

NAVY DEPARTMENT
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE

In reply refer to No.
Op-16-B-3

WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL

November 15, 1941

MEMORANDUM

From: Lt. J. N. Horan, USNR.
To : Lt. Rhea Whitley, USNR.
Subject: Manley St. Denis and associates, activities of.

1. On November 14, 1941, an individual who represented himself as Mr. Grant, associated with the United Press, Washington, D. C., telephoned this office in order to submit the following information concerning the alleged illegal activities of Subject and his associates.

2. Mr. Grant advised that Subject, who is a Civil Service draftsman employed by the Navy Department, and eight or ten of his fellow workers have been working nights and holidays in designing concrete ships at a private "institution." He stated that Subject and fellow workmen were also taking time off from their regular duties in the Navy Department in order to work for a private consultant, and that they had also borrowed designing equipment belonging to the Navy Department which they were using in this private work.

3. Mr. Grant stated that the work was being done at the offices of Colonel P. M. Anderson, USA (Ret.), 913-15 Denrike Building, Washington, D. C., telephone, Republic 6205. Mr. Anderson is alleged to be a private consultant for whom Subject and his fellow workmen are employed, and the plans for the concrete ships are in turn submitted to the Maritime Commission. One known as Joe Vesta, a draftsman employed by the Maritime Commission, is also alleged to be implicated in this private work being done for Colonel Anderson.

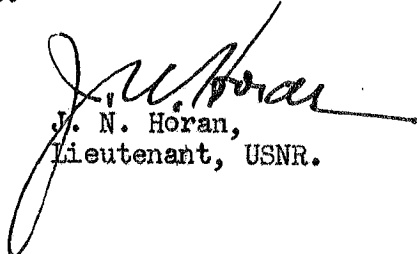
4. It is further reported that this work has been going on for the past six weeks and will be started again on Monday, Nov. 17, 1941, at the offices of Colonel Anderson in the above identified office building.

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5. Mr. Grant stated that the United Press had been investigating the general question of the construction of concrete ships and was about to run a series of articles on the subject, in the course of which investigation the activities of Subject and his fellow workers were disclosed. He stated further that the United Press would make no mention of the alleged illegal work engaged in by Subject and his associates, and stated that the matter was being referred to the Office of Naval Intelligence as it was his understanding that the U. S. Civil Service Commission prohibited the private employment of a Civil Service draftsman outside of his official office duties.


J. N. Horan,
Lieutenant, USNR.

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Op-16-B-3

WASHINGTON

February 10, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR Rhea Whitley, Lieut. Comdr., USNR, Op-16-B-3.

SUBJECT: Manley St. Denis and associates, activities of.

1. This investigation was predicated upon a complaint received over the telephone by Lieutenant J. N. Horan, USNR, Op-16-B-3, on November 15, 1941, from a person who reported himself to be a Mr. Grant of the United Press, Washington, D. C. Lieutenant Horan reported the incident in a memorandum of the same date.

2. On this date Mr. Grant stated to Lieutenant Horan that Manley St. Denis and associates, who are engaged as architects by the Navy Department in the Bureau of Ships, performed work "nights and holidays in designing concrete ships" at a private "institution". He also stated that the Subject and his fellow workmen were taking time off from their regular duties in the Navy Department in order to work for a private consultant and that they borrowed designing equipment belonging to the Navy Department for use in this private enterprise. Mr. Grant concluded by stating that he was reporting this matter to the Office of Naval Intelligence because it was his understanding that the Civil Service Commission prohibited the private employment of a Civil Service draftsman outside of his official duties.

3. The Subject, Manley St. Denis, is a Naval architect, Grade P-4, in the Bureau of Ships, Navy Department. The Subject has been, and is presently employed outside of office hours upon private work having to do with the plans and construction of concrete ships, under the direction of Colonel P. M. Anderson, USA, (Ret.), 913-15 Denrike Building, Washington, D. C.

4. During an interview with the Subject, he stated that at various times he has been associated in private work after office hours, with from eight to ten associate employees, but always with the advice and consent of his superiors at the Bureau of Ships. Mr. St. Denis stated that at no time has he or his associates used any material or equipment belonging to the Navy Department for any work other than Departmental, nor have they used any leave for this purpose.

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5. Lieutenant A. K. Romberg, USN, Bureau of Ships, is the immediate superior of Mr. St. Denis and his associates, the Subject of this memorandum. Lieutenant Romberg stated that he is and has been cognizant of the activities engaged in by the Subject and his associates after office hours and that he felt this work was beneficial, not only to the Subject, but to the Navy Department, due to the fact that it broadened the scope of experience and the actual experience of the persons involved. He stated that these persons had not used any leave for this purpose. Lieutenant Romberg concluded by stating that by this added experience, the men involved became more capable and as a result of this, more valuable to the Navy Department.

6. Captain E. L. Cochran, USN, Bureau of Ships, stated that he was not only aware of the activities of the Subject and his associates, but that he encouraged the employees of the Bureau of Ships to perform outside work if possible, due to the fact that at the present time, Naval architects are necessary in private life as well as in the Navy Department, and it became necessary for these Departmental architects to work on the outside in order to assist the defense program in going forward.

7. The U. S. Civil Service Commission's office stated that there is no violation of any Civil Service ruling by a Civil Servant practising his profession after hours.

John Barry Kelly
J. B. Kelly,
Lieutenant, (jg), USNR.

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