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HERBERT JOSEPH 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</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>7/5/43</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>4/11 - 6/30/43</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>JOHN R. VICARS</b>	<b>KPM</b>
TITLE <b>HERBERT JOSEPH BIBERMAN, et al</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - R CUSTODIAL DETENTION</b>	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

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HERBERT BIBERMAN directed skit for CIO Rally 4/24/43. LAWSON also participated. LAWSON is member of Executive Board of Hollywood Democratic Committee, and BIBERMAN wrote "Aim and Purposes" leaflet for this organization. LAWSON is presently instructor in Los Angeles Workers School; will continue instructions in new summer term, beginning August 6th. [BIBERMAN directed MARGARET MAITZ to attend CP State Convention delegate meeting 5/14/43 and delivered credentials therefor to her.] BIBERMAN sought as director of skit for WILLIAM Z. FOSTER rally 7/18/43 under auspices Los Angeles County CP. Apparent Communist meetings attended by subjects listed. Bank accounts monitored [and results of mail covers set out.]

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OTHERWISE

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DATE 6-19-85 BY SP6/SS-20/ndk  
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- P - DECLASSIFIED BY 19145/TSM/ogp  
ON 4-15-82  
259416

REFERENCE:

Bureau File 100-24499.  
Report of Special Agent JOHN R. VICARS,  
Los Angeles, California, April 20, 1943.

DETAILS:

Division.

HERBERT JOSEPH BIBERMAN and JOHN HOWARD LAWSON are on the Key Figure List of the Los Angeles Field

LAWSON-BIBERMAN Activity in the CIO-PHILIP MURRAY Reception

Classified by [signature]  
Declassify on: OADR

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:

The "Los Angeles Times" dated April 23, 1943, in an

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meeting. He also directed that if a committee was appointed at the mobilization meeting, he would be very happy to sit in with it, together with BILL OLIVER and to work on the script, but he did not want to assume the responsibility. BIBERMAN then conferred with BILL OLIVER and received confirmation that OLIVER would attend the HOLLYWOOD WRITERS MOBILIZATION meeting. BIBERMAN directed that OLIVER ask for a committee and when it is formed, BIBERMAN suggested that it would be useful if he (BIBERMAN) and OLIVER and the committee all worked on the skit together. He also directed that OLIVER should bring along the material that BIBERMAN prepared for CONNELLY, as parts of it could be used as a basis from which to work. According to the informant, BIBERMAN's skit involved four workers, including a negro worker and a woman worker. (X)u

On April 16, 1943, BILL OLIVER, whom the informant advised is a member of the Newspaper Guild, conferred with BIBERMAN and told him that the HOLLYWOOD WRITERS MOBILIZATION committee writing the show for the CIO meeting would hold a conference at the home of PAUL JARRICO, 727 Linda Flora Drive, West Los Angeles, Sunday, April 18th, at 12:00 noon. (X)u

BIBERMAN was also active in soliciting Hollywood people to participate in the skit. He attempted to get JOHN SHEPARD, who, apparently, is the husband of ANNE REVERE, but was advised that he was in Officers Training for the Navy. However, he did obtain RUSSELL GLEASON, 1580 Queens Road; LIONEL STANPEG, 7220 Franklin; MARC LAWRENCE; LENA HORNE (negro), 1229 Hara Avenue; ELLIOTT SULLIVAN, 6213 Glen Airy Way, Los Angeles; and STEPHEN BARCLAY. He also attempted to get WALTER ABEL through FRANK TUTTLE, but was unsuccessful. (X)u

Of those obtained, it should be noted that RUSSELL GLEASON is a member of the HOLLYWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE, reported to be the newest of the Communist front organizations among the movie industry people; LIONEL STANPEG was a Communist, according to JOHN L. LEECH, former Executive Secretary of the Los Angeles County Communist Party, a few years ago and still reportedly follows the Communist Party line. LENA HORNE (Negro) has been given much attention by the "People's World", Communist West Coast newspaper, and is reportedly a very close associate of ORSON WELLES. ELLIOTT SULLIVAN, according to Confidential National Defense Informant LA-1357, participated in the skit given at the Communist Party picnic, May 2, 1943, and also has been spotted in attendance by the writer at meetings at which ELIZABETH LEACH, Northwest Section Organizer, has been in attendance. (X)u

In attempting to obtain LENA HORNE to act in this skit, BIBERMAN conferred with REVELS CAYTON and also HYMAN S. KRAFT, also known as HY KRAFT, but after they were unsuccessful for various reasons in getting (X)u

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her consent, BIBERMAN conferred with her, and secured her immediate consent, according to Confidential National Defense Informant LA HB-1. (X)u

The "Labor Herald", Friday, April 30, 1943, issue, has the following to say about the contribution of Hollywood to this great rally:

"Hollywood, film capital of the world, brought out its best performers for the great rally. Preceding MURRAY's talk was a dramatic skit written, directed, and acted by top flight performers from movieland. Authors of the play were PAUL JARRICO and EARL ROBINSON; HERBERT BIBERMAN, well known Hollywood and Broadway director, staged the show. The cast included LIONEL STANPEC, LENA HORNE, MARC LAWRENCE, FRED GRAFF, ART SMITH, VICTOR KILIAN, DANNY MANN, ELLIOTT SULLIVAN, and STEPHEN BARCLAY."

