SUBJ.: Ray Bourbon
FILE #: 46-0-21528
SEC. #: 
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, BALTIMORE (40-0)

HAL WAWDELL, aka Ray Bourbon
PASSPORT AND VISA MATTER

Enclosed for the Bureau are five copies of letterhead memorandum for transmittal to the Department of State. Information was furnished by WAWDELL telephonically to this office, with the request that the FBI forward it to the appropriate authorities.
Baltimore, Maryland
December 8, 1961

RE: HAL WAWDEELL
Also Known As Ray Bourbon

On December 8, 1961, Mr. HAL WAWDEELL telephonically advised the Baltimore Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that on December 6, 1961, his passport had been stolen. He related that he was the Master of Ceremonies at Sherry's Show Bar, 3871 Pulaski Highway, Baltimore, Maryland, and that on December 6, 1961, his passport, as well as other personal papers and certain items of personal property, were left in the dressing room. During the evening, these items were all taken.

He advised that as best he could recall, the number of his passport was 25263 and was issued in 1951 at San Francisco, California. He could not recall his address in San Francisco at the time of issuance.

Mr. WAWDEELL furnished the following background information:

Date of Birth: August 11, 1902
Place of Birth: Texarkana, Texas
Race: White
Sex: Male
Height: 6'
Weight: 200 pounds
Hair: Brown-graying

Mr. WAWDEELL advised he was currently residing in a trailer park located between Aberdeen and North East, Maryland.

This memorandum is loaned to you by the FBI and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.
SUBJ.: Ray Boucher

FILE #: 00-10690

SEC. #: 
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-106214)
FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (62-5703)
SUBJECT: MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING (ESPIONAGE)

Re Kansas City airTel with enclosures dated 2/7/61 requesting Chicago to interview RAY BOURBON, allegedly residing at 933 North State, Chicago, Illinois, and Bureau airTel to Chicago dated 2/9/61, advising only one person in picture furnished originally by BOURBON is still unidentified.

For the information of the New York Office, a person alleging to be RAY BOURBON, aka RICHARD FABIEN MANN, RAE BOURBON, HAL WADDELL, and GREG WADDELL (FBI No. 1938040), who is a notorious female impersonator, called the Detroit Office in 9/60. He professed to know the defectors, and that they were homosexuals who attended a party with him in the spring of 1960. BOURBON claimed there were other homosexuals in government who were going to defect but he could not recall their names. It was later ascertained the party in question was held in the apartment of a civilian employee in the Office of the Secretary of the Army at NW, Washington, D.C., in 6/60. All but one individual depicted on photographs furnished Detroit by BOURBON has been identified. BOURBON claimed this person was one known to him only as "BILL" and investigation by the Department of the Army reflects this individual was brought to the party by BOURBON and allegedly introduced as his companion.

Luc

- Bureau (RM)
- Detroit (62-3005) (RM)
- Kansas City (62-7671) (info) (RM)
- New York (RM)
- WFO (105-37021) (info) (RM)
- Chicago

Approved: Special Agent in Charge

Sent: 31 MAR 2 1961

FER 29 12 1961
On 2/10/61, it was ascertained that RAE BOURBON was currently appearing at the Night Life Cocktail Lounge, 933 North State, Chicago, Illinois. On the evening of 2/13/61, an attempt was made to contact BOURBON telephonically at the above club by SA B. However, the answering bartender stated BOURBON had been ill and probably would not be in to work that evening. SA B asked that BOURBON be given the message that he was a "friend of [redacted] (SA who interviewed BOURBON in the past) in Detroit and would like to get in touch with BOURBON". On 2/14/61 and 2/15/61 a man professing to be BOURBON telephonically contacted SA B at the Chicago Office. He refused to wilfully agree to personal interview, alluding to the fact that he had been "shot at in Detroit" lastfall, the bullet piercing the windshield of his car and just missing hitting him.

