## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT**: LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

**FILE NO.**: 100-6769

---

### REPORT MADE AT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOS ANGELES</th>
<th>DATE WHEN MADE</th>
<th>PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE</th>
<th>REPORT MADE BY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1/26/43</td>
<td>11/6 to 12/24,</td>
<td>JOHN R. VICARS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>30/42</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1/13, 15, 17, 18/43</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CHARACTER OF CASE**: INTERNAL SECURITY - R

**CUSTODIAL DETENTION**

---

### SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

BIBERMAN and LAWSON signed petition sponsored by the League of American Writers advocating the immediate opening of a second front. Informants disclose that subject has been ill and has not been particularly active. Has attended meetings with other Hollywood fellow travelers as in the past. Also interested in the sale of certain tickets, believed to be for EARL BRODER mass meeting. No contact between the subjects and EARL BRODER noted. File reviewed, leads set out. Bank account of subjects fail to reflect any unusual transactions. Some personal history of BILLIE KEEL, associate of BIBERMAN, set out.

---

### REFERENCE:


### DETAILS:

During the period of this report, subject BIBERMAN, according to informants, has not been active in one sustained drive following the Communist Party line, as he has been in the past. He has attended various meetings with Communist fellow travelers who have been associated with him during the current investigation. According to Confidential Source A, he was ill with the flu, as was his wife, GALE SONDORGAARD, which may account for his inactivity.

The People's World dated September 23, 1942, on page 5, contains an article entitled "American Writers Call for Second Front Now".

---

### APPROVED AND FORWARDED:

- Special Agent in Charge
- DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

### COPIES OF THIS REPORT:

- Bureau
- New York
- Boston
- San Francisco
- Los Angeles

---

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

**CONFIDENTIAL**

---

NW 66000

Docld:32338743  Page 2
CONFIDENTIAL

article states that among the signers of this petition to the President as announced by BARRIE BISHOFF, President of the League of American Actors who sponsored this petition, are JOHN HURT, LANGS, and HERBERT BISHOFF. Others who have been associated with subjects and who signed this petition are ALBERT HART, ANDER KARSTEN, DONALD GRIFF STAMP, GUY SEIDEN, HERMAN CANDA, LIEF ROBBERG, and W. L. HINES. It will be noted that the report of the writer dated September 15, 1942, refers to a drive led by BISHOFF advocating a second front.

Concerning the meetings BISHOFF has attended, it was ascertained from Confidential Source B that BISHOFF METS conferred with BISHOFF on November 5, 1942, stating he was expecting him to come to Beverly Hills that evening. Apparently BISHOFF meant that BISHOFF should come to the home of BISHOFF BISHOFF, where BISHOFF is a daily visitor.

On November 6, 1942, according to Source B, BISHOFF visited BISHOFF BISHOFF, wife of BISHOFF BISHOFF, and advised her that he wished her to be present at a meeting Sunday evening to discuss the elections. He made an appointment to see BISHOFF BISHOFF at the Shriner Auditorium meeting Sunday, November 6, 1942, in order to give BISHOFF instructions which were to be passed on to BISHOFF. In this connection it should be noted the Communist Party of the Los Angeles area has also held meetings to discuss the election results. Further, it is noted that a car registered to BISHOFF BISHOFF was spotted by Bureau agents being entered by a person or persons who attended a closed meeting of the Communist Party for general funsdilation held December 12, 1942. This car has license number 65-D-515 and was listed to BISHOFF BISHOFF, address 2559 Wiltshire Avenue, Hollywood. This could indicate that BISHOFF or BISHOFF BISHOFF single with the Los Angeles 6 commissio as distinguished from the Hollywood Movie Industry Commissio, such as BISHOFF and BISHOFF.

On November 7, 1942, GALS spoke with LINDA COLLINS, and a discussion ensued concerning the Citizens' Committee to Defend the American-Mexican Youth, which committee was set up by the Communist Party of Los Angeles, with LA BUS BISHOFF as Secretary in order to give BISHOFF a strong plank in their campaign platform as a defender of the minority groups. LINDA COLLINS stated she was working on this committee. Both she and GALS were somewhat concerned over Mayor BISHOFF BISHOFF's blast at the committee which appeared in the Los Angeles newspapers the previous day to the effect that the committee was prompted by "sinister forces." It was subsequently ascertained through this informant that BISHOFF BISHOFF was contacted by LINDA COLLINS and invited to attend the meeting at the Beverly Hills Hotel, the purpose of which was to enlighten movie industry people about the Citizens' Committee for the Defense of American-Mexican Youth, and the work it was doing in the "Lagoon Lagoon" murder trial. BISHOFF was instructed to get a lot of people to come to the meeting. This meeting was covered by Special Agents ARNOLD BISHOFF and RICHARD RICHARD, but BISHOFF was not observed at this meeting.

