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01a	report	William Leo Epton, Jr. open 8/15/17 per NLJTRAC 13-120	<del>C</del>	1	8/31/67	<del>A</del>
02	report	William Leo Epton, Jr. open 8/15/17 per NLJTRAC 13-120	<del>C</del>	28	9/16/64	<del>A</del>
02a	report	William Leo Epton, Jr. open 8/15/17 per NLJTRAC 13-120	<del>C</del>	1	9/16/64	<del>A</del>
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Report of: WILLIAM C. KASH                      Office: New York, New York  
Date: AUG 31 1967

Field Office File #: 100-138651                      Bureau File #: 100-432251

Title: WILLIAM LEO EPTON, JR.

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY-PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

Synopsis: Subject resides at Apartment 4F, 1470 Amsterdam Avenue, NY, NY, and is employed as Vice President of the PLP, NYC. Information regarding subject's arrest status, his affiliation with PLP and other organizations, set forth. Miscellaneous information regarding subject's activities set forth.

-P\*-

DETAILS:I. BACKGROUNDA. Residence

The subject resides at Apartment 4F, 1470 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, New York.

A suitable pretext by  
an SA of the Federal  
Bureau of Investigation  
(FBI)  
August 14, 1967.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5

NLJ/RAC 13-120

By LLH NAR, Date 07-01-2016

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NY 100-138651

B. Employment

Subject is employed as Vice President of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) in New York City (NYC).

A suitable pretext  
by an SA of the  
FBI  
August 14, 1967.

A characterization of the PLP appears  
in the appendix attached hereto.

C. Legal Action

The New York Court of Appeals upheld the conviction of the subject for advocating criminal anarchy during the Harlem riots of 1964. On May 16, 1967, Associate Judge JOHN SCILIPPI of the New York Court of Appeals said "the evidence adduced by the people was more than sufficient to sustain a finding of clear and present danger of rioting".

"The New York Post",  
an NYC daily newspaper  
Late City Edition,  
May 17, 1967.

The subject was to surrender to the NYC Police authorities on May 29, 1967, to complete serving his jail sentence from which he had previously been released, pending the above appeal.

Detective FRED JENOURE  
Bureau of Special Services (I  
New York City Police  
Department (NYCPD)  
May 23, 1967  
to SA JOHN W. ROBINSON.

The subject, on May 29, 1967, was granted a thirty day stay regarding the serving of the above sentence.

Detective RICHARD WOODARD  
BES, NYCPD  
June 1, 1967  
to SA WILLIAM C. KASH.

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On June 16, 1967, the subject was granted a Writ of Certiorari by Federal Judge JOHN M. HOLLAND. The subject is continued on \$25,000.00 bail until such time as his appeal is heard in Federal Court.

Mr. JAY MURRAY  
Clerk of Appeals Office,  
New York State (NYS),  
100 Centre Street,  
New York, New York  
August 15, 1967  
to SA WILLIAM C. KASH.

## II. AFFILIATION WITH THE PLP

Information was made available which disclosed that the subject was a payee of the following checks drawn on the PLP bank account, Amalgamated Bank of New York, 11-15 Union Square, New York, New York.

<u>Check Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date Information Furnished</u>
280	\$50.00	January 5, 1967
321	\$50.00	February 3, 1967
369	\$50.00	March 3, 1967

NY T-1

The above information is not to be made public except in the usual proceedings following the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum.

The officer to be subpoenaed is SARA T. MALLOY, Senior Vice President, Amalgamated Bank of New York, 11-15 Union Square, New York, New York.

The subject was present at a PLP meeting held at 336 Lenox Avenue, New York, New York, on March 24, 1967. He stated at this meeting that the PLP is a "Communist" organization and he called it a "Liberation" party that would elevate the American Negro.

NY T-2  
April 5, 1967.

## III. AFFILIATION WITH THE BLACK UNITED FRONT (BUAF)

The subject is an "official" of the BUAF.

NY T-3  
June 3, 1967.



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Subject was present at a meeting of the BUAF, 139 West 125th Street, NYC, on June 5, 1967.

NY T-4  
June 5, 1967.

The subject was a speaker at a rally held at 140th Street and Lenox Avenue, NYC, by the BUAF on May 30, 1967.

NY T-5  
June 9, 1967.

IV. AFFILIATION WITH THE ORGANIZATION  
OF AFRO-AMERICAN UNITY (OAAU)

A characterization of OAAU, which includes a characterization of Muslim Mosque, Inc. (MMI), and MALCOLM X, appears in the appendix.

On February 21, 1967, a memorial service was held at Mt. Morris Presbyterian Church on 122nd Street, Harlem, New York. This meeting was held in memory of MALCOLM X by his "followers, friends and sympathizers". Subject was a speaker at this meeting. He praised MALCOLM X as a great black leader among black men and said that his death did not stop black men from seeking their freedom both at home and abroad. He denounced United States Imperialism through the world and United States support of "racist" governments in Rhodesia and South Africa. Subject stated that his political views are pro-Red China.

NY T-6  
February 23, 1967.

The subject attended a MALCOLM X Memorial Meeting at Mt. Morris Presbyterian Church, 122nd Street, Harlem, New York, on February 21, 1967.

NY T-7  
March 10, 1967.

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V. MISCELLANEOUS

The subject was in contact with SUSAN FRANK on December 20, 1966 and November 26, 1966.

NY T-8  
November 26 and  
December 20, 1966.

Source advised that SUE FRANK had been nominated to the Latin American Sub-Committee of the International Affairs and Peace Commission, Communist Party, United States of America (CP,USA).

NY T-9  
June 29, 1959.

Source advised that in early May, 1961, SUE FRANK and her husband were in Moscow, Russia, having gone there recently from a trip to China.

