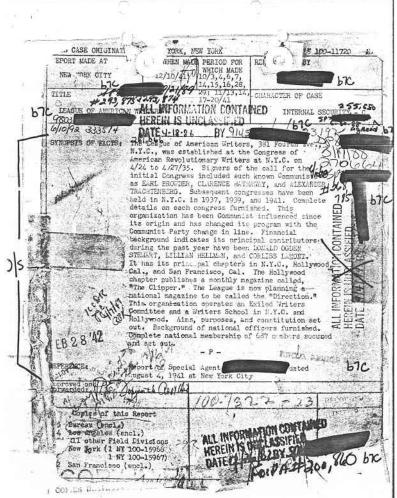
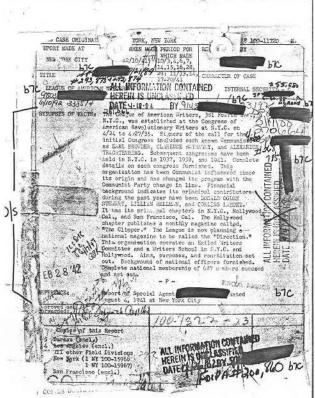
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: KENNETH BURKE





DETAILS:

ORIGIN AND HISTORY

The following information concerning the origin of this organization is taken from a review of the New York files from "The Red Decade" by EUGENE LYONS, and from literature published by the League of American Writers. Although the origin has been previously set out in the reference report of Agent Starr, this information is again being furnished for the benefit of each of the Field Offices receiving copies of this report.

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According to the information set out in "The Red Decade," the League of American Writers was launched by the First Congress of American Revolutionary Writers. The Congress was held in Mecca Temple, New York City, on April 24 through 27, 1935. It is pointed out that EARL-PROWDER was well to the fore in the organizational stages, and ALEXADER TRACHTENSERG, head of International Publishers and one of the Communist Party leaders, was busy moving the scenery and prompting the actors.

ЫС

leaders, was busy moving the scenery and prompting the actors.

presided and was selected as chairman of the League.

CORLISS LAMONT brought greetings from the Friends of the

Soviet Union. Representatives were present from the Young

Pioneers and from the Communist Youth organizations. The

center of the stage of activity was held by the Communist Party

functionaries

CLARENCE HATHALLY,

ALEX.NDER TRACHTENBERG, M. J. OLGIN, and others. According

to "The Red Decade" there was no attempt to conceal the

Moscow influence upon this organization at the First Congress.

The "National Republic," February, 1935, lists the following individuals who signed the Call for this First Writers Congress:

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MaYWELL BODENHELM

E.R.I BRO.DER (national secretary of the Communist Party)

KENNETH BURKE -ERSKINE/CALDWELL emphasize the following issues:

To fight against imperialist war and Fascism; to defend the Soviet Union; to develope and strengthen the revolutionary labor movement; against negro discrimination and persecution; against persecution of minority groups and foreign born; solidarity with colonial people in their struggle for freedom; against the influences of capitalistic ideas in American liberalism; against imprisonment of revolutionary writers and artists as well as all other class war prisoners.

The "National Rapublic" further states that the immediate purpose of the League at the time of its organization was to attempt to counteract the anti-Communist campaign which at that time was taking a toll in the Communist ranks.

The pamphlet, "That the League of American Triters Is," published by the L.A.T., states that since the 1935 congress the L.A.T. has conducted congresses in New York City in 1932 and 1939. Books have been published about all three congresses, namely, "The American Writers Congress," "The Writers in a Changing World," and "Fighting Words." In 1941 another congress was held, however, this time it was held in conjunction with the American Artists Congress and the United American Artists, C.I.O.

The Second Congress of American Jriters June 4 to 6, 1937

This Congress was held in New York City on the above dates. The bulletin published by the L.A.W. dated April and May, 1937, which invited the writers of America to this second congress, pointed out the dangers of Fascism; the growth of Fascism in the United States; and the effect a Fascist regime would have on literature and labor. It further stated that as a result of the 1937 congress it was hoped that a national organization of American writers could be established with the following aims:

First, to provide a center for the cultural activities of American writers in general, and a link between writers now separated by age or place of residence;

Second, to help in raising cultural standards by the discussion of literary problems;

Third, to arrange lectures and conferences and issue a magazine;

Fourth, to maintain friendly relations with the writers of other countries by contact with their organizations, and also by encouraging the translation of important works;

Fifth, to defend the political and social institutions that make for peace and encourage a healthy culture, and specifically, to defend the democratic right to education, to freedom of thought and expression;

Sixth, to effect an alliance for cultural defense between American writers and all progressive forces in the nation.