Reference report contains information that BISHOFF was interested in the Congress of American Soviet Friendship, a two-day affair concluding November 6, 1942, at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, with a program entitled "Salute to Our Russian Allies." Despite the fact that BISHOFF was writing the script to be used by one of the speakers on the program, it is noted from a personal of the program which was obtained from Confidential Source
D, that BIERMAN's name does not appear either on the list of committees or as a patron. However, it is noted that JOHN HOWARD LAWSON is listed as a member of the program and arrangements committee, along with such other associates of BIERMAN as ROBERT ROSSEN, SIDNEY BUCKMAN, HENRY MYERS, RICHARD COLLINS, WALDO SALT, MARY C. MCGILL, JR., and LAURA SCOTT. A copy of this program is being retained in the file.

On November 11, 1942, BIERMAN was in contact with MARY MCGILL, recently elected President of the Screen Writers Guild, and made an appointment to see her the following day between 2:30 and 3:00 p.m. On November 12, 1942, it was ascertained by physical surveillance by Special Agents N. M. BRIGHT and A. U. RYAN that MARJORIE FISKE conferred with BIERMAN for possibly ten minutes near the corner of Roscomar and Graciosa Drive, Hollywood, after which BIERMAN drove in his car directly to the Beverly Wilshire Hotel, Beverly Hills, where he was observed having lunch with two men, and conferred for an hour or so. One of the men left in a Buick Sedan bearing California license PT1240, which checks to HAROLD BUCKMAN, 1204 Hiller Drive, Hollywood. The other man left in a Cadillac Convertible Coupe bearing California license 174934, registered to ANDRE DAVIEN, 520 North Beverly Drive, Beverly Hills, California. BIERMAN left alone in his car. This information is contained in a memorandum for the file dated November 12, 1942.

It was ascertained through Confidential Source A that on November 11, 1942, one HAROLD (believed to be HAROLD BUCKMAN) visited BIERMAN and suggested that they have lunch the following day with ANDRE DAVIEN. HAROLD also suggested that they pick a quiet spot where they could talk. During this conversation, BIERMAN asked HAROLD what ANDRE's attitude was, and HAROLD advised that he (HAROLD) had told ANDRE about HERBERT's "extensive leadership in the field", and ANDRE said HERBERT would be a good man. HAROLD also added, "You know how deeply he feels about this thing", meaning ANDRE. There was no further indication as to the exact nature of this conversation from this informant.

Also on November 11, 1942, HENRY MYERS conferred with SONDERGAARD in the absence of BIERMAN and told him that the Screen Writers Guild Board was holding an election the following evening, and he wanted BIERMAN's counsel as to who should be elected. It should be noted here that BIERMAN has no official capacity in the Screen Writers Guild, yet despite this fact the above conversation would indicate he has some power in lining up their votes.

During the period of this report, BIERMAN has been a frequent visitor of BARBARA MYERS, also known as BARBARA ALEXANDER. Throughout this investigation BIERMAN has generally had one contact, a woman who appears to do his "leg work", that is, take his instructions, call meetings, and run his errands concerning activities furthering the Communist Party line. MADLEM E. RUTHERFORD has acted in this capacity and was followed by MARJORIE FISKE. Although FISKE still appears to do this work, BARBARA ALEXANDER seems to be used during the period of current report more frequently. For example, on November 12, 1942, BIERMAN visited BARBARA MYERS and suggested that a meeting be called for the following Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday night, in order that "all of us can get together at that time". BARBARA advised she would try to arrange it. She appears to be a trusted worker, and, according to Source A, has been very cautious in her conversation in this informant's presence.
On November 10, 1942, a Mr. MORROW conferred with BIBERMAN, advising him that AL ROSEN was putting on a play in San Francisco and wanted BIBERMAN to direct it. An appointment was made for BIBERMAN at ROSEN's office, 1223 Guarantee Building, Ivar and Hollywood Boulevard, at 2:30 p.m. that day. This information was relayed by Source A, who later advised that BIBERMAN had contacted ROSEN and stated he had read the script to the play and it did not fit his talents. This would indicate that despite BIBERMAN's unemployment, which has been continuous since January, 1942, he refuses to take a legitimate job if it is not exactly what he wants. It should also be noted that BIBERMAN has been very anxious to obtain director's jobs and to sell stories which he has written, the former especially when they are anti-Fascist.

