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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

LCS ANGELES

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FILE NO. 100-5440

REPORT MADE AT LOS ANGELES	DATE WHEN MADE 11-3-44	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 9-13,14,15,20,25;10-3-44	REPORT MADE BY
TITLE ORSON WELLES, with alias: George Orson Welles		CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C	
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: 		Subject resides at Los Angeles, Calif. Is independent actor, writer, director and producer. Subject head of Mercury Productions, Inc. Born Wisconsin, attended private high school two years, and later traveled abroad. Became radio actor and writer and subsequently independent producer. Associated with motion picture industry since 1939. Rejected for service in U. S. armed forces. Presently married to actress RITA HAYWORTH. No record of Communist Party membership but Subject has consistently followed Communist Party line. Member of American Peace Mobilization, with aliases; active in League of American Writers; originated the "Free Company"; HARRY BRIDGES defendant; member of Sleepy Lagoon Defense Committee; active in Musicians' Congress; an organization formed to combat M.P.A.; active in Free World, and participant in programs to praise Russia. and information set forth. negative. B7D	
DETAILS:		NAME: ORSON WELLES, with alias: George Orson Welles	
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: 	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT: 5 Bureau 1 ZIO, Los Angeles 1 SID, Los Angeles 3 Los Angeles		100-73438-24 RECORDED INDEXED EX-34	

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[unclear] 5-26-82

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(C)
Description
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Classified by SP5 BTJ/CA
Declassify on: (C) 35-27-86

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RESIDENCE:

136 S. Carmelina, Brentwood, Los Angeles, California. Telephone number (unlisted) Arizona 39668.

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

Mercury Productions, Inc., 427 N. Canon Drive, Beverly Hills, California. Telephone CR 51108.

EMPLOYMENT:

The Subject is self-employed as an independent actor, writer, director and producer. The Subject releases his productions through the Mercury Productions, Inc.

CITIZENSHIP:

The Subject is a United States citizen inasmuch as he was born in this country.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

^{B2} [redacted] advised the writer that the Subject was born May 6, 1915 in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and according to a release by the Columbia Broadcasting System in Hollywood, the Subject was named after GEORGE GAYDE, noted humorist and a friend of the Subject's father, ORSON, but he has always been known as ORSON WELLES.

^{B2} According to [redacted] the Subject attended eight years of elementary grammar school in Kenosha, Wisconsin, following which he went to a private high school, the Todd School, in Woodstock, Illinois, where he was enrolled for two years. According to "Who's Who", the Subject's father died when the Subject was six years of age and a Doctor BERNSTEIN became his guardian. The Subject became ill while at the Todd School and was taken abroad by his guardian. Later, according to "Who's Who", he became a member of the Gate Theater in Dublin, Ireland, 1931-32, after which time he returned to Woodstock, Illinois, and began to produce plays. In the following year the Subject appeared on the stage with KATHERINE CORNELL and in 1934 was married to VIRGINIA LEDERER. Subject subsequently separated from this wife and went to Africa where he appeared in a few plays and compiled a book known as "Everyone's Shakespeare".

In 1937 he returned to this country and became a radio actor and writer. It was during this period that he made a sensational broadcast and was brought to the attention of the motion picture industry, and subsequently was employed by R.K.O. Studios and associated with ^{B7C} [redacted] prominent member of the Northwest Section of the Los Angeles County Communist Party.

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During his employment at R.K.O. he also appeared on the radio and was the star of the Lady Esther program. The Subject has independently produced a number of shows, the most prominent of which is "Citizen Kane". The Subject is presently married to RITA HAYWORTH, also known as MARGARITA CANSINO, who is a prominent motion picture actress employed by Columbia Studios.

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[REDACTED] advised the writer that the Subject is registered with Local Draft Board 245, 1373 Westwood Boulevard, West Los Angeles, California, and added that the Subject had been rejected for "Chronic Myoditis and Arizinal Syndrome Arthritis, Bronchial Asthma, high fever and flat feet".

This source advised that the Subject has left the country upon several occasions at the request of the Coordinator of Inner-American Affairs to go on good will tours to Mexico and Brazil. The Subject also spent six months in England making a picture.

This source stated that the Subject was associated with JACKSON LEIGHTER in the Mercury Productions, Inc. It is also known that JACK MOSS and HERBERT DRAKE are associated with the Subject in Mercury Productions.

SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES:

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[REDACTED] whose reliability is well established, stated that on June 30, 1944, he carefully examined the records of the Northwest Section of the Los Angeles County Communist Political Association but that he was unable to find any record of WELLES' membership. In this connection it should be pointed out that this office has never been able to establish that WELLES is an actual member of the former Communist Party or the present Communist Political Association however, an examination of WELLES' activities and his membership in various organizations reflects that he has consistently followed the Communist Party line and has been active in numerous "front" organizations. (S)U

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[REDACTED]

It is interesting to note that the Subject is identified with at least three organizations, the purpose of which prior to Russia's entry into the World War was to delay and to deride the National Defense system in this country. This, of course, was prior to Russia's entry into the war and was the program of the Communist Party at that time.