NY T-10  
August 8, 1961.

The subject was observed participating in a Peace Parade held on Fifth Avenue, NYC, on April 15, 1967.

This parade was sponsored by Spring Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam.

NY T-11  
April 20, 1967.

The subject spoke at Memorial Hall, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York, on February 16, 1967. This affair was sponsored by a contemporary issue society at Pratt Institute. Subject spoke against the war in

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Vietnam charging that the United States Government is motivated by Imperialism and the desire for "super profits" since "Asia is one of the last frontiers for American capital". He said that Vietnam is being used as a "Springboard" from which we can attack China. The subject also stated that the United States does not hide its contempt for the Negro people and he urged listeners to make note of the Marxists, and called for "Revolutionary violence". He stated that we must be vigilant so that the true Marxist theories are not revised as they were in the Soviet Union, a "capitalist country" which "has betrayed its own people".

"The Prattler"  
Volume 28,  
#14, self-described  
as a publication of  
the Pratt Institute  
Brooklyn, New York.

At the PLP, Harlem Club, 336 Lenox Avenue, the  
during a discussion among the individuals present, on March 3, 1967,  
subject was heard to remark that "what the Negroes down  
South need is to get some guns for their own protection."

NY T-12  
March 6, 1967.

On April 27, 1967, the subject was in contact  
with OSCAR GUTIERREZ.

NY T-13  
April 27, 1967.

OSCAR GUTIERREZ is Third Secretary of the  
Cuban Mission to the United Nations.

NY T-13  
August 14, 1967.

The records of the BSS, NYCPD, disclosed  
no additional, unreported, pertinent information regarding  
the subject.

Detective RAYMOND  
CLARKE  
BSS, NYCPD  
August 15, 1967, to  
SA WILLIAM C. KASH.

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Some other New York informants who are familiar with various phases of PLP activity in the NYC area were contacted during July and August, 1967, and were unable to furnish any additional unreported information regarding the subject.



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APPENDIX

1.

MUSLIM MOSQUE, INCORPORATED (MMI)

The March 13, 1964, edition of "The New York Times", a daily newspaper published in New York, New York, contained an article on page 20 which indicated that MALCOLM X (LITTLE), former national official of the Nation of Islam (NOI), who broke with the NOI on March 8, 1964, publicly announced in New York City on March 12, 1964, that he had formed the Muslim Mosque, Incorporated (MMI). The MMI, according to the article, would be a broadly based politically oriented black nationalist movement for Negroes, only, financed by voluntary contributions. In this public statement, MALCOLM X urged Negroes to abandon the doctrine of non-violence when it is necessary to defend themselves in the civil rights struggle, and he also suggested that Negroes form rifle clubs to protect their lives and property in time of emergencies in areas where the government is unable or unwilling to protect them.

Incorporation papers of the MMI filed on March 16, 1964, with the Business Section, Clerk of Courts, New York County, New York, New York, reflect that the MMI was incorporated under the Religious Corporation Law of the State of New York to work for the imparting of the Islamic Faith and Islamic Religion in accordance with "accepted Islamic principles". The principal place of worship to be located in the Borough of Manhattan, New York, New York.

The May 23, 1964, edition of the "New York Amsterdam News", a weekly Negro newspaper published in New York City, contained an article by columnist JAMES BOOKER in which he indicated that he had heard that the visit by MALCOLM X with Muslim leaders during his African tour has changed him to become soft in his anti-white feelings and to become more religious.

On October 6, 1964, a confidential source advised that the MMI is apparently affiliated with the true orthodox Islamic Religion through its affiliation with the Islamic Foundation (of New York), 1 Riverside Drive, New York City. The only teachings of the MMI are on the Islamic Religion.

APPENDIX

1.

NATION OF ISLAM

In January, 1957, a source advised that ELIJAH MUHAMMAD has described his organization on a nationwide basis as the "Nation of Islam" and "Muhammad's Temples of Islam."

On April 29, 1966, a second source advised that, ELIJAH MUHAMMAD is the national leader of the Nation of Islam (NOI); Muhammad's Temple of Islam No. 2, 5335 South Greenwood Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, is the national headquarters of the NOI; and in mid-1960, MUHAMMAD and other NOI officials, when referring to MUHAMMAD's organization on a nationwide basis, commenced using either "Mosque" or "Temple" when mentioning one of "Muhammad's Temples of Islam."

The NOI is an all-Negro organization which was originally organized in 1930 in Detroit, Michigan. MUHAMMAD claims to have been selected by ALLAH, the Supreme Being, to lead the so-called Negro race out of slavery in the wilderness of North America by establishing an independent black nation in the United States. Members following MUHAMMAD's teachings and his interpretation of the "Koran" believe there is no such thing as a Negro; that the so-called Negroes are slaves of the white race, referred to as "white devils," in the United States; and that the white race, because of its exploitation of the so-called Negroes, must and will be destroyed in the approaching "War of Armageddon."

In the past, officials and members of the NOI, including MUHAMMAD, have refused to register under the provisions of the Selective Service Acts and have declared that members owe no allegiance to the United States.

On May 5, 1958, the first source advised that MUHAMMAD had, upon advice of legal counsel, tempered his personal statements and instructions to his ministers concerning the principles of his organization in order to avoid possible prosecution by the United States Government.

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APPENDIX

1.

ORGANIZATION OF AFRO-AMERICAN UNITY, INCORPORATED (OAAU)

On June 28, 1964, MALCOLM X LITTLE, founder and leader of the Muslim Mosque, Incorporated (MMI), publicly announced the formation of a new, all Negro, militant civil rights action group to be known as the Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU), with himself as Chairman. This announcement was made at a public rally held by the MMI in the Audubon Ballroom, Broadway and 166th Street, New York City.

