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John Howard Lawson

Reference is made to Los Angeles letters to the Bureau dated November 10 and November 15, 1949, and to New York teletype to Boston on November 21, 1949.

W. J. Shapley
Classified by: [Signature]
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ADRIAN SCOTT

The "Cambridge Chronicle Sun" is a weekly newspaper published at Cambridge, Massachusetts. In its issue dated November 15, 1949, it carried a news item reflecting that ADRIAN SCOTT would speak on November 17, 1949, under the auspices of the Massachusetts Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions at the Cambridge Community Center at 8:00 P.M.

ND BOS 525, who is a member of the MCASP, advised that notices for this speech were not received by the members until the day of the event and, therefore, attendance was limited. The Informant did not attend and received the foregoing information from other members of the organization.

Confidential Informant ND BOS T-S 215 advised that on November 18, 1949, the Subject contacted HARLOW SHAPLEY at the latter's office at the Harvard Observatory, Cambridge, Massachusetts, in order to discuss the affairs of the National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions (NCASP). The Informant learned, at the same time, that while in Boston SCOTT was registered at the Hotel Somerset, Commonwealth Avenue, Boston.

Special Employee RICHARD KELLY read a notice on the bulletin board at Boston University reflecting that SCOTT addressed a group under the auspices of the YOUNG PROGRESSIVES OF MASSACHUSETTS at 3:00 P.M. on the afternoon of November 17, 1949.

Boston T-S 227 learned from DIRK STRUIK that SCOTT was speaking under the auspices of the Brookline Progressive

CC - NEW YORK (100-50870)
CC - LOS ANGELES (100-15732)

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DIRECTOR

FEBRUARY 1, 1950

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Party, Brookline, Massachusetts, at 4:00 P.M. on November 20, 1949. ND BOS T-S 227 only knows that SCOTT was scheduled to speak on this date and at the same place indicated for JOHN HOWARD LAWSON below. (X)(U)

JOHN HOWARD LAWSON

ALAN SWITZER is the Manager of the Bellevue Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts, and a confidential source of information for the Boston Division. From SWITZER it was ascertained that JOHN HOWARD LAWSON checked into the Hotel Somerset, mentioned above, on November 20, 1949, and checked out on the late evening of November 23, 1949.

ND BOS 521 received an announcement from the Brighton group of the Progressive Party reflecting that LAWSON would speak at 4:00 P.M. under the Club's auspices on November 20, 1949. The place of the meeting was the Brookline Academy, Beacon Street, Boston.

ND BOS T-S 215 obtained the following information from HARLOW SHAPLEY on the dates indicated: (X)(U)

On November 22, 1949, SHAPLEY advised the Informant that LAWSON was in Boston and was interested in contacting active members and leaders of the NCASP. SHAPLEY stated that LAWSON had advised him that the Hollywood ASP Council has 1200 paid-up members and an excellent man heading it. SHAPLEY stated that, on the other hand, the New York ASP Council is in a confused state following CLARK FOREMAN'S resignation. He, SHAPLEY, also advised that the Hollywood ASP is preparing an organizational plan for the use of the New York organization and the national organization. (X)(U)

Later on the same day, the Informant learned from SHAPLEY that the latter had been contacted by DAVID RIGBY, Secretary of the Montreal Chapter of the Canadian Peace Conference. RIGBY solicited SHAPLEY to address this latter group. SHAPLEY declined, but among the other substitutes suggested by him was JOHN HOWARD LAWSON. SHAPLEY characterized LAWSON as a "brilliant speaker and well known historian." RIGBY inquired as to whether or not LAWSON'S approach to peace was along the lines of HENRY A. WALLACE. SHAPLEY responded affirmatively but added that it was doubtful that LAWSON would be allowed to leave the United States. He contacted LAWSON immediately and LAWSON advised that he would be afraid to leave the United States without the advice (X)(U)

-2-

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE: 11-14-2017

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DIRECTOR

FEBRUARY 1, 1950

of his counsel, MARTIN POPPER of New York City. LAWSON agreed to communicate further on this matter directly with RIGBY from New York City. (S)(u)