On November 19, 1942, one SADIE (believed to be SADIE HORNITZ, wife of SAM HORNITZ, Communist) conferred with BIBERMAN concerning a report which BIBERMAN was supposed to deliver the following Tuesday. SADIE advised BIBERMAN that it should be forty-five minutes in length, but he stated that it was a terrific job and much good could be done when the people who had heard the review "went out in the community and told of the magnificent co-ordination in Russia when compared with that described in the book, 'Last Train from Berlin'."

On November 22, 1942, BIBERMAN remarked in the presence of Source A that he had tried to get in the Army department having to do with films, but that he had not heard anything from it. It was suggested by the unknown party visiting him that he go to San Francisco where there was more military activity. It will be noted that it was suggested by SAM HORNITZ, as reported in reference report, that BIBERMAN write the U. S. Army, Dayton, Ohio, concerning admission to the U. S. Signal Corps.

On November 30, 1942, ALBERT MALTZ, according to Source A, advised BIBERMAN that there would be a meeting at the home of GERTRUDE PURCELL on the following Thursday evening. MALTZ also told BIBERMAN that he thought he, BIBERMAN, should go into special Red Cross work. On the same day it was learned that MARJORIE FISKE invited BIBERMAN to her home the following Wednesday night. On the same day it was ascertained that BIBERMAN had an appointment with HENRY KERZ and J. CORNEY to collaborate on songs and skits for luncheon the following day. The above two individuals are the authors of "Meet the People". This luncheon and conference was later canceled.

On December 3, 1942, it was learned from a highly confidential source that HERBERT BIBERMAN planned to meet a man named GEORGE that evening at 8:15 p.m. at the corner of Sunset and Fairfax, and that BIBERMAN planned to take GEORGE and some unidentified man to a meeting. The writer and Special Agent MAX SATER conducted a surveillance in this vicinity, and observed two men standing on the corner, apparently waiting for someone. These men were both dark complexioned; one was about 170 pounds, 5 feet 6 inches, stocky build, wavy brown hair, approximately thirty-eight years old, racial characteristic being Jewish; the other man was approximately 5 feet 8 inches, 165 pounds, thirty years old, build rangy. At approximately 8:25 p.m., HERBERT
BIBERMAN was seen walking on Sunset Boulevard from the west. It is believed that he had been let out of a passing car. The three men then got into a 1940 Buick Coupe, license 13-Q-333. The short, stocky man, first described above, was believed to be the driver. This car is registered to JULES DASSIN, 898 South Bronson, Los Angeles, legal owner C.G.A., 7046 Hollywood Boulevard.

The three men drove in this car to 1100 Sierra Alta Way. They parked the car and it is believed that they entered the apartment at 1100 Sierra Alta Way, although Agents did not see them enter the door. Two other cars were parked directly in front of the house: 50-Q-615, 1941 Willys Coupe registered to BARBARA ALEXANDER, 2159 Willette Avenue, Hollywood, legal owner same; and 39-Q-945, registered to HY KRAFT. Also parked next to 1100 Sierra Alta Way was a 1935 Ford two-door, license 9-Z-456, registered to MACK A. MANN, 1326 - 23rd Street, Santa Monica, California, legal owner same. This car was not grouped with the other three.

The address 1100 Sierra Alta Way is that of GERTRUDE FRUCELLI, member of the League of American Writers, and who in 1941 was an instructor in the school for writers sponsored by the League. JULES DASSIN, a writer, has been a contact of BIBERMAN's in the past. HY KRAFT is well known in the current investigation.

