

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **WASHINGTON, D. C.**

FILE NO. **101-2075**

REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D. C.	DATE WHEN MADE 1-5-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11-26,27,12-2,22,30-41	REPORT MADE BY M. C. CLEMENTS MCC:blh
TITLE ROBERT CLAUS, Assistant Archivist, Division of Commerce Archives, National Archives			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - HATCH ACT

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

ROBERT CLAUS is employed as Assistant Archivist, Division of Commerce Archives, National Archives, at \$2600 per annum. The Dies Committee lists Mr. CLAUS as a member of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action. Investigation reflects Mr. CLAUS' name does not appear in the active indices of that organization but that the name of his wife appears in the indices of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action and the American Peace Mobilization. Fellow employees commend Mr. CLAUS as being intellectual and have no knowledge of his membership in any organizations. Informants in vicinity of CLAUS' residence have no criticism for Mr. CLAUS but condemn his wife for her activities with radical element in the Buckingham Civic Association. Mr. CLAUS is the recipient of much mail termed by informant as being of propaganda nature. Mr. CLAUS in sworn statement advised that he is not a member of Washington Committee for Democratic Action but admits having attended a meeting of American Peace Mobilization of which organization, however, he is not a member. He stated that he and his wife have been accused of Communistic activity due to their activity in the Buckingham Civic Association.

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
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DETAILS: I. Personal History

A. It was learned from the personnel records of the National Archives that ROBERT CLAUS was born May 19, 1913 at Melrose, Massachusetts. He is an American citizen. He received his elementary education in the Melrose, Mass. schools and received his A.B. degree in History at Tuft's College in June, 1935. He received the Master of Arts degree from Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Medford, Massachusetts, in 1936, majoring in international law and organization. He was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Mr. CLAUS' father, HENRY T. CLAUS, was formerly the Editor of the Boston Tribune and is presently connected with newspapers published by the Dupont interests in Wilmington, Del. ROBERT CLAUS resides at 4208 Second Road, Arlington, Virginia. He is married to JEAN CHRISTIE CLAUS.

B. Personnel records of National Archives indicate that Mr. CLAUS filed his application for a position in the National Archives on April 21, 1936. He took the oath of office, September 20, 1937, as Junior Archivist Assistant, Division of Commerce Archives at \$1620 per annum. On June 16, 1938, he was promoted to the position of Junior Archivist at \$2000 per annum. On May 16, 1939, his position was changed to Assistant Archivist, Division of Commerce Archives, at \$2000 per annum. On September 16, 1939, his salary was increased to \$2600 per annum. In his position Mr. CLAUS' duties are in part supervisory. His duties are "under general supervision having some latitude for independent or unreviewed action and decision, performing important and difficult work in archival science and administration". There is no indication as the result of investigation that Mr. CLAUS has at any time attempted to convert fellow employees to subversive doctrines.

II. Basis for Investigation

On a list furnished to this office by the Special Committee to investigate un-American activities, of which the Honorable MARTIN DIES is Chairman, the following information appears:

"ROBERT CLAUS 4208 Second Road Arlington, Virginia"	"Junior Archivist National Archives \$2600"
"Member, Washington Committee for Democratic Action"	

III. Results of Investigation

An agent of this office contacted the Dies Committee and was advised that the basis for placing Mr. CLAUS' name on the Dies Committee list is the appearance of his name on a photostatic copy of a list in the possession of the Dies Committee entitled "The Washington Committee for Democratic Action". As of December 23, 1941, the Dies Committee advised that it had no further information concerning Mr. CLAUS.

A source of information herein designated as T-1 furnished information to this office concerning the Washington Committee for Democratic Action. An examination of this information reflects that the name of ROBERT CLAUS does not in fact appear in the active indices of this organization. However, it is noted that the name of JEAN CLAUS, 4208 Second Road, Arlington, Virginia, wife of Mr. CLAUS, does appear in the active indices of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action.

