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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**

FILE NO. **100-6769**

<b>REPORT MADE AT</b> <b>LOS ANGELES, CALIF.</b>	<b>DATE WHEN MADE</b> <b>8/16/41</b>	<b>PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE</b> <b>8/11-16/41</b>	<b>REPORT MADE BY</b> <b>T. E. MYERS</b> <span style="float: right;">ahb</span>
<b>TITLE</b> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>HERBERT BIBERMAN</b></p>			<b>CHARACTER OF CASE</b> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>INTERNAL SECURITY (C)</b></p>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> <b>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</b> </div> <div style="width: 65%;"> <p>Subject BIBERMAN reported chief contact of executive committee of Communist International, Mexico City, and Communist Party officials in United States. Subject's wife, GAIL SONDEGAARD, motion picture actress, and JOHN HOWARD LAWSON, playwright, believed assisting Subject in alleged activities. Residence of Subject placed under surveillance and Confidential Informants appropriately utilized to develop confirmation BIBERMAN status. Subject has been prominent in Communist front activities, notably American Peace Mobilization, of which he is chairman, and is well known as motion picture director and writer. Wife is known as fellow traveler. JOHN HOWARD LAWSON attended plenary sessions of the Communist Party National Committee, New York City, June 28th and 29th. BIBERMAN known to have visited DR. IGNACIO MILLAN, reported top-ranking Communist official in Mexico, during 1938. Continuous surveillances instituted.</p> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;"> <p><i>8/18/87 SP6 [unclear] #259416</i></p> <p><b>- ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED</b></p> <p><b>DATE 4-10-86 BY 9145 JSE/pag</b></p> <p><i>SP8 mac/mde 2-21-95 [unclear]</i></p> </div> </div> </div>			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> <b>REFERENCE:</b> </div> <div style="width: 65%;"> <p>Bureau letter to Los Angeles dated August 7, 1941.</p> </div> </div>			
<b>APPROVED AND FORWARDED:</b>		<b>SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE</b>	
<b>COPIES OF THIS REPORT</b> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> <p>5 - Bureau</p> <p>2 - New York</p> <p>3 - Los Angeles</p> </div>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <b>DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES</b> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 60%;"> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">100 - 370750 - 1</p> </div> <div style="width: 35%; text-align: center;"> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">RECORDED</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">SE</p> </div> </div>	

is a notation that he had been in New York for the past few months on theatre work. It has not been possible as yet to establish the exact whereabouts of LAWSON, but it is contemplated that this information will presently become available through the confidential contacts established in connection with this investigation.

It is desired to set forth briefly an indication of BIBERMAN's known status in the Communist front movement. The Los Angeles files herein cited disclose that he assumed the local leadership of the former American Peace Crusade in June of 1940; and wrote a long article in the "New Masses" on August 20, 1940, which reflects the alleged motives of that organization. His close associates in this movement, which has been definitely shown to be a Communist sponsored organization, are:

SAMUEL ORNITZ  
GUY ENDORÉ  
DONALD L. HEALY  
RICHARD S. OTTO  
GLENDA SULLIVAN  
JOHN STAFF  
THOMAS P. CULLEN

BIBERMAN has appeared publicly on many occasions, speaking on behalf of the American Peace Mobilization, which succeeded the American Peace Crusade, and Confidential National Defense Informant L. A. #3, whose identity is known to the Bureau, describes him as follows:

"He is one of the most menacing figures in the local revolutionary ranks today by reason of his smooth manner, his unquestionable brilliance of mind, his quick thinking, his pleasant personality, and a quality which seems to make him equal to any exigency. He possesses a pleasing speaking voice, and is billed at all of these affairs as a motion picture director."

JOHN HOWARD LAWSON has been present in Los Angeles at numerous meetings at which BIBERMAN spoke, and it is evident that they were closely associated.

The present offices of the American Peace Crusade are located at 426 South Spring Street, telephone MICHigan 2092, and a source usually found extremely reliable has been established to obtain information of value from his office.

It has been established that THOMAS P. CULLEN, above mentioned, is most frequently in charge of the office; and that BIBERMAN visits this point rarely. A Hollywood office of the American Peace Mobilization is located at 1558 North Vine Street, and by observation, it has been determined that this is a one-room office on the second floor of the Otto K. Olson Building, at the corner of Selma and Vine Streets.