist Control Bill which had been received from the C. R. C. The analysis urged all organizations and individuals not to register. Those present agreed that the HCLC would defy the bill and would not register.

SECRET

28

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT HONOLULU, T. H.

FILE NO. 6000

REPORT MADE AT HONOLULU, T. H.	DATE WHEN MADE 11-13-50	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11/2-6/50	REPORT MADE BY WAL. L. KNAPP	LPS
TITLE FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

yes

Subject's business address is now 406 P Road, Honolulu. He admitted to an informant he became interested in the Communist Party in 1931 and urged informant to join the Communist Party. However, he claimed Communist Party of Hawaii was built around a group of white chauvinists who do not fully understand the basic principles underlying the Communist Party. In recent months he has sent two checks to the International Workers Order. Subject has been active in affairs of the Hawaii Civil Liberties, a Communist front, and occupies the position of Chairman of the Legal Action Committee of this organization. On June 29, 1950, he issued a \$500.00 check to the Honolulu Record. He continues to write a weekly column for this publication and in recent months has condemned the conviction of HARRY BRIDGES, the House Committee on Un-American Activities, United States intervention in Korea, and the Communist Control Bill. Subject is Assistant Secretary of his Democratic Party Precinct Club and was a Delegate to the Territorial Democratic Convention.

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/22/83 BY [signature]

*cc @ W
12-1-52
J.E.P.
EX*

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8117 JAN 2 1960**

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: *Joseph J. Logue*
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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EX - 83

RECORDED - 78

INDEXED - 78

100-328955-20

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3 - Honolulu

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X

Hon. 100-5082

representatives of the HCIC had talked over a possible merger with FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS; however, he said that discussions led HCIC officials to believe that such a merger was not to the best advantage of the Honolulu organization.

[redacted] reported that during the month of October 1949 [redacted] staff writer for the "HONOLULU RECORD," [redacted] and [redacted] and FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS spent considerable time in the bars and cafes of Smith and Hotel Streets in Honolulu in order to plant the seeds of race hatred, especially against the Honolulu Police Department and in order to create interest in the HCIC among the Negro people who frequent these bars and cafes. Informant stated that backing up these visits are the columns of the "HONOLULU RECORD," which have concentrated recently in stirring up race hatred in the Negro sections of Honolulu.

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[redacted] reported that while Subject had not attended any recent meetings of the HCIC, [redacted] announced, at the Executive Committee meeting held on January 30, 1950, that he had appointed the Subject as Chairman of the Legal Action Committee of this organization.

Informant further advised that at the general membership meeting held on February 6, 1950 Subject was approved for this position. He stated that it was decided at this meeting that the future policy and activities of the HCIC would be placed in the hands of an eleven-man executive committee and that general membership meetings would only be held from time to time and not on a regular basis.

[redacted] Chairman of the HCIC for 1950, announced at this meeting that the Subject was selected as Legal Action Chairman because of his years of experience with the Civil Rights Congress. He said he personally contacted DAVIS regarding the position and that DAVIS informed him he would be glad to serve on the committee in such a capacity. [redacted] stated that the Subject would be a valuable asset to the Executive Committee. He said Subject's job would be to investigate civil liberties issues and advise and guide the Executive Committee in action on these matters.

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X

dictated by [redacted] HCIC
Emitted by [redacted] HCIC

[redacted]

(Encl. 6)

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3-3

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

HONOLULU

Hon. FILE NO. 100-5082 AN

REPORT MADE AT HONOLULU	DATE WHEN MADE 3/16/50	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2/1, 2, 20, 21, 23/50	REPORT MADE BY WADE E. KNAPP
TITLE FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Post D/R

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject has bought a house near Punaluu on windward Oahu. In January 1950 he took out a license to do business as OAHU PAPERS in the retail and wholesale of paper and has office space at Room 5, Pier 7, Honolulu. [redacted] in an attempt to interest an informant in joining the Communist Party, told him that if he ever needed any money to get in touch with FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS. [redacted] said DAVIS has financially helped him and others. Subject continues to write a weekly column for the "HONOLULU RECORD," which closely follows the Communist Party line. In recent months has condemned loyalty oaths, "big business," the Atlantic Pact, Greece-Turkey aid, CIO leadership, the Truman administration, and the conviction of the 11 Communist Party leaders, while upholding the Communist Party, Soviet Russia, PAUL ROBESON, [redacted] and the ILWU. Subject was appointed Chairman of the Legal Action Committee of the HCLC, a Communist front, for 1950.

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*W. Stein
4-14-50
CSG - WBS*

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: *W. Stein* SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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65 APR 6 1950

Chicago File 100-15799

~~SECRET~~

On September 19, 1948 Chicago [redacted] advised that a farewell party for WILLIAM L. PATTERSON, former vice-Chairman of the Communist Party, District No. 8, who was recently appointed National Chairman of the Civil Rights Congress, was held at 410 South Michigan Avenue under the auspices of the Chicago Civil Rights Congress Chapter. Informant stated that FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS was chairman at this Party.

On December 1, 1948 [redacted] furnished a letter he received from the Civil Rights Congress of Illinois. The letter contained a plea for funds for the defense of the twelve Communist Party leaders now on trial in New York City. The name of FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS was listed as a sponsor on the letter.

