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Office Memorandum

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TO : Director, FBI (100-370750)

DATE: September 29, 1953

FROM : SAC, Los Angeles (100-21198)

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SUBJECT: JOHN HOWARD LAWSON, wa.
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On September 8, 1953, LAWSON gave the ninth in a series of lectures on playwriting at 7410 Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood, California, which is the office of the Hollywood Arts, Sciences and Professions Council (ASP), which has been sponsoring this series. CS LA 3738-S was present and subsequently furnished SA BERNARR M. PTACEK with a written report of the meeting.

During the discussion period, the motion picture "Shane" was brought up. LAWSON said that contrary to popular belief, this was not a "progressive" movie, even though a great many people regarded it as such. According to LAWSON, it is not even a socially significant picture. LAWSON maintained that the fact that SHANE took up arms when he did not believe in force and taught the little boy how to draw a pistol proved LAWSON's contention that the entire point of the film was merely to engender an approval of war.

LAWSON went on to say, according to the informant's report, that "of course violence is necessary and desirable when it works for the good of the masses of the people."

LAWSON told the gathering that he was one of the "10" who went to jail "for disagreeing with the socio-political powers in this country" and for upholding what he believes are fundamental rights. He said, "As humanity moves forward, it must face and solve new social problems."

[CS LA 3512-S] advises that JOHN HOWARD LAWSON continues to be the dominant figure in the Hollywood ASP organization and one who has a great deal to do with ASP decisions on all important matters of policy.

MMB:pam
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Handwritten signatures and initials, including "Thornton" and "JW".