FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
AND
PRIVACY ACTS

SUBJECT STEVE ALLEN

FILE NUMBER 100-HQ-431812

SECTION NUMBER 1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
The above-mentioned report was concerned with a staff meeting of the captioned organization. At this meeting the staff discussed the progress for this organization for the balance of the year. A portion of the organization's progress concerned its relationship with the YM-YWCA. Informant reported that [redacted] went into detail as to the operations of the 'Y'. [redacted] stated that one [redacted] was her house guest at [redacted] and that [redacted] had been with the YWCA for several years. [redacted] continued that [redacted] suggested to her that the Sobell Committee attempt to have a speaker at the 'Y' for the Asilomar Western Regional Conference to be held in December 1959. The YM-YWCA has a program for youth concerning political responsibility, and since the Sobell case is a national issue, it, therefore, is likely that the YM-YWCA could be convinced to do more than they did recently when they published facts concerning the case during late spring 1959 in the YM-YWCA Intercollegiate...
National Assembly of the "Y" has already directed Y members what to do in regard to the Sobell case in the Intercollegiate. It should open the door to the Sobell Committee in Los Angeles in talking to Y Directors in the Western Region. It was stated that it is possible that the "Y" could get its members to take political action in contacting their Congressmen.

[Blank space]

stated that is a woman about years of age, who has worked for about years and presently is

[Blank space]

ovely advised in

on August 29, 1959, that

of the Los Angeles Committee to Secure Justice for Harry Sobell.

In August 29, 1959, a

telephonically contacted the University of California at Los Angeles Chapter of the YWCA as an unidentified caller, and ascertained that is and that after September 1, 1959, one will have the address of

Also contained in the above-cited informant report was the fact that during this meeting mentioned that STEVE ALLEN of television prominence had directed his secretary to send a check for $4,000 to the National Sobell Committee with a request for MALCOLM SHARP's book on the Sobell Committee. It was stated that STEVE ALLEN is spending the summer in Maine, California, and, according to appears to be sympathetic to the Sobell case.

Appendix pages for the Los Angeles Sobell case are being furnished the New York office and Kansas City Office as enclosures to this letter. The above information is being furnished the Bureau and interested offices for information.
Office Memorandum - UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: Director, FBI (100-387835)                                  DATE: 9/17/59

FROM: SAC, Atlanta (100-4953)

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBERL
          INTERNAL SECURITY - C
          INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950
          (NEW YORK CO)

On 9/15/59, made available copy of a letter from HELEN SOBERL addressed to her husband, an inmate at that institution. Made available this letter for review in view of numerous names mentioned therein which may be of assistance in security investigations being conducted by this Bureau. It is noted this letter is dated 9/11/59, and was apparently written from Los Angeles, California. The contents of this letter contain the following pertinent excerpts:

"We got a very exciting letter from New York saying that STEVE ALLEN had ordered 100 copies of our reprint containing the statement by Dr. PAUL LEHMAN entitled 'MORTON SOBERL, Symbol of the Christian's concern for Justice'. I had called his secretary that very morning in an effort to arrange an appointment because we knew of his previous interest, and I'm to call him back Monday when STEVE ALLEN will be in town."

and her two sons were permitted to go home in Georgia. The above statement refers to...

F - Bureau RN (encl. 1)
1 - New York (100-107111) RN (encl. 1)
1 - San Diego (info.) (100-9380) RN
1 - Los Angeles (info.) (100-41646) RN (encl. 1)
1 - San Francisco (info.) (100-35117) RN (encl. 1)
1 - Phoenix (info.) (100-4333) RN
2 - Atlanta (1 - 100-4953)
    (1 - 65-1361) (MORTON SOBERL)

APW:mel
(9)

SS SEP 25 1359
and her two sons convicted of murdering a white tenant family in Georgia who were sentenced to death in the electric chair, and which sentence was later commuted to life in prison. They were paroled on 8/28/59 by Georgia State authorities. The were the subject of various protest marches originating in subversive circles in New York City several years ago.

Mrs. SORELL indicated she would be leaving Los Angeles for Phoenix on the 17th of September, 1959, and will be back in Los Angeles on the 20th because it is a lot easier to travel from Los Angeles to New York, than from Phoenix to New York.

Helen SORELL mentions having an appointment with one on 9/12/59.