The first of these organizations with which the Subject was associated is known as the American Peace Mobilization with aliases. The Subject was

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associated in this organization with [REDACTED] prominent member of the Northwest Section and who according to reliable information first contacted ORSON WELLES in New York [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The American Peace Mobilization was an organization dominated by members of the Communist Party and organized to combat the National Defense program.

The second organization with which the Subject was associated is closely following the Communist Party line was the League of American Writers. It is known that the Subject signed a call for the Fourth Congress for the League of American Writers to be held on June 6, 7 and 8, 1941. At the time of this Fourth Congress, a large rally was held in Madison Square Garden in New York City which was openly and obviously an anti-war rally. This Congress adopted a resolution stating that the present war was "A imperialistic war for world markets and not a war to serve democracy".

In this connection it is interesting to note that on June 22, 1941, which is the date of the German invasion of Russia, the President of the American Writers, DASHIELD HAMMETT, issued a call "for immediate and necessary in the support of Great Britain and the Soviet Union to insure the military defeat of the Fascists".

In 1941 the Subject was engaged in an organization known as the "Free Company" which put on a series of radio programs deriding our National Defense system. This program caused considerable comment and was probed by the American Legion. Following Russia's entry into the war the broadcasts were discontinued.

On April 28, 1944, ORSON WELLES announced to the press that he and two others, a JOHN HENRY HAMMOND, JR. and Professor F. O. MATTHIESSEN, had organized a Citizens' Committee for HARRY BRIDGES. The purpose of this committee was of course to prevent the deportation of HARRY BRIDGES. In a letter of invitation the certain sponsors, WELLES pointed out that BRIDGES was on trial in a second deportation hearing and that he was the only man in the United States to be tried twice, in this manner. WELLES stated that they wanted to inform public opinion as to the realities behind Mr. BRIDGES' second trial and pointed out he considered it an attack on all organized labor and on the rights of minorities.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In February, 1944, there was organized an emergency council of Hollywood Guilds and Unions, the purpose of which was to combat the Motion Picture Alliance for the preservation of American ideals. On June 28, 1944, this Council held a meeting at the Hollywood Women's Club at which time the Motion Picture Alliance was condemned. There was noted in attendance at this meeting [REDACTED] all members of the [REDACTED] Northwest Section, Los Angeles County Communist Political Association, and ORSON WELLES and his wife, RITA HAYWORTH, sent a congratulatory telegram to this meeting congratulating them upon their magnificent fight against the Motion Picture Alliance.

According to a July 24, 1944, issue of the "People's World", West Coast Communist publication, the Subject and his wife, RITA HAYWORTH, were commended for their fight against the Motion Picture Alliance.

(c) [REDACTED] B1
[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

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The Subject has always been identified with programs designed to praise Russia. On November 8, 1943, the Subject appeared in a program at the Shrine Auditorium which was a salute to our Russian Allies, and which was held in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Revolution in Russia. It was noted that the Subject along with OLIVIA DEHAVILAND was a member of the radio program for this Committee.

WELLES was also listed as a sponsor for the reception of MIKHAIL KALATOZOV, Russian film representative, which was held on August 22, 1943, at the Mocambo night club. This reception was sponsored by the Los Angeles Council of American Soviet Friendship, Inc.

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[REDACTED] later made available to this office a list of the people [REDACTED] among those listed was the Subject. It was known that WELLES would make some contribution to a shipment of gifts to Russia. (X)

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[REDACTED]

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According to the records of [REDACTED]

the Subject is married to MARGARITA CANSTINO JUDSON, aka RITA HAYWORTH, who has been employed by Columbia Studios for the last seven years. This record points out that the Subject was formerly at R.K.O. and 20th Century-Fox Studios and that his income is in excess of \$100,000 per year. This report gives considerable background information, all of which is in this report.

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An examination of the records of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was made by Special Agent [REDACTED] was negative.

DESCRIPTION:

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A description of the Subject as furnished by [REDACTED] is as follows:

Age	29
Birthdate	May 6, 1915
Birthplace	Kenosha, Wisconsin
Height	6' 2"
Weight	195 pounds
Complexion	Light
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Brown
Social Security	#119-07-5434

A photograph of the Subject has been obtained and an appropriate disposition of it has been made.

-PENDING-

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UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

At Los Angeles, California, will follow and report Subject's current activities.

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SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

[Redacted]

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Handwritten: Kongs...

Local Draft Board 245, 1373 Westwood Boulevard,
Los Angeles, California.

[Large Redacted Block]

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The above sources of information are being given temporary symbols
in order to further conceal their identity.

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