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LOS ANGELES

FILE No. 100-21198

REPORT MADE AT LOS ANGELES	DATE WHEN MADE 9/17/48	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 8/13; 9/10/48	REPORT MADE BY BERNARR M. PTACEK MEH
TITLE JOHN HOWARD LAWSON, with aliases: Jacob Levy, Jack Lawson		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY-C	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Attorneys for subject request U. S. Court of Appeals to extend deadline for receipt of brief to 9/30/48. On 9/1/48 LAWSON met with HOLLAND ROBERTS, Executive Director of the American-Russian Institute in San Francisco, regarding reorganization of American-Russian Institute in Los Angeles. Subject's financial contribution to Los Angeles People's Educational Center, and speeches made at PEC sponsored "Institute of the Future of World Organization," set out. On 8/13/48 LAWSON spoke at a California Labor School sponsored "Philosophies on Trial." He said that the spy legends and the stories told to the public by the Thomas Committee were propaganda designed to play on fears and uncertainties of today. He urged clemency for JAFRC board, and protested the arrest of the National Board of the Communist Party. He arranged to have HERBERT W. BERMAN, a known Communist, make the keynote speech at the Utah State Convention of the Progressive Party. On 7/1/48 LAWSON said he was very glad to sponsor the National Civil Rights Congress. He was lauded at the World Congress for Peace held in Poland. His literary contribution to the magazine "Masses and Mainstream" reviewed. Contacts set out.

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DATE: 11-14-2017

LA 100-21198

CNDI LA RD-28 in the month of August 1948, stated that BELLE DUBNOFF made arrangements for HOLLAND ROBERTS to come to Los Angeles for the purpose of making personal contacts with various individuals who had previously been active in Russian-American affairs for the purpose of raising needed funds. HOLLAND ROBERTS is the director of the San Francisco Division of the American-Russian Institute, and is also on the Board of Directors of the California Labor School.

It should be noted that both the American-Russian Institute and the California Labor School of San Francisco were declared to be under the purview of Executive Order No. 9835 on May 27, 1948. HOLLAND ROBERTS arrived in Los Angeles on August 31, 1948, and was observed by Special Agents EDWARD E. ABBOTT and FLOYD W. BROWN to enter the American-Russian Institute at 11:10 A.M. He was also observed by agents of this office to contact several people who were in a position to contribute to the institution financially.

According to CNDI LA RD-28 and CNDI LA JO-1, JOHN HOWARD LAWSON was invited to meet with ROBERTS on September 1, 1948, at the apartment of REVA KUCHA, located at 5917 Barton Street, Hollywood, California, at 8:00 P.M. At 8:20 P.M., on September 1, 1948, Special Agents EDWARD E. ABBOTT and JOSEPH B. BACKUS observed LAWSON and ROBERTS come out of the apartment located at 5917 Barton in Hollywood and take a short walk, only to reenter a few minutes later. At 9:05 P.M., LAWSON was observed to come out of the above-mentioned apartment and enter a Chrysler convertible, bearing 1948 California license 67 D 704. It should be noted that the records of the Division of Motor Vehicles in Los Angeles reflect that this automobile is owned by JOHN HOWARD LAWSON.

ANNA LOUISE STRONG:

CNDI LA 1138 advised that ANNA LOUISE STRONG is a member of the Communist Party. CNDI LA JO-1 advised that STRONG met with JOHN HOWARD LAWSON on June 20, 1948, at which time she advised him of the following information:

She said she had just returned home for the Wallace Convention, where she will be a delegate or an observer. She stated she had purchased a home at LaCrescenta, California. She will go abroad soon since the Chinese Left Wing asked her to come to Manchuria through Siberia. She will be the only correspondent behind those lines. She told LAWSON that there was a radio in Manchuria, and that she might be able to use it for a weekly report.

-6-

Treat as Original

DATE: 11-14-2017

LA 100-21198

discrimination has been fully solved only in the Soviet Union. Yet he contradicts the implications of his own investigation by accepting MYRDAL's thesis that discrimination is an ethical dilemma. As a result, LASKI attributes the trouble, as he does all other difficulties, to the psychology of the business man: 'America will not go forward to the solution of these grave and growing issues until its citizens have displaced the business man as the idol to be worshipped in its market places.'

"Yet the next, and final, lines of the chapter contain one of LASKI's rare statements of democratic faith and hope.

'That time is not yet, although it will come. It will come because America nears in each decade the stage in which it will be driven to the realization that it can have either finance capitalism or democracy, but not both. Even its rulers will then be surprised how deep-rooted in its soil is the tradition which makes democracy the parent of freedom.'

