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The Black Vault

The image shows a close-up of a heavy, metallic vault door. The door is partially open, revealing a complex internal mechanism with multiple locking bolts and a central handle. A bright blue light emanates from the gap between the door and the frame, creating a strong glow and casting shadows on the surrounding metal. The overall aesthetic is industrial and mysterious.

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Agency Information

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Document Information

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TO : HQ

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JOHN HOWARD LAWSON

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11/26/57

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AIR MAIL - REGISTERED

3-18-88
CLASSIFIED BY 3042 PJK/kl
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Classified by 505 RSG/CLM
Declassify on: OADR

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES
RE: PAUL ROBESON
IS - C

Classified by 9145 JF/20/20
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LA 4028 PSI advised 11/26/57 that JOHN HOWARD LAWSON on 11/20/57 at 800 South Plymouth Boulevard, Los Angeles, in a lecture series on American Culture under his own auspices, stated he has written a play and has discussed it with PAUL ROBESON, having in mind ROBESON playing the lead. This they decided would have to be played for a select audience and ROBESON feels it is not worth the effort.

LAWSON has been identified by numerous former members of the Communist Party (CP) during course of sworn testimonies for House Committee on Un-American Activities as having been a key figure in the CP apparatus in motion picture industry during 1940s.

DECLASSIFIED BY 5668-SLD/mch
ON 7-7-95 (JFK)

- 4 - Bureau
(3 - 100-12304) (PAUL ROBESON)
(1 - 100-370750) (JOHN LAWSON)
2 - New York
(1 - 100-25857) (PAUL ROBESON)
(1 - 100-80918) (JOHN LAWSON)
3 - Los Angeles
(1 - 100-25861) (PAUL ROBESON)
(1 - 100-21198) (JOHN LAWSON)
(1 - 100-15732) (COMP/LC)

TWC:BLH
(9)

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
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INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

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LA 100-25861

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(S)(u) (c) LA 2954-S on 5/22/56, advised SA H. RAWLINS OVERTON that on 5/12/56 HOWARD LAWSON attended a special committee meeting of CP members at 1251 South St. Andrews Place, Los Angeles. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the formation of a CP educational apparatus in the Los Angeles area. (S)

Above information is furnished as possible indication of ROBESON's defection from CP cause.

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