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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : The Director

DATE: 8/20/47

FROM : D. M. Ladd

SUBJECT: JOHN HOWARD LAWSON

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

Pursuant to your request, there is attached hereto a memorandum summarizing the pertinent information contained in the Bureau's files relative to the subject, a leading playwright in Hollywood, California, and for the past several years the leader of all activities of the Communists in the intellectual and cultural fields in the Hollywood area.

JOHN HOWARD LAWSON

This is a complete summary & a check of all references on Lawson

EJP;mae

Attachment

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SUMMARY

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II. EVIDENCE OF LAWSON'S COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERSHIP

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A. Direct Evidence of Membership

Testifying before the Joint Fact-Finding Committee, California Legislature, in the fall of 1944, Lawson, under oath, denied that he was a member of the Communist Party. However, a highly reliable and delicate confidential source, whose reliability has been well established, but whose admissibility in Court may be somewhat doubtful, has definitely identified Lawson as a member of the Communist Party for the last twelve years. According to this source, Lawson was first a member of Branch K of the North West Section of the Los Angeles County Communist Party until that branch was reorganized in June, 1943, at which time he was transferred to Branch A-3 (writers' branch) of the North West Section and held 1943 Communist Party Book #30198.

This very reliable source also stated that Lawson enrolled in the Communist Political Association and was assigned 1944 CPA Card 41850, and on December 10, 1944, according to the source, was again registered for the CPA and was issued 1945 CPA Card 47275. In the Communist Political Association, Lawson reportedly was assigned to the special group which was also known as Group #9 and was a member of the commission which was the governing body of the Communist movement in the motion picture industry which replaced the North West Section's Executive Committee. Lawson, according to the source, served on the commission for three years.

It was further stated by this source that when the Communist Party, USA, was reorganized to replace the Communist Political Association, Lawson was assigned to the Davis Club and was issued 1946 Communist Party Book #35392. This source made available Lawson's 1946 registration card which reflects that he was 50 years of age, a writer in the motion picture industry, of American-Jewish descent, and that he had been in the Communist Party for twelve years. This source has also identified Lawson's wife, Sue Lawson, as a member of the Communist Party and is in a position to document the branches to which she has belonged.

William Hynes (IA-3), a discontinued paid confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office, has identified Lawson as a member of the Communist Party in 1941 and has stated that Lawson is a "CP member, a playwright, and the leader of the CP fraction among the artists of all varieties in Hollywood".

In a sworn statement which Rena Vale gave to the Joint Fact-Finding Committee, California Legislature, more commonly known as the Tenney

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Committee, she identified John Howard Lawson as a member of the Communist Party. She stated that he was active in Communist circles in Hollywood when she was in the Communist Party and that in Communist meetings, Lawson had stated that Communist propaganda must be integrated into all screen plays.

On August 8, 1944, Walter Wanger, a Movie Producer, stated that he definitely knew that John Howard Lawson was a Communist. This source stated that a few days before he had contacted Lawson to see if he was available to write a screen play to which Lawson replied he was hesitant to work for Wanger for fear it might cast some reflection on him. This source quoted Lawson as stating, "I am a Communist".

Joseph Nathaniel Earl, Confidential Informant of the Los Angeles Office, advised that he talked to John Howard Lawson on July 25, 1945, at which time Lawson stated that if he were called as a witness before the State Un-American Activities Committee, he believed he would admit to them that he was a member of the Communist Political Association. (S)U

On March 1, 1947, Ben Kadish, a confidential source of the Los Angeles Office, and a former member of the Communist Party, advised that he recalled John Howard Lawson's attending Communist meetings. This source was in the Communist Party from September, 1943, through December, 1945, and for a time was in Branch A-3, which was the same branch to which Lawson belonged.

B. Attendance at Communist Party Meetings

During the time that Lawson has been in Los Angeles, he has been identified as having attended numerous meetings at which all of those identified as being present were known Communists, according to a highly reliable and delicate confidential source. In those cases where the highly reliable and delicate confidential source was not in a position to identify the particular person as a Communist, the source that can so identify the person is mentioned. There are set forth hereinafter several examples of this character of meetings which Lawson attended.

On February 7, 1943, Agents of the Bureau observed Alexander Trachtenberg, head of International Publishers and a member of the National Committee, Communist Party, USA, met with John Howard Lawson, Albert Maltz and Jane Wallace, Educational Director of the Los Angeles County Communist Party, at the Melody Lane Restaurant, Wilshire Boulevard and Detroit Avenue, at 12:45 p.m. Trachtenberg is known to be a member of the Communist Party through official publications of that organization.

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On April 12, 1943, Agents of the Bureau observed John Howard Lawson; Philip M. Connelley, CIO Official and Carl Winter, Chairman of the Los Angeles County Communist Party, enter the home of Max Silver, organizational secretary of the Los Angeles County Communist Party, 5138 Maplewood Avenue, Los Angeles. [Elsie Monjar, a member of the Communist Party and a paid confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office, has identified Connelley, Winter and Silver as being members of the Los Angeles County Communist Party.] (u)

On October 4, 1943, Special Agents of the Bureau observed Max Silver, Organizational Secretary of the Los Angeles County Communist Party, pick up John Howard Lawson at Sunset and Cahuenga in Los Angeles, and proceed to the home of David Grant, 827 East 21st Street. Carl Winter, head of the Communist Party in Los Angeles, was observed in attendance at this meeting. As indicated above, Silver and Winter have been identified as Communists [by confidential informant Elsie Monjar]. David Grant is a [u] known Communist, by virtue of information furnished by former confidential paid informant Al Katz, a former member of the Communist Party.

On March 14, 1944, Special Agents of the Bureau observed Lawson, accompanied by Max Silver, then Administrative Secretary of the CP, enter the home of David Grant, 827 East 21st Street, Los Angeles, California. These Agents also noted that Carl Winter, Executive Secretary of the Party; Jane Wallace, County Educational Director of the Party; Pettis Perry, County Chairman and Helen Allison, County Membership Director of the Party, were also in attendance. Silver, Grant and Winter have previously been identified as known Communists. Wallace, Perry and Allison have been identified as being members of the Communist Party by former confidential informant Al Katz, a former member of the Communist Party.

Special Agents of the Bureau on May 2, 1944, observed John Howard Lawson, Elizabeth Leach and Marjorie Fiske, Organizer and Executive Secretary respectively, enter the home of Sam Moore, 314 South Murfield Road, to attend a reception given for James Ford, Negro, of the National Committee of the Communist Party, U.S.A. Pettis Perry, Negro, Chairman of the Los Angeles County Communist Party was also observed in attendance at this reception. Leach, Fiske and Perry have been identified as being functionaries of the Communist Party by former confidential informant Al Katz. Literature publicly disseminated by the Communist Party has identified James Ford with that organization.

On September 24, 1944, Agents of the Bureau observed Lawson enter the home of Carl Winter and also observed Elizabeth Leach and Jane Wallace, both of whom are Communist functionaries, in attendance at this surprise birthday party for Carl Winter. Testifying before the California Un-American Activities Committee, Lawson admitted attending this affair given in honor of Carl Winter, who was then the head of the Los Angeles County Communist Party. Winter, Leach and Wallace have previously been identified as functionaries of the Communist Party.

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On January 8, 1945, a Special Agent of the Bureau observed Elizabeth Leach, Communist functionary, accompanied by Carl Winter who was then head of the Communist Party in Los Angeles, enter a meeting at the home of John Howard Lawson, 4245 Coldwater Canyon, Los Angeles.

On April 11, 1945, Special Agents of the Bureau observed Carl Winter; William Schneiderman, California State Communist Political Association President; John Howard Lawson; Miriam Brooks, Communist Party functionary; Jane Wallace, Communist Party functionary; Pettis Perry, Communist Party functionary; and Wyndham Mortimer in attendance at a County Board meeting of the Communist Party which was held at the home of County Labor Chairman, F. Kadish, 938 South Kingsley Drive, Los Angeles. Brooks, Mortimer and Kadish have been identified as Communist Party functionaries by former confidential informant Al Katz. On May 30, 1945, Special Agents of the Bureau conducted a surveillance at the home of John Howard Lawson, 4245 Coldwater Canyon, and observed Elizabeth Leach, Communist Party functionary, Ned Sparks, head of the Communist Party in Los Angeles and Max Silver, formerly the Administrative Secretary of the Party in Los Angeles, enter Lawson's home. [Elsie Monjar, a confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office, has identified Ned Sparks as a Communist functionary.] (S)(u)

On March 30, 1946, Samuel Davenport Russell, an active paid confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office, advised that a meeting of the financial directors of the various clubs in the Hollywood Section of the Los Angeles County Communist Party was to be held at the home of Hannah Schwartz, 2076 Paramount Avenue in Los Angeles on the evening of the same date. Special Agents of the Bureau conducted a surveillance at this address and observed John Howard Lawson in attendance at this meeting.

On September 9, 1946, Special Agents of the Bureau identified John Howard Lawson, Max Weiss, National Educational Director of the Communist Party, Frank Carlson, State Educational Director of the Communist Party, John Stapp, Communist Party functionary and Charles Glenn, Communist Party functionary as having entered the home of Abe Polonsky at 8071 Selma, Los Angeles, on this date.

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III. OTHER EVIDENCE OF LAWSON'S COMMUNIST AFFILIATION

In July, 1941, a memorandum was furnished to the Chicago Field Office by Colonel Walter L. Furbershaw, a representative of the Carnegie Illinois Steel Company, which cited meetings of the National Committee Plenary Sessions of the Communist Party on June 28 and 29, 1941, in New York City. It was stated in the memorandum that those definitely known to have been present were William Z. Foster; James W. Ford; Alexander Bittelman and numerous other high ranking Communist leaders. The memo further related that John Howard Lawson attended these national meetings as a delegate from California and there is a notation to the effect that Lawson had been in New York for the previous few months in connection with theater work.

In October, 1941, Howard Emmett Rogers, c/o Metro Goldwyn Mayer Studios, Culver City, California, a temporary confidential national defense informant of the Los Angeles Office, advised that John Howard Lawson was one of the leading Communists in the United States. He stated that on an occasion approximately four years previous, when he was at the Clover Club in Hollywood, he met Lawson and drank with him during the evening. He said on this occasion Lawson talked of the purge that took place in Russia and the mass slaughter of the Kulacks. The source advised that Lawson stated to him that he hoped the revolution would come here without bloodshed, but that it would come "even with bloodshed if necessary". The same source stated that two years following this incident, he attended a debate at the Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood where Lawson stated publicly that everything should be done to avoid bloodshed and that under no circumstances should this country get into war. Rogers related that he got on his feet at this meeting and recalled to Lawson his conversation concerning the revolution referred to heretofore and asked Lawson how he could justify such an inconsistency. Lawson, according to the informant, turned to the audience and stated that this was a typical example of Hollywood red-baiting and refused to answer the question put to him.

On November 15, 1941, former confidential informant Harry J. Pfalsgraff of the Chicago Office, advised the Communist Party was in the process of realigning its Districts throughout the country as well as reorganizing its structural set-up. He said that District #13 was to include all of the States of California and of Nevada. According to the source it was to have centralized offices at 121 Haight Street, San Francisco, and another at Los Angeles. The San Francisco Office was to be headed by Steve Nelson. Further, Betty Gannett is the Organizational Secretary of District #13 and John Howard Lawson and Herbert Biberman will control the organizational work in the Hollywood Area, according to the informant.

In December, 1941, Mr. Verne Tompkins, 71 Eggert Avenue, Metuchen, New Jersey, publisher of the Daily Farmers' Digest, stated that Kathryn Burke, Chief Director of Courier operations, was the contact for the Communist Party in Mexico City and that she reported directly to Gale Sondergaard,

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"July 22, 1943

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"Northwest Section
Communist Party
Los Angeles, California

Att: Jack (John Howard Lawson)

"Dear Comrade:

"On behalf of our County Committee, and I am sure of our whole membership, I wish to express enthusiastic appreciation of the contribution to the success of the July 18th Foster meeting by the cultural workers who made possible the dramatic presentation that evening.