An examination of information furnished by this same informant concerning the American Peoples Mobilization, known as American Peace Mobilization prior to the invasion of Russia, reflects that the name of Mrs. JEAN CLAUS, 4208 Second Road, Arlington, Virginia appears in the active indices of that organization.

The source of information herein designated as T-2, who lives in the vicinity of Mr. CLAUS' residence, stated that Mr. and Mrs. CLAUS moved into the apartment at 4208 Second Road, Arlington, Virginia, at the time the Buckingham Apartments were first opened. During that period, informant stated Mr. and Mrs. CLAUS have never seen fit to associate with close neighbors as has been the practice of other tenants in the same building. On the contrary, Mrs. CLAUS, according to the informant, has failed to recognize neighbors on the street. Mr. CLAUS, informant stated, appears to be a man of ordinary habits and when not accompanied by Mrs. CLAUS was said to be friendly to some extent. This informant could furnish no information concerning the membership of Mr. and Mrs. CLAUS in the Washington Committee for Democratic Action or American Peace Mobilization. The informant went on to state that Mrs. ROBERT CLAUS is Executive Secretary of the Buckingham Civic Association which organization was formed soon after the Buckingham Community Apartments were opened and is comprised of tenants in the project. The informant stated that at first the organization appeared to have legitimate purposes and to be a democratic organization having purposes above reproach. Later, the informant stated, the organization became dominated by individuals whom some termed "radicals" and whom others termed "Communists". Informant stated that Mrs. CLAUS has constantly been active in this organization throughout its existence and has associated herself with persons known to be radicals. Informant stated that it was not informants' belief that Mr. CLAUS has actively participated in the organization except in so far as was probably necessary due to the official capacity of his wife. Mr. CLAUS was said by the informant to appear to be a studious individual and to spend considerable time in reading.

A confidential source of information herein designated as T-3 who is the husband of T-2, could add little information to that given by his wife. He expressed an opinion that Mr. CLAUS would ordinarily be a "regular fellow" but appears to be dominated to some extent by Mrs. CLAUS and is probably in sympathy to some extent with her activities.

A confidential source of information herein designated as T-4 stated that he lived for two years in the immediate vicinity of the CLAUS residence and observed Mr. CLAUS to be a quiet, unassuming individual. He stated that Mr. and Mrs. CLAUS did not apparently care to associate with fellow tenants and that Mrs. CLAUS was not held in very high esteem for the reason of her aloofness and her activities in the Buckingham Civic Association. The informant stated that this organization of which he was once a member, is dominated by a radical element in the Buckingham Community and that he considers Mrs. ROBERT CLAUS to fall in the category of "radicals". The informant stated that

Mrs. CLAUS at one time marched in a picket line which was organized by a strike of maintenance employees of the Buckingham Community. This activity on the part of Mrs. CLAUS and others was criticized by the informant as being totally unwarranted. Informant could give no information regarding membership of Mr. and Mrs. CLAUS in organizations other than the Buckingham Civic Association.

Confidential Sources of information herein designated as T-5 and T-6 were interviewed jointly. These informants stated that they had no information concerning the activities of Mr. CLAUS and his wife other than the participation of Mrs. CLAUS in the Buckingham Civic Association. These informants were critical of Mrs. CLAUS for her activities stating that the association, once legitimate and having in its membership the population of Buckingham Community generally, is now dominated by a small group of radicals. Informants stated that they with other persons in the Community have withdrawn their membership for that reason. These informants stated that Mr. CLAUS appears to be a quiet, intellectual individual and to spend the majority of his spare time apparently quietly at home. They stated that they knew Mr. and Mrs. CLAUS have few visitors in their apartment and go out infrequently.