On December 2, 1942, one Mrs. BROMILIER (phonetic), of the Progressive School, contacted GAILE WOODWARD, asking GAILE if she wished to send her child to school there. It was ascertained that GAILE did not intend to send the girl there until after the first of the year. It was ascertained on December 7, through Source A that CAILE intended to send her girl to Mrs. BELL's School the following morning. Concerning the Progressive School, located at 2144 North Highland, it is interesting to note that HELEN BEIGHTON, 118 North Manhattan Place, Los Angeles, wrote a letter to Miss JOSEPHINE VOLLMER, Apartado 1179, Mexico D.F. This letter was obtained by Confidential Source B and relates that BOUGHTON has just returned from Mexico City and wants to volunteer for any work she can do in Los Angeles for the anti-Fascist Committee, apparently referring to the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee. In the letter BOUGHTON states "I didn't succeed in reaching Mrs. MILLAN. This Mrs. MILLAN may refer to VERNA C. MILLAN, author of "Mexiko Reborn", whose husband, according to Source B, is IGNACIO MILLAN. The latter was denounced by DIEGO RIVERRA, Mexican artist, as a member of the Communist Party and therefore a member of O.G.P.U. This letter further reflects that BOUGHTON was also unable to get to talk to Mrs. SCHINDLER or to Mrs. BIBERMAN, the Hollywood Chairman.

Continuing, the letter states, "One of the musts of this week is to see the people I have in mind who would be pretty sure to foot the picture bill, so I hope that by the time I write again the check will be on its way. I wonder whether addressing Mrs. MILLAN at the Luis Vives School is all right. Mrs. BIBERMAN will surely know." The writer also referred to one CHULA BLACK, whose energies she thinks might be utilized. The Mrs. BIBERMAN referred to in this letter is MRS. SONJA DAHL BIBERMAN, Chairman of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee in Los Angeles, wife of EDWARD BIBERMAN, who is the brother of HERBERT BIBERMAN.
In connection with DR. HERMAN MILLAH it will be noted that MILLAH and his wife were entertained together with NORMAN LA MARRE, General Secretary of the Communist Party in Mexico, at the home of MILLAH in Mexico City in 1938. This information was obtained from a review of the files, which will be set out more comprehensively later.

Concerning HELMIE BOUGHTON, Confidential National Defense Informant L.A. 20-2 advised on January 9, 1943, that BOUGHTON was born in North Tonawanda, New York, on August 12, 1900. She is an American citizen, single, and employed as a teacher in the Progressive School in Los Angeles at 2440 Highland Avenue. She is a member of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee, and a member of the Executive Committee. Apparently this informant interviewed BOUGHTON, as the report states, "She states positively that this organization has no political connections whatsoever. Its work is to assist people out of the Nazi concentration camps. Subject took a vacation trip to Mexico City. She left December 19, 1942, and returned January 9, 1943. While in Mexico, she contacted Republican Spaniards, including LUIS CAVALLO, a Republican Spanish newspaper writer who is Executive Secretary of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee in Mexico." The report of this informant concludes, "It is believed that subject is sincere, and does not know that this organization has radical tendencies."

Concerning the "vacation" which BOUGHTON took, it is noted in the letter obtained by Confidential Source S that the writer expresses interest in a plan which demands her return to Mexico City and possibly the provinces. Apparently the "vacation" was long planned, in view of the fact that the letter obtained from Confidential Source S was dated August 21, 1942, at Los Angeles.

On December 3, 1942, it was learned from Confidential Source A that MILLAH was expecting his brother-in-law and sister, BEN and HENRIKA LASKIN of Philadelphia to visit him over the Holiday. Through subsequent information from this informant it was ascertained that their coming to Los Angeles was apparently a social visit, as no contacts or conferences with MILLAH's associates were planned for Mr. and Mrs. LASKIN.

On December 11, 1942, it was ascertained that RALPH SALT, MARJORIE FISKE, EDWARD MILLAH, GALE MILLAH, and BENNET MILLAH were going to a dinner party at the home of PAUL JARRICO, 2003 North Canyon Drive, Hollywood. All of these have been frequent associates of MILLAH's in his Communist activities during the current investigation.

