

SECRET

SX-5280

LAWSON

A Hollywood script writer and critic who, in 1963, stayed a number of months in Moscow (living in the Hotel Peiking). He had been invited, it seems, by (?) the Ministry of Culture. [redacted] does not know why LAWSON was around for so long. He had his wife with him but he did not appear to get real V.I.P. treatment because [redacted] saw him eating in the "Diet Food Restaurant" where [redacted] went for his own diet but where he suspected LAWSON ate because it was cheap.

2. [redacted] gathered that LAWSON was probably a member of the U.S. Communist Party and under suspicion of the F.B.I.

3. [redacted] first met LAWSON at a seminar held for cinema workers at the "Dom Tvorchestva" at Bolshovo. [redacted] was not a member of the seminar itself (which lasted some four weeks) but was staying at Bolshovo. LAWSON came down to lecture to the seminar. LAWSON, whom [redacted] suspects of being relatively unsuccessful in his own country, was keen to prove himself a great expert on the cinema and a very progressively minded person, highly critical of many aspects of Hollywood. [redacted] got the impression that he was a person who found he was "odd man out" in the U.S.A. but who was not accepted by his Soviet counterparts either. [redacted] was told by one of the interpreters of the Union of Cinema Workers that poor LAWSON wanted to mix in and be given something to do but without success. No one took much notice of him (he was not a big enough fish for individual Soviet cinema workers to want to take the risk of getting to know him). When he was invited to see films at the Union, it appeared that no one took the trouble of explaining the plot and no one really respected him.

4. LAWSON has now returned to the U.S.A. but [redacted] has no idea of what effects his experiences in the U.S.S.R. may have had on him.

N-O-T-I-C-E !

The attached prints are for your information, and should be destroyed upon completion of your case.

28th November, 1963.

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