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The Civil Rights Congress and its affiliates was listed by the Attorney General of the United States as a Communist organization.

[redacted] advised that the Chicago Chapter of the Civil Rights Congress is a Communist front organization.

Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee

On March 26, 1948 [redacted] advised that FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS was asked to speak for the benefit of the Chicago Chapter of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee, however, according to informant DAVIS had to decline the invitation due to other commitments.

The Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee is cited by the Attorney General as a Communist organization.

"Chicago Star" Activities

On May 16, 1947 [redacted] furnished a typewritten letter received by him from the "Chicago Star" announcing an open house for the "Chicago Star" on May 23, 1947. This letter contained the typed signature of FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS, Executive Editor.

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[redacted] advised that the "Chicago Star" is a weekly newspaper which discontinued publication in September of 1948. Prior to that time its editorial policies were dominated and influenced by officials of the Communist Party, District No. 8, solely under control in all aspects by officials of the Communist Party, District No. 8.

On June 26, 1948, page ten, column three, of the "Chicago Star" carried an article captioned "Published Poetry by F. M. DAVIS." The article stated that the publication of "Forty-Seventh Street," a book of poetry, would be released in July of 1948 and that it was the first publication since 1937 by FRANK

~~SECRET~~

HN 100-5082

DETAILS: AT HONOLULU, HAWAII

I. BACKGROUND

On September 5, 1963, [] reported that DAVIS still resides at 2994 Kalihi Street with his wife and four children. DAVIS is a Salesman for the Wright Company of Syracuse, New York, working out of his home. He handles mainly advertising specialties. He also works as a free-lance salesman for other Mainland business firms.

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II. EVIDENCE OF ANY COMMUNIST PARTY (CP) ACTIVITY

On August 2, 1963, DAVIS was contacted on Waikamilo Road and was asked if he was willing to be interviewed by FBI Agents. DAVIS claimed he had no time for an interview that date but believed he would be willing to furnish his observations to questions that might be put to him. He requested that he be contacted the following week to set up an appointment.

It was not until August 26, 1963, when DAVIS agreed to a definite appointment and met SA's ROBERT F. RYAN and LEO S. BRENNEISEN in Kapiolani Park, Honolulu. At the start of the interview DAVIS stated that since first being contacted by the FBI, he had come to the opinion that little could be gained from the interview and he did not see where it would be to his advantage to talk to Agents.

He was asked specifically if he was a member of the Communist Party. He stated that as far as he knew, there was no Communist Party in existence in Hawaii. He was next asked why and when he had broken with the Communist Party. DAVIS then went on at length to state that he had never gone on record as having been a member of the Communist Party, and he, therefore, did not see what could be gained by answering that question.

DAVIS related that he had been associated with a large number of radical organizations in the past, and he had been motivated solely by his fight for racial equality. He took the position that he would "consort with the devil to gain his ends," and his end was the fight against racial discrimination. DAVIS related that he had been born and

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: LEO S. BRENNEISEN
Date: 9/9/63

Office: HONOLULU

Field Office File No.: HN 100-5082

Bureau File No.: 100-328955

Title: FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS

Character: SECURITY MATTER - C

Synopsis:

Subject still employed as Salesman, Honolulu. Honolulu sources have no information any recent Communist Party or Communist Party front activity on part of DAVIS. On interview 8/26/63, DAVIS declared Communist Party of Hawaii out of existence since 1955 or 1956, but he refused to go on record he was CP member. Subject states his association with many radical groups in the past was motivated by his fight for racial equality rather than international politics.

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DATE 4-30-97 BY SP4 Bja/BK

HN 100-5082

of Hawaii, reported that in a recent conversation with subject DAVIS had declared that there was absolutely no Communist activity in the Territory at the present time and he was of the opinion that there appeared to be no interest in re-vitalizing any civil rights group.

On November 14, 1958, [] further advised that DAVIS had stated that he had no plans to resume his writing for a newspaper. However, informant noted that on a trip to DAVIS's home about a week previous he had observed that subject was still receiving a great deal of material from the Federated Press and from the National Negro Press.

The Federated Press was cited as a Communist front by the Special House Committee on Un-American Activities on March 29, 1944.

On June 2, 1959, [] related that DAVIS, in discussing the "Hawaiian Reporter", a new weekly paper of Honolulu which was not then in publication, stated that he believed there was no possibility of his being employed as a columnist by the new paper. DAVIS stated that the top brass at the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union had called him a "haole (Caucasian) hater" and DAVIS was of the opinion that they did not desire an anti-haole columnist on the paper.

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On July 7, 1959, [] stated he had received no information of any Communist or Communist Party front activity on the part of DAVIS during the past year.

On July 6, 1959, [] former member of the Communist Party in Honolulu prior and subsequent to World War II, reported he had no information concerning any Communist Party or Communist Party front activity on the part of DAVIS during the last year.

On July 9, 1959, [] Executive, Commission on Subversive Activities to the Legislature, Territory of Hawaii, reported the files of his office contained no information concerning any subversive activities on the part of DAVIS during the last year.

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