"We wish, through the Section Committee, to convey these sentiments to all who participated, especially to the authors. Comrades Maurice (Clark) and Adrian (Scott), and to Comrades Herbert (Biberman) and Elliot (Sullivan, also known as Eli Solomon) whose creative effort and tireless work helped so much to put across the message of the entire rally - to hold the home front and strengthen national unity for victory.

"Comradely yours,

Carl Winter, Secretary
Los Angeles County Committee
Communist Party"

In a report of the Military Intelligence Division dated February 24, 1944, a list of delegates to the enlarged National Committee sessions of the Communist Party held at the Stuyvesant Casino, 9th Street and 2nd Avenue, New York City, appeared, as shown in the official minutes, the name of John Howard Lawson, playwright appeared in this list.

In 1944, a highly confidential source* advised that Lawson continued to pay the salary of Marjorie J. Potts, a full-time paid functionary of the Northwest Section of the Los Angeles County Communist Party, being Organizational Secretary and Membership Director thereof. Lawson paid her, according to the source, \$32.50 per week. It is noted that Marjorie Potts admitted to Al Katz, a former confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office, that Lawson paid her salary as if she were his secretary although she did nothing but Communist Party work. (S)(u)

On July 25, 1945, Joseph Nathaniel Earl, former confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office, advised that John Howard Lawson told him (S)(u)

[*Technical Surveillance on the residence of John Howard Lawson. (S)(u)]

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On March 26, 1946, Harvey Gilbert Wolf, a confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office pointed out that the Rankin Committee had announced it would discontinue its investigation of Communism in the motion picture industry and that he had learned that as a result of this, Lawson was again planning to assume active leadership of the Communist movement in the motion picture industry. This informant stated that he felt Lawson had been "laying low" during the time Rankin's investigators had been in Hollywood, but that in discussing Lawson with members of the Communist Party, he had ascertained that Lawson was scheduled to reappear as leader of the Communist movement in the industry.

On July 24, 1946, W. R. Wilkerson, Editor of the Hollywood Reporter, bitterly criticized Lawson as a member of the Communist Party and stated that John Leech, former Secretary of the Communist Party for Los Angeles County, testified before the Los Angeles County Grand Jury that Lawson was sent to Hollywood to organize and lead the Communist movement in the motion picture industry by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of New York.

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IV. GENERAL COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES

Hugo Speier, a confidential informant of the Denver Field Office, advised that John Howard Lawson in 1941 was appointed co-leader with Herbert Biberman of the Communists in the intellectual and motion picture industry in the Hollywood area.

The November 9, 1943, issue of "New Masses" contained a full page article announcing that John Howard Lawson had been made a member of the Board of Contributing Editors of New Masses. This article quotes Lawson as saying the following with regard to this publication:

"I read New Masses for two reasons: first, because it is a valuable source of information; second, because it is equally valuable for its editorial comment and analysis. Almost every issue offers vital factual material which cannot be found elsewhere. Today, as never before, the American people want facts--because they realize that the knowledge of facts is indispensable for winning the war. They are heartily sick of the corruption and distortion in much of the commercial press. New Masses gives us facts, and it interprets facts in terms of a consistent philosophy of democratic action and purpose. I hope the magazine can reach a much wider circle of readers because I am convinced that a bigger circulation for this periodical will help us win the war."

On January 13, 1944, an article appeared in the "Daily Worker" beneath the photograph of John Howard Lawson in which he is quoted as stating:

"Greetings to the Daily Worker on your 20th Anniversary. As I look back over the years, it seems to me that the Daily Worker has been consistently invaluable as a source of accurate news and a journal of progressive informed opinion. There is no other American newspaper which has done such a fine job in effective news coverage and editorial service to the American people and the American nation.

"I hope the Daily Worker's circulation and influence will increase tremendously. If it increases in proportion to its merit, it will reach millions of people".

A highly confidential source (technical surveillance on Carl Winter, Executive Secretary of the Communist Political Association, Los Angeles County) advised that on July 22, 1944, Robert W. Kenny, former Attorney General of the State of California and then Chairman of the California delegation to the National Democratic Convention in Chicago, communicated with Ellenore Abowitz, Assistant State CIO Legislative Director and a known Communist Party member in the Los Angeles area, Kenny, who

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was in Chicago at this time, advised Abowitz that he would arrive in Los Angeles by plane the following day and requested that she arrange a conference for him with about five of the "right people". Abowitz, according to the source, immediately conferred with Carl Winter, Executive Secretary of the Communist Political Association of Los Angeles County, concerning this matter. Subsequently a surveillance by Agents of the Los Angeles Office reflected that this meeting was actually held on Sunday, July 23, 1944, at the home of Ellenore Abowitz with six people in attendance. These persons included, in addition to R. W. Kenny, Carl Winter, previously identified; Paul Cline, ex-Secretary of the Communist Party in Los Angeles County; Joseph Aidlin, member of the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party in Los Angeles, and John Howard Lawson. (S)(u)

It was also reported by this highly reliable source* that in June, 1945, Doretta Tarmon, field representative of the New Masses, known Communist publication, and Joe Foster, film critic for the New Masses, came to Los Angeles from New York City to organize New Masses Benefit Rallies. It was stated that both of these individuals held conferences with John Howard Lawson. According to the source, an invitational benefit for the New Masses was held at the home of Frank Tuttle, Movie Director, 6217 Rock Cliff Drive, Hollywood, on June 9, 1945, it being pointed out by Manuel Seff, a confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office, that the meeting was by invitation only, that over \$3,000 was raised at the meeting and that John Howard Lawson was one of those he recognized in attendance. (S)(u)

In August, 1945, a highly reliable confidential source* reported that Lawson has been working on a book of American history for the past couple of years. The source stated that the book was in its final stages and had been typed into script and had been criticized by various people including leaders of the Communist Political Association in Los Angeles, among them, Carl Winter, head of the Los Angeles CPA. The source also said that inquiries concerning it had also been made by Alex Trachtenberg, former National Educational Director of the Communist Party, and currently a member of the National Committee of the Communist Party. The source indicated that since the change in the CP Line as a result of the Duclos article, Lawson has indicated that he was going to take six months off from his studio to revise the book. He also told the informant that the change in the Communist Party Line necessitated practically a complete revision of the book's viewpoint. (S)(u)

[*Technical Surveillance on the residence of John Howard Lawson.] (S)(u)

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future expulsion at this time on controversial issues; this is factional, rather than my response to published and broadcast material. However I am also convinced that this was merely a loose way of talking to impress me with your seriousness, of which I was already impressed.

"Adding my personal regards, and the hope that not long from now we shall all be members of a functioning, militant, Marxist-Leninist vanguard party devoted to the interests of our nation, the peace of the world, and the liberation of mankind.

"Yours sincerely."

Subsequently, a highly confidential source (technical surveillance on residence of Bruce Minton) advised that Minton was very bitter against Lawson and had made it known that he was "out to get Lawson". This source indicated that Minton was of the opinion that the CPA in Hollywood was a closed corporation and that he had referred to Lawson as the "rabbi" of this group who ran it as a "tin god and in a dictatorial fashion". Similar repercussions regarding Lawson were reported by Harvey Gilbert Wolf, a confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office. Wolf advised that on August 1, 1945, he had occasion to talk with a friend who was a member of one of the cultural groups over which Lawson presided. He said that this person stated that the rank and file of the cultural groups were not satisfied with the revisionistic policies which Lawson and Elizabeth Glenn had followed during the previous year under the CPA set-up, and were desirous of getting rid of Lawson and Glenn as leaders. Wolf further revealed that his informant definitely stated that Lawson was the leader of the Communists in the cultural field and that he obtained the impression that Elizabeth Glenn was Lawson's underling in an organizational capacity. Wolf, a former member of the CPA, stated his informant was very bitter against Lawson and Glenn, not from a personal standpoint but from a Marxist standpoint inasmuch as Wolf's informant thought that Lawson and Glenn had misled the rank and file CPA members by their leadership and adherence to the theory of revisionism. [A practical example of what might have indicated a tendency toward change of Communist leadership in the motion picture industry was reported by a highly confidential source* who reported on July 19, 1945, that Lawson had just returned from San Francisco and admittedly had not been included in any inter-Party discussions of the motion picture strike, it being noted that the Communists, prior to the strike, had adhered to a position of not aiding the strike and had urged its workers to keep the no-strike policy of their unions. It is to be observed that in 1946 Richard Bransten and his wife, Ruth McKenny, were expelled from the Communist Party.] (S)(u)

[*Technical Surveillance on the residence of John Howard Lawson] (S)(u)

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VIII. ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- A. HOLLYWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE, later known as the HOLLYWOOD INDEPENDENT CITIZENS COMMITTEE OF THE ARTS, SCIENCES AND PROFESSIONS (HICCASP); succeeded by the PROGRESSIVE CITIZENS OF AMERICA

Harvey Gilbert Wolf, a confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office, advised that the Hollywood Democratic Committee was launched in January, 1943, by persons engaged in the motion picture industry, to obtain national, state and local legislation essential to victory; to clarify political issues and support candidates best fitted to serve the nation in wartime and to cooperate with other organizations "whose aims are similar to our own"; housing for defense workers, protection of labor's rights, child care, humane treatment of juvenile delinquents and the end of negro discrimination. The same source stated on February 15, 1944, that the aims and purposes and program of the Hollywood Democratic Committee had changed very materially. He indicated that its purposes had formerly been exclusively political, but that now through speeches, public advertisements and sham Americanism, it was attempting to enlist the support of non-suspecting citizens, under the guidance of the Committee, to exploit names of important individuals in the furtherance of the Communist Party line. This informant further stated that the program of the Hollywood Democratic Committee was not only parallel with that of the Communist Party Line but that the organization was dominated and inspired by persons of a Communist character.

It is observed that in June, 1945, the Hollywood Democratic Committee became a section of the Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions and that in 1946, it became known as the Progressive Citizens of America. It should also be noted that this organization was not connected with the Democratic Party.

The following information with respect to the activities of John Howard Lawson relative to the Hollywood Democratic Committee is set forth to illustrate the direction and control exerted over this organization by Lawson. The most pertinent information in this regard was reported to the Bureau by a highly confidential and reliable source*. (S)(u)

On March 4, 1943, it was ascertained by a confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office, Harvey Gilbert Wolf, that the Hollywood Democratic Committee was in its formative stages and a meeting of the group was scheduled at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel for that evening. This informant attended (S)(u)

[Technical Surveillance on residence of John Howard Lawson.] (S)(u)

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the meeting and a written report stated "before the meeting began, the following known Communists circulated among those present. They were acknowledged by the audience generally which for the most part, gathered around them, chatted and passed remarks which would indicate that they were well-known and in a sense looked up to." Among those named by the informant as being in this category were: John Howard Lawson and Herbert Biberman, together with other Hollywood Communists. The purpose of the meeting reportedly was to elect officers for the ensuing year and to adopt a constitution. According to the source, the Hollywood Democratic Committee "will undoubtedly develop into a powerful Communist Party pressure group in the near future. Using the war effort and the influence of powerful figures in the motion picture industry, this organization will have a tremendous influence in putting over the Communist Party Line in California." Further, the source continued, the Hollywood Democratic Committee is definitely a Communist "front" organization, and he asserted that John Howard Lawson was among those proposed at this meeting to be considered for the Executive Board. Lawson, according to the source, also was one of the eight persons who donated \$25 at the collection during the evening. (S)(u)

On February 10, 1944, the same source was present at a conference between John Howard Lawson and Revels Cayton, Negro Vice President of the California State CIO. According to the source, Cayton wanted Lawson to get Walter Wanger, Motion Picture Producer, to approach Helen Gahagan, wife of Melvyn Douglas, screen actor, to run for Congress in the 15th C. D. Lawson said he could not approach Wanger on it but that George Pepper, through the Hollywood Democratic Committee, could make the contact. This was only one of many conferences held concerning possible Congressional and State Legislature candidates, and on numerous occasions Lawson's direction and advice was sought by Hollywood Communists relative to possible candidates. (S)(u)