On December 12, 1942, MILLAH conferred with MARJORIE FISKE, asking her whether it would be O.K. if he made a check payable to cash as payment for the twenty-four tickets he owed her for. FISKE advised that this was not a very good idea, so MILLAH advised he would arrange other means. This conversation is believed to refer to tickets for the BAIL BRANDER rally held Sunday, January 17, 1943, at the Philharmonic Auditorium. Those tickets were distributed to all branches of the Communist Party for sale. It should be noted here that BAIL BRANDER arrived in Los Angeles Saturday, January 16, 1943, about noon. Spot surveillances and other confidential informants used...
in connection with the Communist Party affairs, some of whom have very intimate contact with officials of the Communist Party, failed to reflect that RUEHL received no documents either the Wednesday or Thursday while he was in Los Angeles. Sunday night, January 17, 1942, a spot check was made at the home of BERNHARD at approximately 7:00 o'clock, and both of the BERNHARD cars were in the garage, and no other cars were parked in the vicinity. Also the home of FRANK TUTTEL was spot checked by the writer and Special Agent E. H. BROWN, with negative results. Photographs were taken at the BERNHARD rally held January 17, but a perusal of these by the writer failed to disclose the presence of BERNHARD.

On December 16, 1941, BERNHARD conferred with Mrs. HEDWIG BERNHARD, wife of RUEHL BERNHARD, at which time he advised her that she send him $3500, which BERNHARD desired to obtain in the near future, in view of the fact that he had to account to JACK for it. JACK is the nickname for JOHN RUSSELL LEACH. It will be noted that reference report indicates JACK (believed to be JOHN RUSSELL LEACH) as recording secretary of the Notes Industry section of the Communist Party.

During the period of this report BERNHARD also conferred with the following people; all of whom are known as being Communist fellow travelers: CHARLES WILKUS, former West Coast Representative of "New Masses" and now working for the RAT SEDLINSKov Agency in Hollywood; LAMAR TUTTEL; PAUL JARRES; FRANK TUTTEL; RALPH BERNHARD; and WILCO SALT. Although the conferences with these people appeared to be social, according to Source A, their names are not cut to indicate that BERNHARD's associates, as in the past, are almost entirely fellow travelers.

The report of the writer dated September 15, 1942, reflects information concerning the activities of one BERNHARD. She was formerly secretary to FRANK TUTTEL, a notorious Communist fellow traveler of the Hollywood Notes Industry. Confidential Source A advised that on November 22, 1942, BERNHARD was planning to marry, and asked BERNHARD to arrange the wedding for her. BERNHARD contacted Rabbi RICHARD DURER and arranged for appointments with BERNHARD and her husband, one RALPH E. BERNHARD. It is interesting to note in this connection that Source A advised that BERNHARD contacted Rabbi DURER, then advised BERNHARD that the Rabbi had made her sign a paper that she would raise all her children in the Jewish religion and would read a lot of Jewish literature. In view of the fact that she was a Gentile and BERNHARD was Jewish, BERNHARD appeared quite worried about this, and BERNHARD directed that she should make the promises and forget them later.

The records of the Bureau of Vital Statistics, examined by the writer on December 26, 1942, and Marriage Record Book 1586, page 207, reflect that MILLIE LEOKHA BERNHARD, 1922 North Avenue, Long Beach, white, age twenty-eight, was born in Topeka, Kansas. Her father is WILLIAM LEOKHA BERNHARD, and her mother is LILLIAN BERNHARD, both born in Topeka, Kansas. She stated that this was her first marriage, and she stated her occupation in restaurant owner. RALPH MILLS BERNHARD, 203 North Beverly Drive, Beverly Hills, the groom, stated he was white, thirty-four, a Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps. He stated this was his first marriage, and that his father was SUGAR BERNHARD and his mother SVA BERNHARD, both born in Warsaw, Poland. BERNHARD and BERNHARD were married November 26, 1942, by MILLIE.
H. BILBAI, Associate Rabbi, Wilshire Boulevard Temple, 807 North Rodeo Drive, Beverly Hills. Witnesses were LDL BERNSTEIN, 204 South Fairfax Drive, Beverly Hills, and HERBERT HINDMAN, Los Angeles. This is apparently a mispelling of HERBERT HINDMAN, since Source A advised that HINDMAN was to be a witness at the wedding. It will be noted that HINDMAN can be reached at LILLIAN HINDMAN'S Tea Room, 345 East 7th Street, Long Beach, California, telephone Long Beach 61065. This is apparently the restaurant with which HINDMAN was connected, according to her statement in her marriage application.

