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December 12, 1949

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COMPIC

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(Bureau File 100-13874)

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DATE 6-28-95 BY 5668 SED/ndk
(JFK)

Re Los Angeles letter to the Director dated November 10, 1949 and Butel to Philadelphia dated November 30, 1949.

On November 15, 1949 Confidential Informant PHT-94, of known reliability, advised Special Employee RICHARD J. ABBEY that the Civil Rights Congress in Philadelphia was holding a "reception for fighters for civil liberties" at the Bellevue Stratford Hotel, Philadelphia, on November 29, 1949. Tickets were to be sold at \$2.00 each and JOHN HOWARD LAWSON was to be a featured guest.

The Daily Worker of November 24, 1949 contained an article in Column 5 of Page 7, which was captioned "Philadelphia CRC to Hold Reception" and was datelined Philadelphia November 23, 1949. It stated that notables in the movie, professional and trade union fields would be guests of honor at a reception which the Civil Rights Congress was sponsoring at the Bellevue Stratford Hotel on November 29, 1949. It listed JOHN HOWARD LAWSON, movie writer, as a speaker.

On December 2, 1949 Special Agent WILLIAM E. HUGHES interviewed Confidential Informant P-25, of known reliability, who supplied him with a type-written report dated November 29, 1949 reflecting his attendance at CRC banquet given at the Bellevue Stratford Hotel on November 29, 1949. This report indicated that there were approximately 300 people present and that JOHN HOWARD LAWSON was one of the speakers sitting on the platform.

The following is quoted verbatim from this informant's report:

"JOHN HOWARD LAWSON, a writer and one of the Hollywood Ten, who was up before the Un-American Activities Committee on subversive charges, related the story of what took place in that court room in Washington. He spoke of the court room atmosphere and of the spectators themselves who were actually sick at the rotten Hitler-like manner in which the whole affair was conducted. JOHN spoke of the jury who could never actually know the nature of this case, under the circumstances a jury who heard the beginning of a case and then who didn't see them anymore until near the end of a case. JOHN warned the people of these

Enclosure

JPK/jmf

100-34977

cc - Los Angeles (Enc.)

100-31535 (CRC)

100-33949 (Phila. Council of Arts, Sciences & Professions)

100-33492 (Subversive activities in colleges having ROTC units)

NOT RECORDED

JAN 10 1950

JAN 13 1950

NR-162

Treat As ORIGINAL

DIRECTOR, FBI

December 12, 1949

Confidential Informant PH-99 advised Special Employee JACK V. HENRICKS on November 16, 1949 that LAWSON would attend an authors' luncheon being held by the Philadelphia Council of Arts, Sciences and Professions on December 3, 1949. The same informant on November 28, 1949 advised Special Agent THOMAS W. SHERMAN that as of that date the ALP had obtained only 99 reservations for their authors' luncheon and that they needed a total of about 200.

Confidential Informant PH-27, of known reliability, attended the authors' luncheon sponsored by the Philadelphia Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions, held at the Warwick Hotel on December 3, 1949. Approximately 160 persons were present. The principal speaker at this luncheon was JOHN HOWARD LAWSON.

PH-27 furnished the following summary of the remarks made by LAWSON at the luncheon:

LAWSON stated that he was glad to be there and have the opportunity to tell all persons present about the inquisition and vile things which the rulers of this country are doing to the masses. At the trial of the Hollywood Ten in Washington, he stated that he saw J. PARNELL THOMAS. He studied THOMAS' face and found that it was cynical and evil and told how like it was to a caricature of the politician he was. The whole idea behind the trial is a threat to the freedom and integrity of the American people. It is a threat to our moral values and degradation to bring us under the power of such vile men as J. PARNELL THOMAS. In reality, it was not the spokesman of the masses that were on trial, but it was the whole sly, contemptible, brutal, evil system that was on trial before the moral judgment of the world. The Fascist System adopted by this Government, returns to the prying into the private recesses of the minds, souls and spiritual lives of the people. No individual can escape the inquisition. If we believe as they are trying to force us to believe, it will mean a breakdown of the free life of the mind and the violation of all our moral values.

LAWSON stated that after hearing his lectures someone may say "If we believe what you say then everything we read is untrue."

Treat As Original

DIRECTOR, FBI

December 12, 1949

ENCLOSURE TO LOS ANGELES:

One copy of "The Time of the Toad" by DALTON TRUMBO
received on 12/7/49 by SA WILLIAM B. ELTE from
Confidential Informant PH-27.

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