

DATE: 11-14-2017

JFK Assassination System  
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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **LOS ANGELES**

LA FILE NO. **100-21198**

REPORT MADE AT <b>LOS ANGELES</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>6/29/49</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>5/25, 27, 6/20, 23/49</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>BERNARR M. PTACEK</b>
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TITLE <b>JOHN HOWARD LAWSON, was. Jacob Levy, Jack Lawson</b>	CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C.</b>
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**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** On 6/13/49 US Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the conviction of subject in District Court. Subject previously convicted of contempt for refusing to tell House Committee on Un-American Activities whether he was or had been a member of CP. Attorney for subject states case will be appealed to Supreme Court. "Hollywood 10", which includes subject, filed suit against movie studios for \$51,858,975. under Sherman Antitrust Law. Complaint charges a number of film studios with conspiracy not to employ them or produce pictures utilizing their professional talents. Subject mentioned at JUDITH COPLON trial as one "singled out for praise" in German language publication of Moscow-dominated Comintern. LAWSON aided in drawing up statement of protest. Comments of LAWSON re ASP sponsored "Peace Conference" set out. Subject recently completed lecture series sponsored by LA, Calif. Labor School. His comments set out. Subject's activities in ASP set out. ZOLTAN KORDA presently negotiating with subject to write screen story. At CRC meeting LAWSON said that JAMES FORRESTAL ran out of rest home saying "The reds are after me." LAWSON pointed out that until recently this man controlled the Armed Forces of this country and that right now there may be other men with warped minds in our government.

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6/27/95 BY 5668-SUN/wdc  
JFA

REFERENCE: (Bureau File #100-21199.  
Report of SA BERNARR M. PTACEK dated 4/25/49 at Los Angeles.

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"is by no means the established law of America. We believe the American concept that government is the servant of the people, not their master, will again become, as it has been, the reality of the American way of life."

ANTI-TRUST SUIT FILED AGAINST MOTION PICTURE STUDIOS

A matter which is currently occupying the attention of the Hollywood Council of ASP involves the recent book authored by screen writer ALBERT MALTZ, one of the "Hollywood Ten." It appears that the book, called "The Journey of Simon McKeever", was bought by Twentieth Century-Fox Studios. However, the studio has since decided to shelve the intended motion picture based on the book although no reason for doing so has been announced publicly.

It has been learned confidentially through CGII 3111, however, that actually what happened was that pressure from important members of Twentieth Century's Board of Directors in New York has resulted in shelving the production.

CNDILA CD-60 advises that the Hollywood ASP considers this matter as extremely important and is directing its attention toward making as much propaganda capital of it as possible. As a matter of interest to the Bureau in connection with ASP activity generally, the following may be noted:

On May 9, 1949, HERBERT BIBERMAN discussed with a representative of the "Daily People's World" the matter of MALTZ's new novel and how, after purchasing the screen rights, Twentieth Century-Fox and the Motion Picture Producers Association now say it will never be made into a picture. BIBERMAN said that ASP was working up a big protest meeting to be held at the El Patio Theater in Hollywood on May 25th next and that he wanted the "People's World" to give it plenty of publicity.

"Suit for triple damages of \$51,858,975 under the Sherman Antitrust Law was filed in Federal court yesterday by 10 Hollywood writers who were cited for contempt by Congress for refusing to tell whether they were members of the Communist Party and who later were suspended by their studios.

"The complaint charges a number of major film studios, film organizations and John Does with a conspiracy not to employ the writers nor produce pictures utilizing their professional talents.

"Plaintiffs in the suit are Writers Lester Cole, John Howard Lawson, Albert Maltz, Edward Dmytryk, Ring Lardner, Jr., Adrian Scott, Alvah Bessie, Dalton Trumbo, Samuel Ornitz and Herbert Biberman.

"They name as defendants Loew's, Inc., owners of the MGM studio; 20th

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extend its power in Europe in order to protect all of the imperialistic holdings in the world. Soviet Russia recently proposed a survey of all the labor of the world. This would include the imperialist slaves of Africa being exploited by the Firestone Rubber Company at a menial wage. The U. S. immediately proposed that the slave labor of the Soviet Union be investigated.