A printed and published statement of basic OAAU aims read by MALCOLM X at this meeting indicates that it shall include "all" people of African descent in the Western Hemisphere, as well as "our" brothers and sisters on the African continent. It is patterned after the "letter and spirit" of the Organization of African Unity established (by African heads of States) at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in May, 1963.

A recording of the remarks of MALCOLM X at this meeting indicates that the aim of the OAAU is to eliminate differences between Negroes so they can work together for "human rights", while the initial objective is to "internationalize" the American civil rights movement by taking it to the United Nations. LITTLE condemned the non-violent civil rights movement and claims that Negroes should be taught to protect themselves, when and if necessary. The OAAU will sponsor a program for Negroes in education, politics, culture, economics, and social reform.

MALCOLM X was assassinated on February 21, 1965, while addressing an OAAU rally at the Audubon Ballroom, New York City.

On April 13, 1965, a confidential source advised that on March 26, 1965, the OAAU filed a Certificate of Incorporation with the Department of State, State of New York, Albany, New York, and henceforth, the organization's true name will be Organization of Afro-American Unity, Incorporated.

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2.

APPENDIX

ORGANIZATION OF AFRO-AMERICAN UNITY, INCORPORATED (OAAU)

On February 28, 1966, a second confidential source advised that the president and head of the OAAU is ELLA COLLINS, a half-sister of the late MALCOLM X, who resides in Harlem, New York.

On May 8, 1967, the first confidential source advised that the headquarters of the OAAU is located at 224 West 139th Street, New York, New York, which is the residence of ELLA COLLINS.

Characterizations of MMI and NOI are set out separately.

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APPENDIX

1.

PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

A source advised on April 20, 1965, that the Progressive Labor Party (PLP), formerly known as the Progressive Labor Movement (PLM), held its first national convention April 15, - 18, 1965, at New York, New York, to organize the PLM into a PLP. The PLP will have as its ultimate objective the establishment of a militant working class movement based on Marxism-Leninism.

The "New York Times" City Edition, Tuesday, April 20, 1965, page 27, reported that a new party of "revolutionary socialism" was formally founded on April 18, 1965, under the name of the PLP. The PLP was described as an outgrowth of the PLM. Its officers were identified as MILTON ROSEN, New York, President, and WILLIAM EPTON of New York, and MORT SCHEER of San Francisco, Vice Presidents. A 20-member National Committee was elected to direct the party until the next convention.

According to the article, "The Progressive Labor Movement was founded in 1962 by Mr. ROSEN and Mr. SCHEER after they were expelled from the Communist Party of the United States for assertedly following the Chinese Communist line".

The PLP publishes "Progressive Labor," a bi-monthly magazine, "Challenge", a monthly New York City newspaper, and "Spark", a West Coast newspaper.

The April, 1967, issue of "Challenge", page 14, states that, "This paper is dedicated to fight for a new way of life-where the working men and women own and control their homes, factories, the police, courts, and the entire government on every level".

A second source advised on September 26, 1966, that the PLP utilizes the address of General Post Office Box 808, Brooklyn 1, New York, but also utilizes an office in Room 617, 1 Union Square, West, New York City, where PLP publications are prepared.



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

New York, New York  
August 31 1967

In Reply, Please  
Refer to Bufile 100-43225  
File No. NYfile 100-138651

Title William Leo Epton, Jr.

Character	Internal Security-
Reference	Progressive Labor Party
	is made to the
report of Special Agent William C. Kash, dated and	
captioned as above, at New York.	

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

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E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5  
NLJ / BAC 13-126  
By UCL NAR Date 07-01-2016

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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1- G-2, First Army, NYC (RM)

Report of: WILLIAM C. KASH  
Date: 9/16/64 Office: New York, New York

Field Office File #: 100-138651 Bureau File #: 100-432251

Title: WILLIAM LEO EPTON, JR.,

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - PLM

Synopsis: Subject resides at 1420 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, New York, and is employed as the Harlem Organizer of the Progressive Labor Movement (PLM), 336 Lenox Avenue, New York, New York. Subject was arrested on two occasions in July and August, 1964, by the NYCPD. He participated, in a leadership capacity, in many activities of the PLM during 1963 and 1964, and was active in racial demonstrations in New York City in July, 1964.

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GROUP I

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downgrading and  
declassification

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E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5  
NLJ/BAC 13-120  
By UUA NAR, Date 07-01-2010

NY 100-138651

**Details:**

Characterizations of all organizations mentioned in the Details of this report, with the exception of the May 2 Committee, are contained in the Appendix attached hereto.

**I. BACKGROUND**

**A. Residence**

The subject resides at 1420 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, New York, in apartment 15 K.

NY T-1  
August 20, 1964

**B. Employment**

The subject is employed as the Harlem Organizer of the Progressive Labor Movement (PLM) at 336 Lenox Avenue, New York, New York.

NY T-1  
August 20, 1964

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C. Arrest Record

On August 19, 1964, Detective O'CONNELL, Bureau of Special Services (BSS), New York City Police Department (NYCPD), advised SA WILLIAM C. KASH of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), that WILLIAM EPTON was arrested on July 25, 1964, by the NYCPD for violation of Section 722 of the Penal Code, disorderly conduct, and Section 2092, unlawful assembly. EPTON was released after posting \$1,000.00 bond.