In 1944, Harvey Gilbert Wolf, a confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office, advised that the entire organizational strength of the Communist Party was being thrown into the local and national election campaigns and that the Hollywood Communists, Party line followers and sympathizers were engaged in this type of activity. He submitted the following report with respect to the Hollywood Democratic Committee:

"The Hollywood Democratic Committee, which has no official connection with the Democratic Party, but is the Communist front organization which attempts to speak for the industry politically and also for the Hollywood section generally, is raising the sum

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Hollywood Reporter for June 11, 1945, contained a full page advertisement listing the Executive Council of this new Committee, it being noted that John Howard Lawson was named as a member of the Council. (S)(u)

In August, 1945, a highly reliable informant* advised that Lawson was continuing his leadership in the Hollywood Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions. It was stated that George Pepper, Executive Secretary of the organization, continually obtained direction and counsel from Lawson concerning the strategy and policy of the group. The source further remarked that Lawson had been very active at this time in building up the late General Evans F. Carlson, USMC, as a possible candidate for U.S. Senator on the Democratic Ticket to fill the seat vacated by the late Senator Hiram Johnson. (S)(u)

On August 11, 1945, the same reliable source advised that there was some interest in having a State-wide meeting to announce Carlson's candidacy or at least to discuss it with the Democratic politicians from all over California. However, Lawson, according to the source, said that Philip Connolly, former President of the California State Industrial Union Council, CIO, and a known Communist [according to Elsie Monjar, a confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office,] was of the opinion that it was not time yet as Ed Pauley, National Treasurer of the Democratic Party and other forces would try to maneuver to get control of this meeting. On August 11, 1945, the same highly reliable source advised that Lawson was to handle a reception for Carlson to be given by Edward G. Robinson. It was indicated that the Warner Brothers, Motion Picture magnets and other "big wigs" were to be in attendance at this reception. It was also indicated by this source at the time that Orson Welles discussed with Lawson the chances of Carlson's winning the election. It was said that Welles promised Lawson all he could to assist Carlson's candidacy, although of the personal opinion that Carlson would be defeated. (S)(u)

On August 8, 1945, the highly reliable source* reported that the New York City organization of the Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions had continually sought a closer knit organization throughout the United States with a constitution, by-laws, in addition to representatives from various cities where branches were located. Lawson, according to the source, subtly fought a close knit organization and desired instead only the use of the Independent Citizens Committee's name, being of the opinion that the Hollywood Independent Citizens Committee should otherwise remain autonomous. In a conference with Pete Lyons, an employee of the Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions of New York City, according to the source, Lawson stated that a close knit (S)(u)

[Technical Surveillance on the residence of John Howard Lawson.] (S)(u)

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organization was premature and could not be done without discussion which discussion should be held at some time after the war. Lyon said the New York Office needed more money and Lawson reiterated the Hollywood Committee was very poor and did not desire to make any further commitments at the time. Lyon was anxious that the HICCASP send someone to Washington or New York to give Congressional leaders some tangible evidence of union between the National organization and the Hollywood Committee. The source indicated that Lawson agreed that this might be a good thing. (S)(u)

On December 4, 1945, according to a highly reliable source* the HICCASP held a rally, the theme of which was "Atomic Power and Foreign Policy". The official announcements described this affair as an attempt to make a realistic approach to the tremendous potentialities of atomic weapons and atomic energy. This rally called for international use and international control of atomic energy, and in this connection, the reliable informant pointed out that Lawson, through George Pepper, Executive Secretary of the HICCASP, carefully guided the program. It is interesting to observe that Ned Sparks, President of the Los Angeles County Communist Party, according to the informant, contacted Lawson regarding this program and stated that he felt more emphasis should be put upon American intervention in China inasmuch as that was the main part of the Communist line. Lawson reportedly agreed to this and stated that he would contact George Pepper to see that American intervention in China was given appropriate attention at this rally. (S)(u)

A highly confidential source* reported in September, 1946, that Lawson continued to be active in the affairs of the HICCASP and according to this source, he frequently conferred with its Executive Secretary, Alice Hunter; in fact, this source stated that on July 31, 1946, Hunter contacted Lawson and asked him if it was all right if the HICCASP issued a statement that they were not under the influence of the Communist Party. According to the informant, Lawson stated it would be all right if it were done "carefully and correctly". This informant further indicated Lawson attends most of the meetings of the Executive Council of the HICCASP and through close liaison with Hunter, continued to exert an influential rule in the policy of this organization. It is noted that shortly thereafter the HICCASP merged with the Progressive Citizens of America, described as a Communist-dominated group by Harvey G. Wolf, a confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office. (S)(u)

According to articles appearing in Los Angeles newspapers the Hollywood Arts, Sciences and Professions Council of the Progressive Citizens of America held a five-day conference at the Beverley Hills Hotel, commencing Wednesday evening, July 9, 1947. They announced the purpose of the conference

[*Technical Surveillance on the residence of John Howard Lawson.] (S)(u)

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B. HOLLYWOOD WRITERS MOBILIZATION

The Hollywood Writers Mobilization, according to Harvey Gilbert Wolf, a confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office, was formed very soon after the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, and was established by persons who were most active in the League of American Writers. According to information contained in reports of the Joint Fact-Finding Committee, California Legislature, based on information developed in connection with interviews conducted of Hollywood writers in October, 1944, the Hollywood Writers Mobilization was under the control of the Communists and had numerous contacts to supply the pictures which are being released in the liberated countries.

Confidential Informant Wolf advised that there was a close connection existing between the League of American Writers and the Hollywood Writers Mobilization.

The following data with respect to Lawson's connections with the Hollywood Writers Mobilization is set forth to illustrate the direction and control exerted over this organization by Lawson. [Most pertinent information developed relative to Lawson's control of this group was obtained by a highly reliable and confidential source*.] (S)(u)

In March, 1945, a highly confidential source* advised that there recently had been a strong difference of opinion between Robert Riskin, head of the Overseas Film Bureau, Office of War Information, New York, and Philip Dunne, head of the Los Angeles OWI Film Bureau, and this difference of opinion was concerned with scripts which had been submitted by the Hollywood Writers Mobilization. This source indicated that Sidney Buchman, Chairman of the Hollywood Writers Mobilization Editorial Board, discussed this matter with John Howard Lawson. Buchman advised that he had conferred with Riskin who informed him that Philip Dunne had gone overboard on the so-called "contrived" films (films based on fiction or so-called dramatic incidents). Dunne had apparently instructed the Hollywood Writers Mobilization group that this was the type of film OWI desired to produce. Following Dunne's instructions, according to the source, the Hollywood Writers Mobilization had gone ahead and done scripts of this type and as a result many of the scripts had been under fire by the New York Office of the OWI, where Riskin was in charge. It was further pointed out that Riskin was strong for documentary films since he felt a responsibility to the State Department, and further that misrepresentations were bound to arise out of dramatic incidents in the "contrived" films thus making them more "vulnerable". The source stated that both Lawson and Buchman agreed that this controversy between Dunne and Riskin would effect the Hollywood Writers Mobilization, which they control, since most of the scripts already completed would have to be redone. (S)(u)

[*Technical Surveillance on the residence of John Howard Lawson.] (S)(u)

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C. LEAGUE OF AMERICAN WRITERS

The League of American Writers, according to Harvey Gilbert Wolf, a confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office, was originated in Kharkov, Russia, in November, 1930, and in the United States in 1935. This informant indicated that the Hollywood Chapter of the League of American Writers was formed in the fall of 1935, the purpose being to bring the writers employed in the motion picture industry under the influence of the League of American Writers and the Communist Party, USA, it being pointed out that this League was the foremost front organization operating in the so-called cultural and intellectual fields.

The source stated that the Congress of American Revolutionary Writers formed the League of American Writers, it being pointed out that the latter organization was declared subversive by the Attorney General on May 5, 1942.

Additional information relative to the Communist character of the League of American Writers was set forth heretofore in connection with the Section entitled "Joint Fact-Finding Committee, California Legislature".

There is set forth hereinafter Lawson's connection with the League as well as data demonstrating the control and direction which he exerted over this organization. The most pertinent information in this regard was obtained from a highly confidential and reliable source*. (S)(u)

On March 25, 1939, an article appeared in the Peoples World entitled "Hollywood Writers ask Entry for German Exile". The article stated that the recently organized Hollywood Branch of the League of American Writers was taking the lead in demanding that the State Department permit the entry of Frederick Wolff, famous exiled German dramatist and film script writer. The wire sent to the State Department was signed by John Howard Lawson, among others.

In June, 1941, an article appeared in the Daily Worker entitled "Writers Open Congress with Peace Rally". It was stated that some of America's best known novelists, poets, artists and literary critics raised their voice against war and colonial oppression at the rally of the Fourth American Writers' Congress. John Howard Lawson was listed as being one of the speakers.

On December 28, 1941, Walter Teter, 4524 Cold Water Canyon Avenue North Hollywood, California, a confidential informant of the Los Angeles (S)(u)

[*Technical Surveillance on the residence of John Howard Lawson.] (S)(u)

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D. Connections with Other Organizations

The January, 1937, issue of the "Labor Defender" published monthly by the International Labor Defense, 80 East 11th Street, New York City, with William L. Patterson and Sasha Small as editors, listed John Howard Lawson as being on the Editorial Board. A highly confidential and delicate source in 1945 identified Sasha Small as a member of the then Communist Political Association.

In February, 1937, the formation of the American Society for Technical Aid to Spanish Democracy with temporary quarters at 31 East 27th Street, New York City, office of the New Masses, was announced by Waldo Frank, novelist and lecturer. The officers were listed as John Howard Lawson, Secretary, and William Browder, Treasurer.

In a letter dated December 3, 1938, issued by the National Committee for People's Rights, formerly the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, 216 Clark Building, Birmingham, Alabama, John Howard Lawson was listed as treasurer of the organization.

Confidential Informant W. H. Leathers, formerly an informant of the Atlanta Field Division, informed in July, 1941, that the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners and the International Labor Defense are both Communist front organizations and are closely associated and were created by the Party to handle and protect comrades who became involved with the law and also to seize upon those cases where the Party can secure publicity. According to the informant, the International Labor Defense has close contact with the workers and is usually operated by the middle class of people.

On the back of a pamphlet published in 1940 by the Jewish People's Committee, 100 Fifth Avenue, New York City, entitled "For United Action in the Struggle Against anti-Semitism and Fascism", appears a list of the sponsors of this organization. The name of John Howard Lawson is included. Monroe Steinberg, a confidential source of the New York Office has stated that the Jewish People's Committee is a Communist-inspired group.

In the Peoples Daily World for June 17, 1941, an article appears attacking the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the form of statements of various members of the Citizens Committee for Harry Bridges released by the Committee headquarters at 1265 Broadway, New York City. Included among individuals commenting on the conduct of the Bridges hearing and the activities of the FBI was John Howard Lawson, "playwright and screen writer".

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A confidential source (trash coverage on office of Labor Research Association, 80 East 11th Street, New York City) advised that John Howard Lawson was a sponsor of the Schappes Defense Committee which was founded in New York City in July, 1941, to raise funds for and help prosecute the defense of Morris U. Schappes former City College instructor who was sentenced to a prison term in the State Penitentiary for perjury arising out of a 1941 inquiry into Communism in educational institutions. The express purpose of the Committee as set forth in one of its pamphlets was "to help prosecute the legal defense, to acquaint the labor movement, the educational world and the general public with the issues involved in this case, to raise funds for the defense and to help Schappes support those dependent upon him."

On December 19, 1941, according to a highly confidential source* an unknown person contacted Lawson's wife to tell her of a very "pathetic telegram" received from Edward Barsky, head of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee, it being noted that Barsky was recently given a jail sentence for refusing to produce the records of the JAFRC for the House Un-American Activities Committee. According to the informant, this telegram read as follows:

"TRYING TO GET FIFTY ANTI-FASCIST PEOPLE ON THE LAST BOAT OUT OF LISBON. SEND MONEY AT GREATEST POSSIBLE SACRIFICE."

