

U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

May 4, 2007

MR WILLIAM J MAXWELL
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
608 SOUTH WRIGHT STREET
URBANA, IL 61801

Subject: BENNETT, GWENDOLYN

FOIPA No. 1063112- 000

Dear Requester:

The enclosed documents were reviewed under the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA), Title 5, United States Code, Section 552/552a. Deletions have been made to protect information which is exempt from disclosure, with the appropriate exemptions noted on the page next to the excision. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted in the file to indicate where pages were withheld entirely. The exemptions used to withhold information are marked below and explained on the enclosed Form OPCA-16a:

Section 552

Section 552a

(b)(1)

(b)(7)(A)

(d)(5)

(b)(2)

(b)(7)(B)

(j)(2)

(b)(3) _____

(b)(7)(C)

(k)(1)

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(k)(4)

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115 page(s) were reviewed and 107 page(s) are being released.

Document(s) were located which originated with, or contained information concerning other Government agency(ies) [OGA]. This information has been:

- referred to the OGA for review and direct response to you.
- referred to the OGA for consultation. The FBI will correspond with you regarding this information when the consultation is finished.

You have the right to appeal any denials in this release. Appeals should be directed in writing to the Director, Office of Information and Privacy, U.S. Department of Justice, 1425 New York Ave., NW, Suite 11050, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001 within sixty days from the date of this letter. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal" or "Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

The enclosed material is from the main investigative file(s) in which the subject(s) of your request was the focus of the investigation. Our search located additional references, in files relating to other individuals, or matters, which may or may not be about your subject(s). Our experience has shown, when ident, references usually contain information similar to the information processed in the main file(s). Because of our significant backlog, we have given priority to processing only the main investigative file(s).

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Handwritten notes:
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If you want the references, you must submit a separate request for them in writing, and they will be reviewed at a later date, as time and resources permit.

See additional information which follows.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hardy", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David M. Hardy
Section Chief
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)

To minimize cost to both you and the FBI, extra file copies of the same document were not processed.

EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute(A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could be reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could be reasonably expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

Serial Description ~ COVER SHEET

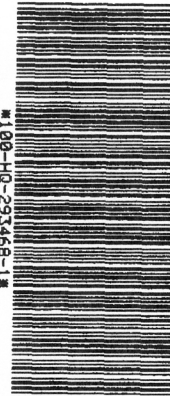
Total Deleted Page(s) ~ 8
Page 22 ~ b2, b6, b7C, b7D
Page 44 ~ b2, b6, b7C, b7D
Page 55 ~ b2, b6, b7C, b7D
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U. S. Department of Justice

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SERIALS 1--

100-HQ-293468

SECTION 1

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

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FOIPA # 1063112

REQUESTED BY

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USE CARE IN HANDLING THIS FILE

Transfer-Call

FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION
1734 NEW YORK AVENUE NW
WASHINGTON, D C

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-07-2007 BY 60324 auc baw/cpb/kj

6
HOWARD O HUNTER
COMMISSIONER OF WORK PROJECTS

June 24, 1941

Reference:
5-NY-3717

*5 11 221
EMPLOYEE!*

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

There is enclosed herewith a copy of the report of an investigation made by this Division of a complaint which alleged that Gwendolyn C. Bennett made a false statement in submitting an affidavit, WPA Form 608, to this Administration stating that she was not a Communist.

The report of this investigation is referred to your Bureau for your information and files.

Very truly yours,

Roger J. Board
Roger J. Board, Director
Division of Investigation

Enclosure

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*Rec. 6/24/41
Gwendolyn C. Bennett*

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U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

DECLASSIFIED BY 60324 auc baw/cpb/kj
ON 03-07-2007

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

NY FILE NO. **100-56529 MWV**

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, N. Y.	DATE WHEN MADE 3/23/44	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/28/43; 2/4/44; 10, 12, 29, 3/3/44; 14-17/44	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 15px;"></div>
TITLE GWENDOLYN BENNETT, with aliases: Gwendolyn Bennett Crosscup, Mrs. Alfred Jackson, Gwendolyn Bennett Jackson, Ruth Gale		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS

Subject **GWENDOLYN BENNETT**, negress, claims to have been born at Giddings, Texas, 7/8/02, and was raised in Washington, D.C. and Harrisburg, Pa. In 1916 subject came to NYC and has been over intermittent period a resident of that city since. In 1927 BENNETT married Dr. ALFRED JACKSON, now deceased. On 6/25/40 she married present husband, **RICHARD B. CROSSCUP**, white man. Subject is connected with the intellectual group of the Communist Party, and is believed to be close friend of **JAMES W. FORD**, colored Communist Party Vice-Presidential candidate, as well as **PAUL ROBESON**, **CANADA LEE**, **EARL BROWDER**, **ROBERT MINOR**, **FREDINAND SMITH** and other Communists. BENNETT is alleged to have been a member of the Communist Party Publicity Committee for NY District in 1936, 1937 and 1938. Her husband, **RICHARD BECK CROSSCUP**, was a Communist in 1935 and may still be one. In June, 1941, WPA authorities suspended subject as Director of WPA Art Center in Harlem and attempted to prosecute her under Section 80, Title 18, USC, because of her Communist affiliations. In December, 1941 subject was reinstated and charges against her were dropped because of insufficient evidence.

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② APPC!!
V.S.

Subject has been teacher at the School For Democracy for several years and is instructor at the Jefferson School Of Social Science at the present time. **GWENDOLYN BENNETT** is Director of George Washington Carver School, colored Communist front organization, located 57 W. 125 St., NYC, and is very active in Communist Party matters in NYC.

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>E.E. Conroy</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
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DETAILS:

The subject, **GWENDOLYN BENNETT**, with aliases, is being considered a key figure in the New York Field Division.

Background

GWENDOLYN BENNETT, a negress, claims to have been born in Giddings, Texas on July 8, 1902. A letter received by the New York branch of the Work Projects Administration, Sub-Treasury Building, Pine and Nassau Streets, New York City, from the Health Department at Giddings, Texas, indicates that birth records were not maintained at Giddings until 1903. The subject claims to have moved from Texas eight months after her birth when she went to live in Washington, D. C. After a short time in that city she travelled to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where she spent her youth. In 1916 the subject moved to New York City, and has been a resident of that city for an intermittent period since that time.

In 1927 the subject claims to have married Dr. **ALFRED JACKSON**, who is now deceased. On June 25, 1940 the subject married **RICHARD B. CROSSCUP**, a white man, and has lived with him in New York City since that time.

Education

The files of the Work Projects Administration indicate the following information concerning the subject's education and background:

- 1915 - 1916 Harrisburg High School, Harrisburg, Pa.
- 1918 Girls' High School, Brooklyn, N. Y.
- 1921 - 1922 Columbia Teachers College, New York, N. Y.
- 1922 - 1924 Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N. Y., graduated 1924
- September 1924 to June, 1925 Teacher at Howard University
- September 1925 to June 1926 Julien Academy, Paris, France
- September 1926 to June 1927 Teacher at Howard University
- September 1927 to June 1928 Student at Barnes Foundation, Marion, Pa.

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1928 - 1930 Teacher at State Agricultural and Industrial School, Nashville, Tennessee; also a teacher in the Wade County Schools, Florida

Employment

The files of the Work Projects Administration indicate the following employment record of the subject:

- 1930 Publicity agent - W. C. HANDY PUBLISHING COMPANY
- 1930--1934 Part-time work - Y.W.C.A.
- 1935 Writers Project
- 1935-June 1941 Art project - Work Projects Administration

The subject is presently employed as Director of the George Washington Carver School and teacher at the Jefferson School Of Social Science.

Residences

In addition to having resided at Giddings, Texas, Washington, D.C., and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in her youth, BENNETT resided for a short time in Paris, France, during 1925 and 1926. Her residences in New York City were as follows:

July 1936 to November 1937 - 321 West 136th St., New York, N. Y.

November 1937 to January 19, 1938 - 250 West 154th St., New York, N. Y.

January 19, 1938 to date - 2 West 120th St., New York, N. Y.

Communist Party Activities and Affiliations

The records of the Work Projects Administration, Division of Investigation, Pine and Nassau Streets, New York City, were examined by the reporting agent and the following information obtained:

On June 19, 1941 the subject was investigated by the Work Projects Administration on the complaint that she had made a false statement in submitting an affidavit, W.P.A. Form 608, stating that she was not a Communist. The file also reflects a letter dated June 3, 1941,

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from [redacted] to [redacted] of Investigation, Work Projects Administration, Washington, D. C., to the effect that [redacted] felt that the facts in the case warranted prosecution of the subject under Section 80, Title 18, United States Code. A summary of the material contained in this file indicates that the W.P.A. investigators were advised by a former member of the Communist Party, whose identity was not disclosed, that the subject, GWENDOLYN BENNETT, had always been connected with the intellectual group of the Communist Party, and was a close friend of JAMES W. FORD, colored Communist Party Vice-Presidential candidate, and that in 1937 or 1938 she was on a committee of well-known Communists, the purpose of which was to defend Trotsky shootings in Russia. BENNETT was also a member of the Communist Party Publicity Committee for New York District in 1936, 1937 and 1938. Her husband, RICHARD CROSSCUP, was a Communist in 1935, and may still be one.

