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DIRECTOR, FBI

6/27/57

SAC, BALTIMORE (100-20489)

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
(☒) Release () Excise () Deny (☒) Declassify
Date 12-07-04 Exemption _____

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INFORMATION CONCERNING
OO: BALTIMORE

Reference is made to Department of State telegrams #713 dated May 27, 1957 and #718 dated May 28, 1957, photostatic copies of which were forwarded this office by the Bureau by routing slip dated June 12, 1957. The Department of State telegrams referred to an article which appeared in a Wilmington, Delaware newspaper (May 13, 1957) quoting THOMAS BRITTINGHAM as having announced he would sponsor the lecture visit to this country of Iceland's greatest writer HALLDOR KILJAN LAXNESS. Department of State telegram referred to LAXNESS as a prominent Icelandic Communist author.]

For the Bureau's information, the May 13, 1957 issue of the Journal Every Evening, a Wilmington, Delaware daily newspaper, on page one, columns 2 and 3 thereon contained an article which set forth that THOMAS E. BRITTINGHAM, Jr. of Centerville (a suburb of Wilmington, Delaware) has been named an honorary member of the Icelandic-American Foundation for "outstanding work in the field of international relations." The article said that the citation to Mr. BRITTINGHAM was presented Saturday afternoon in his offices in the Delaware Trust Building by GUNNAR SIGURDSSON, Secretary of the foundation. The article also announced that today (May 13, 1957) Mr. BRITTINGHAM is to receive the Cross of the Knight of Danneborg from the Danish ambassador to the United States in Washington, D. C. in recognition of Mr. BRITTINGHAM's work in bettering international relations.

The article also mentioned that last December BRITTINGHAM was awarded the Medal of St. Olaf by the American-Norwegian Foundation in Oslo, Norway, for special services to Norwegians abroad. The article referred to Mr. BRITTINGHAM as an investment specialist and president of the Merchandise Mart. The Merchandise Mart is a large shopping center of the park and shop variety, just north of the Wilmington, Delaware City limits.

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The article further stated that for the past 6 years Mr. BRITTINGHAM and his wife have travelled abroad to select 7 or 8 Swedish, Norwegian, Danish and Finnish students whom they send to the University of Wisconsin, with which university Mr. BRITTINGHAM has been affiliated as an organizer and one of the first trustees of Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation. For the past 6 months Icelandic students have received scholarships to stay in this country from Mr. BRITTINGHAM's sponsors, 4 undergraduate students, as well as 4 lecturers and 5 high school students from that country.

The last paragraph of the newspaper article is as follows:

"Mr. BRITTINGHAM announced Saturday that he will sponsor the lecture visit to this country of Iceland's greatest writer, HALLDOR KILJAN LAXNESS, who received the Nobel Prize for literature in 1955. Mr. LAXNESS will visit Wilmington when he comes to this country in the fall."

For the Bureau's further information, captioned individual was the subject of an AEAA investigation in 1950 in the case entitled [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Baltimore file 116-14253. Report of [REDACTED] dated November 14, 1950 at Baltimore in that case which set forth investigation conducted in the Wilmington, Delaware area concerning Mr. BRITTINGHAM reflects no information of an unfavorable nature concerning the character, reputation, loyalty and associates of Mr. BRITTINGHAM.

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UACB, no investigation will be conducted by this office in captioned case.

Referenced newspaper article contains a photograph of Mr. BRITTINGHAM receiving the citation of the Icelandic-American Foundation from GUNNAR SIGURDSSON.

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