
Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI
RECORD NUMBER : 124-90143-10126

RECORD SERIES : HQ

AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 100-370750-NR

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI
FROM : LA
TO : HQ

TITLE :

DATE : 10/11/1941
PAGES : 18

SUBJECTS :

HERBERT BIBERMAN
JOHN HOWARD LAWSON

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified
RESTRICTIONS : 4
CURRENT STATUS : Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 10/09/1998

OPENING CRITERIA : INDEFINITE

COMMENTS : RPT

This document is made available through the declassification efforts
and research of John Greenewald, Jr., creator of:

The Black Vault



The Black Vault is the largest online Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
document clearinghouse in the world. The research efforts here are
responsible for the declassification of hundreds of thousands of pages
released by the U.S. Government & Military.

Discover the Truth at: **<http://www.theblackvault.com>**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN

OTHERWISE

FILE NO. 100-6769

REPORT MADE AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA	DATE WHEN MADE 10/11/41	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/4-11/41	REPORT MADE BY THOMAS E. MYERS ahh
TITLE CHANGED HERBERT BIBERMAN; JOHN HOWARD LAWSON		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY (R) <i>6/10/79 SP-4 by [unclear] # 259416</i> <i>Classified by 9145 JLB/gag</i> <i>Declassify on: OADR 4-10-88</i>	
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</p> <p>EDWARD CARTER, at BIBERMAN's direction, arrived Los Angeles 10/8/41; conference immediately held at BIBERMAN's home with objective high pressure on HARRY CHANDLER, owner of Los Angeles Times, to support Committee for Medical Aid to Russia. Reception held at CHANDLER's home evening of 10/8/41 and luncheon meeting attended by prominent citizens 10/9, both sponsored by CHANDLER at solicitation JANE MEADE, with BIBERMAN collaborating. MEADE reported to BIBERMAN that objective apparently achieved. BIBERMAN did not attend either function; his directional activities and current illness noted. [Conflict of Russian relief organizations will be settled by BIBERMAN, request BORIS INGSTER. Continuing surveillance discloses Subject in contact with FRANK TUTTLE, alleged important Communist Party member who resides near him; data on TUTTLE set out. Communist Party designation of BIBERMAN and JOHN HOWARD LAWSON as in charge "Intellectuals and Motion Picture Comrades" cited. Confidential Informant describes LAWSON as leading U. S. Communist who has long advocated that "revolution should come here even with bloodshed if necessary". BIBERMAN's complete record of Communist front activities set out; Custodial Detention Memoranda on BIBERMAN and LAWSON submitted.]</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>YES (u)</i> <i>YES (u)</i></p>			
<p>DECLASSIFIED BY <i>SP-8 Mue/ndc</i> ON <i>2-21-95</i> <i>(JTB)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">- P -</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED CONFIDENTIAL	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		<p>100-370750-✓</p> <p>NOT RECORDED 82 AUG 2 1966</p>	
<p>5 - Bureau</p> <p>2 - New York</p> <p>2 - Los Angeles</p>			

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Lincoln Brigade members in Spain, he is now closely associated with them and is active in Communist Party work. The same Informant states that MARCUS lives at TUTTLE'S home and has stated that he could have married TUTTLE'S daughter, aged 17. TUTTLE was associated with BIBERMAN in sponsoring the Motion Picture Democratic Committee and the Hollywood League for Democratic Action, former Communist front organizations; and he is described by various Informants as a rabid Communist. Dr. FRANK KNOWLIN, proprietor of a West Hollywood hospital has advised that he has personally attended parties at the TUTTLE residence, to which prominent Hollywood personages were invited. Russian entertainers performed at these parties and Russian motion pictures were shown. The parties usually lasted all night, and as the guests left, they were usually presented for signature with a check drawn on their own banks in sums ranging as high as \$1,000.00, "for the cause." The Informant stated that it was a matter of common knowledge that these checks were for the Communist Party, though he was not certain as to the identities of the payees of the checks.