This file reflects that [redacted] the subject of another W.P.A. case, stated, when shown a picture of the subject, that she was known to him as RUTH GALE and had been in the Communist Party movement for some time. In 1934 and 1935 [redacted] stated BENNETT was connected with a Communist Party paper in Harlem, name unknown, and was also identified with a Communist Party Club at that time. This W.P.A. file reflects that the subject was a delegate to the National Negro Congress in Philadelphia in 1937 from the American Artists Guild.

Upon being interviewed [redacted] advised Work Projects Administration investigator [redacted] that GWENDOLYN BENNETT regularly read the DAILY WORKER and that the subject was President of the Harlem Artists Guild during 1937 and 1938. [redacted] admitted accompanying BENNETT to the National Negro Congress in Philadelphia in 1937 and stated that while there BENNETT was very active and lobbied for the Young Communist League in order that its members would be elected to office in the National Negro Congress. Among the Communists GWENDOLYN BENNETT lobbied for were [redacted] of the New York City Relief Bureau, [redacted] of the Young Communist League, New York City.

When [redacted] and Miss BENNETT returned to New York [redacted] stated to the W.P.A. Investigator that she overheard BENNETT tell [redacted] that she wished to make an oral report of the proceedings of the National Negro Congress at Philadelphia. She told [redacted] that the Young

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Communist League attended 150 strong and ran away with the convention. She said the high light of the convention was the arrival at the convention of WILLIAM L. PATTERSON from Moscow, Russia, and that PATTERSON delivered a message from Moscow to the convention which thrilled BENNETT and other delegates. BENNETT told [redacted] that objections to Communists attending the convention were squashed by PATTERSON and other Communists present. [redacted] said she never saw the subject speak to PATTERSON either in Philadelphia or New York City, and that [redacted] never met him.

At the time of this interview in June, 1941, [redacted] claimed that the Harlem Artists Guild, with which GWENDOLYN BENNETT was affiliated, and which is now defunct, was not Communist, but had several Communist sympathizers as members. [redacted] further advised that meetings of [redacted] were held at their respective homes and Communist Party activities were discussed. Those individuals who attended who were not Communist sympathizers were disgusted. The names of the non-Communist persons attending were not recorded.

The records of the Work Projects Administration reflect that [redacted]

[redacted] The above mentioned individuals were the active Communists and Communist sympathizers connected with the Art Project which the subject was affiliated with.

This same file reflects that [redacted] said that Communist meetings were held in a room [redacted] in the [redacted] and that she often overheard Communist matters being discussed. Subject BENNETT was in charge of this project and was continually going in and out of these meetings while they were in progress. [redacted] and GWENDOLYN BENNETT tried to put pressure on [redacted] to either join the Communist Party or leave the Harlem project.

At a party given in the [redacted] honor at the home of [redacted] BENNETT attended with [redacted]

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a [redacted] named [redacted] and endeavored to interest the guests in the "Better Russian negro film movement". [redacted]

[redacted] was interviewed by W.P.A. Investigator and could not recall the discussion of a better Russian film movement, but he did recall that BENNETT suggested that a party be given for her friend, PAUL ROBESON. The party was never given.

[redacted] advised she could not say whether the subject was a Communist or not, but she did know that the subject was a Communist sympathizer, and that the Harlem Art Center was over-run with Communists and Communist Party activities. She further stated that BENNETT was definitely partial to all Communist Party members.

The Work Projects Administration file further reflects that the subject was chairman and sponsor of the Negro Playwrights Company, Inc., which produced the Communist play BIG WHITE FOG at the Lincoln Theatre in Harlem in 1940. The subject was very friendly with RICHARD WRIGHT and PAUL ROBESON. The file also reflects that BENNETT campaigned in Pittsburgh for JAMES FORD, colored Vice-Presidential candidate, during the election of 1940.

and [redacted] were interviewed by W.P.A. investigators regarding Communist activities of the subject, with negative results.

[redacted] stated that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was reputed to be a Communist.

[redacted] a member of the Communist Party Harlem section from March 10, 1936 to October, 1938, when he resigned, stated that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was reputed to be a Communist.

[redacted] former member of the Communist Party, from 1929 to 1936, and member of the Central Committee of the Young Communist League, testified before the Woodrum Committee that the subject, GWENDOLYN BENNETT, attended a dinner given in honor of FORD, Communist Vice-Presidential candidate, at which BENNETT was seated next to EARL BROWDER and ROBERT MINOR. [redacted] also stated that [redacted] for whom GWENDOLYN BENNETT lobbied at the National Negro Congress, has been a high-ranking Communist Party member since 1935.

[redacted] no residence

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given, who is affiliated with the NEW YORK AMSTERDAM STAR NEWS, said he believed GWENDOLYN BENNETT was one of a group of negroes who went to Russia in 1931 or 1932 to make negro film. He was unable to state definitely whether BENNETT was a Communist.

[redacted] of the NEW YORK AMSTERDAM STAR NEWS, said GWENDOLYN BENNETT was a Communist Party sympathizer and that the play BIG WHITE FOG with which she was affiliated was definitely Communistic.

[redacted] news correspondent residing at [redacted] said that GWENDOLYN BENNETT is accepted in Harlem, associated with and sympathetic with activities which have been considered Communistic.

[redacted] "New York Age" employee, who has known BENNETT for ten years, stated she has a reputation of being a Communist in Harlem.

[redacted] at the NEW YORK AGE, 230 West 135th Street, New York City, said that she had known BENNETT for years and that she is regarded as a Communist.

[redacted] at the NEW YORK AGE, 230 West 135th Street, New York City, stated he heard rumors to the effect that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was a Communist and had been removed as a teacher at Howard University because of some scandal in which she became involved.

The above-mentioned file reflects that a former member of the Communist Party advised W.P.A. investigators that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was a member of the Communist Party Publicity Committee for New York District in 1936, 1937 and part of 1938.

[redacted] is a friend of the subject.
[redacted] of the City of New York on the Communist Party ticket.

BENNETT is also a close friend of [redacted] writer

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for COLLIER'S Magazine, known to be a Communist, who writes for the Party under the pen name of [REDACTED]

RICHARD B. CROSSCUP, the subject's husband, was a member of the Communist Party in 1935, and is very friendly with CYRIL BRIGGS, a staff member of the DAILY WORKER. A former Communist Party member advised W.P.A. agents that CROSSCUP has been seen in the Communist Party offices on 13th Street and at the Workers Book Shop as recently as 1938. CROSSCUP is a personal friend of [REDACTED]

The W.P.A. file reflects the following investigation was conducted by the Pittsburgh Branch of the Work Projects Administration:

[REDACTED] identified a picture of the subject as the person who spoke at a meeting of the Communist Party during the fall of 1939. This meeting was held at the Northside Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh. [REDACTED] said that he read in the local DAILY WORKER that BENNETT again spoke at a Communist Party meeting at the Northside Carnegie Library in November, 1940.

[REDACTED] of the FREDIANI PRINTING COMPANY, 71 Elm Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, stated that during the election of 1940 he printed 15,000 four-page leaflets for the Communist Party, which referred to a meeting at the Northside Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh on behalf of JAMES W. FORD, colored Communist. [REDACTED] also printed a DAILY WORKER western Pennsylvania edition for the Communist Party, with the permission of the DAILY WORKER of New York. This was in 1940. [REDACTED] was unable to furnish any literature regarding this meeting, or the Worker Edition that he published.

The following investigation was conducted by the Work Projects Administration office of the Boston, Massachusetts area:

Examination of the files of the Massachusetts State Department of Safety and the Boston City Police Department as of May 28, 1941 failed to reveal any information concerning the activities of RICHARD B. CROSSCUP or GWENDOLYN BENNETT. The FBI records in the Boston Field Office were also checked with negative results.

Information was revealed which alleged that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was affiliated with a Communist organization in Boston known as the Great Pacific Movement.

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On April 26, 1941 subject GWENDOLYN BENNETT was requested to appear before the New York Work Projects Administration for questioning regarding her Communist Party affiliations. She advised the W.P.A. at that time that she would only appear under the following circumstances:

1. If she was given a copy of the charges made against her.
2. That all accusers be made to make their accusations in person.
3. That investigations of the case be confined to circumstances connected with the charges.
4. That she receive a transcript of the proceedings of the interviews relative to the case.