On August 5, 1964, Detective ROBERT MOLLER, BSS, NYCPD, advised IC RICHARD JONES that WILLIE L. EPTON, whom he identified as the leader of the PLM, was arrested by the NYCPD at 2:20 p.m., August 5, on a warrant issued by Judge POSTEL, County of New York, for advocacy of criminal anarchy. Detective O'CONNELL advised EPTON was taken to the 14th Precinct, Arrest Number 4741, US 61, Number 7156, CCD Number 110154. He advised the subject appeared before Judge CULKIN, Part 32, New York Supreme Court.

He further advised that bail was posted at \$10,000.00.

II. CONNECTIONS WITH THE PLM

A. Position Held

As of March 28, 1964, the subject was elected to the position of Vice Chairman, Negro Affairs of the PLM, New York, New York.

NY T-6  
March 28, 1964

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B. General Activities

On January 29, 1964, it was mentioned by MORT SCHEER at 263 Watson Street, Buffalo, New York, that arrangements had been made for BILL EPTON, who was on the Editorial Board of the PLM, to come to Buffalo as a guest speaker at a party during February, 1964.

NY T-2  
January 30, 1964

MORTIMER SCHEER is a former paid functionary of the New York District Communist Party (CP) who had the titles of Upstate, New York CP Coordinator and Erie County CP Chairman. He was one of the leaders of a factional dispute with the National and State CP which was brought to a head in the fall of 1961, when he left the Party. In late December, 1961, he was expelled from the CP for factionalism. Since terminating his CP membership, he has been actively engaged in planning the formation of a new Marxist-Leninist Party. This new CP splinter group refers to itself as the PLM.

NY T-3  
January, 1963

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A source advised that MORT SCHEER, Chairman of the PLM in Buffalo, New York, had information that "BILL", who was otherwise unidentified, would be arriving in Buffalo on Friday, February 28, 1964, and SCHEER was asked to have some material ready for a leaflet which is to be circulated throughout the country and that "BILL" could bring it back to New York City.

NY T-3  
February 26, 1964

On February 28, 1964, BILL EPTON arrived at the SCHEER residence in Buffalo, New York, shortly before 11 p.m., on this date, and he stated that he had arranged to return to New York City at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, March 3, 1964, by American Airlines.

NY T-3  
February 28, 1964

On March 1, 1964, MORTIMER SCHEER and BILL EPTON were at the SCHEER residence on the morning of this date and they left the residence after 9:00 a.m.

NY T-3  
March 1, 1964

On March 8, 1964, the Trade Union Club of the PLM was held at 132 Glenwood Avenue, Buffalo, New York. It was mentioned at this meeting that BILL EPTON was too vague as to what PLM was doing as an organization, and that on March 1, 1964, BILL EPTON, among others, visited a few people in an attempt to raise some money for Progressive Labor, (PL). It was also mentioned that BILL wanted to organize a Negro rank and file organization.

NY T-2  
March 9, 1964

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On Wednesday night, April 1, 1964, BILL EPTON, JACOB ROSEN and EDWARD LEMANSKY returned to Monroe, North Carolina from Atlanta, Georgia. Reportedly, ROSEN is working for "Progressive Labor" in Atlanta, Georgia, and reportedly, LEMANSKY and EPTON held a meeting on the night of April 2, 1964, in an effort to establish a PL club and approximately 15 people were present. EPTON and LEMANSKY were travelling in a Ford stationwagon owned by LARRY PHELPS.

NY T-1  
April 3, 1964

The May, 1964, issue of "Progressive Labor" reflects in its masthead, that JAKE ROSEN is the Southern Editor of the publication.

The characterization of "Progressive Labor" is included in the characterization of the PLM, as set forth in the Appendix attached hereto.

As of November 19, 1963, EDWARD LEMANSKY was a PL member in Monroe, North Carolina.

NY T-4  
November 19, 1963

As of September 13, 1963, LARRY PHELPS, a member of the PLM in North Carolina, participated in the July and August, 1963 trip to Cuba, which was sponsored by the Permanent Student Committee for Travel to Cuba (PSCTC), now known as the Student Committee for Travel to Cuba.

NY T-5  
September 13, 1963



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Information was made available which disclosed that two checks dated April 17, 1964 and April 24, 1964, each in the amount of \$25.00, were drawn against the bank account of PL Company, Amalgamated Bank of New York, 11-15 Union Square, New York, New York, by WILLIAM EPTON. The subject was also the payee of a check dated May 25, 1964, for \$25.00, on this account.

The above information is not to be made public except in the usual proceedings following the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum.

The officer to be subpoenaed is Miss SARA T. MALLOY, Senior Vice President, Amalgamated Bank of New York, 11-15 Union Square, New York, New York.

NY T-7  
May 4, 1964  
June 2, 1964

On May 16-17, 1964, a meeting of what appeared to be the Steering Committee of the PL group was held in New York City, at 224 Riverside Boulevard, Apartment 21, and BILL EPTON attended the meeting. Topics discussed at the session were the draft of the PLM national strategic program, and progress reports from delegates from various sections of the country.

NY T-8  
May 18, 1964

NY 100-138651

C. Political Activities

On February 5, 1964, a meeting of the Trade Union Club of the PLM was held at 132 Glenwood Avenue, Buffalo, New York. It was mentioned at this meeting that BILL EPTON wrote an article, which appeared in a book, not identified, and that this article was a rough draft of articles which were to appear in the Marxist-Leninist quarterly. It was mentioned at this meeting that the article contained in part, the following information:

The Chinese have the correct approach to solving the Negro problem and that the only way to rid the world of capitalism is by war and that this will solve the problems of all the non-white people. The Chinese are helping people in all the non-white countries of the world whenever struggle occurs and KHRUSHCHEV is white and therefore is beginning to soften the Western powers.

NY T-2  
February 6, 1964

The Marxist-Leninist quarterly is self-described as an official publication of the PLM.