Various Informants have advised that TUTTLE was concerned with the making of a motion picture alleged to depict the horrors and sufferings of modern warfare, and which was financed by TUTTLE to the extent of \$2,100.00. In connection with the making of the picture, which was described by the Informants as pacifist in nature and aimed at the American preparedness program, one of the associates of TUTTLE was overheard to say, "By the time we get this picture out, the Government will have us either in Leavenworth Penitentiary or in a concentration camp."

TUTTLE was described by JOHN L. LEECH, a former Communist Party organizer and member of the Communist Party State Executive Committee in sworn testimony before a Grand Jury as an active organizer for the advancement of the Communist cause.

As of interest to this investigation, attention is invited to a letter from the Denver Field Division to all Field Divisions and the Bureau, dated August 11, 1941. Accompanying said letter was a memorandum entitled, "Communist Party Set-Up." This purported to be a list of revisions in the Communist Party set-up nationally, and it was obtained by Denver Confidential Informant Dr. 57, from a source which that Informant described as the Communist Party letter received by JAMES ALLANDER, District Organizer of the Communist Party, District #19, Denver, Colorado. The memorandum recited changes in personnel and office addresses in Communist Party Districts 1 to 23, and in connection with District #13, California and Nevada, it contained the following statement: "JOHN HOWARD LAWSON with HERBERT BIBERMAN will be in control of the Intellectuals and Motion Picture Comrades in the Hollywood area."

It is recalled that the Bureau letter of August 7, 1941.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
67143-19158

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

"scheduled speaker at the University of California Peace Strike, sponsored by a Communist group.

"BIBERMAN was, as early as November 1, 1938, a member of the Hollywood Anti-Nazi League.

"Confidential Informant LA-28 advised that BIBERMAN is connected with the Southern California Union for Concerted Peace Efforts, together with a woman named ELIZABETH McMANUS, at 6305 Yucca Avenue, Los Angeles.

"The Western Worker, a Communist Party publication, issue of March 22, 1937, page 3, indicates that HERBERT BIBERMAN is a member of the Executive Board of the Motion Picture Artists Committee, which filmed a Red picture. The Western Worker, issue of June 13, 1937, indicates that BIBERMAN attended a San Francisco symposium on 'Nazism versus Democracy'.

"The People's World, the successor to the Western Worker, in the May 25, 1938 issue, page 2, reported BIBERMAN a member of the Sponsoring Committee of the Hollywood Citizen News Strike.

"(The foregoing is taken from the file entitled, 'HERBERT BIBERMAN, ET AL.; Internal Security; 100-13.)

"Extracts from the September 15 and 22, 1937, issues of 'Hollywood Now', the official publication of the Hollywood League for Democratic Action, reflect that HERBERT BIBERMAN is a member of the National Board of the American Union for Concerted Peace Efforts, and that he is active in the Union's various efforts. The Union, in seeking an effective peace policy for the United States, sponsored a mass meeting on September 15, 1939, to bring together active Congressional District workers from both major parties with a view to winning Congressional support for 'genuine American neutrality during this war period.' (It is interesting to note that BIBERMAN later resigned from the Union when it changed its name and became pro-British.) (61-76-54; German Activities in the United States.)

"In May 1940, Confidential Informant SP-1 reported that HERBERT BIBERMAN was one of the sponsors of the Anti-Preparedness Meetings at the University of California at Los Angeles and the City College at Los Angeles during the latter part of May 1940. Informant described BIBERMAN as a 'Hollywood producer and member of the Committee for Democratic Action; Communist Party, Hollywood Section; The Yanks are not Coming Committee; and the Keep Out of War Committee.' (61-375-14, page 33; Communist Party, U.S.A., 15th District; Registration Act; report of Special Agent R. L. KING dated 9/1/40 at San Francisco.)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