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Her demands were denied but she was advised that she would be permitted to have her attorney present during the interview. On June 4, 1941 the subject appeared with her attorney, [redacted] at the New York Office of the Work Projects Administration. Upon being questioned the subject denied she was ever a member of the Communist Party and that she had ever lobbied for the Young Communist League or any other Communist organization. She denied that she did publicity work for the Communist Party, or any Communist organization. She denied she was ever in Pittsburgh or had ever spoken on behalf of a Communist candidate or for a Communist Party cause. She denied ever having been connected with any committee for the purpose of [redacted] Russia or the Trotsky shootings in Russia. She denied that she ever wrote under a pen name or that she ever read Communist literature. She denied she was friendly with RICHARD WRIGHT or JAMES W. FORD, negro Communist. She refused to answer when asked if she was present at a dinner given for FORD and sat at the speakers' table with EARL BROWDER and ROBERT MINOR. She refused to answer when questions regarding her presence at the National Negro Congress Convention in Philadelphia were directed to her, or whether she had submitted a report regarding Communist Party activities at the Convention. BENNETT also refused to answer any questions as to her interest in the Russian negro film movement. She refused to answer the question as to whether she read the DAILY WORKER. The subject refused to say whether she was present at a banquet in honor of [redacted] an exile. She declared the National Negro Playwrights Company, Inc. used her name without permission. She also claimed her poems appeared in the DAILY WORKER without her consent. She stated she never saw WILLIAM PATTERSON, Communist Party candidate for Congress, but knew his wife. When asked if she knew LOUISE THOMPSON, wife of WILLIAM

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*PATTERSON, she refused to say whether she knew her. The subject refused to answer the question "RICHARD CROSSCUP - is that your husband's original name?" She refused to answer the question "Was your husband's name RICHARD BECK/CROSSCUP?" She refused to answer the question "Does your husband live in New York City with you?" She claimed to have never used any name but GWENDOLYN BENNETT, JACKSON, or CROSSCUP. She claimed to have never been in Russia at any time.

[redacted] of the Division of Investigation, Work Projects Administration, advised the reporting agent that Investigator [redacted] handled the case of GWENDOLYN BENNETT and was in a better position to furnish additional information regarding her. [redacted] was not available at that time and will be contacted by the reporting agent at a later date.

The files of the W.P.A. reflect that on December 13, 1941 [redacted] Assistant Commissioner, Work Projects Administration, wrote to [redacted] W.P.A. Administrator, New York City, clearing the subject's records of charges of Communism on the grounds of insufficient evidence, and making her eligible for reinstatement and further employment on W.P.A. projects.

[redacted]

The records of Special Squad No. 1, New York City Police Department, 400 Broome Street, New York City, reflected that GWENDOLYN BENNETT is a teacher of "Life and culture of the negro people" and "Art and the People" at the School For Democracy, 13 Astor Place, New York City. This was on January 26, 1942. She was also Director of the Harlem Community Art Center, 125th Street and Lenox Avenue, New York City. In July and August, 1943, the subject taught the summer school session of the School For Democracy. Her course was painting and drawing for amateurs.

The file further reflects that the subject is presently teaching Art, History and Appreciation at the Thomas Jefferson School of Social Science. The file reflects a newspaper clipping from the NEW YORK AGE dated January 10, 1942 in which GWENDOLYN BENNETT was cleared of charges of subversive activity and reinstated on the Work Projects Administration. At the hearing Miss BENNETT was represented by [redacted] Attorney for the Joint Committee To Defend W.P.A. Workers..

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The records of the Bureau of Criminal Identification, 9th floor, 400 Broome Street, New York City, were also checked but failed to reveal any information not previously reported.

Lieutenant [redacted] 6th Detective District, 229 West 123rd Street, New York City, advised the writer that the subject is believed to be a Communist and is married to one of his air raid wardens, RICHARD B. CROSSCUP, a teacher in his air raid warden school. Lieutenant [redacted] was unable to furnish any additional information concerning the subject other than the fact that she was Director of the George Washington Carver School.

The Selective Service record of the subject's husband, RICHARD B. CROSSCUP, was checked at the Selective Service Board No. 55, 307 Lenox Avenue, New York City. CROSSCUP'S serial number is 3246 and his order number is 2389. He was born in Boston, Massachusetts, July 24, 1905, and is presently employed by the Walden School, 1 West 88th Street, New York City. He and his wife, GWENDOLYN BENNETT, operate a summer camp at Port Murray, New Jersey, which is known as Camp Wo-Chi-Ca. CROSSCUP and his wife reside at 2 West 120th Street, New York City. In 1929 CROSSCUP left the country and was issued Passport No. 84756. His destination was not revealed. He has been placed in Class 1AH as of July 24, 1943 because of his age.

The Selective Service file reflects a letter from RICHARD B. CROSSCUP to the Board dated April 20, 1942, in which he claims that his mother, LILLIAN A. CROSSCUP, age-70 years, was living with him at that time. He also states that his wife, GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was employed at \$125. a month as a teacher in the School For Democracy, 13 Astor Place, New York City. CROSSCUP is Assistant Deputy Zone Warden, Precinct 28, Zone 1, New York City. He claims to have been a teacher since 1933. He lists relatives as follows:

Mother, LILLIAN A. CROSSCUP, 1065 Boylston St., Boston, Mass.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] whose identity is known

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to the Bureau, was contacted regarding the subject and RICHARD B. CROSSCUP. He stated that he believed that both of them were active in Communist circles but that he would obtain additional information concerning their present Communist Party affiliations.

(U) ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Confidential Informant [redacted] whose identity is also known to the Bureau, advised the writer that he had known the subject for some time and that he believed her to be a member of the Communist Party. He expected to have close contacts with the subject some time in the future and hoped to be able to provide this office with additional information concerning her.

A review of the file of the DAILY WORKER indicates numerous references to the subject, all of which have been covered in this report.



A review of the files of this office indicates a newspaper article published in the New York WORLD TELEGRAM of November 16, 1943, which revealed the George Washington Carver School as a "Red negro ruse". A summary of the information in the article is as follows:

A new people's institution named the George Washington Carver School has been organized in Harlem with strong Communist backing in a propaganda bid for interest among negroes. One of its directors and chief backers is BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, JR., Communist functionary, whose election to City Council the WORLD TELEGRAM disclosed the week previous to instant article followed the Communist strategy of exploiting national, racial and religious feelings. At the opening of the institute, which is located at 57 West 125th Street, the DAILY WORKER, Communist Party organ, hailed the event as a major happening in Harlem. The head of the school, Dr. MAX YERGAN, is one of the country's foremost negro leaders of Communist causes, and is president of the National Negro Congress. GWENDOLYN BENNETT, who recently resigned from

100-56529

teaching at the School For Democracy, has been appointed Director of the new school. According to the article, the school is recognized by the thinking people of Harlem as a Communist attempt to exploit CARVER.

The files of this office further reflect that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was a teacher of a course given at the School For Democracy, 13 Astor Place, New York City, in the winter term, January to March, 1943, entitled "Life and Culture of the Negro People". The subject is also listed in the files of the New York Office as being a teacher at the summer School For Democracy at Arcadia, Fishkill, New York. This organization is conducted by the School For Democracy, 13 Astor Place, New York City.

The files reflect that the subject spoke at a cultural group meeting at the Edison Hall, 228 West 47th Street, New York City, on Sunday, December 4, 1943. The subject of this course was "Contributions Of The Negro To American Art And Culture". Dr. YERGAN served as chairman. The file also reflects an article taken from the PEOPLE'S VOICE of November 27, 1943, concerning the George Washington Carver School, in which GWENDOLYN BENNETT, Director of the Carver School, stated "This is an educational institution which we are building to meet the needs of the people of Harlem. A carefully chosen curriculum committee from the Board of Directors will organize the educational program, changing and modifying the courses offered as our experience with the community dictates the need for change. The courses to be offered will be planned in keeping with the best educational principles at all times".

A catalogue of the Jefferson School of Social Science, winter term 1944, reflects the following information regarding the subject:

B.S. in Fine Arts, Columbia University, New York City.

Fellowships at Academie Julien, Paris, France

Barnes Foundation, Merion, Pennsylvania.

Taught Art at Howard University

Former Director of Harlem Community Art Center

Director of George Washington Carver School

The original directors of the George Washington Carver School are as follows:

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NY 100-56529

[redacted] BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, JR., Judge
 HUBERT T. DELANEY, [redacted]
 [redacted] CANADA LEE, [redacted]
 Reverend ADAM CLAYTON POWELL, JR., [redacted] PAUL ROBESON.
 FERDINAND C. SMITH, [redacted]
 [redacted] and
 Dr. MAX YERGAN.

On March 10, 1944 a mail cover was placed on the subject and RICHARD B. CROSSCUP at their residence, 2 West 120th Street, New York City. As yet no information has been received through this source.

A copy of the subject's picture was obtained during the course of the investigation, and will be made a part of the 1A file of instant case.