On January 16, 1943, a highly confidential source (technical surveillance on residence of Herbert Biberman) reported that Biberman was consulted concerning a letter issued by Mr. Kemnitz, National Secretary, National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, advising that this Committee was starting a campaign against the Dies Committee and wanted the Hollywood people to do something about it. Although the informant was unable to ascertain the name of the man with whom Biberman consulted on this date, it was determined by another highly confidential source* on January 18, 1943, that John Howard Lawson had directed Elizabeth Leach to pick up this letter from Biberman. It is noted that Elizabeth Leach was the Organizer of the Northwest Section, Los Angeles County Communist Party at the time. It should be noted that the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties was declared subversive by the Attorney General on July 31, 1941, in that it came within the purview of the Hatch Act. (S)(u)

On March 12, 1943, it was reported by Harvey Gilbert Wolf, a confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office, that Herbert Biberman, Gale Sondergaard, Edward Biberman and his wife Sonja Dahl, Mrs. Eva Biberman, Anthony Ellis and Hellen Ellis, his wife, would all attend the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee rally held at the Philharmonic Auditorium. It was pointed out that Sonja Biberman was the former Hollywood Chairman.

[*Technical Surveillance on the residence of John Howard Lawson.] (S)(u)

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to bear in this regard. During the conversation, according to the informant, it was pointed out that the Los Angeles Section of the Free World Association had not as yet revoked Point #1 of its Aims and Purposes. (S)(u)

The name of John Howard Lawson appeared as a sponsor on a circular distributed by the American Youth for Democracy, 1567 Broadway, Detroit, Michigan, dated December 20, 1945.

In November, 1945, according to a highly confidential source*, Lawson conferred several times with Mildred Raskin, Executive Secretary of the People's Educational Center, described as the organization created and dominated by the Communists to spread Communist philosophy, and these conversations made it clear that Lawson was becoming concerned over the \$3,000 or \$4,000 which he personally had guaranteed for this organization in the way of printing bills and incidental expenses. The same source indicated that Lawson felt that the organization was not going to be able to repay this money to him. During the same period, the same source was present when Lawson conferred with Waldo Salt, Communist screen writer, regarding ways and means of raising \$5,000 for the benefit of the People's Educational Center. Lawson also advised this informant that he was planning to take a hand in the reorganization of the staff of the People's Educational Center, commenting that he did not think that the personnel was organized in the most effective way. (S)(u)

According to a pamphlet issued by the Los Angeles Workers School, John Howard Lawson, together with Albert Maltz and other invited lecturers, were to be the instructors at the course entitled "The American Democratic Tradition", an eight-week course, tuition \$3. The course was to be given at the Unitarian Church, 2936 West 8th Street, Los Angeles. Of all the courses taught at the Workers School, according to this pamphlet, this was the only one not being taught at the Workers School proper, located at 212 West 3rd Street, Los Angeles. This course, according to the booklet, "will be a lecture course dealing with decisive periods in the history of our nation; the democratic conditions throughout the development of our people. Beginning with the colonial period, the course will trace the growth, problems and developments of the American tradition during the period of the Civil War and reconstruction; it will deal also with the agrarian populist movement, the First World War and the present war for national survival". It is to be noted that this is not the same course that was given by Lawson at the school for the League of American Writers entitled "Our Democratic Heritage". The Los Angeles Workers School, founded in 1939, according to the pamphlet, bases its studies on the various teachings "in social science...Marxism...the theory and practice of the working class and the people's movement throughout history". The entire Board of Directors of the Workers School are Communists, according to a confidential informant, Harvey Gilbert Wolf, who also indicated that this school is the educational plant for the Communists in Los Angeles County.

[*Technical Surveillance on the residence of John Howard Lawson.] (S)(u)

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The above referred to pamphlet also stated that recently, in a speech of three hours at the "People's Educational Center", John Howard Lawson made such statements as:

"American policy is the same as it was at Versailles; to destroy democracy wherever it appears."

"The Marxist theory is the only sound basis for history teaching."

"The voice of Byrnes is the voice of one of the most selfish monopolies in the world today."

The Daily People's World issue of September 19, 1946, carries an article that the Los Angeles Chapter of the National Negro Congress would convene on September 22, 1946, for a mass meeting called for the over all endorsement of the Fair Employment Practices Act. According to this article, John Tripp McTernan had been selected to lead a panel discussion on the topic "Police Brutality". A similar article was carried in the California Eagle, Negro newspaper published in Los Angeles by one Charlotta Bass, a prominent Communist Party line follower, reflecting that this National Negro Congress would meet at 4016 South Central Avenue on Sunday, September 22, 1946. Speakers listed at this meeting included John Howard Lawson, motion picture writer; Colonel James Roosevelt; Phillip M. Connelly; William Bidner, Executive Secretary of Mobilization for Democracy, and Albert Dekker, motion picture actor.

In November, 1946, E. F. Schneiders, a former confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office advised that John Howard Lawson was President of the Lincoln Community Book Center and that Waldo Salt, a known Communist, according to a highly delicate and reliable source, is Vice President. The informant also ascertained that the bank account of the Lincoln Community Book Center will substantiate Lawson's presidency [and another highly confidential source* has described this organization as the administrative apparatus for the Lincoln Book Shop which is operated by the Communist Party in Hollywood.] (S)(u)

Informant Schneiders, an employee of the Security First National Bank of Los Angeles, has advised that Lawson has contributed considerable sums of money to the following organizations, sometimes in the amount of over \$1,000 per month;

Hollywood Democratic Committee,
Hollywood Independent Citizens Committee of Arts, Sciences and
Professions,
People's Educational Center,

[*Technical Surveillance on the residence of John Howard Lawson.] (S)(u)

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"In the studio labor organization, the comrades had only mixed success. The painters' union went over to the side of the revolution. The Screen Writers' Guild joined the Popular Front, despite brave attempts of the Authors' League of America to wrest the Hollywood section from the Stalinist grip. In the furious fight against the 'fascists'--meaning anyone who objected to Communist domination--Donald Ogden Stewart acted as generalissimo with such fine lieutenants as Dudley Nichols, Frances Hackett, Humphrey Cobb, Dalton Trumbo, Irvin Shaw, Tess Slesinger, Sam Ornitz, Frank Scully, Oliver H. P. Garrett, Lillian Hellman, Boris Ingster, John Howard Lawson, Lester Cole, Joel Sayre, and Madaline Ruthven."

Discontinued Technical Surveillance on the American Youth for Democracy and Confidential Informant Richard V. Servidio advised that John Howard Lawson was one of the sponsors of a "second anniversary dinner" given by the American Youth for Democracy, a known Communist dominated group, on December 12, 1945, at the Hotel Roosevelt, New York City. The purpose of the dinner was "to welcome home discharged veterans, to pay tribute to the contributions of the young men and women of our armed forces and to dramatize the post-war problems of youth".

In March, 1945, the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, 205 East 42nd Street, New York City, issued a public statement in support of the army order making Communists and Communist Party sympathizers eligible for Army Commissions. It was stated that "the basic consideration is not the propriety of the man's opinions, but his loyalty to the United States". The statement of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties was endorsed by numerous people and the name of John Howard Lawson, playwright, Hollywood, appeared on this list. It is noted that the National Federation of Constitutional Liberties was declared subversive by the Attorney General in July, 1941.

According to the January 30, 1946, issue of the Daily Worker, Lawson was quoted as saying:

"I want very much to demonstrate with particular emphasis the role of the Negro in American life. Since our history has been written by white historians and since no influential ones have been from the South, the contribution of the Negro people and their leaders has been completely suppressed".

In this article, Lawson was described as "one of America's outstanding historians, author of the authoritative theater and technique of playwriting, and a successful screen writer".

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On February 7, 1947, according to a highly confidential source* Lou Harris, 4215 Troost Avenue, North Hollywood, California, a free lance writer and producer as well as a known Communist, contacted John Howard Lawson and told Lawson that he was leaving for England at the end of the month. The source advised that Lawson and Harris are close friends. In this same regard on February 14, 1947, another highly confidential source, (S) (microphone) surveillance on the Soviet Consulate Los Angeles, reported that Lou Harris called at the Russian Vice Consulate in Los Angeles and there met Eugene Pavlovich Tumansev, Soviet Consul. Harris and Tumansev talked for approximately one hour during which time Harris pointed out that the writers in the motion picture industry had a very difficult time presenting "progressive ideas" in their stories inasmuch as the producers were quick to delete them. Harris commented that he was leaving on February 26, 1947, for London from New York City on a business trip and asked Tumansev whether he should "wait and see what happens" or apply immediately for a visa to enter Poland. According to the informant, Harris and Tumansev appeared quite congenial and the latter evinced considerable interest in the motion picture industry. (S) (u)

[*Technical Surveillance on the residence of John Howard Lawson.] (S) (u)

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XIII. CRIMINAL RECORD

Harvey Gilbert Wolf, a confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office, stated that at a lecture in June, 1942, before a school of the League of American Writers, Lawson stated that on the day that Sacco and Vanzetti were executed in Massachusetts, August 27, 1927, he, Lawson had been arrested in Boston for picketing the State Capitol. With regard to this self-admitted arrest of Lawson, the informant stated that Lawson became a labor agitator many years ago and went to Birmingham, Alabama, to participate in a strike in the steel mills in that city in 1934. According to confidential informant Harvey Gilbert Wolf, Lawson was arrested on May 17, 1934, on a charge of criminal libel growing out of an article which was written by Lawson in the "Daily Worker", New York City Communist newspaper, defending a Communist organizer, Harold Rolston. It is observed that Lawson's FBI number is 3021790 and that his record in this regard reflects that he was arrested in Birmingham on May 17, 1934, by the Birmingham Police Department on the charge of being a Communist. He was released on the same day.

Officer Harless of the Birmingham Police Department related the following information with regard to the arrest of Lawson in Birmingham, Alabama, May 17, 1934. Harless said that he recalled that the police broke up a Communist meeting at which Lawson was present and that Lawson was then turned over to Officer J. T. Moser and Officer P. C. Cole who were handling Communist matters at the time for the Birmingham Police Department. In this connection Captain C. L. Mullens of the Birmingham Police Department stated that Lawson was defended by a lawyer named Harold Ralston from New York. He also recalled that a woman named Jane Speed, a well-known Communist organizer, was also present at the meeting at which Lawson was arrested. The records of the Birmingham Police Department further revealed the following information regarding Alexander E. Rascolin, reportedly also arrested with Lawson: "This man is an International Labor Defense Attorney from New York City. He was very active in 1934 and 1935 in Birmingham and was arrested by the Birmingham Police on May 17, 1934. While in Birmingham, he contacted several lawyers in an effort to secure their services in reading parts of the International Labor Defense. This man is very high in the Communist Party. His Birmingham police number is WM-26589".

The New York Times morgue contained two articles regarding the arrest of Lawson at Birmingham, Alabama. The first article dated July 6, 1934, reflected that Lawson was arrested on that date and released under bond of \$300 to appear in Recorder's Court the following day. The arrest followed a conference between Mr. Lawson and five other New Yorkers and W. O. Downs, Commissioner of Public Safety at City Hall. The article further revealed that on May 17, 1934, Lawson was taken into custody by police, fingerprinted, photographed and released. This article, referred to above, dated May 16, 1934, is also in the New York Times files. The charges, in connection with a publication that appeared in the Daily Worker in which a misdemeanor court

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The Director

8/20/47

D. M. Ladd

JOHN HOWARD LAWSON

Pursuant to your request, there is attached hereto a memorandum summarizing the pertinent information contained in the Bureau's files relative to the subject, a leading playwright in Hollywood, California, and for the past several years the leader of all activities of the Communists in the intellectual and cultural fields in the Hollywood area.

