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JOHN HOWARD LAWSON

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE
FILE NO. **100-6769**

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| REPORT MADE AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA | DATE WHEN MADE 3/4/42 | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1/21-2/26/42 | REPORT MADE BY J. R. VICARS | VK |
| TITLE HERBERT BIBERMAN; JOHN HOWARD LAWSON | | CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - R | | |
| SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: <p style="text-align: center;">STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL</p> <p>REMA VALE, former Communist Party functionary, Los Angeles, identified KATHRYN BURKE as former movie star. Present whereabouts unknown. VALE unable to furnish current information on Subjects BIBERMAN or LAWSON. [BIBERMAN'S activities on behalf of Russian Vice-Consul arranging reception described. Reception finally postponed. BIBERMAN'S acquaintance with California representative AL SINAIQUISTA discovered. BIBERMAN attempted to recruit members California State Guard and was the driving force behind Russian War Relief effort to persuade MAXIM LITVINOF to appear at mass rally in Los Angeles soon. Subject LAWSON presently engaged in writing story. Has advised informant he is not engaged at present in any civilian defense activity but is anxious to participate. Meetings at LAWSON'S house noted and identities those in attendance described. GALE SONDERGAARD, hostess at Russian Ball, Los Angeles, and very active Woman's Ambulance Defense Corps.</p> | | | | |
| <p><i>2-23-95 Classified by 508 Mac/ude Declassify on: OADR (JFK)</i></p> <p><i>Classified by 9/45 JPK/09/08 Declassify on: OADR 4-14-88 259416</i></p> <p>DECLASSIFIED BY 5/10/89 [Signature] ON 6/11/91 (JFK)</p> <p><i>6/10/89 [Signature] Declassify on OADR</i></p> | | | | |
| REFERENCE: | | Report of Special Agent J. R. Vicars, January 21, 1942, Los Angeles. | | |
| APPROVED AND FORWARDED: | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES | | |
| CONFIDENTIAL 5 Bureau 2 New York 2 Los Angeles | | 100-370750- NOT RECORDED 32 AUG 2 1950 | | |

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-6769-101

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since broken relations with the Russian War Relief Association. MEAD further advised BIBERMAN that she had had a very interesting meeting last night and that the Commander of the American Legion, whom she described as "my old pal" wanted to have lunch with her as soon as she got over her illness. HERBERT expressed great enthusiasm about this and stated that he was very satisfied that everything was going fine and added that the most important thing to do at present was to push forth with the meeting. (S)(u)

(S)(u) [This meeting, which is described in this conversation, is a mass meeting which the R.W.R. is contemplating as the climax to its drive for funds, according to Temporary Confidential National Defense Informant L. A. #5. Because of the limitation on crowds set by General DEWITT of the Fourth Interceptor Command, it is not probable that a large mass rally will be held, according to this Informant. Crowds presently are limited to five thousand persons. This Informant advised that arrangements were presently under way to secure DOROTHY THOMPSON, noted columnist as the main speaker at this rally, and further it has been proposed that instead of one large mass rally that a series of rallies be held at different places on the same evening with THOMPSON and others not yet decided upon, to be transported from meeting to meeting for brief appearances. In this way the limitation upon crowds would be solved.

(S)(u) [The writer and Special Agent MAX SATER made spot checks at the Russian Consulate during the evening of Wednesday, January 28, 1942 but failed to discover any reception in progress there. Furthermore, Confidential National Defense Informant L.A. #1029 checked the various projection rooms of the motion picture companies, where the Consulate had previously held private showings of films, with negative results. In addition, the fact that JANE MEAD advised HERBERT that she was ill with the measles on the date planned for the reception and the fact that the movie "The Girl From Leningrad" was determined by BIBERMAN and MEAD to be one which would be detrimental to the cause reflect that this reception apparently was not held. However, Temporary Confidential National Defense Informant L.A. #5 advised that he personally had not been present if there was any reception, but that he would attempt to ascertain any information available concerning it. (S)(u)

On January 30, 1942, MADELINE RUTHVEN, whose activities have been described in previous reports as an intimate associate of BIBERMAN made an appointment with BIBERMAN for 2:45 P.M. (S)(u)

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DATE: 11-14-2017

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Guard. HERBERT advised OFFNER that he was also going to try and recruit GEORGE SCHWINE (phonetic). Attention is invited to the fact that recruiting people into the Army or national defense units is presently one of the prime objectives of the Communist Party. (S)(u)

Confidential National Defense Informant L.A. #1356 has advised that during a recent section meeting of the Communist Party held in Los Angeles, a strong and persuasive talk was made by JANE WALLACE, Los Angeles County Secretary of the Communist Party, encouraging all who could to enlist in the United States Army and other defense units. (Los Angeles file #100-1763) (S)(u)

Through Confidential National Defense Informant L.A. #78, the bank account of Subject RIBERMAN at the California Bank, Hollywood and Vine Branch, was checked. Interesting items which may be of value in future investigative activity in this case are being set out.

Checks drawn -

| | | |
|-------------------|---|--------|
| January 12, 1942 | JERRY CHAMIN (Endorsed by CHARLES SCHLEIN) | \$8.00 |
| January 23, 1942 | VIC SHAPIRO and Staff (Actors' Agent) | 134.27 |
| January 29, 1942 | PAUL TRIVERS (Deposited California Bank, Hollywood and Vine) | 300.00 |
| January 23, 1942 | Exiled Writers' Fund (Amalgamated Bank, New York) | 10.00 |
| February 2, 1942 | Peoples' World (Bank of America, San Francisco) | 6.00 |
| February 13, 1942 | Women's Ambulance and Defense Corps | 34.00 |

Deposits -

| | |
|---|----------|
| December 26, 1941 | 626.03 |
| December 29, 1941 (90-1221 from Paramount Studios) | 372.93 |
| Balance - January 23, 1942 | 2,934.49 |

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Temporary Confidential National Defense Informant L. A. #3 is WALTER TETER, whose identity has previously been made known to the Bureau.

Temporary Confidential National Defense Informant L. A. #5 is ROBERT H. BOLMAN, Assistant Vice-President, Union Bank and Trust Company, Los Angeles, and Treasurer of the Russian War Relief Association of Southern California, Incorporated.

Confidential National Defense Informant L. A. #1356 is ALBERT G. KATZENBERGER, whose identity is being made known by separate and confidential memorandum to the Bureau.

All other confidential National Defense Informants designated by letter instead of numeral in this report, are identical with Confidential National Defense Informant L. A. #100.

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100-10200