The following additional details obtained from BOURBON during the above telephone calls (exclusive of the information BOURBON stated he previously furnished agents of the Detroit Office) is being set forth for the information of the Bureau and interested offices:

BOURBON maintains he is not acquainted personally with the individual known to him only as "BILL" who attended the party held at [redacted] apartment in Washington, D.C. at [redacted] in the spring of 1960. He denies bringing his accompanist to this party or that he brought anyone else to this party. He remembers specifically coming to the party (where pictures were taken) alone, having parked his car in the business district of Washington, D.C. and taking a taxi to [redacted] apartment. BOURBON repeated that the above individual (who is pictured lying on the floor with his head in the lap of the host, who in turn is leaning against BOURBON) was never seen by him prior to the party or subsequent to same. He states this is the individual he previously advised agents of the Detroit Office he felt was one of the captioned subjects. The revelation of having attended the party did not come to BOURBON until he saw the newspaper publicity including photographs attendant to their defection. At this time he felt sure they were two of the guests at [redacted] party.

Several times during the conversation held on 2/14 and 15, 1960, BOURBON was asked about the above matter and he vehemently denied taking anyone to the party where the pictures were taken. When asked about his accompanist, BOURBON stated
that he employed of Detroit during that period of time. He stated was his accompanist from 3/60 until the summer of 1960. He described as approximately old, tall, of medium build, brown hair and "lazy" as well as "stupid". His residence is in , a suburb of Detroit and his father is a retired City of Detroit company employee. According to BOURBON,

When asked whether he had ever taken someone to a party at apartment, he replied "Yes, twice." The first occasion was several years ago when he first met at the Red Skin Lounge in Washington, D.C. He took , the former partner of BOURBON in Vaudeville during the period 1922-24, to this party. The second occasion was sometime between March and the time of the party where the pictures were taken. On this occasion he did take to a party at apartment. BOURBON cannot give the specific date of this party, but does recall he and were there for only a few minutes on this occasion and they left place to attend a movie. According to BOURBON, if had been at the party where the pictures were taken, he would certainly be in one of the pictures, since is the type of person who would not allow himself to be "left out of such proceedings."

Concerning BOURBON furnished the following information:

He and BOURBON are very close friends but nothing repugnant to the conventional world exists between them. BOURBON feels is a "wonderful person". He and almost always has a at his Washington, D.C. apartment. Quite often goes to New York City on weekends where he lives with and almost always has a at his Washington, D.C. apartment. Quite often goes to New York City on weekends where he lives with (this is for BOURBON in the past). In addition, lives with a by the name of who interned and currently is a and allegedly is a native of recently visiting there without any trouble with the. However, he is a naturalized citizen of the U.S.). and (known as home telephone number in New York City is
BOURBON recently saw who told him had advised he had been questioned by U.S. Government officials and almost lost his job as a civilian employee in the Office of the Secretary of the Army. He indicated the questions "hinged" around the fact BOURBON's piano player was a Communist. BOURBON could not explain the above but stated he had passed off the matter to as "probably nothing" since he knew nothing about it.

BOURBON was asked if he felt should be employed by the Government in view of the fact that he is (according to BOURBON) is certainly "not in anything subversive", is a very capable man and he feels that in case he could not be compromised by representatives of a foreign government. BOURBON then said in his opinion a strong percentage of and if all were taken out of their jobs the government would cease to operate. BOURBON was told his statement was without question ridiculous but Government employment, he should, as his patriotic duty, make their identities known so that the possibility of the U.S. being compromised could be prevented. BOURBON admitted he was poor at remembering names and could not furnish anything concrete re the above at this time, but promised he would do so in the event such information came to his attention.

BOURBON was asked whether his true reason for not wanting to meet agents personally was because he had told certain untruths and felt a personal interview might bare the untruth. BOURBON denied this, stating he was only concerned with his personal safety and admitted he did not know who might be "after him" specifically, but felt such may be agents for the Soviet Union.