On 9/15/59, Helen SORELL addressed to her husband. The contents of this letter are set forth verbatim hereinafter:

"Tues. Sept. 1, 1959
6:30 P.M. #43

"My own dearest MORTY,

"Yesterday was a long day in San Diego and we did many things. I met with a group of ministers and they are going to invite all of the clergymen in the area to join with them. I also had dinner with the who sent their warmest regards and were wonderfully hospitable. It was a real pleasure to see them again. In the evening we had a party and I was really konked by the time the day was over. This morning we worked on a TV interview, and then I took the plane back to L.A."
"in time for a big luncheon meeting which was just fine. I met a woman there who had cut my hair years ago when I was in L. A. and after the meeting we went to a friend's home, and she gave me a very nice haircut."

"I got your last two letters from __________ when she picked me up, and I was very sad to hear of all of the not good things which you are experiencing, my love. I'm sorry you are so grumpy, not for me, but because it makes you feel not good in yourself. It was too bad you didn't get too much enjoyment out of your tennis matches."

"I'm writing this now as we are driving back out to the beach to see some people and deliver a borrowed station wagon which ________ and ________ used for the moving back. Good morning, my love, It's now 10:20 and for the first time in a long while, I slept late this morning. ________ is staying with a friend who has 2 boys, and a pool, so he's fine."

"I've been re-reading your last letters this morning (I'm alone in a very pleasant home, and again I'm disturbed by your rash and your teeth problems. I hope, as I said before, that all will be well, and I'm glad you tell me that there is not too much cause for worry."

"So, finally, after all these years, you have the NOACELN book. It should be absorbing to tackle the 100 problems presented. I'm afraid that I won't have a chance to read the Fromm book for quite a while, but I'll leave it in mind."

"I do think I operate somewhat along the lines of conservation of psychic energy, and it may be that you have struck up on a chord which explains some of the differences in attitude we have had from time to time. There have been instances where you have suggested to me"
"that a real exploration of a situation would result in more clarity, and I have felt sufficiently aware of the psychic drains (to no avail) inherent, so that I have not wanted more clarity.

I take the surf much better than I do because he is much faster in movement and can ride the waves. Also he has no objections to getting sloughed around in the sandy water in a prone position, and I don't care for it. He has been taking pictures and he did have a chance to talk to our photographer friend in S. F.

"I see when I read your words about my writing frequency, I misunderstood you and I felt you were really calling me to task, but you are doing nothing of the sort. I guess I still carry over from the time when the omission of a letter was most traumatic. I shall be more relaxed and know that you have much more maturity in this direction.

"Yes, came with his wife to our big dinner in S. F., which is not exactly the same as having had dinner with him. As I told you before, I don't feel I will be able to make the trip to Mexico at this time, and I have another idea about it which may work out better.

"I got the govt's brochure on the parole board's composition and rules and it is most interesting. Have you every had access or do you know the almost unlimited discretion which applies? My schedule here is pretty full so that I don't know how much time I'll be able to spend at the beaches, but we'll see. I just talked to who has just returned from Mexico and we'll be getting together in the next couple of days. will stay there for a while.

"Most important of all and everything, be well, my love, and hold me very close, and know that I love thee with all my heart. Your HELEN, all time.

"HELEN SOBEIL"
In the event any of the above information is utilised in investigative reports, the source of this information should be concealed inasmuch as [ ] at the USP does not desire his identity be made known.

Copies of the SORREL letter dated 9/11/59, are furnished herewith as enclosures to the Bureau, New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.
HABIT. I love thee with all my heart.

Your wife,

Best copy available.
TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING IN

TYPE IN PLAIN TEXT OR CODE

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-387835)
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-41648)
SUBJECT: LOS ANGELES SORBELL COMMITTEE

The following information relative to plans of

Details regarding this request are contained in the attached article from the "People's World" (West Coast communist newspaper) of 9/5/59.

1 New York (REGISTERED)
2 Phoenix (REGISTERED)
3 San Francisco (REGISTERED)
4 Los Angeles (100-41648) (100-43372 - CINAL)

Approved: W. B. (Special Agent in Charge)

CONFIDENTIAL
any dissemination of this information should, for the time being, be most circumspect.
A. H. Belmont

September 22, 1959

F. J. Baumgardner

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Baumgardner
1 - .

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE
JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBEll
(NCSJNS)

INTERNAL SECURITY - C

b7c
b7d

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS CLASSIFIED

DATE 12/17/58 RE: 1/16/58

b7c

NCSJNS, cited by House Committee on Un-American Activities
(HCUC), has twofold purpose: (1) remove Sobell from Alcatraz (in 1958
he was transferred to Atlanta Penitentiary) and (2) obtain either his
release, reduction of sentence or new trial. NCSJNS has had a progres-
sion of obtaining support from prominent persons and apparently
through the efforts of [redacted], elicit from Steve Allen, TV
personality, a promise to assist the Sobell cause in the future. Los
Angeles advised that Allen

Relations with Allen have in the past been cordial. Director
thanked him for mentioning "Masters of Deceit" on his program and on
2/25/59 the Director clarified an erroneous impression Allen had gotten
from certain press reports that he was being investigated by the Bureau.
Reports failed to disclose any other identifiable references to Langer.

