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ON 6-20-95 (JFK)

CONFIDENTIAL ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director, FBI

RE: JOHN HOWARD LAWSON, with aliases
Jacob Levy, Jack Lawson
INTERNAL SECURITY (C)

Classified by 3145 JSchoo
Declassify on: OADR
4-15-86

Classified by
Declassify on: OADR

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the letter of the Los Angeles Field Division dated April 25, 1945, directed to the San Francisco Field Division in the captioned matter (Los Angeles file 100-21198) in which was set forth information that LAWSON, together with his wife, SIDNEY HARMON, Los Angeles OWI Film Bureau representative, and one BOB SHAW, departed from Los Angeles for San Francisco on April 24, 1945. For the information of the Bureau this letter requested that any information obtained by the San Francisco Field Division concerning LAWSON'S activities be transmitted to the Los Angeles Field Division.

Confidential Informant SF 1050 reported on April 25, 1945 that ETHEL CAYTON, wife of REVEL CAYTON, negro CIO official, contacted FRED VAST, City Editor of the Peoples World, and stated that it was very important that she contact JOHN PITTMAN as soon as possible. She stated that JOHN HOWARD LAWSON was in town and wanted to see PITTMAN. It is to be noted that PITTMAN is the Editor of the Peoples World. VAST stated that he would have PITTMAN contact LAWSON at the residence of ALMA PIGGIO, associate of known Communists in the San Francisco area, at 20 Romolo Place. (C)(U)

On April 25, 1945 Confidential Informant SF-1301 advised that YIP HARBERG, musical composer from the Los Angeles area, was in contact with LAWSON, at which time HARBERG stated that he would attempt to obtain a ticket to the opening session of the United Nations Conference for LAWSON'S use. At this time HARBERG stated that "HANNEGAN" told him to represent the HOLLYWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE at the conference, with the added comment that "it originates from SAM GOLDWYN." LAWSON indicated that he could be reached at the offices of the OWI at 1:30 P.M. (C)(U)

Confidential Informant SF-1425 reported on April 26, 1945 that DAVID JENKINS, director of the California Labor School, advised LOUISE TODD, official of the Communist Political Association, that LAWSON was up from the south and wanted to put on a Sunday broadcast. Further information concerning

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the nature of this proposed broadcast is not available. (C)(U) CONFIDENTIAL

On the same date Confidential Informant SF-1301 reported that MARA ALEXANDER indicated to EARL ROBINSON, musical composer and vocalist from the Los Angeles area, that she wanted to get HAZEL GROSSMAN, LOUISE BRANSTEN, JACK LAWSON, and ROBINSON together and have ROBINSON sing for Mother BLOOR. ROBINSON stated that he hoped to sing for her at 8:00 P.M. that evening at Oakland, California, and that "they" had arranged a tour of the city that day with KENNY, the Attorney General for the State of California. It is to be noted that LOUISE BRANSTEN and HAZEL GROSSMAN are prominently identified with Communist activities in the San Francisco area. The source further advised that a dinner was to be held for Mother BLOOR at 3829 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland, California, at 6:30 P.M., April 26, 1945 at which 150 to 250 persons would be in attendance. (C)(U)

On April 27, 1945 Confidential Informant SF-613 advised that LAWSON was having lunch on that day with HARRY BRIDGES in an effort to get it "announced around". According to Informant it appeared that the luncheon was arranged as publicity for the Free World Association. (C)(U)

On the same date Confidential Informant SF-1301 advised that LAWSON stated to LOUISE BRANSTEN that he would leave word with ETHEL CAYTON at the CALIFORNIA LABOR SCHOOL as to where he could be reached during the day. BRANSTEN invited LAWSON to her home that evening for the purpose of meeting MAX and LENA YERGAN. It is to be noted that YERGAN, a negro, is a prominent leader in negro affairs, and is an associate of numerous persons prominently identified with Communist activities. (C)(U)

(U)(C) [Confidential Informant SF-1301 reported on April 28, 1945 that PAUL RINSKY, California CIO Official, indicated a desire to contact LAWSON.] Confidential Informant SF-1326 advised on this date that LAWSON would be one of the speakers at the FREE WORLD ASSOCIATION meeting to be held April 29, 1945 at the Civic Auditorium, San Francisco. [On April 29, 1945 Confidential Informant SF-1402 reported that LAWSON had spoken at the CALIFORNIA LABOR SCHOOL on an unknown date.] (C)(U)

Confidential Informant SF-1425 reported that on April 30, 1945 WILLIAM SCHNEIDERMAN, California State President of the COMMUNIST POLITICAL ASSOCIATION, stated to LOUISE TODD, State Secretary of the Association, that he thought JACK LAWSON made the best speech at the FREE WORLD ASSOCIATION meeting the night before. In response to this statement TODD stated that it was good but that he could have "done more." SCHNEIDERMAN replied that LAWSON and DAVE JENKINS had come over to his home "last week" with the plans for the meeting and LAWSON said he would make every effort to call it off. The informant was unable to clarify the meaning of this statement. (C)(U)

[With regard to BOB SHAW who was reported to be accompanying LAWSON on his trip to San Francisco, Confidential Informant SF-631A advised on April 25, 1945 that STEVE NELSON contacted GORDON WILLIAMS about the "union people"] (C)(U)

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