BOURBON became emotional at times during the conversations held on 2/14 and 15/61 and stated he was furnishing information to the FBI only because he considered it his patriotic duty. He repeated time and again that he feared for his own well being but could be no more specific regarding this other than set out previously in the communication. BOURBON wished that his identity be kept strictly confidential. He hesitated to give some personal history regarding himself, however, the following data was elicited:

-4-
He stated he was born in Texas in 1892 and not in 1902 as records will show. He explained that he was able to get friends to change the birth records so that he would be young enough to enter the armed services in World War II (he was not successful in this). He has a 43 year old son whose name he refused to give, stating merely the son's name is different from his own because he felt the son would be embarrassed (in his occupation which was unstated) by BOURBON's reputation as a notorious entertainer. He has been married twice. He co-starred with MAE WEST on Broadway in 1944-46 in "Katherine" was Great" and again in "Diamond Lil" in 1948-49. Both shows opened at the Schubert Theater in New York City, according to BOURBON. He hopes to get one more Broadway credit to his name before he "dies. In 1954 he found he had cancer and went to Mexico where he had a "Christine Jorgensen operation". BOURBON laughingly stated his reason for having the operation was different than was Christine's, in that he had wanted to save his own life. Since the operation, he has billed himself as RAE BOURBON since actually he is now bi-sexual.

From all the information available to Chicago, including that learned on 2/14 and 15/61 it is apparent BOURBON has already furnished all the information in his possession regarding the party in question, as well as the identities of individuals in attendance and continuing interviews, either personal or telephonic with BOURBON, are deemed unnecessary.

It would appear that if BOURBON did not, in fact, take his accompanist or any other person to the party in question (as he so vehemently denies doing) that he has been untruthful with the Department of the Army. It is possible the unidentified individuals was being protected by BOURBON. In addition, if credence can be given to BOURBON's statements about their involvement, it would appear he deceived his interviewers and "beat" the polygraph test on the matter of whether or not he

Chicago is not aware of what information learned in the past re BOURBON has been already disseminated by the Bureau to the Department of the Army and accordingly, details of Chicago's 2/14 and 15/61 interviews are not being furnished in disseminable form.

In view of the information furnished by BOURBON re New York City acquaintances and since the identity of one individual at the party in question has not been established, it appears the following investigation is in order:  

-5-
LEADS

DETROIT

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN. Will conduct necessary investigation to fully identify so that it can be concluded whether he is possibly identical with the individual in the photos who is lying on the floor with his head in the lap of

NEW YORK

AT NEW YORK CITY

Will attempt through established sources to identify and search indices re and and advise Bureau of the results of same.

* * * *

While no further inquiry in instant matter is contemplated by Chicago, UACB, it is requested Chicago be furnished results of above investigation for its information in the event of future contact of this office by BOURBON on this or other matters. It would appear the results of the above investigation may disclose whether BOURBON has been lying in instant matter, and enable this office to more accurately evaluate information from him in the future.
AIRTEL - AIRMAIL

To: Director, FBI (62-106214)
From: SAC, Miami (79-128)

MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING (ESPIONAGE)

Re Kansas City airtel to Bureau dated 1/25/61.

On 2/6/61, the Post Office Inspector's Office, Miami, Fla., advised that P.O. Box 3351, West Hollywood, Fla., is held by RAY BOURBON. Box application shows business address as 1610 Alton Road, Miami Beach, Fla. This was location of a night club called the Red Carpet, now out of business.

Box application also shows residence at two different trailer parks, one known as Tissetts, 820 North State Road #7, West Hollywood, Fla.; the other known as the A & P Trailer Park, 5900 Buchanan Street, West Hollywood.

BOURBON is now traveling with an orchestra and has left instructions with the West Hollywood Post Office to forward mail only when they hear from him from time to time. The latest instruction, dated 12/23/60, is that mail be sent to General Delivery, Kansas City, Mo.

Miami will maintain contact with the Post Office Inspector for current information indicating BOURBON'S location.

61 MAR 2 1961
MEMORANDUM

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-106214)
DATE: 3/9/61

FROM: SAC, WFO (105-37021)

SUBJECT: MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING (ESPIONAGE)

RewFwoairtel dated 1/24/61, stating that WFO would make appropriate recommendations for further action upon receipt of the results of an interview of Ray Bourbon, aka, by another field office.