A confidential source of information herein designated as T-7 who is an employee of the National Archives and who is also a resident in the Buckingham Community, stated that he was not familiar with the membership of Mr. and Mrs. CLAUS in the Washington Committee for Democratic Action, the American Peace Mobilization or organizations of similar nature. The informant recalled that Mrs. CLAUS was active in the Buckingham Civic Association and solicited his membership in that organization. Informant expressed an opinion that Mr. and Mrs. CLAUS are loyal American citizens and would engage in no activities inimical to the best interests of their country. He stated that he has gone out socially on very rare occasions with Mr. and Mrs. CLAUS. He expressed a belief that Mr. CLAUS has spent a considerable amount of time in studying and recalled that he has been invited to the apartment of Mr. CLAUS to join in "discussion groups". He stated that he had never attended any of these discussions but presumed them to be the meetings of the friends of Mr. and Mrs. CLAUS at which time various economic, political and social matters were discussed for the enlightenment of the group.

A confidential source of information herein designated as T-8, who is connected with the Executive Offices of the Buckingham Community, advised that Mr. and Mrs. CLAUS have recently given notice that they intend moving from the Buckingham Community and have indicated they are building a residence. This informant had nothing of a critical nature to say regarding Mr. CLAUS but stated that Mrs. CLAUS as Executive Secretary of the Buckingham Civic Association has associated herself with radicals in the community, notably one, IRVING RICHTER and Mrs. SAMUEL J. RODMAN, whose activities have been a constant source of agitation in the community. He stated that Mrs. CLAUS participated in the picket line when maintenance employees of the Buckingham Community went on a strike.

A source of information herein designated as T-9 who is an employee of the National Archives stated that he has been acquainted with ROBERT CLAUS since his employment in the National Archives and has closely followed his career. He stated that he is personally very fond of Mr. and Mrs. CLAUS and is of the opinion that they would not aline themselves with any groups having subversive tendencies knowingly. Informant stated that he has, however, become distressed at times with the attitude of Mr. and Mrs. CLAUS toward political, economic and social problems of the day. He qualified this statement by saying that it appears a great number of young college men and women of recent years have lost sight of the practical side of questions and have concentrated too much on the intellectual and theoretical sides of questions. Informant stated that Mr. and Mrs. CLAUS would be termed as members of the "intelligentsia" if they resided in an European country. The informant stated that he has never heard of Mr. CLAUS attempting to convert fellow employees to any doctrines or theories of his own.

A confidential source of information herein designated as T-10 stated that he has followed the career of ROBERT CLAUS with interest, having been acquainted with his father for a great number of years. Informant stated that Mr. CLAUS' father is a gentleman above reproach and as Editor of the Boston Tribune exhibited no tendencies in his editorial policies which would indicate sympathy for Communism. He stated that it is his belief that the Boston Tribune on the contrary would be termed a conservative paper. The informant stated that he has because of his association with subject's father been personally interested in CLAUS' success. He expressed the wish that Mr. CLAUS would see fit to seek his career in another field stating that he believed Mr. CLAUS had capabilities and the intellect for greater things than his position affords. Informant stated that he would not consider ROBERT CLAUS and his wife to be the type to join organizations which might have questionable purposes. He stated, however, that he would have no intimate knowledge as to their membership in any organizations which might be possible.

A source of information herein designated as T-11 who has been in a position for sometime to observe mail received by Mr. and Mrs. CLAUS stated that they received a great volume of mail, much of which informant would term as "propaganda". Through the cooperation of this informant the mail of Mr. and Mrs. CLAUS was observed for a period of approximately 25 days. It has been ascertained that the following mail has been received and may be of interest to this investigation:

<u>Addressee</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Return address</u>
Mrs. ROBERT CLAUS	Date not given	News from the Cooperative Bookshop, 916 17th St., N.W., Wash.
JEAN C. CLAUS	Date not given	Magazine, "In Fact"