Allen in the past has "editorialized" on his show, sometimes
concerning controversial subjects. If he mentions the alleged "frame-up
of Morton Sobell, we can expect a certain amount of sympathy from
"dc-goers" throughout the country, which is exactly what captivated
organization wants. It would be most advantageous to check Allen before
his nationwide audience is exposed to this unwanted propaganda. To do
this we considered using [redacted] as an intermediary; however, "files
show [redacted] is a key figure of the
Los Angeles Office and [redacted] in the past has been a headline grabber
and crusader.

To approach Allen himself may possibly result in embarrassment
to the Bureau. Therefore, as an alternative it is believed that contact
should be made by Mr. DeLoach with a suitable official of the National
Broadcasting Company (NBC) to acquaint him with the facts concerning
Allen's apparent support of the Sobell cause for whatever action he
sees fit to undertake. Through this action the Bureau will not be
involved or placed in an embarrassing position.

100-387895

b7c

100-131812

(Allen)
Memo to Mr. Belmont
Re: National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell
100-387833

RECOMMENDATION:

If you approve, this memorandum should be forwarded to Mr. DeLoach so that he may contact an appropriate source in WEC to whom this information may be referred on a confidential basis and treated accordingly, in line with comments set forth.
MEMORANDUM

FROM:
C. D. DELOACH

SUBJECT: NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL (NCSJMS) INTERNAL SECURITY - C

STEVE ALLEN
(NBC - TV)

Memorandum from Mr. Baumgardner to Mr. Belmont dated 9-22-59 relates to the fact that Helen Sobell, Morton Sobell's wife, has elicited from Steve Allen, TV personality on NBC, a promise to assist the Sobell cause on his program. Further Allen presumably gave Helen Sobell permission to publicize his interest in the case.

The Director stated it would be all right to alert appropriate NBC officials.

ACTION TAKEN: At 12:30 PM, 9-24-59 Wick talked to a very good friend of the Bureau's above and additionally pointed out that prior to the execution of the Rosenbergs in June, 1953, the case of Sobell and the Rosenbergs was reviewed 16 times by the United States District Court, seven appeals to the Circuit Court of Appeals were argued, seven petitions to the United States Supreme Court were made and two applications were made to the President of the United States for executive clemency. Subsequently, additional court action has been had and such eminent jurists as Judges Medina and Katzenmoe are in complete agreement with the prior proceedings respecting Sobell's case. Wick said he could handle the matter and would check into it in a manner which would leave the FBI out of it completely.

DEVELOPMENT: At 9:30 AM today, called Wick and said he had determined from West Coast, that Mrs. Sobell has in Los Angeles made the statement to several people.

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Jones

REW: sjp

Tennant

30 OCT 9
1959
that Steve Allen is "in her pocket" and she has been promised that he would help her.

Allen was in another studio, contacted Allen, and what Allen replied. Allen told that Mrs. Sobell had been in to see him (Allen), had asked for support but that he did not promise her anything. Allen said further that he will not support her, will not mention her on his program and does not intend to have anything to do with this matter whatsoever. Furthermore, Allen told the newspaperman he does not appreciate her going around saying he has promised to help her or even talked to her.

Therefore, considers the matter resolved since they have a definite commitment from Allen not to support Sobell in any way. Wick was most grateful for Wick calling this matter to his attention and he said he wanted the Director to know is most appreciative.

He said Allen is very difficult to control but he is satisfied Allen is incensed over reports he is getting from newspaper and radio people that Mrs. Sobell is trying to get him into the act.

For record purposes.
MOTION SBIETI.

Allen had agreed to assist Helon Sbielt so far as to free the Los Angeles area as of 1/7/59, conducting that step.

Subject: Los Angeles Sbielt Committee

From: SAC Los Angeles (100-4169)

To: Director, FBI (100-38745)

(No further action of record)

AIR MAIL - REGISTERED

Required following in

Date: 10/19/59

FBI
By MIKE NEWBERY

THE YOUNG man with the starry-eyed glasses on the cover of this book is not the Steve Allen you know.