The bank account of JOHN RENARD LASSIE, examined by Special Agent ERNEST F. HAIR through Confidential National Defense Informant L.A. 78, reflects no deposits during the month of December or November. The balance as of November 24, 1942, was $698.05, and the balance as of December 23, 1942, was $498.71. Checks written include one to LARRY'S Book Shop for $22.75. This appears to be the Hollywood Book Shop, which the Communists used most frequently. There was also noted a check dated November 6, 1942, in the amount of $50 payable to the Hollywood Democratic Committee, bearing the notation "Contribution from LIL BARNES". LIL BARNES is a reported Communist and a frequent associate of LASSIE.

On November 23, 1942, a check payable to FRANK'S S. FAMOSO in the amount of $15 was noted. FAMOSO is a fellow traveler of long standing.

The bank account of HERBERT HINDMAN, checked through this Informant, revealed the following deposits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 12, 1942</td>
<td>$112.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 12, 1942</td>
<td>200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 21, 1942</td>
<td>130.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 28, 1942</td>
<td>213.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The balance as of November 24, 1942, was $498.71. The balance as of December 23, 1942, was $472.81. Checks include the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Payee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 16, 1942</td>
<td>$253.77</td>
<td>County Tax Collector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 9, 1942</td>
<td>22.18</td>
<td>County Tax Collector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 11, 1942</td>
<td>3.15</td>
<td>LARRY BERNSTEIN'S Book Shop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 26, 1942</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>Democratic State Central Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 7, 1942</td>
<td>49.00</td>
<td>CHARLES BARNES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 6, 1942</td>
<td>3.25</td>
<td>Hollywood Women's Council (16-175)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 9, 1942</td>
<td>150.00</td>
<td>JASE BERNSTEIN (Bank of America 3207)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A review of the file made by Special Agent VAUGHN I. BERNSTEIN, set out in a memorandum for the file of instant case dated October 2, 1942, is set out below in full.
"From a review of this file, it has become apparent that the investigation in this case has been well worth while, so far as the obtaining of information concerning the so-called intellectual or Hollywood group of Communists. However, it is also apparent that the investigation has deviated from the path originally set for it and, in fact, very little investigation has gone to substantiate the original allegation. The original allegation set out by the Bureau, who received advice from a confidential source, was that BISHEMAN and his wife, GALS SCHERZERMAN, were the chief contacts in California between the Executive Committee of the Communist International in Mexico City and Communist officials in the United States, and that JOHN HOMAS LACK was courier between Los Angeles and New York.

"It is noted that in 1928, BISHEMAN and his wife were entertained, together with HOMAS LACK, General Secretary of the Communist Party at Mexico, at the home of Dr. R. R. C. HILL in Mexico City. It is also noted that BISHEMAN met the Minister of Finance for Loyalist Spain in Mexico and later entertained him at his home in Hollywood. BISHEMAN has also spent some time in Moscow, Russia. No effort has been made to check the State Department for information as to BISHEMAN's and LACK's passports or the Immigration Service for any immigration data which possibly would give some data as to the dates and places BISHEMAN and LACK might have been contacted or as couriers. This should be done.

"The Bureau should be asked to have the original informant, whose name has never been supplied, re-interviewed for definite details concerning the original allegation in light of the investigation conducted to date.

"The Bureau, through sources now available to them, should also be requested to have some check made on the activities of BISHEMAN, LACK, the General Secretary of the Communist Party in Mexico, in an effort to determine the names of any Americans or others who might contact this individual as couriers between Mexico and the United States, to determine if any of these individuals have been in contact with BISHEMAN.

"While considerable information has been obtained concerning BISHEMAN's background, same having been furnished by him voluntarily to a Bureau Agent, none of this information has been checked or verified. Scarcely in BISHEMAN's life has it ever been made such contacts as would raise him to the position he now holds. His activities since his connection with the now defunct American Fascist Mobilization have been well covered, but are extremely vague prior to that time. It is indicated he came to Hollywood from New York about seven years ago. These gaps in his history should be filled in.

"Serial 145 in instant file is a letter from G-2 which indicates that G-2, Eighth Corps Area, advised that KATHYN BURKE, who makes her headquarters at the Casa Blanca, apparently in Mexico City, is the chief director of courier operations and subversive data between the United States and Mexico, and that she acts as a contact for GALS SCHERZERMAN, subject BISHEMAN's wife. The only inquiry concerning this was to establish that KATHYN BURKE was a motion picture actress known as the "Panther Woman". G-2, Eighth Corps Area, through the appropriate Bureau office should be requested to make the informant available to the Bureau for thorough interview. [Signature]

CONFIDENTIAL
whereabouts should be determined, and a reasonable amount of investigation should be conducted to determine her activities. It is the writer's recollection that KATHERINE DREIS, while engaging in a motion picture some years ago, suffered a tropical disease which was almost fatal, and which caused her to use the studio for recovery. It is possible that she is in need of funds and would be susceptible to acting as a courier.