61-76-54-10157

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

"During the summer of 1940, Confidential Informant SF-1 reported that while in the vicinity of Long Beach and Ocean Park, in an effort to get the reaction of the Communists in that area to the activity of the FBI, he had spoken to HERBERT BIBERMAN, and in response to leading questions BIBERMAN stated, 'You know, comrade, those fellows of the FBI are not bad fellows; after all, they are following the instructions they get from that cocktail drinker, J. EDGAR HOOVER; that's the fellow who stirs up all the trouble, not the second fiddlers, but we are going to get rid of him right soon. You know we have a lot of friends in Washington and that's what is going to happen to the great detective.' The informant also stated that BIBERMAN, in explanation of the statement, 'cocktail drinker', said that he happened to know that HOOVER, WALTER WINCHELL, and a few others of the New York and Washington cocktail lounge patrons are making a big show of patriotism while in those places, and that ADAM LAPIN, the Communist writer in Washington, D. C., is having these big shots shadowed and that before long, BIBERMAN emphasized, these people are going to be exposed with photographs and many other corroborating proofs. According to informant, BIBERMAN also stated that LAPIN's knowledge of what goes on in Washington will be the basis of a great book which will be in the hands of the American people at the proper time. (61-375-15, page 19; Communist Party, U.S.A., 13th District; Registration Act; report of Special Agent R. L. KING dated 9/7/40 at San Francisco.)

"A letter to the Bureau dated June 7, 1940, reflects that this office received two pamphlets from an anonymous source entitled, 'Chamberlain-Count us Out', and 'Let's Skip the Next War', which pamphlets contain information that additional copies may be obtained from Hollywood Peace Forum, 6413 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, California, the officers of which are listed as HERBERT BIBERMAN, Chairman, JOHN WEXLEY, Vice Chairman, and GUY ENDORF, Secretary, Treasurer. The Bureau, in a letter dated July 22, 1940 furnished the information that a review of the Bureau's files reflected that HERBERT BIBERMAN is a former director of the Theater Guild in Los Angeles, was one of the original signers of the Declaration of Democratic Independence, which was addressed to the President to end economic connections with Germany; that he spoke at the rally of movie stars, the purpose of which was to send aid to Spain. The Daily Worker is given as the source of this information. BIBERMAN also represented the Hollywood Anti-Nazi League in a speech before the Congress of the American League for Peace and Democracy in 1939, at which time he spoke against MARTIN DIES. (65-1902; Hollywood Peace Forum.)

"The Socialist Call of September 14, 1940, on page 7, reported that HERBERT BIBERMAN, one of the members of the 'Cultural Front' of the American Peace Mobilization, is one of the old stand-bys in Communist front organizations. (100-0-5722.)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

"The file contains a five-page mimeographed article entitled, 'He Who Kicks Himself Shall Die', based on a speech delivered to the Hollywood Peace Forum by HERBERT BIBERMAN. The content of the article and the theme are gathered from several prefacing paragraphs, a part of which is quoted as follows: 'This is not written for imperialists. If you can calm down from your nervousness over Germany's invasion of America at some future time and give a little attention to a very real invasion taking place right now upon your home, and not by foreigners but by American imperialists - then perhaps you will, be it ever so little, unkid yourself.'

"ROBERT V. REILLY, Chairman, Americanism Committee, Veterans Service League, submitted a report dated June 5, 1940, which reflects that on May 30, 1940, HERBERT BIBERMAN spoke at the Bay Cities Woman's Peace Council, Eagle Hall, 2823 1/2 Main Street, Ocean Park, California, on the topic, 'The Yanks Aren't Coming'. At this meeting, BIBERMAN admitted that he organized a movement against war and preparedness among the high schools, colleges and women's groups of the state. As usual, he accused the press of preparing to plunge this country into war.

"The same report reflects that HERBERT BIBERMAN, Chairman of the Hollywood Peace Forum, organized 'The Yanks Are Not Coming Club of Santa Monica, California', which club met every Thursday night at 115 Arizona Avenue, Santa Monica, California. (61-79-191 and 353; Communist File - General.)