On February 24, 1964, a meeting was held at the headquarters of the PLM, 336 Lenox Avenue, New York City, and BILL EPTON was present at the meeting. The group held a discussion on China.

NY T-1  
March 11, 1964

NY 100-138651

On July 24, 1964, DOM FRASCA, Night City Editor of the "Journal American", a New York City daily newspaper, conducted a recorded interview with BILL EPTON of the PLM. The information supplied by EPTON at this interview was furnished to SA FRANCIS J. COSTIGAN on July 27, 1964, which in part, is as follows:

EPTON identified himself as the Chairman of the Harlem PLM, and identified himself as a Communist and stated that the PLM is a Communist organization. EPTON stated that it is not a crime to be a Communist and stated "they can't put me in jail for having that political belief". EPTON related that the PLM has about 75% white membership and PLM finances comes from the membership.

EPTON remarked that the PLM maintains a Communist position "almost the same as that of China". Regarding the use of violence, EPTON remarked, that the people of Harlem have a right to protect themselves from the police. He further stated, "maybe some of the methods are not the best. But they are the only ones they have".

EPTON further remarked that the PLM is the only Communist group in the Harlem area of New York City.

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D. Racial Activities

BILL EPTON was the speaker at a street meeting which was jointly sponsored by the New York Mission of the Movimiento Pro Independencia de Puerto Rico (MPIPR) and the West Side PLM, on Saturday afternoon, December 7, 1963, at 105th Street and Columbus Avenue, New York, New York.

BILL EPTON, at this meeting, denounced what he called discrimination against Negroes and Puerto Ricans in the matters of jobs and housing. He stated that the PLM is doing everything that it could to correct these conditions and he urged the audience to join with the PLM so that these corrections could be made as soon as possible.

NY T-9  
December 10, 1963 and  
January 9, 1964

NY 100-138651

The subject was present at the Negro history party of the PLM, 132 Glenwood Avenue, Buffalo, New York, on March 1, 1964. EPTON said at this meeting, that he was more familiar with the rent strikes in New York City than with any other phase of PLM activities elsewhere because he has participated in and helped organize rent strikes. When asked how to organize a rent strike, EPTON said that first "you have to have support of the tenants of the apartment; then you make out a list of all repairs that should be made; this list of repairs you then submit to the landlord for immediate repair; you inform the landlord that he has ten days to comply with the demands of the tenants; after seven days you stage a mild picket line at his apartment to scare and remind him that you mean business; to protect yourself you report the conditions of the apartment to the Housing Authority, to the Health Department and then the Post Office for improper locations and insufficient mailboxes".

EPTON said that a former CP organizer is the chief organizer of the rent strikes in New York City, identifying him as a Mr. GRAY. EPTON said that the school boycotts in New York are not for integrated schools as one is led to believe over television and in newspapers, but that it is for building more schools and procuring a higher standard of education. The people that take part in these school boycotts are mostly people who send their children to private schools.

NY T-2  
March 1, 1964

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JESSE GRAY is a former organizer of the Harlem Region of the CP, USA, but this position was terminated during November, 1958.

NY T-10  
November 20, 1958

The "New York Times" of December 31, 1963, page 30, contained an article on JESSE GRAY, wherein he is described as the organizer of the Harlem rent strikes and the head of the Community Council for Housing, 6 East 117th Street, New York City. It states that after the 1963 rent strike appeared to be gaining ground, anonymous postal cards were sent to newspapers charging that he was a Communist. It continues:

"Asked about this, Mr. GRAY denied he was a Communist. He said that he had been questioned by the House Un-American Activities Committee because he had supported the right of BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, State Chairman of the CP, to run for State Senator in 1958. He denied CP affiliation under oath, but took the Fifth Amendment when the Committee asked him to give the names of Communists known to him".

According to WILLIAM PATTERSON, Chairman of the New York District CP, JESSE GRAY is no longer a CP member, but is friendly to the CP.

NY T-11  
January 24, 1964



NY 100-138651

On July 23, 1964, Mrs. GLADYS ~~COLEMAN~~, 86  
West 109th Street, New York City, furnished the following  
information to SAS ROBERT L. PIETSCH and ROBERT E. RITZER,  
in regard to the racial situation in the Harlem area of  
New York:

She attended a number of meetings in the Harlem  
area, the purpose of which was to organize groups, block  
by block, in Harlem, for the purpose of fighting crime.  
At one of these meetings she was introduced to BILL EPTON.  
The group held the belief that Harlem should be organized  
on a block to block basis to handle the criminal situation  
in a given area and their idea was to fight the police.  
BILL EPTON stated that he had already organized the youth  
on 127th and 128th Streets and that on any occasion that  
the police were about to make an arrest, a signal would  
be given and all Negroes would surround the officers and  
prevent any action on their part. EPTON indicated that  
this is what should be done on each block. Mrs. COLEMAN  
questioned the validity of an approach in the fight against  
crime which excluded the assistance of the police. She  
said this could not be done without the use of arms and  
they had none. At this point, EPTON commented to the  
effect, "don't worry about that, when the time comes,  
arms will be available."

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On July 25, 1964, WILLIAM EPTON led a group of about 30 residents in a protest march against police brutality to the 32nd Precinct, NYCPD, at 135th Street. EPTON was arrested before the demonstration could begin.