LAWSON closed with the comment "The future belongs to labor -- that means the future belongs to us."

In the question and answer period LAWSON told about the strike of the dock workers in Seattle, Washington during the year 1919. The dock workers had refused to load ships taking material to the American Army which was illegally in Russia. At that time WILSON went down the streets of Seattle in his automobile and the dock workers turned their backs on him.

The original notes of the writer will be found in the Los Angeles file.

LAWSON's concluding speech in this series was held June 10, 1949 at the South Hall of the Embassy Auditorium, 519 West 9th St. The title of this speech was "The American Tradition". ~~CNDIA~~ 3287 was in attendance at this speech and reported as follows:

LAWSON said "We find the dignity of man on trial in Foley Square in New York City. (Trial of the National Committee of the CP) The American gestapo headed by decadent J. Edgar Hoover, planted papers and seeds of dissension in the purse of frail, young Jewish girl named JUDITH COPLON. This they call the maintenance of the dignity of man. (Applause)

(In reference to the persons mentioned in the FBI report at COPLON trial.) LAWSON said these fine Americans have denied their affiliation with the CP and such denials have been necessary as a man cannot be dignified when he is denied the right to work. He then spoke on the right of the individual to education and said that education has been promoted in great portion by means of the theater and cultural activities. The planting of the names of persons active in the cultured mediums will result in control of the motion picture industry and those who educate the people will be slandered so their efforts will not reach in society where needed. This is a capitalistic means of tightening of the reins of the productive medium of the theater. The first step was seen when the "Hollywood Ten" were chosen by capitalist investigators in the motion picture industry as a threat to those who might endeavor to bring culture to masses of people who attend theaters. They are not satisfied with the results they have now obtained. We now see the culture of education and free speech under control. LAWSON compared conditions in the U. S. to happenings in Germany in Hitler's time. He also made comparisons to Plato's Republic. He continued that the great wealth in the U. S. controlled art academies and ethical works have been denied the American people because

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"It must not go unchallenged. We urge you not only to boycott this picture but to tell your local theater manager and Republic Pictures why you are doing so."

MISCELLANEOUS

CNDILA 3127 advised SA MERLE L. PARKER that the South Alvarado Communist Club held a meeting on January 31, 1949 at 341 North Reno St., Los Angeles. At this meeting Mr. NATHAN GARFIELD stated that JOHN HOWARD LAWSON had the best knowledge of Marxism and Leninism of anyone in the area and everyone should hear him talk at every opportunity.

CNDILA 3251 advised that the Third Convention of the American-Jewish Labor Council was held at the Embassy Auditorium and the Park Manor Auditorium, on February 5 and 6, 1949. During this meeting greetings were read from JOHN HOWARD LAWSON WHO was unable to attend the meeting. CNDILA JO-1 advised on March 10, 1949 that LESTER COLE asked LAWSON and his wife to come to his house on the following Monday night at 6:00 p.m. for dinner. LESTER COLE stated that a meeting would be held following the dinner.

On March 25, 1949 CNDILA JO-1 advised that GREGORY S. DUBOFF had written an article for a science magazine and wanted the subject to review the article before it was submitted. According to CNDILA 3200, GREGORY S. DUBOFF has been a member of the CP for 11 years. He is a chemist.

On May 9, 1949, CNDILA JO-1 advised that JOHANNES STEELE, news commentator, told LAWSON about a luncheon at the Ambassador Hotel to be held at 1:00 p.m. on May 11, 1949. LAWSON said that he would there early, "so they could talk". The meeting was to be held at bungalow No. 9-A at the Ambassador.

CNDILA JO-1 advised on June 5, 1949 that JEFFERY LAWSON and MANDY LAWSON, son and daughter of the subject, were taking a trip to Europe for the summer. The tour was sponsored by the National Student Association and it was expected that the students would visit Poland. The group were to leave the continent from Quebec and arrive back in the U. S. at the Port of New York.

The informant stated that PEGGY KLEIN of Los Angeles was accompanying the two LAWSON children on this trip. The informant stated that this European tour was being sponsored by the Committee for International Student Cooperation, 144 Eleaker St., New York.

- P E N D I N G -

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