He is Steve Allen the poet. This is a new and strange Steve Allen. He is the Steve Allen that you have known for years.

"Comedy is an art, a craft, a trade," he writes. "What else are jokes about? They're about fat people, skinny people, dumbbells, small hotel rooms, drunks, sexual problems, high prices, war..."

"There may not be laughter in hell, but there couldn't possibly be laughter in heaven," Steve Allen says.

Like Charlie Chaplin before him, like Mark Twain before him, like Jonathan Swift before him, like Boccaccio before him, all of them men ridiculed as clown, Steve Allen has been born immediately in a TV tube. We smile with our wounds with. Is he a man born of the boy his lineage seems so grandiose for a Steve Allen (and I imagine are the two words that occur in his innocence of it) I believe it is a true one. For he is a true human being, sometimes in those passions, often in opposition, though not superciliously . Mr. Allen throughout his Christianity, his philosophy his book we seek to find the true is that of a seeker. If it is a tortoise in the name tag on a man who has no easy peace, nor one for which he offers a sloganized solution.

There are some who will say he over-reaches his grasp, is ill-equipped for his task. That may be true, yet in a time when the pudgy little fingers of successful men so often greedy seek no more than petty self-satisfaction it is encouraging to see a man whose courage defies the limitations of easy touch and does aspire to the great ideas of mankind. Of his knowledge of communism, let me just say, that though Mr. Allen defiantly says he is a subscriber to "The Worker," one could have given him greater sense than the thin pages of the fat volumes of Marx. Had he done so, he would not attribute to communism the ideas of anti-communists, as he does.

Let the reader not think however that this is a solemn or self-righteous book. Here are hilarious tales and inside insights of TV monitors to delight even an Ed Sullivan fan. Many is the time I found myself laughing aloud as I read, something I seldom do. But then too I found the humor had a thoughtful tone. What is comedy I began to ask myself?

Comedy is not humorous, Steve Allen says. Knowing comedy as he does he says it is not humorous at all. It is cruel, it is insulting, it is sad, it is tragic;
June 7, 1966

Deleted Copy Sent Allen by Letter Dated 5-1-76
For FOIPA Request

By Liaison

1-1

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Watson:

Reference is made to the name check requests
from Mrs. Stegall relative to the White House affair on

All locally U.S. if other not given

The central files of the FBI contain no derogatory
information identifiable with the following individuals:

- David Hansen
- Gene Tunney 85-25-1773

The files of the Identification Division of the FBI
were checked and no arrest data was located concerning the above
individuals based upon the background information submitted
in connection with these name check requests.

EX-1086  4/15

1 - Mr. DeLoach (sent direct) Encs. (15) 1 114, 46, 62 Encs. (15)
2 - Mr. Gale - Encs. (15)

Delivered to Mildred Stegall on 5-1-76

[Date and Time Stamp]
Honorable Marvin Watson

Attached are separate memoranda on the following individuals:

Steve Allen
Dana Andrews
Lee J. Cobb
Lloyd Vernet Bridges

Sincerely yours,

Enclosures (23)
June 7, 1966

Summary

Steve Allen, the prominent television personality, has worked on behalf of the National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy (SANE) in recent years. He has also spoken out repeatedly against capital punishment and has participated in demonstrations on this topic. Because of his activities in connection with these two issues, he has been a controversial figure. According to FBI files, Allen has also been affiliated with and contributed to the "Los Angeles Sobell Committee" which is an affiliate of the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case which has been cited by the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

In June, 1965, Allen was listed as a sponsor of a tribute to Congressional liberals who were being honored at a dinner in Beverly Hills, California, on August 13, 1965, for their opposition to the present Administration's policy on Vietnam.

(94-52095)

Attached is a copy of FBI Identification Record Number 256 904 B which appears to be identical with captioned individual based on his reported date of birth, December 26, 1921, according to FBI files.

Enclosure

NOTE: Per request of Mrs. Mildred Stegall, White House Staff. CC sent to Secret Service per FD-376, Category 3.

MAIL ROOM □ TELETYPE UNIT □
August 22, 1972

BY LIAISON

Honorable Alexander P. Butterfield
Deputy Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Butterfield:

Reference is made to your name check request concerning Steve Allen and some other individuals.

Attached are separate memoranda concerning the following individuals:

- Steve Allen
- Dean Martin

Sincerely yours,

L. Patrick Gray
Acting Director

Enclosures (10)

1 - Mr. Cleveland - Enclosures (sent direct)

JCF: mcb 6b 5 (5)

DELIVERED BY LIAISON ON 10-24-72

NOT RECORDED
100 - 431812 - 3

RECEIVED
133 AUG 25 1972

ORIGINALLY FILED IN
The files of the FBI reveal that Mr. Steve Allen, who you advised resides at 16185 Woodville Road, Encino, California, has been the subject of limited security-type investigations conducted by this Bureau.