NY T-15  
July 25, 1964

On July 25, 1964, Assistant Chief Inspector SANFORD D. GARELIK, NYCPD, filed an affidavit for an injunction prohibiting WILLIAM EPTON, and others, to commit illegal acts, to disturb the public peace and to incite to riot. A copy of a transcript of excerpts of statements made by EPTON on July 18, 1964, about 4:00 p.m., at Lenox Avenue and 115th Street, New York, New York, is attached to the affidavit and marked Exhibit A, and is as follows:

"That shows you how this system is so interwoven, because you must understand...(inaudible) When they set up a state, they set up all apparatus to protect and save that state. They set up the courts; they set up the army; they set up an educational system; they set up the newspaper; they set up all the apparatuses to brainwash and to keep up the subjugation. If we're going to be free, and we will not fully be free until we smash this state completely and totally. Destroy and set up a new state of our own choosing and our own liking.

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"And in that process of smashing this state, we're going to have to kill a lot of these cops, a lot of these judges, and will have to go up against their army. We'll organize our own militia and our own army. If we don't do it brothers, we be subjugated; we'll be kept in chains for another two or three hundred years. Think about it because no people in this world ever achieved independence and freedom through the ballot or having it legislated to them. All people in this world who are free got their freedom through struggle and through revolution. That's the only way to gain freedom.

\* \* \* \* \*

"So I tell him now and I tell my black brother on my right that they had better choose their sides. Because when the deal goes down, when the deal is finished sister he will have to go too unless he chooses the right side. There is only one right side. That's your side. That's the cause of the people and what we demand and what we will get. What we will take. We will take our freedom. We will take it by any means necessary and any means necessary as we know the beast that we are dealing with is that we have to create a revolution in this country and we will create a new government that is run by the people.. that is run by the black people and some of the poor white people who are catching hell too. And they don't know it yet but if they don't join with us when the deal goes down we don't have time to wait for them. We are going to roll on, we are going to roll on to freedom and independence and liberation. Those who are ready to come with us and stand with us and join the Harlem Defense Council to help protect the mothers and protect the streets and our

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"'neighborhoods they will give their money to those mothers who have joined together to save their sons. They will go back into their blocks and organize their blocks into defense committees so when the deal goes through they will be able to be in the street tens of thousands strong ready to face that man. And we know how to use weapons just like they know how to use weapons. And when the deal goes down we have to be ready to confront them and beat them. I tell you brothers and sisters the message that we are carrying they will carry around Harlem on every corner every Saturday 5 to 6 P.M. to enlighten our people, to organize our people and to make our people and to make our people aware of the fact of what is happening with these six youngsters and to make our people aware of the fact that in order for us to achieve our freedom and independence we must organize and fight this beast and destroy him. Next week we will probably be on 114th Street and Eighth Avenue and from there we will go down Eighth Avenue and up Seventh Avenue and on and on until all our people get the message. In order to be prepared for this demonstration that we are going to organize in the newspaper. We will tell you where we will be, how we will be, and what methods we are going to use to stop these cops. That should be our slogan - - "'Stop the Cops'".

The "Herald Tribune", a New York daily newspaper, Late City Edition of August 6, 1964, page 15, contained the following information in an article concerning WILLIAM EPTON:

EPTON was arrested by the NYCPD on July 25, 1964, as he sought to lead a civil rights parade through

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Harlem in defiance of a ban imposed by Police Commissioner MICHAEL J. MURPHY. The Harlem march was sponsored by the Harlem Defense Council. EPTON was charged with disorderly conduct and unlawful assembly. EPTON was released on July 25, 1964, after posting \$1,000.00 bond.

III. LEGAL ACTION AGAINST  
HDC, PLM AND WILLIAM  
EPTON

On July 25, 1964, at a Special Term, Part I, of the Supreme Court, held in and for the County of New York, at the County Court House, a petition was filed by the City of New York against MILTON ROSEN, WILLIAM EPTON, PLM, HDC and others, and all other individuals and organizations associated with them, ordering them to show cause why an order should not be made restraining them from assembling, gathering together, convening, parading, marching, demonstrating, or acting in concert, in the public streets, squares, sidewalks or other public areas, bounded by 110th Street on the south, 155th Street on the north, Franklin D. Roosevelt Drive on the east, and the Hudson River on the west.

An injunction was made effective that date.

The August 6, 1964, issue of the "New York Times," a New York City daily newspaper, page 1, Late City Edition, carried an article entitled, "Criminal Anarchy Charged to Epton in Indictment Here".

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This article reflected that EPTON was indicted for advocating overthrow of the organized Government of the State of New York, by force and violence, and for calling for the killing of police officers and judges.

The injunction against MILTON ROSEN, WILLIAM EPTON, PLM and HDC remains in force.

Detective EUGENE O'CONNELL  
BSS,  
NYCPD  
August 21, 1964



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IV. ASSOCIATION WITH THE MAY  
2 COMMITTEE

A. General Activities

EPTON attended a dance sponsored by the May 2 Committee at the Manhattan Towers Hotel, 76th Street and Broadway, from 9:00 p.m., to 3:00 a.m., on May 2, 1964.

NY T-1  
May 4, 1964

A copy of a leaflet captioned, "May 2 Committee", was made available, which set forth in part, the following:

The May 2 Committee is a group of young people who oppose the use of troops in Viet Nam. This group was organized on March 14, 1964, in New Haven, Connecticut, as an ad-hoc committee to plan and execute the demonstration in New York City, on May 2, 1964, to demand the withdrawal of American troops from South Viet Nam.

NY T-12  
April 9, 1964

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B. Political Activities

On May 2, 1964, a rally sponsored by the May 2 Committee, Room 39 B, 140 West 69th Street, New York, New York, was held on the corner of 110th Street and Eighth Avenue, New York, New York. The purpose of this rally was to protest American intervention in South Viet Nam and WILLIAM EPTON was a speaker at this affair. After the rally, the group marched to the United Nations Headquarters, New York City.

