



THE BLACK VAULT

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Files

DATE: 18 April 1952

FROM : [REDACTED] A

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] C

A/B, IV, 314, 2

1. On the afternoon of Wednesday, 16 April 1952, and in the morning of 17 April 1952, the writer again interviewed [REDACTED] at his apartment [REDACTED]. The interview was to ascertain whether or not [REDACTED] would be interested as serving as a consultant to I&SO in connection with Artichoke matters. In this connection [REDACTED] on previous occasions when interviewed by the writer and by previous conversations, had indicated that he would be glad to assist the government in any way possible and would serve without compensation, if necessary, if his services would be of value.

2. Before discussing basic matters such as rate of pay, travel, etc. with [REDACTED] the writer again questioned [REDACTED] at considerable length concerning his hypnotic work, his belief in hypnosis in connection with drugs, and whether or not he felt that through a combination of drugs and hypnosis, information could be extracted from individuals whether they were willing or not.

3. [REDACTED] stated again that he felt the best possible method, at least at present, for obtaining information from recalcitrant persons, was through the use of drugs and/or hypnosis applied very subtly, if possible. He stated that some of his work lead him to the conclusion that if the technique could be mastered, a high percentage of accurate information could be obtained in unwilling cases. In addition, he stated that the language barrier could possibly be surmounted by intensely coaching Agency officers or interpreters who had knowledge of foreign languages.

4. [REDACTED] stated that he had only on one occasion worked with the police, but that he had done a considerable amount of interrogation work in connection with psychiatric problems for [REDACTED] and for private psychiatrists in [REDACTED]. He stated that he thought hypnosis would be an extremely useful weapon, but it was necessary to apply it with a deal of intelligence and that unless each case was studied psychologically and approached with high intelligence, the chance of obtaining information would not be good. [REDACTED] reiterated that he did not know of any new drugs that could be used. He confirmed the fact that, to his knowledge, no one was using electroshock or electro-narcosis in connection with hypnosis in [REDACTED] but he would continue to make discreet inquiries along these lines.

5. After a lengthy discussion of general matters [REDACTED] was given a more or less vague statement of possible cases and the matter

[REDACTED]

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of travel and overseas work was discussed with [REDACTED] stated that he had no objection to travel and welcomed the opportunity to do work for the Government and, generally speaking, since he is not married, he could travel on short notice and stated he was not interested in money, as such.

6. With this background, the writer asked [REDACTED] if he would be interested in becoming a consultant to the Agency and was informed by [REDACTED] that he would be interested. The writer then stated to him that he felt that the Agency would possibly be able to pay him at the rate of \$35.00 to \$40.00 a day with the usual \$9.00 a day per diem for domestic travel and the standard overseas rate if he left the country. The writer also explained to him the travel regulations, vouchers, etc.

7. Thereafter, the writer showed [REDACTED] the PHS form and the Appendix I form and pointed out to [REDACTED] that the filling out and signing of these documents was a requirement before employment with this Agency. [REDACTED] stated that he had an engagement the evening of the 16th and if the writer would return the 17th he felt that he could at least fill out most of the important parts of the PHS form.

8. The writer asked [REDACTED] if he were employed as an Agency consultant by the Agency would he be willing to include among his duties the training of individuals in hypnosis and related matters in addition to working on actual cases. [REDACTED] stated that he would be glad to train anyone sent to him by the Agency in hypnosis.

9. The writer then asked [REDACTED] whether or not he was still engaged in his field of [REDACTED] and he stated he had done very little in the past few years, but his present work was entirely that of a professional hypnotist. He stated he had a sufficient background in [REDACTED] to be used as a cover if a cover of this kind were necessary for the work.

10. Before concluding the afternoon's talk with [REDACTED] the writer cautioned him again of the secrecy and security involved and [REDACTED] stated that he thoroughly understood the need for secrecy and security in these matters.

11. At 10:00 AM, 17 April 1952, the writer called again at [REDACTED] apartment and [REDACTED] had at that time partially filled out the PHS. He apologized for what he called its incompleteness and stated that a number of questions had arisen including his legal name and his stage name and his various sources of revenue. (All these items have been set out in the PHS form and will be explained in a memorandum which will be attached to his form by the writer.)

12. It should be noted that while [REDACTED] did not specifically object to giving detailed information as to his background, he felt that

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[REDACTED]

since he was being considered as a consultant it was unnecessary for him to dig into his income tax files and make itemized statements. The writer obtained from him some fair indications of dates, salaries, etc. to supplement the information which [REDACTED] had attached. This information appears in the writer's handwriting in pencil on the paper submitted by [REDACTED]. The writer studied over the list of references given by [REDACTED] and, in each case, it would appear that [REDACTED] has given individuals of considerable stature.

13. [REDACTED] explained that he had no charge accounts; hence, his credit references do not seem to him very important. He had no police record, was a member of no organizations except as listed and that he, as a rule, kept rather strictly to himself in all matters. Since the writer felt that sufficient time had been spent in obtaining the PHS form and in discussions with [REDACTED], the interview was concluded and papers were signed by [REDACTED] and his signature was witnessed by the writer.

A [REDACTED]