EJP:mae

Attachment

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-16-80 BY 9145 JFB/pjap
5668-540/mde 6-22-95 (JFK)

SECRET MATERIAL ATTACHED

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II. EVIDENCE OF LAWSON'S COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERSHIP

A. Direct Evidence of Membership

Testifying before the Joint Fact-Finding Committee, California Legislature, in the fall of 1944, Lawson, under oath, denied that he was a member of the Communist Party. However, a highly reliable and delicate confidential source, whose reliability has been well established, but whose admissibility in Court may be somewhat doubtful, has definitely identified Lawson as a member of the Communist Party for the last twelve years. According to this source, Lawson was first a member of Branch K of the North West Section of the Los Angeles County Communist Party until that branch was reorganized in June, 1943, at which time he was transferred to Branch A-3 (writers' branch) of the North West Section and held 1943 Communist Party Book #30198.

This very reliable source also stated that Lawson enrolled in the Communist Political Association and was assigned 1944 CPA Card 41850, and on December 10, 1944, according to the source, was again registered for the CPA and was issued 1945 CPA Card 47275. In the Communist Political Association, Lawson reportedly was assigned to the special group which was also known as Group #9 and was a member of the commission which was the governing body of the Communist movement in the motion picture industry which replaced the North West Section's Executive Committee. Lawson, according to the source, served on the commission for three years.

It was further stated by this source that when the Communist Party, USA, was reorganized to replace the Communist Political Association, Lawson was assigned to the Davis Club and was issued 1946 Communist Party Book #35392. This source made available Lawson's 1946 registration card which reflects that he was 50 years of age, a writer in the motion picture industry, of American-Jewish descent, and that he had been in the Communist Party for twelve years. This source has also identified Lawson's wife, Sue Lawson, as a member of the Communist Party and is in a position to document the branches to which she has belonged.

William Hynes (LA-3), a discontinued paid confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office, has identified Lawson as a member of the Communist Party in 1941 and has stated that Lawson is a "CP member, a playwright, and the leader of the CP fraction among the artists of all varieties in Hollywood".

In a sworn statement which Rena Vale gave to the Joint Fact-Finding Committee, California Legislature, more commonly known as the Tenney

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Committee, she identified John Howard Lawson as a member of the Communist Party. She stated that he was active in Communist circles in Hollywood when she was in the Communist Party and that in Communist meetings, Lawson had stated that Communist propaganda must be integrated into all screen plays.

On August 8, 1944, Walter Wanger, a Movie Producer, stated that he definitely knew that John Howard Lawson was a Communist. This source stated that a few days before he had contacted Lawson to see if he was available to write a screen play to which Lawson replied he was hesitant to work for Wanger for fear it might cast some reflection on him. This source quoted Lawson as stating, "I am a Communist".

Joseph Nathaniel Earl, Confidential Informant of the Los Angeles Office, advised that he talked to John Howard Lawson on July 25, 1945, at which time Lawson stated that if he were called as a witness before the State Un-American Activities Committee, he believed he would admit to them that he was a member of the Communist Political Association. (S)(u)

On March 1, 1947, Ben Kadish, a confidential source of the Los Angeles Office, and a former member of the Communist Party, advised that he recalled John Howard Lawson's attending Communist meetings. This source was in the Communist Party from September, 1943, through December, 1945, and for a time was in Branch A-3, which was the same branch to which Lawson belonged.

B. Attendance at Communist Party Meetings

During the time that Lawson has been in Los Angeles, he has been identified as having attended numerous meetings at which all of those identified as being present were known Communists, according to a highly reliable and delicate confidential source. In those cases where the highly reliable and delicate confidential source was not in a position to identify the particular person as a Communist, the source that can so identify the person is mentioned. There are set forth hereinafter several examples of this character of meetings which Lawson attended.

On February 7, 1943, Agents of the Bureau observed Alexander Trachtenberg, head of International Publishers and a member of the National Committee, Communist Party, USA, met with John Howard Lawson, Albert Maltz and Jane Wallace, Educational Director of the Los Angeles County Communist Party, at the Melody Lane Restaurant, Wilshire Boulevard and Detroit Avenue, at 12:45 p.m. Trachtenberg is known to be a member of the Communist Party through official publications of that organization.

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On April 12, 1943, Agents of the Bureau observed John Howard Lawson; Philip M. Connelley, CIO Official and Carl Winter, Chairman of the Los Angeles County Communist Party, enter the home of Max Silver, organizational secretary of the Los Angeles County Communist Party, 5138 Maplewood Avenue, Los Angeles. [Elsie Monjar, a member of the Communist Party and a paid confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office, has identified Connelley, Winter and Silver as being members of the Los Angeles County Communist Party.] (X)(U)

On October 4, 1943, Special Agents of the Bureau observed Max Silver, Organizational Secretary of the Los Angeles County Communist Party, pick up John Howard Lawson at Sunset and Cahuenga in Los Angeles, and proceed to the home of David Grant, 827 East 21st Street. Carl Winter, head of the Communist Party in Los Angeles, was observed in attendance at this meeting. As indicated above, Silver and Winter have been identified as Communists by confidential informant Elsie Monjar. David Grant is a known Communist by virtue of information furnished by former confidential paid informant Al Katz, a former member of the Communist Party. [u]

On March 14, 1944, Special Agents of the Bureau observed Lawson, accompanied by Max Silver, then Administrative Secretary of the CP, enter the home of David Grant, 827 East 21st Street, Los Angeles, California. These Agents also noted that Carl Winter, Executive Secretary of the Party; Jane Wallace, County Educational Director of the Party; Pettis Perry, County Chairman and Helen Allison, County Membership Director of the Party, were also in attendance. Silver, Grant and Winter have previously been identified as known Communists. Wallace, Perry and Allison have been identified as being members of the Communist Party by former confidential informant Al Katz, a former member of the Communist Party.

Special Agents of the Bureau on May 2, 1944, observed John Howard Lawson, Elizabeth Leach and Marjorie Fiske, Organizer and Executive Secretary respectively, enter the home of Sam Moore, 314 South Murfield Road, to attend a reception given for James Ford, Negro, of the National Committee of the Communist Party, U.S.A. Pettis Perry, Negro, Chairman of the Los Angeles County Communist Party was also observed in attendance at this reception. Leach, Fiske and Perry have been identified as being functionaries of the Communist Party by former confidential informant Al Katz. Literature publicly disseminated by the Communist Party has identified James Ford with that organization.

On September 24, 1944, Agents of the Bureau observed Lawson enter the home of Carl Winter and also observed Elizabeth Leach and Jane Wallace, both of whom are Communist functionaries, in attendance at this surprise birthday party for Carl Winter. Testifying before the California Un-American Activities Committee, Lawson admitted attending this affair given in honor of Carl Winter, who was then the head of the Los Angeles County Communist Party. Winter, Leach and Wallace have previously been identified as functionaries of the Communist Party.

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On January 8, 1945, a Special Agent of the Bureau observed Elizabeth Leach, Communist functionary, accompanied by Carl Winter who was then head of the Communist Party in Los Angeles, enter a meeting at the home of John Howard Lawson, 4245 Coldwater Canyon, Los Angeles.

On April 11, 1945, Special Agents of the Bureau observed Carl Winter, William Schneiderman, California State Communist Political Association President; John Howard Lawson; Miriam Brooks, Communist Party functionary; Jane Wallace, Communist Party functionary; Pettis Perry, Communist Party functionary and Wyndham Mortimer in attendance at a County Board meeting of the Communist Party which was held at the home of County Labor Chairman, F. Kadish, 938 South Kingsley Drive, Los Angeles. Brooks, Mortimer and Kadish have been identified as Communist Party functionaries by former confidential informant Al Katz. On May 30, 1945, Special Agents of the Bureau conducted a surveillance at the home of John Howard Lawson, 4245 Coldwater Canyon, and observed Elizabeth Leach, Communist Party functionary, Ned Sparks, head of the Communist Party in Los Angeles and Max Silver, formerly the Administrative Secretary of the Party in Los Angeles, enter Lawson's home. Elsie Monjar, a confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office, has identified Ned Sparks as a Communist functionary.

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On March 30, 1946, Samuel Davenport Russell, an active paid confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office, advised that a meeting of the financial directors of the various clubs in the Hollywood Section of the Los Angeles County Communist Party was to be held at the home of Hannah Schwartz, 2076 Paramount Avenue in Los Angeles on the evening of the same date. Special Agents of the Bureau conducted a surveillance at this address and observed John Howard Lawson in attendance at this meeting.

On September 9, 1946, Special Agents of the Bureau identified John Howard Lawson, Max Weiss, National Educational Director of the Communist Party, Frank Carlson, State Educational Director of the Communist Party, John Stapp, Communist Party functionary and Charles Glenn, Communist Party functionary as having entered the home of Abe Polonsky at 8071 Selma, Los Angeles, on this date.

(100-24499-394)

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III. OTHER EVIDENCE OF LAWSON'S COMMUNIST AFFILIATION

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In July, 1941, a memorandum was furnished to the Chicago Field Office by Colonel Walter L. Furbershaw, a representative of the Carnegie Illinois Steel Company, which cited meetings of the National Committee Plenary Sessions of the Communist Party on June 28 and 29, 1941, in New York City. It was stated in the memorandum that those definitely known to have been present were: William Z. Foster; James W. Ford; Alexander Bittelman and numerous other high ranking Communist leaders. The memo further related that John Howard Lawson attended these national meetings as a delegate from California and there is a notation to the effect that Lawson had been in New York for the previous few months in connection with theater work. (100-24499-3p4)

In October, 1941, Howard Emmett Rogers, c/o Metro Goldwyn Mayer Studios, Culver City, California, a temporary confidential national defense informant of the Los Angeles Office, advised that John Howard Lawson was one of the leading Communists in the United States. He stated that on an occasion approximately four years previous, when he was at the Clover Club in Hollywood, he met Lawson and drank with him during the evening. He said on this occasion Lawson talked of the purge that took place in Russia and the mass slaughter of the Kulacks. The source advised that Lawson stated to him that he hoped the revolution would come here without bloodshed, but that it would come "even with bloodshed if necessary". The same source stated that two years following this incident, he attended a debate at the Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood where Lawson stated publicly that everything should be done to avoid bloodshed and that under no circumstances should this country get into war. Rogers related that he got on his feet at this meeting and recalled to Lawson his conversation concerning the revolution referred to heretofore and asked Lawson how he could justify such an inconsistency. Lawson, according to the informant, turned to the audience and stated that this was a typical example of Hollywood red-baiting and refused to answer the question put to him. (100-24499-24 p8)

On November 15, 1941, former confidential informant Harry J. Pfalsgraff of the Chicago Office, advised the Communist Party was in the process of realigning its Districts throughout the country as well as reorganizing its structural set-up. He said that District #13 was to include all of the States of California and of Nevada. According to the source it was to have centralized offices at 121 Haight Street, San Francisco and another at Los Angeles. The San Francisco Office was to be headed by Steve Nelson. Further, Betty Gannett is the Organizational Secretary of District #13 and John Howard Lawson and Herbert Biberman will control the organizational work in the Hollywood Area, according to the informant. (100-16227-20-p5)

In December, 1941, Mr. Verne Tompkins, 71 Eggert Avenue, Metuchen, New Jersey, publisher of the Daily Farmers' Digest, stated that Kathryn Burke, Chief Director of Courier operations, was the contact for the Communist Party in Mexico City and that she reported directly to Gale Sondergaard,

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"July 22, 1943

"Northwest Section
Communist Party
Los Angeles, California

Att: Jack (John Howard Lawson)

"Dear Comrade:

"On behalf of our County Committee, and I am sure of our whole membership, I wish to express enthusiastic appreciation of the contribution to the success of the July 18th Foster meeting by the cultural workers who made possible the dramatic presentation that evening.

"We wish, through the Section Committee, to convey these sentiments to all who participated, especially to the authors, Comrades Maurice (Clark) and Adrian (Scott), and to Comrades Herbert (Rieberman) and Elliot (Sullivan, also known as Eli Solomon) whose creative effort and tireless work helped so much to put across the message of the entire rally - to hold the home front and strengthen national unity for victory.