NY T-13  
May 4, 1964

On May 2, 1964, Special Agents of the FBI observed WILLIAM EPTON as a speaker at the rally sponsored by the May 2 Committee in protest against the war in Viet Nam, at 110th Street and Central Park West, New York City. EPTON called for American students to unite and fight for freedom at this meeting.

Special Agents of the  
FBI,  
May 2, 1964

IV. MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITY

On February 1, 1964, "BILL", who was otherwise unidentified, was in contact with SUSAN FRANK. "BILL" said, "we are thinking about having a forum one night specifically on the Sino-Soviet business". He asked SUSAN FRANK to "lead one of those nights". FRANK said she would if she could work out the time.

NY T-6  
February 1, 1964

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SUSAN FRANK, also known as Susan Warren, was at a meeting of the New York County CP Section Organizing Committee, held on September 6, 1961, at Adelphi Hall, 74 Fifth Avenue, New York City. It was learned that SUSAN WARREN would be asked to rejoin the Village CP Section since her "attitude was much better".

ETHEL KLEIN NEWTON,  
a member of the CP  
from 1946-1949 and  
from September, 1955  
to September, 1962.  
September 15, 1961

A source advised that it was learned that SUE FRANK was then a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, CP, USA.

NY T-14  
July, 1961

On February 5, 1964, WILLIAM EPTON was in contact with SUSAN FRANK and they discussed the fact that FRANK is scheduled to speak before a meeting at the PLM during February, 1964. The subject was also in contact with FRANK on February 18, 1964 and March 12, 1964.

NY T-6  
February 5, 1964  
February 18, 1964  
March 12, 1964

HARLEM DEFENSE COUNCIL

Source advised that the Harlem Defense Council was formed by the Progressive Labor Movement in New York City as a front organization with its main objective to get recruits for the Progressive Labor Movement. As the Progressive Labor Movement is known to be a very militant type organization, the leaders of the Progressive Labor Movement hope to use the Harlem Defense Council to recruit Negroes and others and gradually orient their recruits toward the aims and objectives of the Progressive Labor Movement.

The Harlem Defense Council was also formed by the Progressive Labor Movement to organize Negroes on a block by block basis in New York City with plans to furnish these people with arms to defend themselves against police.

1.

APPENDIXMOVIMIENTO PRO INDEPENDENCIA DE PUERTO RICO  
(Puerto Rican Independence Movement) (MPIPR)

On June 20, 1960, JUAN MARI BRAS, Secretary General of the MPIPR, advised Special Agents of the FBI that this organization was formed January 11, 1959, at Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, and officially came into being at the MPIPR Constituent Convention on November 23, 1959, at Ponce, Puerto Rico. It was formed by a group of former leaders of the PARTIDO INDEPENDENTISTA PUERTORRIQUENO (PIP), a formerly legally constituted political party, who were dissatisfied with PIP policies and decided to form a more active organization to indoctrinate the Puerto Rican people with the ideal of Puerto Rican independence.

Although the MPIPR does not advocate violence, it will accept anyone who believes in Puerto Rican independence regardless of his beliefs on the use of violence provided he agrees with the MPIPR Declaration of Principles. The organization contains both Nationalists and Communists within its membership, but does not assume responsibility for actions they may take not sanctioned by the group.

Speaking on behalf of himself and his organization, MARI BRAS said the MPIPR does not currently advocate violence as a means of obtaining Puerto Rican independence only because he felt that violence would be ineffective against the power of the United States Government. MARI BRAS stated that he believed in the right of a people, specifically the Puerto Rican people, to use violence to obtain their freedom if and when the circumstances are such that they could possibly be successful in their effort.

Headquarters of the MPIPR are located in Rio Piedras, a suburb of San Juan.

2.

APPENDIX

MOVIMIENTO PRO INDEPENDENCIA DE PUERTO RICO  
(Puerto Rican Independence Movement) (MPIPR)

Issues of the MPIPR "Carta Semanal" (Weekly Letter), self-described as a weekly bulletin from MPIPR headquarters to the various branches, during 1963 have reported that MPIPR branches have been established, at least in name, in almost every town and hamlet in Puerto Rico and in Chicago, Illinois, and New York City.

The Fourth Annual General Assembly of the MPIPR was held December 9, 1962, at Hato Tejas and, according to press reports, one of the resolutions passed by this body was one of complete support and solidarity with the Cuban people, the Cuban Revolutionary Government, and FIDEL CASTRO.

Attendance at this assembly was estimated by the Division of Intelligence, Police of Puerto Rico (DI, POPR) not to exceed 375 persons.

Total membership of the MPIPR is believed by the DI, POPR to be between 1,000 and 1,300 persons.

Among the members of the 90-man National Council of the MPIPR are adherents of other independence-seeking groups, including the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico.

The NPPR has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.



1.

APPENDIX

PERMANENT STUDENT COMMITTEE FOR  
TRAVEL TO CUBA, Formerly Known as  
The Ad Hoc Student Committee for  
Travel to Cuba

"The Columbia Owl," a weekly student newspaper of Columbia University, New York City, December 13, 1962, issue, page 1, contained an article entitled "Students to Visit Cuba During Holidays." This article stated in part that the Ad Hoc Student Committee for Travel to Cuba was formed October 14, 1962, by a group of students from New York City universities, the University of Wisconsin, Oberlin College, and the University of North Carolina, who stated that as students they would like a chance to see and evaluate the situation in Cuba for themselves and had received an offer of transportation and two weeks stay in Cuba from the Federation of University Students in Havana as guests of the Federation. The committee accepted the offer and applied to the United States State Department for passport validation which was refused; however, over 50 students planned to defy the State Department ban and go to Cuba.

A source advised on December 6, 1962, that during December, 1962, it was learned that the Ad Hoc Student Committee for Travel to Cuba had recently been formed by the "Progressive Labor" group.