Chicago airtel dated 2/17/61, set forth the results of an interview with Bourbon and also set forth a lead for the Detroit Office to identify who was Bourbon's in the spring and summer of . It is noted that described a man lying on the floor with his head in lap and which picture was taken at a party at apartment at which Bourbon was present, as Bourbon's Bourbon, in the interview with the Chicago Office denied that he knew this person.

LEADS

DETROIT OFFICE (INFORMATION)

A copy of this letter is being furnished the Detroit Office for information purposes since they have a lead outstanding to identify .

WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

Will upon receipt of identification of by the Detroit Office, make appropriate recommendations for any further action.

P: Bureau
2: Detroit (62-3005) (Info) (RM)
1: WFO
PMR: css
(4)

52 MAR 10 1961
March 29, 1999

Freedom of Information/
Privacy Office

Mr. Randy A. Riddle
Cool Cat Daddy Productions
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27101

Dear Mr. Riddle:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of July 10, 1996, to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for records concerning Ray Bourbon. This correspondence was referred to this office along with a record retrieved from their files for a releasability determination. This correspondence was received in this office on March 24, 1999.

We have completed and mandatory declassification review in accordance with Executive Order (EO) 12958. As a result of this review, it has been determined that the record no longer warrants classification protection and is partially releasable to you. Fees for processing this request are waived.

This material has been sanitized to protect the personal privacy rights of the individuals concerned. It is exempt from the mandatory public disclosure provisions of the FOIA per Title 5 U.S. Code 552 (b)(7)(C).

The withholding of the information described above is a partial denial of your request. This denial is made on behalf of Major General Robert W. Noonan, Jr., the Commanding General, U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command, who is the Initial Denial Authority for Army intelligence investigative and security records under the FOIA. You have the right to appeal this decision to the Secretary of the Army. If you wish to file an appeal, you should forward it to this office for necessary processing so that it reaches the appellate authority no later
than 60 calendar days from the date of this letter. Your appeal will then be processed to the appellate authority. After the 60-day period, the case may be considered closed; however, such closure does not preclude you from filing litigation in the courts.

If you have any further questions concerning this action, please feel free to contact Mrs. Benear at (301) 677-3942. Please refer to case #1073F-99.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Russell A. Nichols
Chief, Freedom of Information/Privacy Office

Enclosure

Copy Furnished:

FBI FOI/PA (#412,069)
MEMORANDUM FOR:  J. EDGAR HOOVER
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

SUBJECT:  
DPOB:  
Civilian Employee, Office of the Secretary of the Army

1. (U) Reference is made to your memorandum, subject:  MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING, file 62-106214, dated 26 October 1960.

2. (U) The following information concerning SUBJECT was developed during a background investigation conducted in 1954 to determine suitability for access to classified information:
   a.  was rejected for military service on 11 April 1944 due to psychoneurosis described as "probable central nervous lues, disqualifying".
   b.  Eight former supervisors, co-workers, and associates of refused to make an unqualified recommendation of SUBJECT because of HIS effeminate characteristics; HIS use of a heavy perfume, HIS fastidious attire; and HIS questionable associates.
   c.  Seven associates of gave HIM their unqualified recommendation for a position of trust and confidence. All of these associates characterized SUBJECT as being effeminate in HIS mannerisms, of using an objectionable perfume, and of being extremely fastidious in HIS choice of clothing; however, because of HIS long excellent work record, HIS ability to maintain confidences, and the lack of any factual derogatory information, they did not feel justified in not recommending SUBJECT for a position of trust and confidence.
   d.  One source, a former landlord, stated that had shared a room with another man, who reported that had accosted him in their room and had tried to climb into bed with him. When confronted with this information, SUBJECT did not deny nor confirm the incident. As a result of this incident, SUBJECT moved from the rooming house within two weeks.
SUBJECT: Civilian Employee, Office of the Secretary of the Army

e. Was suspected of homosexual tendencies because HE was a close friend of one an admitted homosexual. SUBJECT admitted being associated with since 1948. Interrogation of failed to substantiate the allegations of homosexuality concerning HIM. A polygraph examination of revealed no deception criteria to pertinent questions of homosexuality. executed a sworn statement to the effect that HE was not and had never been a homosexual; that HE had never engaged in any homosexual acts; and that to the best of HIS knowledge, HE was not acquainted with any homosexuals.