The following description of GWENDOLYN BENNETT was obtained during the course of investigation:

Date and place of birth:	Giddings, Texas, July 8, 1902
Age:	42 years
Race:	Negress
Complexion:	Medium brown
Height:	5'
Weight:	185 lbs.
Build:	Heavy
Color of hair:	Black, cut short
Color of eyes:	Brown
Shape of face:	Round
Teeth:	White and even
Occupation:	Artist, teacher, Director of George Washington Carver School
Marital status:	Married
Remarks:	Occasionally wears rimless glasses has pleasant disposition, and always appears smiling and good humoured.

P E N D I N G

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEWARK FIELD DIVISION

At Port Murray, N. J.

Will attempt to ascertain whether Camp Wo-Chi-Ca at Port Murray is a Communist Camp and will report any present activities on the part of the subject or her husband, RICHARD B. CROSSCUP, in that area.

BOSTON FIELD DIVISION

At Boston, Mass.

Will report any pertinent information concerning the subject's husband, RICHARD B. CROSSCUP, which may be contained in divorce decree 16944, Probate Court, Massachusetts.

Will, if possible, interview the former wife of CROSSCUP for any information concerning CROSSCUP or BENNETT.

Will obtain any information as to CROSSCUP'S affiliations at Boston University, where he received an M.A. Degree in 1940.

Will report all information contained in the files of the Boston Office regarding BENNETT or her husband.

At Cambridge, Mass.

Will obtain any information as to CROSSCUP'S Communist affiliations at Harvard University, where he was graduated with an A.B. Degree in 1927.

Will contact the proper authorities at Cambridge School for any information concerning RICHARD CROSSCUP, who is believed to have been a teacher at that school for about eight years.

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

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At New York, N. Y.

Will contact [redacted] Work Projects Administration Investigator, Sub-Treasury Building, third floor, Pine and Nassau Streets, who handled the investigation of the subject, and obtain any additional information concerning her Communist activities.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

Will recontact confidential informants of the New York Office in an attempt to ascertain the present activities of the subject and her husband.

Will continue additional investigation in the New York area concerning the subject's Communist Party affiliations and activities.

Will report the results of the mail cover placed on the subject and her husband at their residence, 2 West 120th Street, New York City.

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NY 100-56529

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CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The Confidential Informants referred to in the report of Special Agent dated at New York, N. Y. March 23, 1944 are identified as follows:

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/15/92 BY 1048 DKA/jtt

ENCLOSURE



100-293468-3

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300.

1 Enclosures for Bureau Office

Re. NEW YORK FILE NO. 100-56529

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 12/15/92 BY 1048/DK/mj/lt

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York, New York

JJM:HGF
100-56529

April 21, 1944

Director, FBI

Re: ^①GWENDOLYN BENNETT
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

med
A photograph of the above captioned subject, GWENDOLYN BENNETT, obtained by this office, is being forwarded to the Bureau as an enclosure. The picture in question is for inclusion in the subject's case file at the Bureau.

Additional copies of the photograph are being retained in the proper case file in this office.

Very truly yours,

E. E. Conroy
E. E. CONROY
SAC

Enc.

*attached
ENCL 1*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12-29-92 BY 1048/DKM/glt

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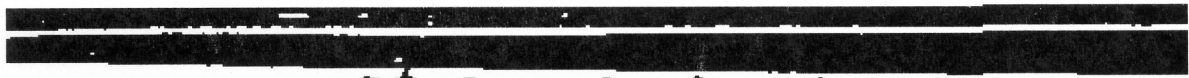
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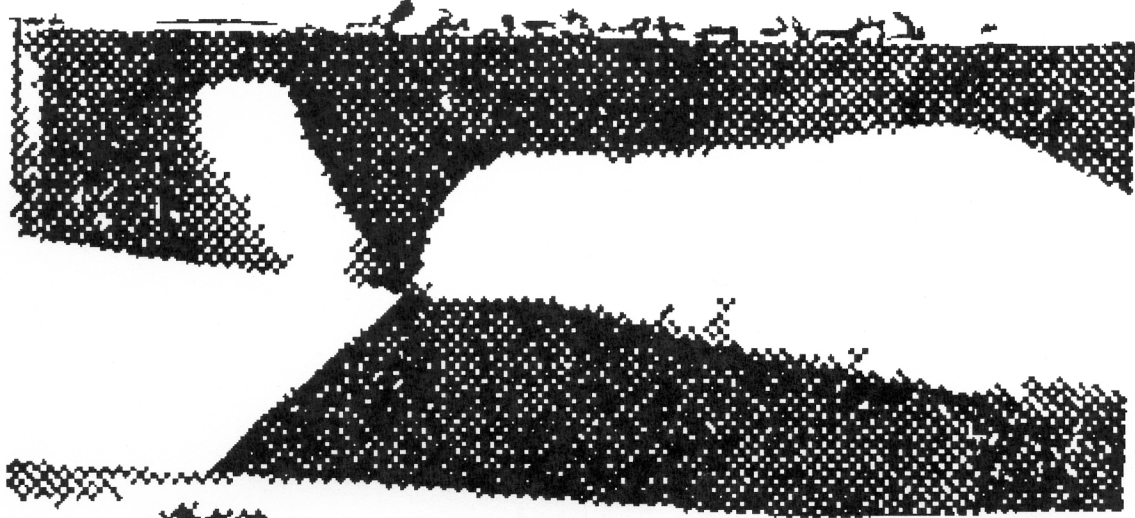


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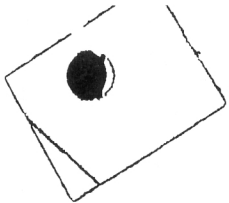
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NOT RECORDED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

May 5, 1944

100-293468

Special Agent in Charge
New York, New York

RE SECURITY MATTER

Dear Sir

Please be advised that a security index card has been prepared at the Bureau, captioned as follows

BENNETT, GWENDOLYN **NATIVE BORN** **COMMUNIST**
 with aliases
 Mrs. Gwendolyn Bennett Crosscup
 Mrs. Gwendolyn Bennett Jackson
 Mrs. Albert Jackson
 Ruth Gale
 2 West 120th St.,
 New York, New York (Res.)

George Washington Carver School
 57 W. 125th St.,
 New York, New York (Bus.)

DECLASSIFIED BY 1048/DK/ltt
 ON 12/15/92

The above caption should be checked immediately for accuracy against the information contained in your files, and the Bureau should be informed of any discrepancies. You will prepare without delay a 5" x 8" white card captioned as above and reflecting your investigative case file number for filing in your Confidential Security Index Card File. In the event the above caption is not correct, the card you prepare should be correctly captioned, and the Bureau should be informed of the correct caption.

The caption of the card prepared and filed in your Office must be kept current at all times and the Bureau immediately advised of any changes made therein in that connection.

- Tolson _____
- E. A. Tamm _____
- Clegg _____
- Coffey _____
- Glavin _____
- Ladd _____
- Nichols _____
- Rosen _____
- Tracy _____
- Mohr _____
- Carson _____
- Hendon _____
- Humphord _____
- Jones _____
- Quinn Tamm _____
- Nease _____
- Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
 MAILED
 MAY 4 1944
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

H. L. ...

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK

FILE NO 100-14816 md

REPORT MADE AT BOSTON, MASS.	DATE WHEN MADE 5/30/44	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/8,9,12,20/44	REPORT MADE BY [Redacted]
TITLE GWENDOLYN BENNETT with aliases Gwendolyn Bennett Crosscup, Mrs. Alfred Jackson, Gwendolyn Bennett Jackson, Ruth Gale			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY (C)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS

Richard Beck Crosscup was married June 16, 1930 and granted a divorce decree May 29, 1936 charged with cruel and abusive treatment. Two children were born to the marriage.

[Redacted] Crosscup was born July 24, 1905 at Dorchester, Massachusetts, graduated from Harvard University cum laude in 1927 receiving an AB degree and Boston University School of Education, Summer sessions, 1940 cum laude. In 1931 he worked as a janitor for the church and bank receiving \$40 per month until hired by [Redacted] of Boston University to work for him personally on research work and writing at \$60 per month. [Redacted] secured a tutoring job for Crosscup, paying him \$90 per month. In 1934 [Redacted] secured a position for Crosscup with [Redacted]

[Redacted] of the Cambridge Upper School at Weston, Massachusetts, in charge of [Redacted] program. Crosscup was active in the Trade Union movement as a member of a teachers' union and served as a delegate to the Boston Central Labor Union, State Federation of Labor Convention. Crosscup is described as very independent, has his own opinion of things and will express them regardless of to whom he may be talking, has his own philosophy on life to the extent of sharing his wife and marrying a colored woman. Informants have no knowledge that he was connected with the Communist Party this area. All the ideas he had on life were his own based on information received. It was deemed impractical to interview Crosscup's former wife. No information concerning subject in Boston file.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 4/4/93 BY 1048/DEM/STP

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>Calouy</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau COPY IN FILE 2 New York 1 Capt. [Redacted] DIO 3ND 1 Colonel [Redacted] D of I 2 SC 3 Boston		100-14816-5 19 JUN 1 1944	RECORDED & INDEXED EX-18

55 OCT 7 1944

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated New York,
March 23, 1944

DETAILS: The subject Gwendolyn Bennett with aliases is being considered
a key figure in the New York Field Division.

