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JOHN HOWARD LAWSON

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

**LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

FILE NO. **100-3374 LMR**

REPORT MADE AT <b>BOSTON, MASS.</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>12/10/41</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>11/4/41</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>J. H. FOLEY</b>
TITLE <b>HERBERT BIRNMAN; JOHN HOWARD LAWSON</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - R</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

**EDWARD C. CARTER** arrived Boston 10:30 PM American Airlines from NYC - registered Copley Plaza Hotel, occupied Room 307; NYC advised surveillance desired. Entrance made into room of Subject at Copley Plaza Hotel. No rooms available due to American Surgeons Convention, in order to properly surveillance Subject. Correspondence indicated he had been member of President's Committee to Soviet Union. Bureau advised no surveillance. Telegraphs despatched by Subject set forth.

**Details:**

**AT BOSTON, MASS.**

On November 4, 1941 Special Agent **JAMES MALLEY** of New York City called acting Special Agent in Charge **W. J. WEST** and informed that the Subjects **HERBERT BIRNMAN** and **JOHN HOWARD LAWSON** had been associated with an **EDWARD C. CARTER**; that all three were quite active in Russian War Relief, Inc. in and about New York City. **CARTER** at the present, it was stated, is associated with the American Russian Institute for Cultural Relations with the Soviet Union. New York City had placed a surveillance on **CARTER**. That surveillance had been very unproductive because of the actions of **CARTER** who apparently felt he was under surveillance and, therefore, would occasionally double-back on his tracks and do other things for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not he was being followed.

New York City Office telephoned the Bureau and received information to spot check him. It was ascertained by New York City

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 - Bureau</li> <li>2 - New York City</li> <li>2 - Los Angeles</li> <li>2 - Boston</li> </ul>		

The writer proceeded to the lobby of the Copley Plaza and observed EDWARD C. CARTER. He was a man about 5'7" tall, dressed in black coat, gray suit, thin, wears pince nez glasses, blue eyes, light gray hair, distinguished features and walked quite rapidly.

The Bureau informant at the Copley Plaza Hotel stated that due to the American Surgeons Convention which was being held at the Copley Plaza at that date there were no rooms available where agents could properly surveillance the activities of Subject. Arrangements were made with the Informant at the Hotel to keep record of all telegrams and telephone calls made by Subject from the Copley Plaza Hotel.

The writer reported immediately to the Boston Office and a call was placed to the Bureau advising them of the fact that Subject was apparently a member of the President's Committee to the Soviet Union which committee was known to the writer; that he had been in Russia shortly after hostilities occurred between Russia and Germany. The Bureau stated that they had requested New York City not to place a surveillance upon Subject and that New York City Office would be advised to ascertain more fully the background of EDWARD C. CARTER prior to making further surveillance.

The Informant of the Bureau at the Copley Plaza stated that EDWARD C. CARTER placed the following telephone calls:

American Air Lines  
Professor Samuel Cross, Harvard University

It was ascertained that one telegram was sent by Subject at 11:00 PM on November 3, 1941. This telegram was addressed to Dr. Percell, Central Hotel, 111 East 46th St., New York City. This telegram stated Richards phone does not answer. Another telegram was sent to Miss Harriett Moore, c/o Phillip Moor, Winnetka, Illinois. This telegram advised that "Samuel Cross is sending to you Clarence Russell" /s/ E. CARTER. This telegram was sent at 2:30 PM on November 4, 1941.

Confidential Informant NDB 52, whose identity is known to the Bureau, stated that on November 15, 1941 that the Russian War Relief has become quite active in Boston and he has been approached by letter from Russian War Relief, Inc. to act as a representative in this area. It is known that Samuel Gore is a Professor at Harvard University and has been quite active in committee for defending America by aiding the allies.

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