"Progressive Labor," Volume 11, Number 1, issue of January, 1963, page 11, in an article captioned "State Dept. Pulls Strings to Keep U. S. Students from Cuba" states that "For more information on the Cuban Trip contact the Ad Hoc Committee for Travel to Cuba, 42 St. Marks Place, New York 3, NY."

A second source advised on April 24, 1963, that a party sponsored by the Permanent Student Committee for Travel to Cuba was held on April 20, 1963, in New York City. At this party it was announced that the Ad Hoc Student Committee for Travel to Cuba is now known as the Permanent Student Committee for Travel to Cuba.

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APPENDIX

PERMANENT STUDENT COMMITTEE FOR  
TRAVEL TO CUBA, Formerly Known as  
The Ad Hoc Student Committee for  
Travel to Cuba

The same source further advised that at this party it was announced that the committee had received a cable from the Federation of University Students in Havana inviting the students to spend the month of July, 1963, in Cuba, and a new trip was planned whereby the students would leave New York City the last weekend of June, 1963, for Canada and travel by plane from Canada to Cuba.

1.

APPENDIX

PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY,  
PROGRESSIVE LABOR MOVEMENT,  
"PROGRESSIVE LABOR"

A source advised on July 2, 1962, that Progressive Labor groups held a conference in New York City on July 1, 1962, where MILTON ROSEN acted as chairman. He read a statement at this conference setting forth their intention to form a new Marxist-Leninist party in the United States. ROSEN stated that a more formal organization was necessary, one which would provide a frame-work for all who wanted to join in a united effort to build an American vanguard. The forces of this new organization are to consolidate all existing forces around Progressive Labor and organize additional forces; expand and improve political activities; win additional forces to an outlook of Marxism-Leninism and increase the open advocacy of socialism; develop a significant Marxist-Leninist program for the new party; and organize a collective organization of leaders and members.

"The Worker," an East Coast Communist newspaper, issue of January 7, 1962, Page Ten, Column Three, reported the expulsion of MILTON ROSEN, former Labor Secretary of the New York State Communist Party, from the Communist Party, United States of America.

A second and third source advised in February, 1963, that this new Marxist-Leninist party had not yet been organized on a formal basis, but that Progressive Labor groups had been formed in several localities in line with the proposals of MILTON ROSEN. The sources advised as of February, 1963, that the leaders of this group were referring to it as the Progressive Labor Movement.

A fourth source advised on March 15, 1964, that the Progressive Labor Movement follows, supports, and is politically orientated toward the Communist Party line of Red China rather than that of the Soviet Union.

A fifth source advised on March 28, 1964, that at a Progressive Labor Movement meeting held in New York City on that date, it was announced that the Progressive Labor

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APPENDIX

PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY,  
PROGRESSIVE LABOR MOVEMENT,  
"PROGRESSIVE LABOR"

Movement would try to hold a national convention in New York City in September, 1964, to organize the Progressive Labor Movement on a more formal basis into a Progressive Labor Party.

The fifth source also advised that the Progressive Labor Movement publishes a monthly magazine called, "Progressive Labor" and also a quarterly theoretical publication called the "Marxist-Leninist Quarterly." The source also advised that starting June 1, 1964, the Progressive Labor Movement would start publishing a weekly newspaper in New York City.

The March, 1964, issue of "Progressive Labor" sets forth that it is published monthly by the Progressive Labor Company, General Post Office Box 808, Brooklyn 1, New York.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York  
September 16, 1964

New York 100-138651

Title William Leo Epton, Jr.,

Character Internal Security - PLM

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent William C. Kash, dated and captioned as above at New York.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

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E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5

NLJ/RAC 13-120

By 444

NAR, Date 07-01-2016





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

New York, New York  
May 1, 1964

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Bufile 100-432251  
NYfile 100-138651

Re: William Leo Epton, Jr.

William Leo Epton, Jr., resides in Apartment 15F, 1420 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, New York. He is employed as a member of the Editorial Board, Progressive Labor, G.P.O. Box 808, Brooklyn, New York.

A male Negro, Epton is about 6 feet tall, weighs about 170 pounds and has black hair and brown eyes. He is dark complexioned, wears a moustache and shows evidence of having had a broken nose. He was born January 17, 1932, at New York, New York. Epton was inducted into the United States Army on September 26, 1952, and was honorably released from active duty on July 21, 1954.

Sources who have furnished reliable information in the past provided the following information concerning Epton:

In 1959, Epton was approved for Communist Party (CP) membership by the New York County CP. He attended meetings of the CP, especially the Harlem Region CP, from 1959 through 1962. In 1962, he reportedly joined "Progressive Labor."

A characterization of "Progressive Labor" is attached hereto.

Epton participated in activities of "Progressive Labor" during 1963 and in that year was the Progressive Labor candidate for City Councilman-at-Large for the Borough of Manhattan. In 1963, he attended meetings of the caucus of CP members in the New York Chapter of the Negro American Labor Council.

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GROUP 1  
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E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5  
NLJ / RAC 13-126  
By WJA  
NAR. Doc 07-01-2016



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William Leo Epton, Jr.

1.

APPENDIX

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PROGRESSIVE LABOR MOVEMENT;  
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The "Amsterdam News," a daily New York City newspaper, dated July 27, 1963, page 22, set forth that the "Progressive Labor Party is a new political formation based on Progressive Labor Movement, a Socialist organization with groups in all parts of the United States. The organization publishes a monthly magazine called Progressive Labor."

The July-August, 1963, issue of "Progressive Labor" set forth that it is published monthly by Progressive Labor Company, G.P.O. Box 808, Brooklyn 1, New York.

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