3. (OR Sec) was interviewed on 17 and 23 November 1960, concerning an allegation that William H. Martin and Bernon F. Mitchell, National Security Agency defectors, had attended a party in HIS apartment during June 1960 and to determine the identities of the individuals depicted in photographs attached hereto as Inclosures 1 through 7. SUBJECT related that HE is not acquainted with either William H. Martin or Bernon F. Mitchell and would not even recognize photographs of these individuals, although HE did, of course, read about their defection when it was published in the newspapers. SUBJECT was certain that neither of these individuals ever attended a party in HIS apartment since HE invites only personal friends to such gatherings. did not recall giving a party in HIS apartment during June 1960, nor does HE believe that HE did so; however, HE did recall having entertained friends in HIS apartment on several occasions earlier in the year. After having been shown a photograph (Inclosure 6), readily recalled the occasion as having been a party which HE gave in HIS apartment in the spring of 1960 in honor of a friend, a professional singer and female impersonator, who was appearing at Nappy's, a night club located in Baltimore, Maryland. is well acquainted with each of the guests at this party, with the exception of Bourbon's piano accompanist, whom HE met for the first time that evening and whose name HE could not recall. is quite certain that the subject of travel to the Soviet Union was not discussed during the party, nor does HE have any reason to believe that any of the individuals attending this party are homosexuals. One other individual, who is not shown in any of the photographs, was present at this party, a residing with is believed to be employed in a beauty salon (name unknown) in Washington, D. C. identified the persons appearing in the attached photographs as follows:
Civilian Employee, Office of the Secretary of the Army

Inclosure 1

Figure 1 - employed at the Veterans Administration, Washington, D. C.

Figure 2 - Bourbon's piano accompanist

Figure 3 - Ray Bourbon, address unknown; maintains residences in New York City and Mexico. Bourbon claims to have been declared a female by a Mexican court subsequent to undergoing a necessary operation on his genito-urinary organs.

Figure 4 - employed as a waiter at the Lotus Restaurant, 727 14th Street, NW, Washington, D. C., during the summer of 1960.

Figure 5 - employed in a beauty salon in Washington, D. C.

Figure 6 - employed by Leeds Jewelry Company, 725 7th Street, NW, Washington, D. C.

Figure 7 - SUBJECT

Inclosure 2

Figure 1 - Ray Bourbon

Figure 2 - SUBJECT

Figure 3 -

Figure 4 -

Figure 5 -

Inclosure 3

Figure 1 - employed by a printing company in Washington, D. C.
ACSI-SIB
SUBJECT:

DPOB: [Redacted]

Civilian Employee, Office of the Secretary of the Army

Figure 2 - Ray Bourbon

Figure 3 - [Redacted]

Inclosure 4

Figure 1 - Ray Bourbon

Figure 2 - [Redacted] employed by Electrolux Corporation, 3707 Georgia Avenue, NW, Washington, D. C.

Figure 3 - Identified as one of two Negro friends of [Redacted] both of whom reside at [Redacted]. Both individuals were present at the party but [Redacted] could not identify the individual depicted in this photograph.

Figure 4 - [Redacted]

Figure 5 - [Redacted]

Inclosure 5 - all individuals identified previously in other photographs.

Inclosure 6 - both individuals identified previously in other photographs.

Inclosure 7 - Figures 1, 2, and 4 identified previously in other photographs.

Figure 3 - Either [Redacted] or [Redacted]

4. [Redacted] expressed no particular surprise that the attached photographs had become available to this office and appeared to be under the impression that the photographs had been obtained from the commercial firm which processed the film.
ACSI-SIB
SUBJECT: (U)
DPOB: 
Civilian Employee, Office of the Secretary of the Army

5. (U) No further action concerning the information contained in this memorandum is contemplated unless specifically requested.

FOR THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR INTELLIGENCE

LEE M. MARTIN
Lt Colonel, GS

CLAUDE D. BARTON
Colonel, GS
Chief, Security Division