SHAPLEY, thereafter, contacted ZECHARIAH CHAFFEE, Professor, Harvard Law School, and made an appointment with the latter for LAWSON. It was necessary for SHAPLEY to identify LAWSON, but CHAFFEE did make the appointment for the following day at 11:00 A.M. When SHAPLEY advised LAWSON of his appointment with CHAFFEE, LAWSON revealed that he had already made other plans with The Reverend JOSEPH FLETCHER of the Episcopal Theological Seminary, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and DONALD ANGUS CAMERON, Editor-in-Chief, LITTLE BROWN PUBLISHING COMPANY, Boston. It is noted that CAMERON had been tentatively identified as a professional member of the Communist Party by LOUIS BUDENZ, and that Confidential Informants ND BOS 493 and 165 have identified FLETCHER as a trustee of the late SAMUEL ADAMS SCHOOL, and a National sponsor of the JAERC, the NCASF and the NCASP. (S)(u)

ND BOS T-S 215 also learned that on the late evening of November 22, 1949, LAWSON had had an extensive conference with JOHN N. M. HOWELLS of Belmont, Massachusetts, the Chairman of the MCASP. The Informant could only learn that the conference was concerned with affairs of the NCASP. (S)(u)

ND BOS T-S 215 was again present with SHAPLEY on the morning of November 23, 1949, when the latter advised LAWSON that his morning appointment with CHAFFEE had been postponed until 4:00 P.M. on that afternoon. LAWSON stated that, in the interim, he had checked with friends of his on the West Coast and learned that CHAFFEE had conducted friendly correspondence with ALBERT MALTZ (another LITTLE BROWN COMPANY author and a Hollywood scenario writer) and that CHAFFEE had expressed to MALTZ a sincere interest in the case of the "Hollywood Ten." SHAPLEY cautioned LAWSON that his conference with CHAFFEE might not run too smoothly because Harvard Law School customs require that faculty members do not become too heavily involved "in things" because faculty members must lecture to all kinds of people. (S)(u)

- 3 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DIRECTOR

FEBRUARY 1, 1950

LAWSON was not discouraged and stated that in New York he had met with theatrical people such as GEORGE KAUFMAN and RICHARD LAUTERBACH and had found that such people were very interested in assisting the "Hollywood Ten," but not through affiliation with the NCASP. (S)(u)

ND BOS T-S 215 was present with LAWSON at 5:00 P.M. on November 23, 1949, when the latter reported to SHAPLEY the results of his conference with CHAFFEE. LAWSON stated that he had had a satisfactory conference with CHAFFEE and that CHAFFEE expressed a willingness to assist in the preparation of a brief amicus curiae to the Supreme Court of the United States in the case involving the "Hollywood Ten." CHAFFEE had further indicated his willingness to sign such a brief as a faculty member of the Harvard Law School. He conditioned these offers, however, on the brief being filed under the auspices of the AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION and, further, upon LAWSON'S obtaining the signatures and assistance of OSMOND FRANKO (phonetic) and ARTHUR GARFIELD HAYES. CHAFFEE was unwilling to associate himself in such a matter with the NCASP. LAWSON also stated that he was attempting to have still another brief filed by educators and a third by publishers, and that D. ANGUS CAMERON had promised to assist in the publishers' brief. (S)(u)

ND BOS T-S 215 learned from LAWSON that the latter had, on the afternoon of November 22, 1949, made a two-hour speech before the Student Lawyers Guild at the Harvard Law School. LAWSON said that his presence had created a considerable "fuss", and that the chairman of the Guild had resigned rather than preside at a meeting addressed by him. Nevertheless, the students had voted overwhelmingly to hear LAWSON. LAWSON reported that the students were divided "to some extent" about the pros and cons of the case, and appeared to be principally interested in the legal technicalities rather than in the "larger issues presented by the suggested matter." (S)(u)

LAWSON also appeared publicly at the special meeting of the Community Church held at 565 Boylston Street, Boston, Massachusetts. The Community Church is under the direction of The Reverend DONALD LOTHROP, who has been affiliated at times past with the JAFRC, the NCASP and the

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DIRECTOR

FEBRUARY 1, 1950

NCASF, according to ND BOS 525. The Community Church meeting was attended by Confidential Informants ND BOS 21 and 559 on November 23, 1949. According to these Informants, LAWSON'S speech was as follows:

He said that he was speaking in Boston, New York and Philadelphia, while other members of the "Hollywood Ten" were visiting other cities in the U.S. All speakers were attempting to acquaint the population with the real meaning of the trial of the "Ten." He asserted that only two of the ten stood trial under an agreement whereby the remaining eight accepted the judgment reached with reference to the two. LAWSON asserted that he was one of the two who did stand trial and that the atmosphere of the court room was depressing and tense, like a Nazi court room immediately prior to World War II. He digressed to criticize the Government of the United States for deporting a German, one BERTHOLDT BROCK, after the latter had obtained sanctuary from two Fascist persecutions in Europe.

