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HERBERT BIBERMAN  
JOHN HOWARD LAWSON

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

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

FILE NO. **100-6769**

REPORT MADE AT <b>LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>12-1-41</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>11/15-29/41</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>THOMAS E. MYERS</b>
TITLE <b>HERBERT BIBERMAN; JOHN HOWARD LAWSON.</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - R</b>
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: <p>Daily association of Bureau agent with subject BIBERMAN continuing, with resultant significant disclosures: (a) That subject is known to intimates as "Anti-Nazi BIBERMAN;" (b) That he lived in Moscow and studied drama there during 1928; (c) That he enjoyed special privileges from Soviet Government and was well acquainted with Soviet officials; (d) That he is intensely partisan in behalf of Russian people and advocates all possible United States aid to them, including war; (e) That he joined the California State Guard recently to give expression to his convictions. Subject described by agent as extremely intelligent and cautious in conversation, but definitely friendly to agent. Date of Benefit Concert for Russian War Relief formally proclaimed "Medical Aid to Russia Day" by Los Angeles Mayor, FLETCHER BOWRON; BIBERMAN advised by JANE MEADE that said proclamation resulted from DIMITRI TIOMKIN'S efforts. TIOMKIN advised BIBERMAN concert a sellout, citing celebrities who will make brief speeches supporting Russian Aid and indicating difficulties being experienced with BORIS INGSTER. Production plans for Russian propaganda motion picture described; BIBERMAN in directive consultation with GEORGE EFFENS on this subject. Sponsorship of additional Russian Aid projects by unknown groups noted. Payment of \$465.87 by BIBERMAN to GEORGE WILLNER, well-known Communist, checked.</p>			DECLASSIFIED BY <i>Sps Mac...</i> ON <u>2-21-95</u> (JFK)
<p>APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i></p> <p>Classified by <i>945 JF/...</i></p> <p>Special Agent in Charge</p> <p>COPIES OF THIS REPORT</p> <p>5 - Bureau 2 - New York 2 - Los Angeles</p> <p><b>CONFIDENTIAL</b></p>			
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sponsorship. The "People's World," Communist Party daily newspaper, is replete with advertisements daily of small parties at homes and small halls staged for the advertised purpose of benefiting Russian War relief. In particular, it has been noted that some of these small parties are ascribed to the sponsorship of the "I.W.O. Russian War Relief." It has been further reported by Confidential National Defense Informant Los Angeles No. 100 that subject BIBERMAN has been the recipient of various requests to participate in programs for the benefit of Russian war relief, all of which he has uniformly declined. The cited informant advises that one Mr. WILLNES directed an unknown woman to communicate with Subject BIBERMAN to advise that a large group was giving a banquet at the Park Manor, 2200 West Seventh Street, Sunday, December 14, 1941 to raise funds for Russia. Informant states that the caller requested BIBERMAN to act as master of ceremonies for the group, advising that it was "another medical aid to Russia group which has sprung up." The caller further commented that BIBERMAN was "such a good appeal artist that he has been missed in town, and people have been asking about him." (S)(u)

It will be noted that this latter statement refers to the pattern of withdrawal from public appearances on the part of BIBERMAN which has been observed throughout this investigation. (S)(u)

The informant advises that BIBERMAN declined to act as master of ceremonies as requested, directing the caller to make an appeal for a speaker to the Russian War Relief Association, describing that organization as "official." (S)(u)

[An additional request was made along these lines to BIBERMAN'S wife, GALE SONDERGAARD, according to Confidential National Defense Informant Los Angeles No. 100, who reports that one MARY BRAN contacted subject's wife, requesting her to appear on a benefit program for Russian War relief. BRAN stated in conversation with GALE SONDERGAARD that she was well acquainted with Miss SONDERGAARD'S mother-in-law (Mrs. JOSEPH BIBERMAN, subject's mother) and further said that she was doing a big job to aid Russia. She stated that the group of which she is a member was giving a big show at the Wilshire Ebell Theater on November 29, 1941 and that it was desired that GALE SONDERGAARD contribute her talent on the program, together with ABBOTT and COSTELLO, ADOLPH MENJOU, and other stars. On the occasion of this request, SONDERGAARD declined to commit herself but it was later ascertained by Confidential National Defense Informant No. 150 that she will appear on the program. It has also been ascertained that the program in question (S)(u)

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101-13-1930