The writer checked the records of the Massachusetts Probate Court, Pemberton Square, Boston, Massachusetts, and reviewed the divorce decree #16944, involving [redacted] and Richard Beck Crosscup. According to the record, the couple was married June 16, 1930 and [redacted] filed for a divorce against Richard B. Crosscup for cruel and abusive treatment March 16, 1936. The final decree was granted May 29, 1936. The divorce was uncontested by the husband Richard Crosscup. They list the following [redacted]
[redacted] The attorney for the
libelant was [redacted]

The writer reviewed the subject's record at the registrar's office at Harvard University, Cambridge, and ascertained that he was born July 24, 1905 at Dorchester, Massachusetts, his father's name being Louis Edwin Crosscup and his mother's name being Lillian Campbell Crosscup. He graduated from Quincy High School and Thayer Academy where he completed four years undergraduate literary work. He graduated from Harvard College in 1927 magna cum laude.

A review of the Professors and advisers was made by the writer and upon inquiry of [redacted] was advised that his adviser is deceased and there is no one presently teaching at the college who would know the subject.

She referred the writer to the Decennial Report for 1937 which would be the subject's own account of his activity for ten years following his graduation from Harvard. The report was reviewed by the writer and it was found that the subject had the following to say:

Occupation - teacher, Cambridge School, Kendall Green, Massachusetts
Married - June 1930, divorced
Children - Martha, born 6/13/31

The report continues: "During the fall and winter of 1930 I dug clams for a living in Maine. In the spring and summer of 1931 I did statistical work for an investment counselor and was also engaged in tutoring. I took a partnership in a school but the school failed. In the fall of 1931 and also of 1934 I worked as janitor of a church and of a bank. Since 1934 I have been in charge of the remedial program of the Cambridge School, Kendall Green, Massachusetts. I received my training at Boston University School of Education. I am presently active in a local trade union movement as a member of a teachers'

union. I served as delegate to the Boston Central Labor Union, State Federation of Labor and I am on the editorial staff of the American Teacher, the official magazine of the American Federation of Teachers.

The writer reviewed the subject's file at Boston University School of Education and ascertained that the subject first entered Boston University in 1933, and attended the summer classes off and on and finally graduated August 10, 1940, receiving an M. E. degree cum laude. [REDACTED]

The writer interviewed [REDACTED] who advised that he was very well acquainted with the subject. [REDACTED] stated that he met the subject for the first time when he filed an application for entrance to the school of education. [REDACTED] stated that he had the necessary qualifications to enter the school but was lacking in funds. According to [REDACTED] Crosscup was very careless about his dress and at the first meeting with [REDACTED] Crosscup was badly in need of a haircut, had a soiled shirt, no tie and made a very poor impression. At that time Crosscup was working as janitor in a church and a bank receiving \$40 a month. [REDACTED] stated that he talked to Crosscup and told him he had the ability to write for magazines but Crosscup was not interested. [REDACTED] advised the writer that in viewing his record he knew the subject was clever and therefore hired him personally to do work for him and write articles. [REDACTED] paid Crosscup \$60 per month.

During his employment [REDACTED] secured a tutoring job for the subject, paying him \$90 per month. As explained by [REDACTED] Crosscup was up in the big money now, something that he was not interested in and so Crosscup hired another student to prepare his tutoring work for him, paying him for his work. [REDACTED] stated that Crosscup wrote many fine articles which [REDACTED] later sold for a considerable sum.

[REDACTED] was responsible for securing a position with [REDACTED] of the Cambridge Upper School, Weston, Massachusetts, for Crosscup.

[REDACTED] stated that Crosscup was very polite and a likable chap but had a very odd way of looking at life. For example, [REDACTED] came from a very low type family and the subject feeling sorry for the girl married her, and at the same time he himself not being in a position to support two people. [REDACTED] was artistically inclined and becoming dissatisfied after their marriage decided to go to New York to secure employment as an artist. She stayed in New York for one year, returning to Crosscup with a man by the name of [REDACTED] on the WPA. Crosscup accepted the two into his home and the three lived together until the arrival of the second child. According to [REDACTED] this was the cause of the divorce. The attitude adopted by Crosscup was if she prefers [REDACTED] over me I will divorce her. This was agreed upon by [REDACTED] and Crosscup and accordingly [REDACTED] divorced Crosscup, the same being uncontested and later

[redacted]

[redacted] said Crosscup is a very convincing speaker and after listening to him on his ideas of life one will wonder who is crazy Crosscup or the listener

[redacted] stated it is his understanding that Crosscup is now married to a negress which does not surprise [redacted] knowing Crosscup as he does.

According to [redacted] Crosscup had no connection with the Communist Party in this area, however, he admits that Crosscup's philosophy is the same as that practiced by the Communist Party but they are strictly his own ideas. He believed in organized labor and was one of the members of the American Federation of Teachers in this district. About 1935 he tried to interest [redacted] in joining the union but [redacted] refused and no further pressure was brought by Crosscup. [redacted] stated that [redacted] had the same idea on life as Crosscup and talked on a very highly intellectual level but maintained a very low level.

[redacted] stated that in view of the fact that [redacted] is of the same type as crosscup he is very doubtful whether anything would be gained by talking to her as it would not surprise him if Crosscup should return and [redacted]

The writer interviewed [redacted] Cambridge Upper School, Weston, Massachusetts, who advised that the subject became employed at his school as head of the Remedial program from September 1935 to June 1940, five school years. He described Crosscup as "a very independent cuss," very intellectual and a man who has the idea that the world is against him. He explained this by stating that Crosscup's father was a well-to-do man but lost his money and consequently Crosscup had to struggle to secure his education and figured that the world was against him all the way. He was interested in a teachers' union and active in the Teachers' Union located in Boston, Massachusetts, but never attempted to recruit any other teachers at the school.

If he wanted to talk about labor Crosscup would express his ideas regardless of who may be listening. [redacted] stated that Crosscup's economic ideas were on the Communist angle but he was not known to have any party affiliations.

[redacted] stated that Crosscup was very honest, had his own opinions and expressed them.

[redacted] had much the same idea of the subject's philosophy of life as that expressed by [redacted]

[redacted] stated that he knew [redacted] but had very little respect for [redacted] lived so to speak in the clouds,

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[Redacted]

[Redacted] stated that Crosscup left his employment with him of his own accord and the circumstances surrounding his leaving are an interesting point.

[Redacted] stated that at the conclusion of the school year the faculty produces a play for the benefit of the children in which all the faculty take part. Crosscup wrote the play that was produced by the faculty one year and it was a very splendid job. About the same time Crosscup became acquainted with a young musician and based on the success Crosscup had in writing the school play he had the idea that he would become a success in writing musical comedies and accordingly the young musician and Crosscup went to New York to crash Broadway.

will "Crash Broadway"

[Redacted] stated that Crosscup was smart enough to realize that he would have to maintain himself while in New York and secured a position as teacher at the Walden School in New York City as a grade school teacher. He taught the seventh or eighth grade. His only reason for accepting this position was for living expenses while he was making preparations to crash Broadway.

[Redacted] shared the thoughts of [Redacted] in connection with [Redacted] that [Redacted] ideas of life that it would be just as well to talk to Crosscup himself.

[Redacted] stated that Crosscup had [Redacted]

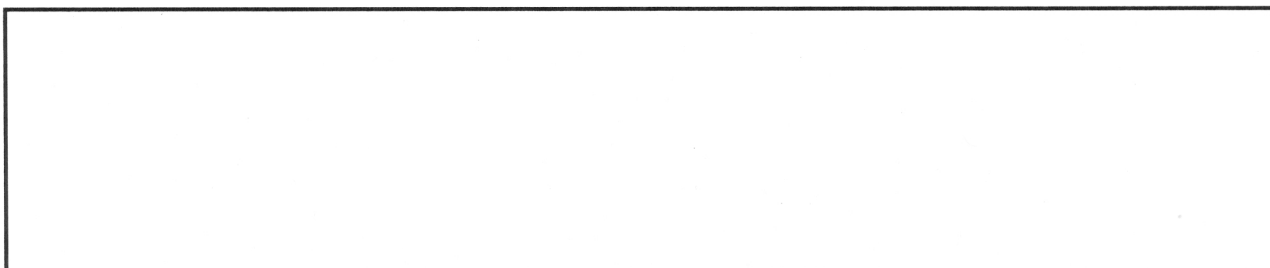
[Redacted]

Based on the information received from [Redacted] and [Redacted] it was deemed impractical to interview [Redacted]

[Redacted]

A check of the indices of the Boston office fails to reveal any information concerning the subject Gwendolyn Bennett.