JEAN C. CLAUS	11-28-41	Magazine "Common Sense" 315 4th Avenue, New York
Mrs. JEAN CLAUS	12-3-41	Magazine "In Fact"
Mrs. ROBERT CLAUS	12-3-41	The New Republic, 40 East 49th Street, New York
JEAN C. CLAUS	12-3-41	Washington Assembly of C.I.O. Auxiliaries, 1407 L St., N.W. Washington, D. C.
JEAN C. CLAUS	Date not given	Magazine "In Fact"
Mrs. ROBERT CLAUS	Date not given	Civil Liberties Quarterly
Mrs. JEAN C. CLAUS	Date not given	November issue of Consumers Union Report
Miss JEAN C. CLAUS	12-11-41	American Civil Liberties Union, 170 5th Avenue, N.Y.
Mrs. JEAN C. CLAUS	12-5-41	Magazine "Peace Action of the National Council for Prevention of War"
Mrs. ROBERT CLAUS	Date not given	Washington Cooperative Bookshop, 916 17th St., N.W., Washington
Mrs. JEAN C. CLAUS	Date not given	Magazine "Bread and Butter"
JEAN C. CLAUS	Date not given	Magazine "In Fact"
Mrs. JEAN C. CLAUS	12-15-41	National Council for Preven- tion of War, 1013 18th St., N.W., Washington, D. C.
ROBERT CLAUS	Date not given	Circular advertising book titled "The World's Destiny and the United States" from the World's Society Association, 84-6 East Randolph St., Chicago.
Miss JEAN C. CLAUS	12-16-41	Keep America Out of War Congress, 22 East 17th St., New York
Mrs. R. CLAUS	12-15-41	United China Relief Inc., 1790 Broadway, New York

On December 30, 1941 Mr. CLAUS after being invited to do so, appeared in the Washington Field Office and made the following sworn statement, the original of which is being retained in the file of this case in the Washington Field Office. Copies of the statement with corrections made by Mr. CLAUS in his own handwriting are being included with copies of the report. Mr. CLAUS returned to the office on January 2, 1942 and attached his signature to the statement.

Washington, D. C.
December 30, 1941

Statement of Robert Claus made in the presence of Special Agents G. D. King, Jr., M. C. Clements, and Stenographer Zona McArthur, Federal Bureau of Investigation. Questions by Agent King.

- Q. You are Mr. Robert Claus who is employed as Assistant Archivist, Division of Commercial Archives, National Archives and who resides at 4208 Second Road, N. Arlington, Virginia?
- A. Second Road North, Arlington, Virginia.
- Q. Mr. Claus, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been empowered by the 77th Congress under Public Law No. 135 to investigate employees of the Federal Government who are alleged members of subversive organizations or advocate the overthrow of the Federal Government, and report those findings to Congress. You are aware, of course, that the purpose of this interview is to allow you an opportunity to answer certain charges which have been received by the Federal Bureau of Investigation concerning activities on your part. The questions I am about to ask you may be answered if you so desire. Of course, it is not necessary that you answer these questions. You may include any statements which you feel necessary to fairly represent your side of this case. A copy of the report of this investigation, including this statement, will be furnished to the agency which employs you. In order that the statements made by you may have particular credence, you will be placed under oath. Do you have any objection to that?
- A. No.
- Q. Rise and raise your right hand. Do you swear to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

- A. I do.
- Q. How long have you been employed by the National Archives, Mr. Claus?
- A. Slightly over 4 years, I believe. September, 1937, I think I started.
- Q. Are you, Mr. Claus, at the present time a member of any organization which you have reason to believe is dominated by the Communist Party of the United States of America, or may be controlled and its policies dictated by any foreign government?
- A. No.
- Q. Mr. Claus, in what organizations other than unions do you presently hold membership?
- A. The only ones I can think of are professional organizations, The Society of American Archivists and American Political Science Association. Consumers Union, I suppose is a society.
- Q. Mr. Claus, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has received information indicating that you are or have been affiliated with an organization, the activities of which are considered detrimental to the best interests of the United States Government. Have you at any time ever to your knowledge taken any action, made any statements, or received any literature which would in your opinion justify the assumption on the part of a third party that you are a member of such an organization? If so, will you please relate in your own words how such an impression could be received?
- A. The only thing that occurs to me is that my wife within the past few months has received information, before the war began, from the successor to the American Peace Mobilization, which I believe is called the American Peoples Mobilization and which I believe is