This bulls tin then set out the program to be followed in the Second Congress and stated that several committees were functioning to make the congress a success. It is noted that the individuals serving on these committees were the following:

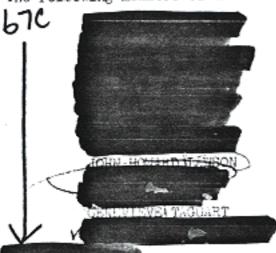
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LURINLAURAPER

JOHN HOMED LINSON

KENNETH BURKE

The following members of the executive council were elected:

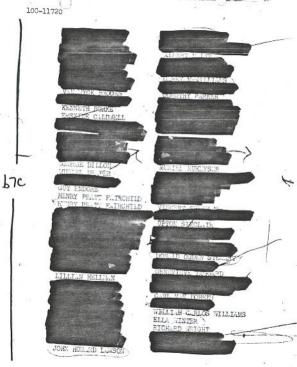


as appointed temporary national organizer to to tour the Middle West, North West, and Southern Pacific areas during June and July, 1937 addressing groups of writers in the principal centers, aiding in the preliminaries for regional conferences, and generally undertaking organization wherever, possible.

The Third Congress of American Writers June 2, 3, 4, 1939

EUGENE LYONS, in "The Red Decade" states that at the time of this congress the L.A.W. was not aware of what was going on in Europe, for at that very time secret negotiations between Moscow and Barlin were coming to a head. However, despite this situation the Call for the congress listed among the aims, "cooperation of this country with other nations and peoples opposed to Fascism including the Soviet Union which has been the most constant defender of people."

"The Red Decade" states that of the 72 signers for this 1939 Call, at least fourteen were generally known to be members of the Communist Party, while the others were names that had become fixtures on Stalinist manifestos and whitewash documents. The complete list of signers to the Call is set forth below.



LTC

"The Red Decade" describes the 1939 congress as simply another Communist mass meeting with the usual greetings from the writers of Russia, praise of Moscow, and recolutions embodying every inch of the Party Lina. 3sfore the opening of this congress, several people had resigned from the Lawrence that the Communist domination. Among these were in the activities of this congress were India. While an LOUIS BROWFIELD, while in the background DOMOTHE PARKER, HYWOOD BROWN and VINCEY SHOWN and their crowd pulled the strings.

La... Acke for the British equivalent of the International issociation out for an organization called the and international issociation of writers for the Diffuse of Culture, Islands Lague.

Subsequently a number of semicre witherew from the executive house of the loos, and also the honorary president, NULLWE FIGURE FOR Some he tan vice-presidents. According to withdrawal was the same months as a constant to withdrawal was the same months as

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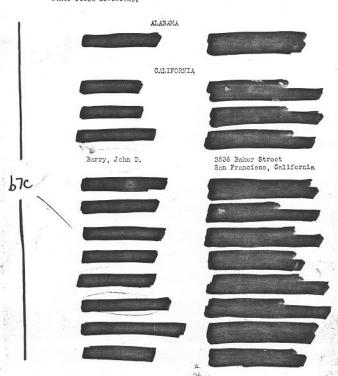
by 100 LD ODENSTELLED and containing information about the 1939 concress, has been secured by the New York Office and, along with other Land. literature, is being furnished to the Bureau with this report. It is noted that the index of this book lists the following individuals as contributors to the material published and discussed in the 1939 compress:

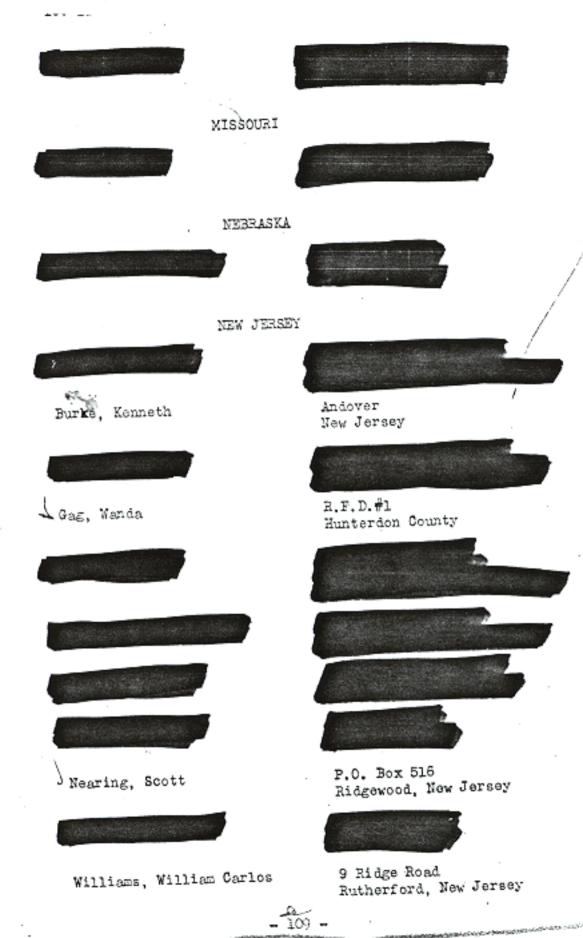




MEMBERS

Through a confidential source it was possible for the New York Office to secure the Lational numbership of the League of American Writers. This list is being sot out here alphabetically by memc and geographically by state for the information of the other Field Divisions.





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DIREX R. FBI (100-1110) AUG 9 11 1954 SAC, NEWARK (100-22690) WALTER LOWENFELS, was. SUBJECT: IS + C On 7/8/54. Atlantic City, N.J., confidentially advised that the USPO, Egg Harbor, N.J., was holding 15 pieces of first and second class mail for additional postage. He stated that all the mail was contained in identical envelopes which bore stateside and foreign addresses. He then stated that the Egg Harbor Postmaster had examined a representative number of the second class mail as authorized under postal regulations and after finding typewritten matter contained within was holding the entire lot for additional postage stated that inasmuch as the Egg Harbor Postmaster had advised him that in her opinion the print ed matter contained within the envelopes she had inspected was of a subversive nature he was bringing the situation to the attention of the Bureau. USPO, Egg Harbor, N.J., was contacted this same date and confidentially advised SA that about 5:30 p.m. on 7/7/54, an individual driving a dark blue automobile bearing Pennsylvania license 9 N 936, who has been identified by the postal clerk on duty as WALTER LOWENFELS, deposited at the post office 15bpieces of mail, the majority of which were entered as second class mail. stated that at the time he deposited the mail, subject was asked by the clerk on duty whether any written matter was contained within the envelopes and subject had claimed such was not the case. According to all the envelopes were identical in shape, size and color and bore the return address: Whittier Press, Box 5405, Kingsessing Station, Philadelphia 43, Pa. REGISTERED MAIL cc: PHILADELPHIA ALBANY ALBUQUERQUE BOSTEN ENCL. 1 (B WALL INFORMATION CONTAINED CHICAGO INDIANAPOLIS COPIES DESTROYED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED KANSAS CITY LOS ANGELES 2 8 JUN 25 1973 LOUISVILLE FITTSBURGH SINGE MILWAUKEE SAN FRANCISCO NEW HAVEN WASHINGTON FIELD NEW YORK RECORDED - 6 12 ANG 11 1954 53 AUG 20 1954

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"and there came a dark night in the hot
Pennsylvania summer. It was in the country,
where LOWENFELS had gone to live. He had
suffered a heart attack and was resting in
a small cottage. In the dark summer midnight,
agents of the FBI surrounded his little cabin.
Then they charged. Brutally they aroused
the sick man, forced him to dress hastily,
then kidnapped him in a car. They drove for
forty miles and finally at dawn dragged him
into a court of justice - a court held at the
milkman's hour, a court where seven other
persons were being charged with him for the
crime of being 'alleged Communists'."

and addresses were obtained from the above mentioned correspondence:



KATHERINE ANNE FORTER 117 E. 17th St., New York, N.Y.