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No record was contained in the Boston indices on James Pfeiffer.

•REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Will contact the proper authorities at the Walden School, New York City for any further information concerning Richard Crosscup's activities while teaching at this school.

*REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN-

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CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT

[redacted] is the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at Boston, Massachusetts, December 17, 1941 entitled American Youth Congress, pages six and one hundred thirty.

-REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN-

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

FILE NO **100-27217** **EMW**

REPORT MADE AT NEWARK	DATE WHEN MADE 5-11-44	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 4-14-44	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 15px; width: 100%;"></div>
TITLE GWENDOLYN BENNETT, WAS.			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY (C)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS

Investigation at Port Murray reveals subject known only by name, with no knowledge of subject's husband, **RICHARD B. CROSSCUP**. Subject not known to be manager of Camp Wo-Chi-Ca. Camp Wo-Chi-Ca described as a Communist camp. Confidential Informant [redacted] advises "DAILY WORKER" addressed to Camp Wo-Chi-Ca during summer periods. [redacted] believed to be [redacted] as Camp Wo-Chi-Ca. Information determined from State Police to the effect that Camp Wo-Chi-Ca located in Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County, mail address R.D. 1, Port Murray, New Jersey.

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/15/92 BY 1048/DKM/gjt

REFERENCE:

Report of SA [redacted] dated 3-23-44 at New York, New York.

DETAILS:

Information determined from Confidential Informant [redacted] was to the effect that Camp Wo-Chi-Ca is located at R.F.D. 1, Port Murray, New Jersey. Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that he was not familiar with the subject of instant case, except that he did recall [redacted] having come addressed to a party by the name of BENNETT. As far as he could ascertain and recall, the name of RICHARD B. CROSSCUP was unfamiliar.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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JAN 25 1961

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 - 1 - Capt. [redacted] DIO, 3ND (CONFIDENTIAL)
 - 1 - Col. [redacted] DSI, 2SC (CONFIDENTIAL)
 - 1 - Boston (info)
 - 2 - Newark
- COPY IN FILE

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NK 100-27217

[redacted] advised that this camp opens approximately around June 1 of each year and that its activities cease about Labor Day. He further advised that [redacted] and that her name was [redacted] and that she had come from New York, address unknown, a short time ago and [redacted] as Camp Wo-Chi-Ca. As far as was known by [redacted] of Camp Wo-Chi-Ca.

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that he had heard very little about Camp Wo-Chi-Ca, inasmuch as it was located approximately ten miles from Port Murray, and that the shopping centers of Washington, New Jersey and Hackettstown, New Jersey would obviate the necessity of having the people use Port Murray as a business town. He did recall one incident, however, in which a truck driver whose name he did not know stopped at the [redacted] and asked him what kind of camp it was. When the truck driver was asked the reason for this, he stated he had a desire to place his son in a summer camp, and that upon investigation of Camp Wo-Chi-Ca, he found that it was "a damn Communist camp."

The New Jersey State Police Sub-station located at Washington, New Jersey was contacted by the reporting agent for information relative to Camp Wo-Chi-Ca. They advised that under date of October 2, 1941, an investigation had been conducted by them concerning the camp. The following is substantially the information obtained by their investigation.

Camp Wo-Chi-Ca is also known as Pleasant Grove Acres and is situated on the Califon-Pleasant Grove Road in Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County, R.D. 1, Port Murray, New Jersey. A contact with farmers living in and near the camp determined that Camp Wo-Chi-Ca was a Communist camp from New York City and consists of people of all races and creeds. At the present time the camp was closed for the winter season, and [redacted]

The name of [redacted] arose in connection with the camp as [redacted] It was learned that [redacted] had left a forwarding address care of [redacted] Information was obtained from Tax Collector of Lebanon Township to the effect that taxes on the camp were paid by a [redacted]

The following men are listed as camp directors:

[redacted]

NK 100-27217

[REDACTED]

Two other individuals connected with the camp by the name of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were mentioned in the investigation, but addresses were not obtained. Nowhere in connection with the investigation of the camp did the name of the subject or RICHARD B. CROSSCUP arise. They are not known in the vicinity.

Inasmuch as Camp Wo-Chi-Ca is not being operated at the present time and inasmuch as no further background information is available concerning the subject and persons mentioned in this report, this case is being considered referred upon completion to the office of origin. In the event it is desired that a further check be made at a later date during the time of operation of Camp Wo-Chi-Ca, the Newark Field Division will conduct such investigation upon receipt of information from the New York Field Division.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

NK 100-27217

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CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS



A copy of this report is being designated for the Boston Field Division for their information in conducting investigation within that territory.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ NY

FILE NO 100-56529 EN

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 8/22/44	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/19, 26; 7/20, 27; 8/1-3, 14, 16/44	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px;"></div>
TITLE GWENDOLYN BENNETT, with aliases			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY-C
DECLASSIFIED BY 60324 auc baw/cpb/kj ON 03-07-2007			

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS

advised that subject was a member of the Communist Party and that about 1939 she attended a communist school located near Kingston, New York,

Subject's activities at present consist solely in directing the affairs of the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL of which the subject is the director. advised that at the present time the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL does not appear to be very active and may be in poor financial condition. On May 21, 1944, the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL held "I AM AN AMERICAN DAY" program in Harlem; about 12,000 people attended; approximately \$900 collected, and the Reverend CLAYTON POWELL, Jr., "THE RACES OF MANKIND", MAX YERGAN and CANADA LEE spoke.

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REFERENCE: Bureau File 100-293468.
Report of Special Agent dated March 23, 1944, at New York.

DETAILS: AT NEW YORK CITY,

COPIES DESTROYED Thirty-day mail cover placed on subject and her husband RICHARD B. CROSSCUP at their residence, 2 West 120 Street, failed to produce any information of value.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>E. E. [Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		RECORDED & INDEXED 32
(5) Bureau 1 Col. <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 15px;"></div> D. of I., 2 SC 1 Capt. <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 15px;"></div> DIO, 3 ND 3 New York COPY IN FILE		100-56529-6 1048 DKM/gtl CONFIDENTIAL

OCT 11 1944

NY 100-56529 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Confidential Informant [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, advised the writer that [redacted] that she was definitely a member of the Communist Party. He stated that he distinctly remembers seeing the subject about 1939 when she attended a communist school located near Kingston, New York. [redacted] According to the informant, this school was located on a farm near Kingston and was the gathering place for the intellectuals of the Communist Party.

Confidential Informant [redacted] was not sure but believed GWENDOLYN BENNETT traveled to Moscow during a summer vacation around 1937 or 1938. According to [redacted] the subject is also friendly with [redacted] of Camp WO-CHI-CA (Workers' Children Camp), as well as [redacted] the Camp and [redacted] same address as [redacted] the Camp and [redacted]

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised the reporting agent

[Large redacted area]

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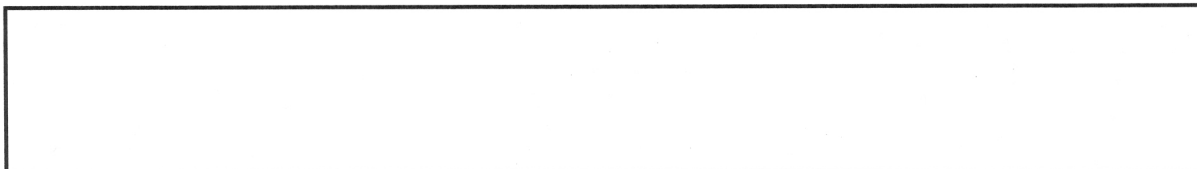


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NY 100-56529

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a meeting of the
GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL on Sunday afternoon, May 21 at 3:00
o'clock at the Golden Gate Ballroom, 142nd Street and Lenox Avenue. The
affair was a FOLK FESTIVAL celebrating I AM AN AMERICAN DAY. The pro-
gram obtained by the informant is set out below:

" THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
of the
GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL

cordially invites you to attend a

FOLK FESTIVAL

celebrating

I AM AN AMERICAN DAY

on

Sunday, Afternoon, May Twenty-First
at three o'clock

at the

GOLDEN GATE BALLROOM
142nd Street and Lenox Ave.,
New York

Reserved Seats: \$2.00, \$1.20
General Admission: 60 cents
Tax included on all tickets.

PAGE 2

"In time of war the songs of the people rally the spirits of
those who fight against Fascism for a free world. In time of
peace the songs and dances of the different nations are the

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"warp and woof around which the people's culture is woven and made strong. Mindful of this, the George Washington Carver School takes this opportunity, through their songs and dances, to pay tribute to the Allied Nations and the oppressed peoples of the earth who are giving their lives today that we may live in a better world. Any patriotic celebration of the American people must take into consideration the varied streams of culture that have flowed into our Nation. Any concept of peace must take note of the need for cooperation among all peoples, here and abroad. The future of our Nation will be secure only through the full participation of all its people--Negro and white, Jew and Gentile, Protestant and Catholic, native and foreign-born.