"The New York Office should be closely followed in their investigation of the activities of ALEXANDER STEVENS."

Since the date of this memorandum, records of the State Department concerning the passports of subjects and their visas have been checked. Concerning subject's chronological history, which this memorandum for the file states has been explored thoroughly previous to RIBBEN'S connection with the American Peace Mobilization, his Draft Board records reflect that he filled an occupational questionnaire postmarked May 15, 1942, at which time he stated he was unemployed. He listed the following previous occupational experience: Administrative official, 1921 to 1928 as Production and Sales Director of RIBBEN BROTHERS, INCORPORATED, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, manufacturer of women's clothing; theater director, 1928 to 1930; motion picture writer and director since January, 1935. It will be noted that between 1923 and 1935 subject listed no occupation.

It was ascertained through CHARLES MACDONALD, Credit Manager of the JACK BILL Clothing Shop, Hollywood and Vine Streets, Hollywood, that RIBBEN had formerly had an account at this shop, which was closed in 1935. It was ascertained by Special Agent FRANK P. HALL at the Security First National Bank, Hollywood and Cahuenga Branch, that JACK BILL's Clothing Shop maintains an account at the bank. It will be noted that a check which RIBBEN drew payable to JACK BILL was deposited in this bank. MACDONALD, of the JACK BILL Shop, had no record of this transaction, but stated that books were only kept on credit accounts.
COMMODORE LEADS

THE SAN FRANCISCO FIELD DIVISION

+ At Redwood City, California, will ascertain the background and communistic activities and tendencies of BILLIE HILLI (w/o arm), American Trust Co., and will check her bank account. It located, bearing in mind the indications on page 77 and 78 of the report of Special Agent JOHN R. VIGANS, Los Angeles, dated September 15, 1942, that an army from Hollywood Communist has been transmitted to her. It is requested that this monitoring he made for the next six months.

THE BOSTON FIELD DIVISION

* At Williamsburg, Massachusetts, will review records of the Registrar, Williams College, for personal history of JOHN ROBERT LASSON, it being noted he regularly receives mail from the alumni fund, Williams College. It is believed LASSON's true name is JACOB LEVY. He was born September 25, 1895, at New York city.

* At Boston, Massachusetts, will attempt to locate a criminal record on JOHN ROBERT LASSON, believed true name JACOB LEVY, it being noted at page 79 of report of Special Agent JOHN R. VIGANS, Los Angeles, dated September 15, 1942, that he admitted being arrested August 27, 1927, in Boston for picketing the State Capitol in connection with the Anarco-Russi connection.

THE NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

At New York City, N.Y., will furnish the Los Angeles Field Division with copies of the pertinent investigative report on ALFRED J. BROCK, Internal Security - R, Custodial Detention, and ALEXANDER STEVENSON, a.k.a. ALFRED GOLDSMITH, Internal Security - R, Custodial Detention, it being noted that since the date of reference report of the writer, separate case files have been opened on these two subjects in the New York Field Division. The Los Angeles Office is particularly interested in receiving information of the Communist connection and activity of BROCK and GOLDSMITH, especially any contact with SHIREMAN or movie industry people of Hollywood who may be acting as couriers for SHIREMAN, or connection with suspected Russian espionage agents in New York.

THE LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

* At Los Angeles, California, will maintain contact with ONSK LA 70 for bank checks on subject, and also for check on entrance of SHIREMAN's safe deposit box at this bank, $900.

* Will develop informant in LASSON neighborhood for continuous surveillance, it being noted that MARRA and EDWIN RAY (employed at Lockheed), residing at 4124 Golden State Canyon Avenue, is a good location, and which we have previously used to advantage.
CONFIDENTIAL

[Text]

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

[ SOURCE A, B, and C;
SOURCE D;
SOURCE E;
SOURCE F.]

C1/D1 LA K-0-1

C1/D1 LA 1397

Office of Postal Censorship.