In December, 1959, Steve Allen was one of a number of sponsors for a banquet given for Norman Thomas, head of the Socialist Party of the United States.

Since 1959 Allen has been connected with the National Committee for Sane Nuclear Policy (SANE) and affiliated groups seeking a complete cessation of United States nuclear experiments. He has repeatedly spoken out against capital punishment. Allen did considerable work for the "Los Angeles Sobell Committee," an affiliate of the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case, which has been cited by the House Committee on Internal Security.

By application dated June 12, 1963, at Los Angeles, Allen filed for and was subsequently issued a United States passport, D375217, after writing the Department of State in January to express his desire to visit mainland China. Allen is not known to have made the trip as planned.

In 1965 Allen was listed as a sponsor of a tribute to Congressional liberals who were being honored at a dinner in Beverly Hills, California, on August 13, 1965, for their opposition to the Administration's policy on Vietnam.

Attached is a copy of an FBI Identification Record, Number 258 904 B, concerning Allen whose full name is Stephen Valentine Patrick William Allen.

Enclosure

NOTE: Per request of Alexander P. Butterfield, Deputy Assistant to the President.

EJK:sh/vac (5)
Re Legat, Ottawa letter to the Bureau dated, 2/14/73, above captioned, and Los Angeles letter to the Bureau dated, 3/8/73, in the case captioned, IS - CH, Bureau file 105-236313.

Referenced Los Angeles letter enclosed a Letterhead Memorandum setting out information regarding the relationship of with STEVE ALLEN, United States television personality.

Information is also set out in the Letterhead Memorandum to the effect that STEVE ALLEN, the television personality, may accompany land her husband to the People's Republic of China (PRC) in April, 1973.

The following physical description of STEVE ALLEN, the television personality, was obtained through personal observation, statements made by ALLEN himself, and the biographical sketch contained in the 1966-1967 edition of "Who's Who in America" (see IA 100-59178-193, page three):

Name: STEPHEN VALENTINE PATRICK WILLIAM ALLEN, also known as Steve Allen
Sex: Male
Race: Caucasian
Age: years

Bureau (105-2147146)
(2 - Legat, Ottawa 105-4168)
(4 - Los Angeles (105-34347)

Copy to
by routing slip for

Data entry by

Operations
Secrecy

LA 105-34347

Birth Date: December 26, 1927
New York City

Height: 6 feet 2½ inches

Weight: 185 pounds

Hair: Brown

Eyes: Brown (wears horn-rimmed glasses)

Occupations: Actor, musician, authic, composer, television-radio personality

Education:
   Student of Journalism,
   Drake University and Arizona
   State Teachers College

Military Services: United States Army (dates unavailable at this time)

Relatives:
   Father: CARRICO ALLEN
   Mother: ISABELLE CANHUR ALLEN
   Wife: JAYNE KATTER ALLEN
   Married (July 31, 1951)
   Ex-wife: DOROTHY GOODMAN ALLEN
   MC Govern (married August 23, 1943)
   Sons: STEPHEN ALLEN
       BRIAN ALLEN
       DAVID ALLEN
       WILLIAM CHRISTOPHER ALLEN

Based on information set out above, it would appear that STEVE ALLEN is possibly identical with STEVE ALLEN, television personality listed above, although no positive identification can be made in the absence of additional information regarding the subject.

Pertinent information regarding STEVE ALLEN, the television personality, was included in the above mentioned Letterhead Memorandum. In view of the above, no further action is being taken in this matter.

SECRET

Y and is classified (S) b1
REQUEST OF THE BUREAU

The Bureau is requested to furnish Legat, Ottawa, two copies of this letter for its information and appropriate action.
September 19, 1974

MR. AND MRS. STEVE ALLEN

SUMMARY

Captioned individuals, who you advised reside at 16185 Woodview Road, Encino, California, were the subjects of a White House name check request in August, 1972. Attached is a copy of a summary memorandum dated August 21, 1972. (100-431812-3)

The central files of the FBI, including the files of the Identification Division, contain no additional pertinent information concerning captioned individuals based upon background information submitted in connection with this name check request.

Enclosure.

NOTE: Per request of Miss Jane Dannenhauer, Staff Assistant (Security), The White House. REC-60 100-431812-5

DTP: ysc (4)