Reverting to the trial, he stated that the jury was selected in an unusual and unfair manner. The jurors sat in the audience in the rear of the court room; they were questioned collectively and over the heads of the audience and responded collectively. The defendant was not afforded an opportunity to challenge the jurors. When the trial began, the jury heard only the opening statements and the closing arguments and nothing of that which had transpired in the interim. The jury was made up partially of Government employees who could not remain impartial and maintain their positions.

The court room was loaded with uniformed and plain clothes police. If you spoke your political opinions frankly, you would find yourself surrounded by them. The defense attorneys were gentlemen throughout the course of the trial and their subsequent indictment for contempt of court should certainly move every righteous member of the bar to register protest. The Bill of Rights and the Constitution are easy to read and to understand and we do not need self-assisting authorities to interpret them.

LAWSON then stated that he had made an extensive study of history. This study had led him to the conclusion that the foreign and domestic policies of this country following World War II are the same as World War I. He

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE: 11-14-2017

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DIRECTOR

FEBRUARY 1, 1950

recalled when he had led demonstrations in behalf of SACCO-VANZETTI. He recalled the presence of American Marines in China following World War I and the effect that they had upon the history of the Orient for the next twenty years. In those days, HERBERT HOOVER hated Russia and that there are others in high places today who hate Russia.

He covered the following points very briefly:

(1) He admitted that he lacked the vocabulary of proper epithets to adequately describe Judge MEDINA.

(2) Everyone should read "DALTON TRUMBO'S 'The Time of the Toad.'" "

(3) The Pilgrims did not come to Plymouth to escape Communism, but really to escape servitude.

(4) He, LAWSON, had personally read stenographic reports of purge trials in Russia and had reached the conclusion that the defendants were guilty as found.

(5) JOHN FOSTER DULLES is a Fascist.

(6) We send but "fools and knaves" to the U.N.

(7) Only in Russia are criminal indictments based upon overt acts.

(8) The U.S. people like good movies and not those such as the "Iron Curtain."

(9) TRUMAN talks about Civil Rights but he never does anything.

(10) The American press and radio are unreliable.

(11) The American people are not displeased over Russia's possession of the atom bomb; they know that it will cause the U.S. to seek more diligently a road to peace.

In the question period which followed, a young Boston University student, identity not known to ND BOS 21, asked if there were "any good officials in our State Department."

- 6 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE: 11-14-2017

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
FEBRUARY 1, 1950
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DIRECTOR

LAWSON replied that Georgetown University provided the State Department with most of its personnel which is why the State Department is the sorry thing that it is.

Dr. LOTHROP, minister of the Community Church, urged a good collection in order that the church might participate in the brief.

ND BOS 552 interviewed Reverend LOTHROP on November 22, 1949, concerning LAWSON'S appearance at the church and elsewhere in this area. LOTHROP advised him that the appearances were arranged by the Reverend ROBERT MUIR, a minister who comes from Somerville, Massachusetts, and who has been affiliated with the JAFRC and the SAMUEL ADAMS SCHOOL in times past. LOTHROP further advised ND BOS 552 that LAWSON and MUIR would leave Boston for Washington, D.C., at 11:00 P.M. on November 23, 1949.

Reference is made to Los Angeles letter dated November 28, 1949, under this caption. This letter reflects that copies of certain records concerning the "Hollywood Ten" were forwarded to THEODORA GOLDSTEIN, 726 Washington Street, Brookline, Massachusetts. The Los Angeles Division is advised that THEODORA GOLDSTEIN is the wife of ROBERT GOLDSTEIN, M.D., who is a research associate at the Beth Israel Hospital, Brookline, Massachusetts.

THEODORA GOLDSTEIN is a graduate of Columbia University in Chemistry and was employed during World War II at the Kellex Project operated by MED. She has been identified by ND BOS 165 [and ND BOS T-S 200] as a member of the Professional Section of the Communist Party. Current information furnished by highly confidential informants in Boston and New York indicates that THEODORA GOLDSTEIN is the "link" between the Professional Section of the Communist Party and the Boston Communist Party headquarters and is a mail drop for the Boston Communist directorate for messages transmitted from New York City.

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