"The foremost leaders of the Allied Nations have declared their intention to fight in unison for the elimination of Fascism from the face of the earth and to work in unified cooperation for a lasting peace. Here at home such unison and cooperation must be the core of our war effort and the unqualified goal of our peace. Unity is the precept around which our American ideals were built and must be maintained. It is in this spirit that we celebrate I Am An American Day by presenting a folk festival around the theme: 'UNITED, WE MARCH FORWARD AS ONE NATION!'"

PAGE 3

"PROGRAM

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INVOCATION

[Redacted]

NATIONAL ANTHEM

GROUP SINGERS:

Hall Johnson Choir, Finnish Women's Choir, Chinese People's Chorus

SOLOISTS:

[Redacted]

South American Folk Songs
Czechoslovakian Folk Songs

[Redacted]

[Redacted] of the Czechoslovak Choral Society of N. Y.

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[Redacted]

Flamenco Songs
Russian Songs
Soloist with Chinese
People's Chorus

DANCERS:

[Redacted]

The Negro Speaks of
Rivers
Poem by Langston Hughes
Music by [Redacted]
Recitation by [Redacted]

[Redacted] of the Martha Graham
Dancers

[Redacted]

Harmonica Breakdown
Haitian Dance

[Redacted]

Comedian from Cafe Society Uptown

[Redacted]

Boogie-Woogie Pianist

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All-Star Quartette:

[Redacted]

from Cafe Society Uptown
from The Three Deuces
with the Kirby Orchestra

SPEAKERS:

[Redacted] of Public Affairs,
pamphlet--"The Race of Mankind"

Dr. Max Yergan, Council on African Affairs

Race and Nationality
The George Washington
Carver School

Rev. A. Clayton Powell, Jr.

Developing the Thinking
Citizen
Art and the People

[Redacted]

CHAIRMAN:

Gwendolyn Bennett, Director of the George Washington Carver School "

Inspector's report concerning the above-mentioned celebra-
tion is as follows:

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"TIME: 4 P.M. - CLOSED: 6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE: Approximately 1200. Most of which were the intelligencia, Inter Racial groups and servicemen in uniform.

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MASTER OF CEREMONIES - GWENDOLYN BENNETT,
Director of George Washington Carver School.

"The invocation was offered by the [redacted]
[redacted] The National Anthem was sung.
Hall Johnson Choir Sang. Solos were sung by [redacted] and [redacted]
[redacted] a Czechoslovakian. [redacted] Quartette from Cafe So-
ciety Uptown offered a couple of numbers.

SPEAKERS

[redacted] of Public Affair pamphlet
"THE RACES OF MANKIND", said that all men given the same training and opportunities were equal. She endorsed the George Washington Carver School; said it was a credit to the Negroes of this community and was deserving of the support of all races.

"DR. MAX YERGAN, Council of African Affairs, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the George Washington Carver School, welcomed the groups and told of the progress of the school which was encouraging and asked for continued support by people of Harlem.

"CANADA LEE was introduced at this time. He read a letter from one of his buddies who is with the Armed Forces in the South Pacific indicating that a good kind of Democracy that was being practiced among the soldiers in that area. LEE ended his talk by singing 'MY COUNTRY TIS OF THEE'.

"A CLAYTON POWELL - Brought the house down with a speech 'WHY A SEPARATE CELEBRATION IN HARLEM ON I AM AN AMERICAN DAY.' POWELL stated a day of National celebration should be made on the days when GOVERNOR TALMADGE of Georgia and MARTIN DIES of Texas are burned. POWELL stated that we should fight until every minority group in this country was accorded full democratic treatment. GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL

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NY 100-56529

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"was dedicated to the full Democratic principles of all peoples and should receive everyone's support.

At this point he appealed for funds for the school and started with a check for \$50.00 himself. The total amount collected was approximately \$900.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Work Projects Administration, Sub-Treasury Building, Pine and Nassau Streets, New York City, was interviewed by the writer in regard to additional information regarding the activities of the subject. He advised that he was unable to furnish any additional information not previously reported but that he felt any one of the following individuals might be of assistance in obtaining information concerning her:

[REDACTED]

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Additional investigation conducted in the vicinity of 57 West 125th Street, where the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL is located, and 2 West 120th Street by Special Agent [REDACTED] and the reporting agent, indicates that RICHARD B. CROSSCUP, husband of the subject, is at the present time engaged in Camp activities outside of New York City.

The subject GWENDOLYN BENNETT appears to be engaged solely in directing the activities of the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL.

- P E N D I N G -

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NY 100-56529

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

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NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION:

At New York City, N. Y. - Will endeavor to obtain handwriting specimens of the subject and will report all communist activities concerning the subject and the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL, with which she is affiliated.

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NY 100-56529

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The Confidential Informants mentioned in the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated August 22, 1944, at New York, New York, are as follows:

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[redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau.

[redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau.

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

JJM:POH
100-56529

TO Director, FBI

DATE November 18, 1944

JJM

FROM SAC, New York

SUBJECT GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was.
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
(Bureau File No. 100-293468)

*End of
case!*

Information received by this office indicates that the Subject's entire time and effort appears to be centered around the George Washington Carver School, Negro Communist front organization located at 57 West 125th Street, New York City. The Subject is the Director of the above-mentioned school.

Informants of this office state that the Subject at the present time appears to have little if any activity in general Communist Party affairs.

In view of the above information, the Subject's case is being placed in a pending inactive status at this time. A report will be submitted on or before February 22, 1945.

*rcm
Am*

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RECORDED 100-293468 7

[Handwritten signature]

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ FILE NO **100-56529 RFE**

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE FEB 22 1945	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 9/5, 8, 23; 10/30; 11/14, 18, 25; 12/12, 14, 26/44; 2/10, 19/45	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 15px;"></div>
TITLE GWENDOLYN BENNETT, with aliases		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C	

1048/dkm/jtt
12/16/42

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS

Major portion of subject's activity confined to the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL of which she is the Director. BENNETT also teaches at JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE, alleged Communist dominated organization located at 575 6th Avenue, NYC.

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AGENCIES

Handwritten signature/initials

REFERENCE:

Bureau File 100-293468,
Report of Special Agent dated August 22, 1944 at New York, New York.

DETAILS:

AT NEW YORK CITY

CLASS. & BY *60-4 SRM/jtc*
REASON - *IN 11, 1-2, 4, 8*
DATE OF REVIEW *10-30-98*

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE**

**COPIES DESTROYED
R/S JAN 25 1961**

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>E.C. Conroy</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <i>104-273424-8</i>	RECORDS <i>77</i>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 7 Bureau 9 New York <i>2 K S - 1-45 COPY IN FILE</i>			<i>EX 8</i>