"Confidential Informant LA-20 submitted, under date of June 8, 1940, a report covering the Peace Assembly at the Los Angeles City Hall steps, followed by a meeting at the Olympic Auditorium on the evening of the same date. It was estimated that 10,000 to 16,000 persons gathered at the City Hall steps and the assemblage was described as a typical rabble-rousing Communist gathering. Everywhere in evidence were the usual slogans and banners and posters typical of the Communist Party group. Mayor FLETCHER BOWRON of Los Angeles, when he took the speaker's stand, was roundly applauded, but when he launched into a tirade denouncing Communism, Naziism and Fascism, he was greeted with rounds of 'boos'. HERBERT BIBERMAN introduced Mayor BOWRON to the gathering.

"At the subsequent meeting at the Olympic Auditorium, where approximately 6,000 people gathered, a lengthy and carefully planned program for the organization of the Peace Crusade was launched. HERBERT BIBERMAN was the principal speaker and offered a proclamation to be sent to the President. It was he who outlined the organization of the Peace Crusade and exhorted all to stimulate the movement so that the Peace Crusade will be the first aid to American peace. One informant

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

60143-10157

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

"described BIBERMAN as one of the most menacing figures in local revolutionary ranks today, by reason of the smooth manner, his unquestionable brilliance of mind, his quick thinking, his pleasant personality, and that quality which makes him equal to any exigency. BIBERMAN warned the crowd that the present war hysteria is endangering American civil liberties and that the talk of the fifth column was an attack on labor; that the threat to deport HARRY BRIDGES and the organization of the Red Squad in Los Angeles were examples of the growing threat.

"OSCAR FUSS, Los Angeles President of the Workers Alliance and a member of the Communist Party, was also present at the demonstration at the City Hall and the subsequent meeting at the Olympic Auditorium, FUSS was prominent with the leaders, HERBERT BIBERMAN, GUY ENDORE, SAM ORNITZ, and JOHN STAPP. (61-529-44; confidential reports of Confidential Informant L.A. 20. 62-1937-4, 5. 61-553-30; Workers Alliance of Calif.; memorandum dated 11/9/40.)

"On June 9, 1940, Confidential Informant SF-1 reported that HERBERT BIBERMAN is on the Los Angeles Peace Ballot Committee, and he described him as the Communist chairman of the Hollywood Peace Forum. (61-375-15, page 40; Communist Party, U.S.A., 13th District; Registration Act; report of Special Agent R. L. King dated 9/7/40 at San Francisco.)

"Confidential Informant LA-20 submitted a report covering the Hollywood Town Meeting sponsored by the Hollywood Peace Forum at the Embassy Auditorium, Los Angeles, on June 21, 1940. An announcement of the meeting appeared in the People's World of June 21, 1940, page 5. Participants were: GUY ENDORE, Chairman, HERBERT BIBERMAN, SAM ORNITZ, and PROFESSOR HERBERT ALEXANDER, Speakers. BIBERMAN attacked President Roosevelt's appointment of a National Defense Council of Industrialists and Monopolists, stating that they did not represent the people. BIBERMAN in his talk reviewed his work for the past two or three years in the peace movement. He claimed that he was a sort of organizer for the election of President Roosevelt and worked for him constantly, and that he had gone back East to help organize the American Union for Concentrated Peace Efforts in New York. A year ago as a result, National Security and Peace Week was held throughout the country under the auspices of the Union for Concentrated Peace Efforts. He claimed that he stood by ROOSEVELT until he began to help the Allies. BIBERMAN pointed out that in the meantime the American Union for Concentrated Peace Efforts had become the Committee to Aid the Allies and is backed by the League of Nations. He attacked the Committee to Aid the Allies and urged all to support the one and only peace organization, the American Peace Crusade. BIBERMAN was, until his resignation, a member of the National Committee or Board of the American Union for Concentrated Peace Efforts. (100-1972-1; Communistic Front Activities, from Confidential Informant LA-19.)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~