a Communist dominated organization. I don't know that. My wife is not a member and she did not encourage that literature to be sent to her. We have not written or followed up that at all. We are not interested in the organization, but we did believe that that was a Communist dominated organization and we have had no wish to be associated with it in any way. That is the only thing that occurs to me. Although I know Congressman Dies believes that the Consumers Union is a Communist dominated organization, I don't think that is true.

- Q. Mr. Claus, are you now or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?
- A. No.
- Q. Of the Young Communist League.
- A. No.
- Q. Are you a member or have you ever been a member of the American Peoples Mobilization, formerly known as the American Peace Mobilization?
- A. No.
- Q. Of the German American Bund?
- A. No.
- Q. Are you a member of or have you ever been a member of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action?
- A. No, but there is a possibility that my wife may have received literature from them because she is interested in various peace organizations. The Frederick Libby organization is a Washington peace organization, and through them we may have received literature but we have never been a member of that.
- Q. Are you now or have you ever been a member of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties?

- A. No.
- Q. Of the Workers' Alliance of America?
- A. No.
- Q. Of the American Youth Congress?
- A. No.
- Q. Of the National Negro Congress?
- A. No.
- Q. Have you ever attended a meeting of any of the above organizations?
- A. I think I did at one time attend a meeting of the American Peace Mobilization. I am not certain it was their meeting, but I think they assisted in sponsoring that. It was at the Turner Arena. I think they assisted in sponsoring that.
- Q. Would you care, Mr. Claus, to state your activity in connection with this meeting?
- A. I had no activity at all. I just attended the meeting and listened to the singing and speeches which were made by speakers in opposition to our involvement in the war.
- Q. Have you ever contributed money or services to any of the above-mentioned organizations?
- A. No.
- Q. Have you ever received any literature yourself from these organizations which would indicate to you that your name has been placed on the mailing list, and thereby give rise to the information furnished to the effect that you were affiliated with such organizations?

A. No.

Q. Have you ever made any statements or engaged in any activities which might be construed as indicating that you were in sympathy with any organizations which had for their purpose the overthrow of the existing form of government?

A. Of the United States, I am certain not.

Q. Do you or have you ever advocated any change in the constitutional form of government which we enjoy in the United States at the present time?

A. No.

Q. Have you ever made any statement which may have been construed that you did in fact advocate such a change?

A. No.

Q. Do you know of any individuals whom you feel through personal animosity or misdirected public interest would be guilty of reporting you as a person having been guilty in the above respect?

A. I could think of one such person, yes.

Q. Would you care to relate that information?

A. My wife and I have both been active in the Buckingham Civic Organization, a tenants' organization, which has been organized for the purpose of sponsoring activities and public improvement in the community, and the management of the community has been antagonistic toward us. We have received information already which indicates that the management has complained to the Dies Committee and to the Civil Service Commission about our alleged Communist activities. We, of course, denied that they're Communist. There is no proof of it, no indication that they are, but I believe that very probably the management considered

my wife and I leaders of the association, and it is possible they would accuse us of being this sort. Can't think of anyone else who would possibly accuse me of such.

- Q. Mr. Claus, is there anything further that you would like to say which you may feel is pertinent to this particular inquiry and which may be necessary in order to fully clarify the circumstances surrounding this inquiry?
- A. No, I don't think there is anything I can say. I think that there can't be any reason to suspect me of Communist or anti-democratic activities of any kind because I am certainly in no such activity, and the one person I mentioned is the only one that would accuse me of it.

(signed) ROBERT CLAUS

Witnesses:

- (s) G. D. King, Jr.
(s) R. F. Ryan
Special Agents
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Dept. of Justice
Washington, D. C.

CLOSED