"Comradely yours,

/s/ Carl Winter, Secretary
Los Angeles County Committee
Communist Party"

(100-24499-292 p7)

In a report of the Military Intelligence Division dated February 24, 1944, a list of delegates to the enlarged National Committee sessions of the Communist Party held at the Stuyvesant Casino, 9th Street and 2nd Avenue, New York City, appeared; as shown in the official minutes, the name of John Howard Lawson, playwright appeared in this list. (100-3-14-2006)

In 1944, a highly confidential source* advised that Lawson continued to pay the salary of Marjorie J. Potts, a full-time paid functionary of the Northwest Section of the Los Angeles County Communist Party, being Organizational Secretary and Membership Director thereof. Lawson paid her, according to the source, \$32.50 per week. It is noted that Marjorie Potts admitted to Al Katz, a former confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office, that Lawson paid her salary as if she were his secretary although she did nothing but Communist Party work. (100-24499-311 p7)

On July 25, 1945, Joseph Nathaniel Earl, former confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office, advised that John Howard Lawson told him

[*Technical Surveillance on the residence of John Howard Lawson.]

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On March 26, 1946, Harvey Gilbert Wolf, a confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office pointed out that the Rankin Committee had announced it would discontinue its investigation of Communism in the motion picture industry and that he had learned that as a result of this, Lawson was again planning to assume active leadership of the Communist movement in the motion picture industry. This informant stated that he felt Lawson had been "laying low" during the time Rankin's investigators had been in Hollywood, but that in discussing Lawson with members of the Communist Party, he had ascertained that Lawson was scheduled to reappear as leader of the Communist movement in the industry.

(100-24499-378 pl.)

On July 24, 1946, W. R. Wilkerson, Editor of the Hollywood Reporter, bitterly criticized Lawson as a member of the Communist Party and stated that John Leech, former Secretary of the Communist Party for Los Angeles County, testified before the Los Angeles County Grand Jury that Lawson was sent to Hollywood to organize and lead the Communist movement in the motion picture industry by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of New York.

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IV. GENERAL COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES

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Hugo Speier, a confidential informant of the Denver Field Office, advised that John Howard Lawson in 1941 was appointed co-leader with Herbert Biberman of the Communists in the intellectual and motion picture industry in the Hollywood area. (100-24499-358p8)

The November 9, 1943, issue of "New Masses" contained a full page article announcing that John Howard Lawson had been made a member of the Board of Contributing Editors of New Masses. This article quotes Lawson as saying the following with regard to this publication:

"I read New Masses for two reasons: first, because it is a valuable source of information; second, because it is equally valuable for its editorial comment and analysis. Almost every issue offers vital factual material which cannot be found elsewhere. Today, as never before, the American people want facts--because they realize that the knowledge of facts is indispensable for winning the war. They are heartily sick of the corruption and distortion in much of the commercial press. New Masses gives us facts, and it interprets facts in terms of a consistent philosophy of democratic action and purpose. I hope the magazine can reach a much wider circle of readers because I am convinced that a bigger circulation for this periodical will help us win the war."

(100-24499-292 p 13)

On January 13, 1944, an article appeared in the "Daily Worker" beneath the photograph of John Howard Lawson in which he is quoted as stating:

"Greetings to the Daily Worker on your 20th Anniversary. As I look back over the years, it seems to me that the Daily Worker has been consistently invaluable as a source of accurate news and a journal of progressive informed opinion. There is no other American newspaper which has done such a fine job in effective news coverage and editorial service to the American people and the American nation.

"I hope the Daily Worker's circulation and influence will increase tremendously. If it increases in proportion to its merit, it will reach millions of people".

(100-24499-290)

A highly confidential source (technical surveillance on Carl Winter, Executive Secretary of the Communist Political Association, Los Angeles County) advised that on July 22, 1944, Robert W. Kenny, former Attorney General of the State of California and then Chairman of the California delegation to the National Democratic Convention in Chicago, communicated with Ellenore Abowitz, Assistant State CIO Legislative Director and a known Communist Party member in the Los Angeles area. Kenny, who

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was in Chicago at this time, advised Abowitz that he would arrive in Los Angeles by plane the following day and requested that she arrange a conference for him with about five of the "right people". Abowitz, according to the source, immediately conferred with Carl Winter, Executive Secretary of the Communist Political Association of Los Angeles County, concerning this matter. Subsequently a surveillance by Agents of the Los Angeles Office reflected that this meeting was actually held on Sunday, July 23, 1944, at the home of Ellenore Abowitz with six people in attendance. These persons included, in addition to R. W. Kenny, Carl Winter, previously identified; Paul Cline, ex-Secretary of the Communist Party in Los Angeles County; Joseph Aidlin, member of the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party in Los Angeles, and John Howard Lawson. (100-16870-9)

It was also reported by this highly reliable source* that in June, 1945, Doretta Tarmon, field representative of the New Masses, known Communist publication, and Joe Foster, film critic for the New Masses, came to Los Angeles from New York City to organize New Masses Benefit Rallies. It was stated that both of these individuals held conferences with John Howard Lawson. According to the source, an invitational benefit for the New Masses was held at the home of Frank Tuttle, Movie Director, 6217 Rock Cliff Drive, Hollywood, on June 9, 1945, it being pointed out by Manuel Seff, a confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office, that the meeting was by invitation only, that over \$3,000 was raised at the meeting and that John Howard Lawson was one of those he recognized in attendance. (XW)

(100-24499-359p11)

In August, 1945, a highly reliable confidential source* reported that Lawson has been working on a book of American history for the past couple of years. The source stated that the book was in its final stages and had been typed into script and had been criticized by various people including leaders of the Communist Political Association in Los Angeles, among them, Carl Winter, head of the Los Angeles CPA. The source also said that inquiries concerning it had also been made by Alex Trachtenberg, former National Educational Director of the Communist Party, and currently a member of the National Committee of the Communist Party. The source indicated that since the change in the CP Line as a result of the Duclos article, Lawson has indicated that he was going to take six months off from his studio to revise the book. He also told the informant that the change in the Communist Party Line necessitated practically a complete revision of the book's viewpoint. (XW)

[*Technical Surveillance on the residence of John Howard Lawson.] (XW)

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future expulsion at this time on controversial issues; this is factional, rather than my response to published and broadcast material. However I am also convinced that this was merely a loose way of talking to impress me with your seriousness, of which I was already impressed.

"Adding my personal regards, and the hope that not long from now we shall all be members of a functioning, militant, Marxist-Leninist vanguard party devoted to the interests of our nation, the peace of the world, and the liberation of mankind.

"Yours sincerely."

(100-24499-359 p5-7)

Subsequently, a highly confidential source (technical surveillance on residence of Bruce Minton) advised that Minton was very bitter against Lawson and had made it known that he was "out to get Lawson". This source indicated that Minton was of the opinion that the CPA in Hollywood was a closed corporation and that he had referred to Lawson as the "rabbi" of this group who ran it as a "tin god and in a dictatorial fashion". Similar repercussions regarding Lawson were reported by Harvey Gilbert Wolf, a confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office. Wolf advised that on August 1, 1945, he had occasion to talk with a friend who was a member of one of the cultural groups over which Lawson presided. He said that this person stated that the rank and file of the cultural groups were not satisfied with the revisionistic policies which Lawson and Elizabeth Glenn had followed during the previous year under the CPA set-up, and were desirous of getting rid of Lawson and Glenn as leaders. Wolf further revealed that his informant definitely stated that Lawson was the leader of the Communists in the cultural field and that he obtained the impression that Elizabeth Glenn was Lawson's underling in an organizational capacity. Wolf, a former member of the CPA, stated his informant was very bitter against Lawson and Glenn, not from a personal standpoint but from a Marxist standpoint inasmuch as Wolf's informant thought that Lawson and Glenn had misled the rank and file CPA members by their leadership and adherence to the theory of revisionism. [A practical example of what might have indicated a tendency toward change of Communist leadership in the motion picture industry was reported by a highly confidential source* who reported on July 19, 1945, that Lawson had just returned from San Francisco and admittedly had not been included in any inter-Party discussions of the motion picture strike, it being noted that the Communists, prior to the strike, had adhered to a position of not aiding the strike and had urged its workers to keep the no-strike policy of their unions. It is to be observed that in 1946 Richard Bransten and his wife, Ruth McKenny, were expelled from the Communist Party.] (X)(u)

[Technical Surveillance on the residence of John Howard Lawson.] (X)(u)

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VIII. ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- A. HOLLYWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE, later known as the HOLLYWOOD INDEPENDENT CITIZENS COMMITTEE OF THE ARTS, SCIENCES AND PROFESSIONS (HICCASP), succeeded by the PROGRESSIVE CITIZENS OF AMERICA

Harvey Gilbert Wolf, a confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office, advised that the Hollywood Democratic Committee was launched in January, 1943, by persons engaged in the motion picture industry, to obtain national, state and local legislation essential to victory; to clarify political issues and support candidates best fitted to serve the nation in wartime and to cooperate with other organizations "whose aims are similar to our own"; housing for defense workers, protection of labor's rights, child care, humane treatment of juvenile delinquents and the end of negro discrimination. The same source stated on February 15, 1944, that the aims and purposes and program of the Hollywood Democratic Committee had changed very materially. He indicated that its purposes had formerly been exclusively political, but that now through speeches, public advertisements and sham Americanism, it was attempting to enlist the support of non-suspecting citizens, under the guidance of the Committee, to exploit names of important individuals in the furtherance of the Communist Party line. This informant further stated that the program of the Hollywood Democratic Committee was not only parallel with that of the Communist Party Line but that the organization was dominated and inspired by persons of a Communist character.

It is observed that in June, 1945, the Hollywood Democratic Committee became a section of the Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions and that in 1946, it became known as the Progressive Citizens of America. It should also be noted that this organization was not connected with the Democratic Party. (100-197270-2)

The following information with respect to the activities of John Howard Lawson relative to the Hollywood Democratic Committee is set forth to illustrate the direction and control exerted over this organization by Lawson. The most pertinent information in this regard was reported to the Bureau by a highly confidential and reliable source. (S)(u)

On March 4, 1943, it was ascertained by a confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office, Harvey Gilbert Wolf, that the Hollywood Democratic Committee was in its formative stages and a meeting of the group was scheduled at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel for that evening. This informant attended (S)(u)

[*Technical Surveillance on residence of John Howard Lawson. (S)(u)]

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the meeting and a written report stated "before the meeting began, the following known Communists circulated among those present. They were acknowledged by the audience generally which for the most part, gathered around them, chatted and passed remarks which would indicate that they were well-known and in a sense looked up to." Among those named by the informant as being in this category were: John Howard Lawson and Herbert Biberman, together with other Hollywood Communists. The purpose of the meeting reportedly was to elect officers for the ensuing year and to adopt a constitution. According to the source, the Hollywood Democratic Committee "will undoubtedly develop into a powerful Communist Party pressure group in the near future. Using the war effort and the influence of powerful figures in the motion picture industry, this organization will have a tremendous influence in putting over the Communist Party Line in California." Further, the source continued, the Hollywood Democratic Committee is definitely a Communist "front" organization, and he asserted that John Howard Lawson was among those proposed at this meeting to be considered for the Executive Board. Lawson, according to the source, also was one of the eight persons who donated \$25 at the collection during the evening. (S)(u)

(100-24499-234 p 12)

On February 10, 1944, the same source was present at a conference between John Howard Lawson and Revels Cayton, Negro Vice President of the California State CIO. According to the source, Cayton wanted Lawson to get Walter Wanger, Motion Picture Producer, to approach Helen Gahagan, wife of Melvyn Douglas, screen actor, to run for Congress in the 15th C. D. Lawson said he could not approach Wanger on it but that George Pepper, through the Hollywood Democratic Committee, could make the contact. This was only one of many conferences held concerning possible Congressional and State Legislature candidates, and on numerous occasions Lawson's direction and advice was sought by Hollywood Communists relative to possible candidates. (S)(u)

(100-24499-297)

In 1944, Harvey Gilbert Wolf, a confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office, advised that the entire organizational strength of the Communist Party was being thrown into the local and national election campaigns and that the Hollywood Communists, Party line followers and sympathizers were engaged in this type of activity. He submitted the following report with respect to the Hollywood Democratic Committee:

"The Hollywood Democratic Committee, which has no official connection with the Democratic Party, but is the Communist front organization which attempts to speak for the industry politically and also for the Hollywood section generally, is raising the sum

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Hollywood Reporter for June 11, 1945, contained a full page advertisement listing the Executive Council of this new Committee, it being noted that John Howard Lawson was named as a member of the Council. (S)(u)

(100-24499-259 p9)

In August, 1945, a highly reliable informant* advised that Lawson was continuing his leadership in the Hollywood Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions. It was stated that George Pepper, Executive Secretary of the organization, continually obtained direction and counsel from Lawson concerning the strategy and policy of the group. The source further remarked that Lawson had been very active at this time in building up the late General Evans F. Carlson, USMC, as a possible candidate for U.S. Senator on the Democratic Ticket to fill the seat vacated by the late Senator Hiram Johnson. (S)(u)

On August 11, 1945, the same reliable source advised that there was some interest in having a State-wide meeting to announce Carlson's candidacy or at least to discuss it with the Democratic politicians from all over California. However, Lawson, according to the source, said that Philip Connelly, former President of the California State Industrial Union Council, CIO, and a known Communist [according to Elsie Monjar, a confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office,] was of the opinion that it was not time yet as Ed Pauley, National Treasurer of the Democratic Party and other forces would try to maneuver to get control of this meeting. On August 11, 1945, the same highly reliable source advised that Lawson was to handle a reception for Carlson to be given by Edward G. Robinson. It was indicated that the Warner Brothers, Motion Picture magnets and other "big wigs" were to be in attendance at this reception. It was also indicated by this source at the time that Orson Welles discussed with Lawson the chances of Carlson's winning the election. It was said that Welles promised Lawson all he could to assist Carlson's candidacy, although of the personal opinion that Carlson would be defeated. (S)(u)

On August 8, 1945, the highly reliable source* reported that the New York City organization of the Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions had continually sought a closer knit organization throughout the United States with a constitution, by-laws, in addition to representatives from various cities where branches were located. Lawson, according to the source, subtly fought a close knit organization and desired instead only the use of the Independent Citizens Committee's name, being of the opinion that the Hollywood Independent Citizens Committee should otherwise remain autonomous. In a conference with Pete Lyons, an employee of the Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions of New York City, according to the source, Lawson stated that a close knit (S)(u)

[*Technical Surveillance on the residence of John Howard Lawson. (S)(u)]

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organization was premature and could not be done without discussion which discussion should be held at some time after the war. Lyon said the New York Office needed more money and Lawson reiterated the Hollywood Committee was very poor and did not desire to make any further commitments at the time. Lyon was anxious that the HICCASP send someone to Washington or New York to give Congressional leaders some tangible evidence of union between the National organization and the Hollywood Committee. The source indicated that Lawson agreed that this might be a good thing. (S)(X) (100-24499-364 p7)

On December 4, 1945, according to a highly reliable source* the HICCASP held a rally, the theme of which was "Atomic Power and Foreign Policy". The official announcements described this affair as an attempt to make a realistic approach to the tremendous potentialities of atomic weapons and atomic energy. This rally called for international use and international control of atomic energy, and in this connection, the reliable informant pointed out that Lawson, through George Pepper, Executive Secretary of the HICCASP, carefully guided the program. It is interesting to observe that Ned Sparks, President of the Los Angeles County Communist Party, according to the informant, contacted Lawson regarding this program and stated that he felt more emphasis should be put upon American intervention in China inasmuch as that was the main part of the Communist line. Lawson reportedly agreed to this and stated that he would contact George Pepper to see that American intervention in China was given appropriate attention at this rally. (S)(X)(u) (100-24499-369 p2)

A highly confidential source* reported in September, 1946, that Lawson continued to be active in the affairs of the HICCASP and according to this source, he frequently conferred with its Executive Secretary, Alice Hunter; in fact, this source stated that on July 31, 1946, Hunter contacted Lawson and asked him if it was all right if the HICCASP issued a statement that they were not under the influence of the Communist Party. According to the informant, Lawson stated it would be all right if it were done "carefully and correctly". This informant further indicated Lawson attends most of the meetings of the Executive Council of the HICCASP and through close liaison with Hunter, continued to exert an influential rule in the policy of this organization. It is noted that shortly thereafter the HICCASP merged with the Progressive Citizens of America, described as a Communist-dominated group by Harvey G. Wolf, a confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office. (S)(X)(u) (100-24499-387 p3)

According to articles appearing in Los Angeles newspapers the Hollywood Arts, Sciences and Professions Council of the Progressive Citizens of America held a five-day conference at the Beverley Hills Hotel, commencing Wednesday evening, July 9, 1947. They announced the purpose of the conference

[*Technical Surveillance on the residence of John Howard Lawson.] (S)(X)(u)

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B. HOLLYWOOD WRITERS MOBILIZATION

The Hollywood Writers Mobilization, according to Harvey Gilbert Wolf, a confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office, was formed very soon after the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, and was established by persons who were most active in the League of American Writers. According to information contained in reports of the Joint Fact-Finding Committee, California Legislature, based on information developed in connection with interviews conducted of Hollywood writers in October, 1944, the Hollywood Writers Mobilization was under the control of the Communists and had numerous contacts to supply the pictures which are being released in the liberated countries. (100-102217-14)

Confidential Informant Wolf advised that there was a close connection existing between the League of American Writers and the Hollywood Writers Mobilization.

The following data with respect to Lawson's connections with the Hollywood Writers Mobilization is set forth to illustrate the direction and control exerted over this organization by Lawson. [Most pertinent information developed relative to Lawson's control of this group was obtained by a highly reliable and confidential source*. (S)(u)]

In March, 1945, a highly confidential source* advised that there recently had been a strong difference of opinion between Robert Riskin, head of the Overseas Film Bureau, Office of War Information, New York, and Philip Dunne, head of the Los Angeles OWI Film Bureau, and this difference of opinion was concerned with scripts which had been submitted by the Hollywood Writers Mobilization. This source indicated that Sidney Buchman, Chairman of the Hollywood Writers Mobilization Editorial Board, discussed this matter with John Howard Lawson. Buchman advised that he had conferred with Riskin who informed him that Philip Dunne had gone overboard on the so-called "contrived" films (films based on fiction or so-called dramatic incidents). Dunne had apparently instructed the Hollywood Writers Mobilization group that this was the type of film OWI desired to produce. Following Dunne's instructions, according to the source, the Hollywood Writers Mobilization had gone ahead and done scripts of this type and as a result many of the scripts had been under fire by the New York Office of the OWI, where Riskin was in charge. It was further pointed out that Riskin was strong for documentary films since he felt a responsibility to the State Department, and further that misrepresentations were bound to arise out of dramatic incidents in the "contrived" films thus making them more "vulnerable". The source stated that both Lawson and Buchman agreed that this controversy between Dunne and Riskin would effect the Hollywood Writers Mobilization, which they control, since most of the scripts already completed would have to be redone. (S)(u) (100-102217-13)

[Technical Surveillance on the residence of John Howard Lawson. (S)(u)]

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C. LEAGUE OF AMERICAN WRITERS

The League of American Writers, according to Harvey Gilbert Wolf, a confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office, was originated in Kharkov, Russia, in November, 1930, and in the United States in 1935. This informant indicated that the Hollywood Chapter of the League of American Writers was formed in the fall of 1935, the purpose being to bring the writers employed in the motion picture industry under the influence of the League of American Writers and the Communist Party, USA, it being pointed out that this League was the foremost front organization operating in the so-called cultural and intellectual fields.

(100-102217-7X)

The source stated that the Congress of American Revolutionary Writers formed the League of American Writers, it being pointed out that the latter organization was declared subversive by the Attorney General on May 5, 1942.

Additional information relative to the Communist character of the League of American Writers was set forth heretofore in connection with the Section entitled "Joint Fact-Finding Committee, California Legislature".

There is set forth hereinafter Lawson's connection with the League as well as data demonstrating the control and direction which he exerted over this organization. The most pertinent information in this regard was obtained from a highly confidential and reliable source*. (X) (u)

On March 25, 1939, an article appeared in the Peoples World entitled "Hollywood Writers ask Entry for German Exile". The article stated that the recently organized Hollywood Branch of the League of American Writers was taking the lead in demanding that the State Department permit the entry of Frederick Wolff, famous exiled German dramatist and film script writer. The wire sent to the State Department was signed by John Howard Lawson, among others. (61-7561-278X12)

In June, 1941, an article appeared in the Daily Worker entitled "Writers Open Congress with Peace Rally". It was stated that some of America's best known novelists, poets, artists and literary critics raised their voice against war and colonial oppression at the rally of the Fourth American Writers' Congress. John Howard Lawson was listed as being one of the speakers. (100-31091 SubA)

On December 28, 1941, Walter Teter, 4524 Cold Water Canyon Avenue, North Hollywood, California, a confidential informant of the Los Angeles (X) (u)

[Technical Surveillance on the residence of John Howard Lawson.] (X) (u)

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D. Connections with Other Organizations

The January, 1937, issue of the "Labor Defender" published monthly by the International Labor Defense, 80 East 11th Street, New York City, with William L. Patterson and Sasha Small as editors, listed John Howard Lawson as being on the Editorial Board. A highly confidential and delicate source in 1945 identified Sasha Small as a member of the then Communist Political Association.

(100-17319-3 p7)

In February, 1937, the formation of the American Society for Technical Aid to Spanish Democracy with temporary quarters at 31 East 27th Street, New York City, office of the New Masses, was announced by Waldo Frank, novelist and lecturer. The officers were listed as John Howard Lawson, Secretary, and William Browder, Treasurer.

(100-1469-31 p19)

In a letter dated December 3, 1938, issued by the National Committee for People's Rights, formerly the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, 216 Clark Building, Birmingham, Alabama, John Howard Lawson was listed as treasurer of the organization.

(61-7559-3385 xl)

Confidential Informant W. H. Leathers, formerly an informant of the Atlanta Field Division, informed in July, 1941, that the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners and the International Labor Defense are both Communist front organizations and are closely associated and were created by the Party to handle and protect comrades who became involved with the law and also to seize upon those cases where the Party can secure publicity. According to the informant, the International Labor Defense has close contact with the workers and is usually operated by the middle class of people.

(100-3-33 Sec. 2 Ser. 3)

On the back of a pamphlet published in 1940 by the Jewish People's Committee, 100 Fifth Avenue, New York City, entitled "For United Action in the Struggle Against anti-Semitism and Fascism", appears a list of the sponsors of this organization. The name of John Howard Lawson is included. Monroe Steinberg, a confidential source of the New York Office has stated that the Jewish People's Committee is a Communist-inspired group.

(100-11380-16 p4-6;
61-7590-404)

In the Peoples Daily World for June 17, 1941, an article appears attacking the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the form of statements of various members of the Citizens Committee for Harry Bridges released by the Committee headquarters at 1265 Broadway, New York City. Included among individuals commenting on the conduct of the Bridges hearing and the activities of the FBI was John Howard Lawson, "playwright and screen writer".

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A confidential source (trash coverage on office of Labor Research Association, 80 East 11th Street, New York City) advised that John Howard Lawson was a sponsor of the Schappes Defense Committee which was founded in New York City in July, 1941, to raise funds for and help prosecute the defense of Morris U. Schappes former City College instructor who was sentenced to a prison term in the State Penitentiary for perjury arising out of a 1941 inquiry into Communism in educational institutions. The express purpose of the Committee as set forth in one of its pamphlets was "to help prosecute the legal defense, to acquaint the labor movement, the educational world and the general public with the issues involved in this case, to raise funds for the defense and to help Schappes support those dependent upon him."