"One can only wish that these words, and not the philosophy of the business man, had been made the theme and message of the book."

The August issue of "Masses and Mainstream" will be filed in Los Angeles file 100-22782.

People's Educational Center:

The People's Educational Association, commonly known as the People's Educational Center, 1717 North Vine Street, Los Angeles, California, was included in Executive Order Number 9835, issued by the Attorney General on May 27, 1948.

On April 8, 1948, CNDI LA 3244 advised the writer that on August 16, 1944, JOHN HOWARD LAWSON contributed \$50 to the People's Educational Association in Hollywood. The same informant advised that as of August 17, 1944, JOHN HOWARD LAWSON loaned the People's Educational Association the sum of \$500 to carry on their work.

On March 31, 1948, CNDI LA 3243 advised that he observed a letter in the possession of SIDNEY DAVISON, director of the People's Educational Center, addressed to JOHN HOWARD LAWSON. The letter

-9-

Treat as Original

DATE: 11-14-2017

LA 100-21198

bore the date May 23, 1946, and stated "This is to confirm our conversation that I am converting my loan of \$100 to a donation to the People's Educational Center," signed "JOHN HOWARD LAWSON."

On April 8, 1948, CNDI LA 3244 provided the writer with the text of a lecture made by the subject at the "Institute on the Future of World Organization" and "Perspectives of the San Francisco Conference," held April 10, 1945, at the Shoreham Hotel, Los Angeles, under the auspices of the People's Educational Center.

A very brief digest of the speech is provided for this report. The text of the entire speech will be made part of the Los Angeles file:

"There has never been such a thing as isolationism in American Foreign policy, according to JOHN HOWARD LAWSON, speaking at the institute on Future World Organization held at the Shoreham Hotel under the auspices of the Peoples Educational Center. LAWSON's discussion was the first of a series of four lectures, the others to be given Friday evening and Sunday afternoon and evening at the same place.

"LAWSON challenged the idea that the San Francisco conference will have to break down a tradition of isolationism, citing examples from Jefferson to Roosevelt.

"Our foreign policy," he said, "is just now carrying out the precedent making ideas of Jefferson, who believed in free trade, peaceful expansion, and methods short of war for the settlement of international disputes." The Monroe doctrine, said LAWSON, some times misconstrued as giving the U. S. hegemony over the western hemisphere, was really a tremendous step forward in strengthening the young democracies of the west against the reactionary Holy Alliance of Europe.

"Again at the time of the Civil war, LAWSON showed, foreign policy played a decisive role in determining event. He cited the dramatic fact that the south counted on military expansion of its slave area before launching its defiance of the U. S. government.

"Following the democratic period of reconstruction, American energy was poured into the western frontier to the exclusion

DATE: 11-14-2017

LA 100-21198

On July 8, 1948, CNDI LA JO-1 advised that ALBERT WALTZ told LAWSON that the JAFRC board had been allowed to petition the Supreme Court, and that since the court was in recess until fall they would be free until at least the fall of 1948. LAWSON said that their only chance in the fall is to build up public sentiment for them. ALBERT WALTZ agreed with LAWSON's comment.

Civil Rights Congress:

On August 3, 1948, CGII LA 3081 advised that JOHN HOWARD LAWSON told GEORGE BERSHILL, Civil Rights Congress, 205 East 42nd Street, New York City, that he was very glad to join sponsoring the National Conference.

Protests Arrest National Board of Communist Party:

On July 20, 1948, twelve members of the National Board of the Communist Party were indicted on charges of conspiring to establish an organization which teaches "force and violence." The above quote was taken from a pamphlet entitled, "EUGENE DENNIS Indicts the Wall Street Conspirators," and was obtained by Source T-1 from the Los Angeles County Communist Party.

On July 21, 1948, CNDI LA JO-1 advised that JOHN HOWARD LAWSON said that it would be a very good idea for "the 10" and the Arts, Sciences and Professions Council to issue a strong statement in protest of the arrest of the National Board of the Communist Party.

Arts, Sciences and Professions Council:

CNDI LA JO-1 advised on July 27, 1948, that JOHN HOWARD LAWSON advised JOY DAISY PEPPER, Executive Secretary of the Arts, Sciences and Professions Council, that it would be necessary to issue a reminder card on the series of forums that were being conducted by the Council. LAWSON told PEPPER that the reminder card should say something about our civil rights being destroyed; our cultural freedom, what we can do about it; the capitalists are starting a war. He stated that something should also be put on the card protesting the Mundt-Nixon Bill.

The subject told CNDI LA JO-1 on August 16, 1948, that the Arts, Sciences and Professions Council was going to sponsor a speaking tour in the eastern part of the United States to raise funds. LAWSON further