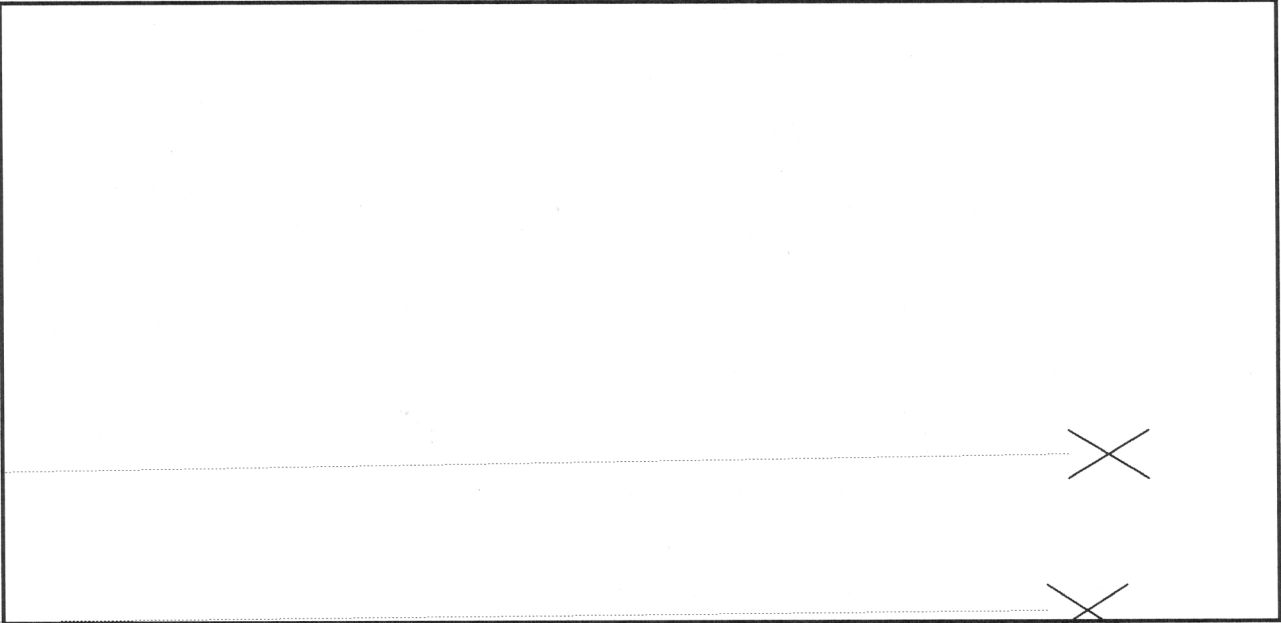
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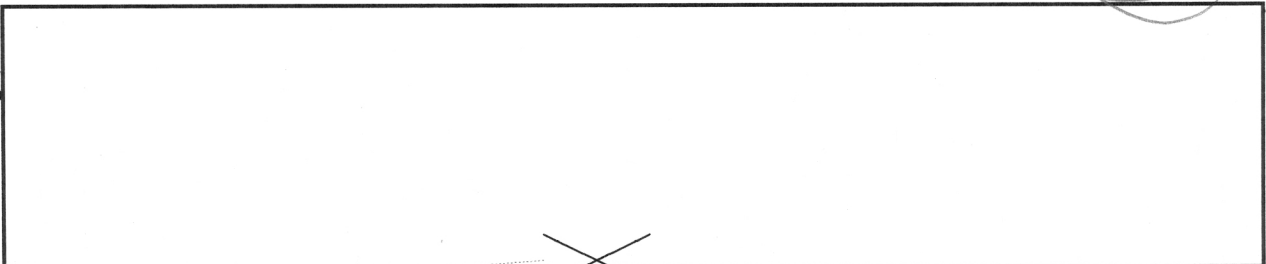
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A review of the 1944 catalogue of the JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE indicates that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was an instructor in "Art, History, and Appreciation."

alleged Communist dominated organization

The JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE, /575 Sixth Avenue, New York City, was contacted by the reporting agent under suitable pretext and the following information obtained:

At the present time GWENDOLYN BENNETT is an instructor on the staff of the above mentioned school and is teaching two classes on Wednesday evenings. The first class is from 7:10 to 8:40 P. M. and is entitled, "Art, History, and Appreciation of the Late Renaissance. The second class is from 8:50 to 10:20 P. M. and is on modern art.



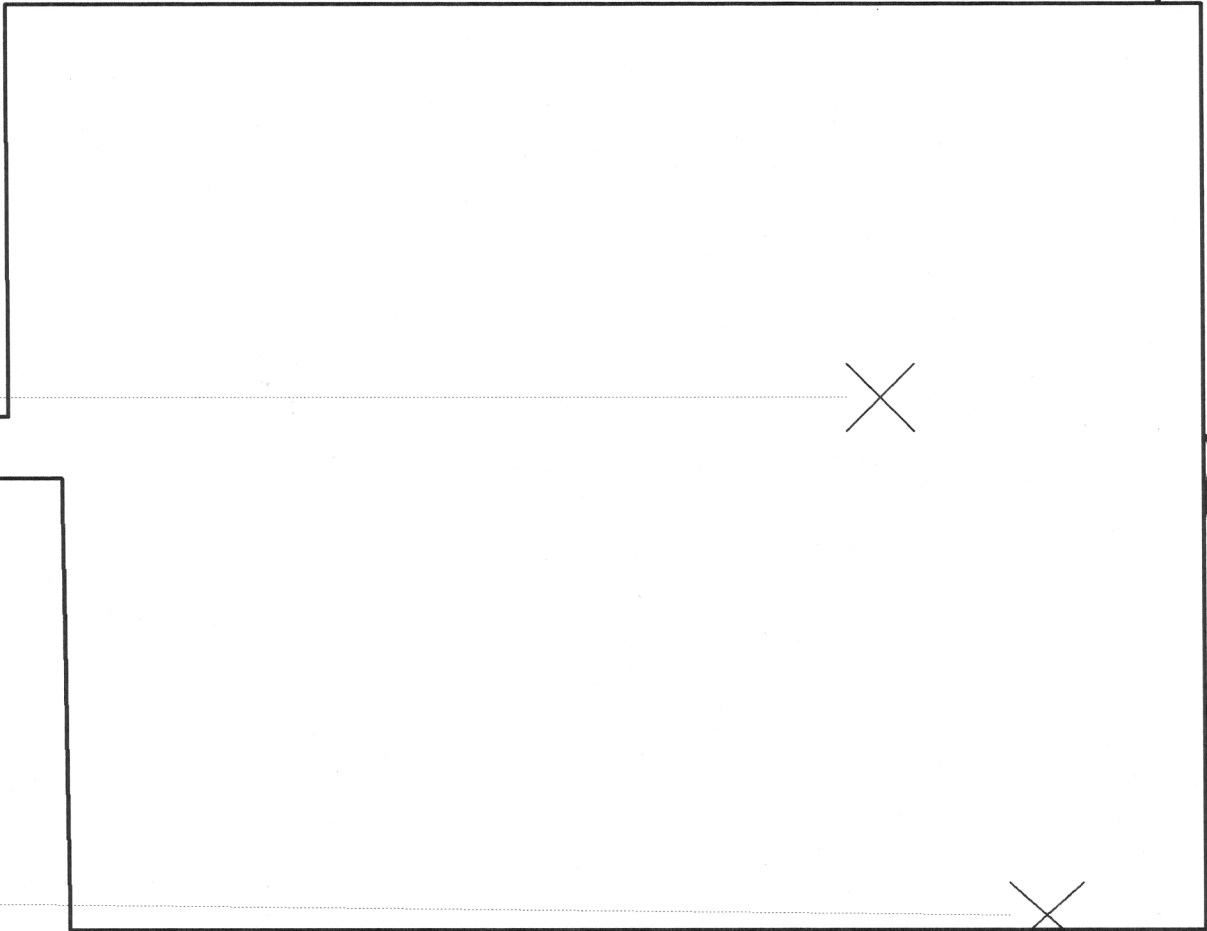
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The following information was newspaper comment concerning the subject and her activities:

The "Peoples Voice", negro Communist newspaper in issue of September 23, 1944 contained a picture of the subject together with background information which has been previously furnished to the Bureau.

The "Daily Worker" in issue of December 9, 1944 contained an article concerning the course "The Negro and the Nation" given jointly by the JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE, the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL, and the "Peoples Voice". The article stated that the outstanding lecturers included [redacted] GWENDOLYN BENNETT, and ALPHAEUS HUNTON (known Communists).

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"The New York Amsterdam News" Negro newspaper, in issue of January 20, 1945 stated that a meeting took place at the Schomberg Collection, 135 Public Library on January 14, 1945, at which time Doctor REDDICK, Curator of the Schomberg Collection, and GWENDOLYN BENNETT spoke regarding GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER. The substance of Miss BENNETT'S talk was the meaning of the life of Doctor CARVER as related to the general education of Negroes in America.

The "Peoples Voice" in issue of January 27, 1945, contained a picture of the subject, together with the following individuals:

[redacted] of CARVER; ✓
[redacted]
Councilman BENJAMIN DAVIS;
[redacted]

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"The New York Amsterdam News" of February 10, 1945 in the column entitled, "Labor Forum" [redacted] stated:

"The George Washington Carver School aims not only to help working people understand better the world they live in; it also seeks to keep alive the life and work of Dr. Carver as a source of inspiration to others who face, as he did, adversity and lack of opportunity. Whereas the People's College is an outgrowth of the schools and colleges in Atlanta, the Carver School is in a sense an outgrowth of the labor movement in New York. According to the Director of the Carver School, Gwendolyn Bennett, nationally known poet and author, almost half of the students attending the school since it was organized in October, 1943, have been members of trade unions. Some fifteen CIO and AFL unions were represented in the student body of 358 last term."

The "New York Age" Negro newspaper in issue of February 10, 1945, contained an article that the BEN DAVIS CLUB would hold a weeks celebration in honor of Negro History Week. The article went on to say:

"The Ben Davis Club (named for Councilman Davis) of the CPA has arranged programs during Negro History Week at its headquarters, 2315 Seventh Avenue, Sunday, February 11th, at 4 p.m. at the club, a forum will be held at which time Councilman Benjamin J. Davis, Jr. and Miss Gwendolyn Bennett, director of the George Washington Carver School of Harlem will be guest speakers, also entertainment."

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The "Pittsburgh Courier", Negro newspaper, in issue of February 17, 1945 indicates that GWENDOLYN BENNETT, Director of the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL, participated in a forum in connection with Negro History Week, the forum taking place at N.M.U. Recreation Hall.

- P E N D I N G -

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