100-29-34 pg 40

On December 19, 1941, according to a highly confidential source* an unknown person contacted Lawson's wife to tell her of a very "pathetic telegram" received from Edward Barsky, head of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee, it being noted that Barsky was recently given a jail sentence for refusing to produce the records of the JAFRC for the House Un-American Activities Committee. According to the informant, this telegram read as follows:

"TRYING TO GET FIFTY ANTI-FASCIST PEOPLE ON THE LAST BOAT OUT OF LISBON. SEND MONEY AT GREATEST POSSIBLE SACRIFICE."

100-24499-76 pg 10

On January 16, 1943, a highly confidential source (technical surveillance on residence of Herbert Biberman) reported that Biberman was consulted concerning a letter issued by Mr. Kemitz, National Secretary, National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, advising that this Committee was starting a campaign against the Dies Committee and wanted the Hollywood people to do something about it. Although the informant was unable to ascertain the name of the man with whom Biberman consulted on this date, it was determined by another highly confidential source* on January 18, 1943, that John Howard Lawson had directed Elizabeth Leach to pick up this letter from Biberman. It is noted that Elizabeth Leach was the Organizer of the Northwest Section, Los Angeles County Communist Party at the time. It should be noted that the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties was declared subversive by the Attorney General on July 31, 1941, in that it came within the purview of the Hatch Act. (X)W

100-24499-234 pg 17

On March 12, 1943, it was reported by Harvey Gilbert Wolf, a confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office, that Herbert Biberman, Gale Sondergaard, Edward Biberman and his wife Sonja Dahl, Mrs. Eva Biberman, Anthony Ellis and Helen Ellis, his wife, would all attend the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee rally held at the Philharmonic Auditorium. It was pointed out that Sonja Biberman was the former Hollywood Chairman.

[Technical Surveillance on the residence of John Howard Lawson.] (X)W

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to bear in this regard. During the conversation, according to the informant, it was pointed out that the Los Angeles Section of the Free World Association had not as yet revoked Point #1 of its Aims and Purposes. (S)(U) (100-24499-311 p15)

The name of John Howard Lawson appeared as a sponsor on a circular distributed by the American Youth for Democracy, 1567 Broadway, Detroit, Michigan, dated December 20, 1945. (61-777-15-279)

In November, 1945, according to a highly confidential source*, Lawson conferred several times with Mildred Raskin, Executive Secretary of the People's Educational Center, described as the organization created and dominated by the Communists to spread Communist philosophy, and these conversations made it clear that Lawson was becoming concerned over the \$3,000 or \$4,000 which he personally had guaranteed for this organization in the way of printing bills and incidental expenses. The same source indicated that Lawson felt that the organization was not going to be able to repay this money to him. During the same period, the same source was present when Lawson conferred with Waldo Salt, Communist screen writer, regarding ways and means of raising \$5,000 for the benefit of the People's Educational Center. Lawson also advised this informant that he was planning to take a hand in the reorganization of the staff of the People's Educational Center, commenting that he did not think that the personnel was organized in the most effective way. (S)(U) (100-24499-369 p3)

According to a pamphlet issued by the Los Angeles Workers School, John Howard Lawson, together with Albert Maltz and other invited lecturers, were to be the instructors at the course entitled "The American Democratic Tradition", an eight-week course, tuition \$3. The course was to be given at the Unitarian Church, 2936 West 8th Street, Los Angeles. Of all the courses taught at the Workers School, according to this pamphlet, this was the only one not being taught at the Workers School proper located at 212 West 3rd Street, Los Angeles. This course, according to the booklet, "will be a lecture course dealing with decisive periods in the history of our nation; the democratic conditions throughout the development of our people. Beginning with the colonial period, the course will trace the growth, problems and developments of the American tradition during the period of the Civil War and reconstruction; it will deal also with the agrarian populist movement, the First World War and the present war for national survival". It is to be noted that this is not the same course that was given by Lawson at the school for the League of American Writers entitled "Our Democratic Heritage". The Los Angeles Workers School, founded in 1939, according to the pamphlet, bases its studies on the various teachings "in social science...Marxism...the theory and practice of the working class and the people's movement throughout history". The entire Board of Directors of the Workers School are Communists, according to a confidential informant, Harvey Gilbert Wolf, who also indicated that this school is the educational plant for the Communists in Los Angeles County. (100-24499-234 p6) (S)(U)

[*Technical Surveillance on the residence of John Howard Lawson.]

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The above referred to pamphlet also stated that recently, in a speech of three hours at the "People's Educational Center", John Howard Lawson made such statements as:

"American policy is the same as it was at Versailles; to destroy democracy wherever it appears."

"The Marxist theory is the only sound basis for history teaching."

"The voice of Byrnes is the voice of one of the most selfish monopolies in the world today." (100-24499-387)

The Daily People's World issue of September 19, 1946, carries an article that the Los Angeles Chapter of the National Negro Congress would convene on September 22, 1946, for a mass meeting called for the over all endorsement of the Fair Employment Practices Act. According to this article, John Tripp McFerman had been selected to lead a panel discussion on the topic "Police Brutality". A similar article was carried in the California Eagle, Negro newspaper published in Los Angeles by one Charlotta Bass, a prominent Communist Party line follower, reflecting that this National Negro Congress would meet at 4016 South Central Avenue on Sunday, September 22, 1946. Speakers listed at this meeting included John Howard Lawson, motion picture writer; Colonel James Roosevelt; Phillip M. Connelly; William Bidner, Executive Secretary of Mobilization for Democracy, and Albert Dekker, motion picture actor.

(77-29135-29 p3)

In November, 1946, E. F. Schneiders, a former confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office advised that John Howard Lawson was President of the Lincoln Community Book Center and that Waldo Salt, a known Communist, according to a highly delicate and reliable source, is Vice President. The informant also ascertained that the bank account of the Lincoln Community Book Center will substantiate Lawson's presidency [and another highly confidential source* has described this organization as the administrative apparatus for the Lincoln Book Shop which is operated by the Communist Party in Hollywood.]

Informant Schneiders, an employee of the Security First National Bank of Los Angeles, has advised that Lawson has contributed considerable sums of money to the following organizations, sometimes in the amount of over \$1,000 per month:

Hollywood Democratic Committee,
Hollywood Independent Citizens Committee of Arts, Sciences and
Professions,
People's Educational Center,

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[Technical Surveillance on the residence of John Howard Lawson.]

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"In the studio labor organization, the comrades had only mixed success. The painters' union went over to the side of the revolution. The Screen Writers' Guild joined the Popular Front, despite brave attempts of the Authors' League of America to wrest the Hollywood section from the Stalinist grip. In the furious fight against the 'fascists'--meaning anyone who objected to Communist domination--Donald Ogden Stewart acted as generalissimo with such fine lieutenants as Dudley Nichols, Frances Hackett, Humphrey Cobb, Dalton Trumbo, Irvin Shaw, Tess Slesinger, Sam Ornitz, Frank Scully, Oliver H. P. Garrett, Lillian Hellman, Boris Ingster, John Howard Lawson, Lester Cole, Joel Sayre, and Madaline Ruthven." (100-24499-66 p3.)

Discontinued Technical Surveillance on the American Youth for Democracy and Confidential Informant Richard V. Servidio advised that John Howard Lawson was one of the sponsors of a "second anniversary dinner" given by the American Youth for Democracy, a known Communist dominated group, on December 12, 1945, at the Hotel Roosevelt, New York City. The purpose of the dinner was "to welcome home discharged veterans, to pay tribute to the contributions of the young men and women of our armed forces and to dramatize the post-war problems of youth". (61-777-34-182)

In March, 1945, the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, 205 East 42nd Street, New York City, issued a public statement in support of the army order making Communists and Communist Party sympathizers eligible for Army Commissions. It was stated that "the basic consideration is not the propriety of the man's opinions, but his loyalty to the United States". The statement of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties was endorsed by numerous people and the name of John Howard Lawson, playwright, Hollywood, appeared on this list. It is noted that the National Federation of Constitutional Liberties was declared subversive by the Attorney General in July, 1941. (100-1170-298)

According to the January 30, 1946, issue of the Daily Worker, Lawson was quoted as saying:

"I want very much to demonstrate with particular emphasis the role of the Negro in American life. Since our history has been written by white historians and since no influential ones have been from the South, the contribution of the Negro people and their leaders has been completely suppressed".

In this article, Lawson was described as "one of America's outstanding historians, author of the authoritative theater and technique of playwrighting, and a successful screen writer". (100-24499-371 p2)

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On February 7, 1947, according to a highly confidential source* Lou Harris, 4215 Troost Avenue, North Hollywood, California, a free lance writer and producer as well as a known Communist, contacted John Howard Lawson and told Lawson that he was leaving for England at the end of the month. The source advised that Lawson and Harris are close friends. In this same regard, on February 14, 1947, another highly confidential source, (S) [microphone] surveillance on the Soviet Consulate Los Angeles) reported that Lou Harris called at the Russian Vice Consulate in Los Angeles and there met Eugene Pavlovich Tumansev, Soviet Consul. Harris and Tumansev talked for approximately one hour during which time Harris pointed out that the writers in the motion picture industry had a very difficult time presenting "progressive ideas" in their stories inasmuch as the producers were quick to delete them. Harris commented that he was leaving on February 26, 1947, for London from New York City on a business trip and asked Tumansev whether he should "wait and see what happens" or apply immediately for a visa to enter Poland. According to the informant, Harris and Tumansev appeared quite congenial and the latter evinced considerable interest in the motion picture industry. (100-240334-6)

[*Technical Surveillance on the residence of John Howard Lawson.] (S)(u)

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XIII. CRIMINAL RECORD

Harvey Gilbert Wolf, a confidential informant of the Los Angeles Office, stated that at a lecture in June, 1942, before a school of the League of American Writers, Lawson stated that on the day that Sacco and Vanzetti were executed in Massachusetts, August 27, 1927, he, Lawson had been arrested in Boston for picketing the State Capitol. With regard to this self-admitted arrest of Lawson, the informant stated that Lawson became a labor agitator many years ago and went to Birmingham, Alabama, to participate in a strike in the steel mills in that city in 1934. According to confidential informant Harvey Gilbert Wolf, Lawson was arrested on May 17, 1934, on a charge of criminal libel growing out of an article which was written by Lawson in the "Daily Worker", New York City Communist newspaper, defending a Communist organizer, Harold Relston. It is observed that Lawson's FBI number is 3021790 and that his record in this regard reflects that he was arrested in Birmingham on May 17, 1934, by the Birmingham Police Department on the charge of being a Communist. He was released on the same day.

(100-24499-156 pp 69 & 70)

Officer Harless of the Birmingham Police Department related the following information with regard to the arrest of Lawson in Birmingham, Alabama, May 17, 1934. Harless said that he recalled that the police broke up a Communist meeting at which Lawson was present and that Lawson was then turned over to Officer J. T. Moser and Officer P. C. Cole who were handling Communist matters at the time for the Birmingham Police Department. In this connection Captain C. L. Mullens of the Birmingham Police Department stated that Lawson was defended by a lawyer named Harold Relston from New York. He also recalled that a woman named Jane Speed, a well-known Communist organizer, was also present at the meeting at which Lawson was arrested. The records of the Birmingham Police Department further revealed the following information regarding Alexander E. Rascolin, reportedly also arrested with Lawson: "This man is an International Labor Defense Attorney from New York City. He was very active in 1934 and 1935 in Birmingham and was arrested by the Birmingham Police on May 17, 1934. While in Birmingham, he contacted several lawyers in an effort to secure their services in reading parts of the International Labor Defense. This man is very high in the Communist Party. His Birmingham police number is MI-26589". (100-24499-177)

The New York Times morgue contained two articles regarding the arrest of Lawson at Birmingham, Alabama. The first article dated July 6, 1934, reflected that Lawson was arrested on that date and released under bond of \$300 to appear in Recorder's Court the following day. The arrest followed a conference between Mr. Lawson and five other New Yorkers and W. O. Sours, Commissioner of Public Safety at City Hall. The article further revealed that on May 17, 1934, Lawson was taken into custody by police, fingerprinted, photographed and released. This article, referred to above, dated May 16, 1934, is also in the New York Times files. The charges, in connection with a publication that appeared in the Daily Worker in which a misdemeanor court

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