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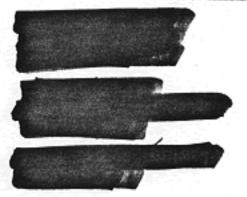


KE WETH BURKE Andover, N.J.

LCS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



Miscellaneous, CALIFDRNIA



CALIFORNIA



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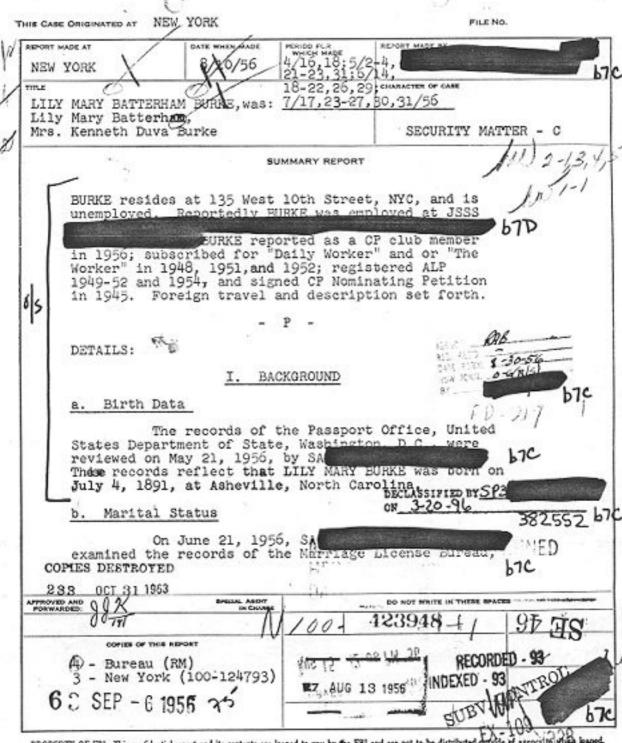
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FEDERA BUREAU OF INVESTI ATION



Borough of Manhattan, New York City. These records revealed that LILY MARY BATTERHAM was married to KENNETH DUVA BURKE on May 17, 1919, in New York City. This marriage was her first, according to the record Her mother is listed as ELEANOR ANN FORESTER and her father as HARRY BATTERHAM, both born in England.

The Passport records, which have been referred to previously, reflect that KENNETH BURKE and LILY MARY BURKE were divorced in November, 1933.

Present Residence and Employment

On July 30, 1956, by the use of a suitable pretext a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation determined that BURKE resides at 135 West 10th Street, New York City, and is unemployed.

Past Employment

who has furnished reliable information in b7D the past, advised on March 9, 1956, that BURKE was employed in the library of the Jefferson School of Social Science (JSSS). On July 25, 1956, however, the informant was of the opinion that BURKE was no longer employed by the JSSS.

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

AFFILIATION WITH THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT

Evidence of Communist Party (CP) Membership



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NEW YORK

PEACE RALLY

CARNEGIE HALL

Friday, May 12 8 p.m.

Report by DR. LINUS PAULING

On The Oslo Conference To Stop
The Spread Of Nuclear Weapons

This Conference, initiated by Dr. Pauling and eponsored by Albert Schweitzer, Bertrand Russell, Philip Nool-Baker and others, is being held in Oslo, Norway, May 2-7, and will be dedicated to the issue of nuclear disarmament and world peace.

Also:

MRS. A HELEN PAULING

JAMES HIGGINS (Editor, York Gazette & Daily)
PHILIP MORRISON, Chairman U.S.

Entertainnent

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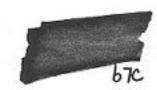
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BEC- 60

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Tolson _____
Parsons ____
Mohr ____
Belmont ___
Callahan __
Conrad ____
DeLoach __
Evans ____
Malone

W.C. Sullivan Tele Room ____ Ingram ____ Gandy ____



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The Washington Daily News ...

New York Daily News _____ New York Post _____

"National Guardian"
Page 10

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