JARRICO, it will be recalled, has been a frequent associate of BIBERMAN in the past, is a member of the LEAGUE OF AMERICAN WRITERS, the HOLLYWOOD WRITERS MOBILIZATION, and was an instructor at the School for Writers sponsored by the Hollywood Chapter of the LEAGUE OF AMERICAN WRITERS. His true name is believed to be ISRAEL SHAPIRO. [It appeared to Confidential National Defense Informant LA HB-1 that TOM VAN DYKE, a known Communist and newscaster on the CIO "Our Daily Bread" program, performed the liaison work between CONNELLY and BIBERMAN, it having been noted by the informant that VAN DYKE would leave material at LARRY EDMUND's Book Shop for BIBERMAN at the request of CONNELLY. Informant advised that this material referred to the script which CONNELLY had the final o.k. on. BIBERMAN, according to the informant, spent all of Saturday, April 24th, at the Olympic Auditorium directing a rehearsal for the skit. PHIL CONNELLY was also in attendance at the rehearsal part of the time.] (X)u

BIBERMAN-LAWSON Activity in the  
HOLLYWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

As was noted in reference report, BIBERMAN and LAWSON were active in the HOLLYWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE, which, according to Confidential National Defense Informant LA-1138, appears to be the newest Communist front organization among the Hollywood motion picture people. A leaflet published by the HOLLYWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE states that this organization was launched January 14, 1943, as an association of voters having its origin in the motion picture community. The pamphlet specifically states, "The Hollywood Democratic Committee is not directly affiliated with the Democratic Party organization, although it regards the Democratic Party as the rallying point for liberal forces in California."

In this connection, it is interesting to note that on (X)u

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June 2, 1943, Confidential National Defense Informant LA HB-1 advised that while BIBERMAN and an unidentified man were in conference concerning development of the policy of the HOLLYWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE, BIBERMAN stated, "There is one policy--the need for progressive action and that action can come about here in California only through the Democratic Party." According to the informant, the unidentified man agreed with BIBERMAN and said, "Yes, and if we were in the South, we would have to progress there through the Republican Party." Apparently, the tactics of the Communist Party of boring from within are also in use in this organization. (S) u

Among the officers listed in the above mentioned pamphlet who have been associates of BIBERMAN and LAWSON are GEORGE PEPPER, Executive Secretary, who, according to Confidential National Defense Informant LA-1357, is a Communist functionary in the Musicians Branch of the Northwest Section; WALTER ABEL; MARC CONNELLY; RUSSELL GLEASON; D. A. DORAN; LOUIS HARRIS; Mrs. HENRY MYERS, also known as BARBARA MYERS; and Mrs. FRANK TUTTLE. All of those named there are either officers or members of the Executive Board. Also listed as a member of the Executive Board is JOHN HOWARD LAWSON. (S) u

BIBERMAN, according to Confidential National Defense Informant LA HB-1, has formed the BEACHWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE, which is affiliated with the HOLLYWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE. It appears to be more or less of a precinct club composed of people in BIBERMAN's neighborhood, which is known as Hollywoodland. (S) u

It was ascertained on April 14, 1943, from this informant that GEORGE PEPPER conferred with HERBERT BIBERMAN, and it was learned that BIBERMAN was planning a rally to be sponsored by the BEACHWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE at the Chermoya School, Beachwood and Franklin Avenues, April 29th, at which LLOYD DAVIES, elected Councilman in the recent city elections, will be invited to speak. BIBERMAN suggested that someone with a big name be obtained to speak for the HOLLYWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE, and PEPPER suggested GLORIA STUART who, PEPPER STATED, was always happy to do such things. The purpose of this meeting was the rally behind FAY ALLEN, Negress, who was engaged in a runoff for a post on the city Board of Education. It should be noted here that FAY ALLEN received strong Communist Party support in this runoff election. (S) u

On April 15, 1943, BIBERMAN conferred with HENRY MYERS concerning a BEACHWOOD DEMOCRATIC CLUB meeting at the BIBERMAN home that evening in order to plan for the meeting at the school. It was expected that 50 to 75 people would attend, and BIBERMAN was anxious to get EDDIE ELISCU to sing a few songs, namely, "Damn the Torpedo", "Mr. JUAREZ", and "Mr. Lincoln". On the same date BIBERMAN secured EDDIE ELISCU for this (S) u

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It is to be noted that an informant of the Los Angeles Office reported that at a branch meeting held that week an announcement was made of this meeting at the home of MARY ELEY, and the branch members were invited to attend. MARY R. ELEY, 5921 Chula Vista, Los Angeles, according to records of Source "A", was a new member of the Communist Party, assigned to Branch Q, Northwest Section, April 15, 1943. She holds Communist Party Book No. 36148. (X)U

All contacts by BIBERMAN in connection with the HOLLYWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE activities noted areas follows: (X)U

On April 29, 1943, BARBARA MYERS contacted GALE SONDERGAARD, congratulating her on her performance the previous evening at the HOLLYWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE rally described previously, and requested that she mail a copy of her script to a MAURICE CLARK, 1761 North Van Ness as he would like to have it. (X)U

On April 26, 1943, HERBERT BIBERMAN conferred with GEORGE PEPPER and requested BIBERMAN to turn in his unsold tickets to ANN POLLOCK, 1455 Laurel, the following day. This undoubtedly refers to tickets to the HOLLYWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE rally held April 28th. (X)U

On April 27, 1943, BARBARA MYERS conferred with HERBERT BIBERMAN, advising him that they were making a special drive, and that IRVING PICHEL had been appointed to do the collecting. BIBERMAN suggested that ANN POLLOCK be contacted for suggestions. (X)U

On June 7, 1943, it was ascertained by the informant that there was to be a meeting at the home of RUSSELL LAMBEAU, 3124 Belden Drive, Telephone - Granite 5416, that evening of the BEACHWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE. (X)U

A surveillance was maintained by Special Agent DAVID A. MAC CULLOCH and the writer, and it was observed that HERBERT BIBERMAN, GALE SONDERGAARD, EDWARD BIBERMAN, and SONJA DAHL BIBERMAN entered the LAMBEAU home. No other cars were noted in the vicinity until well past the time for the meeting, although an unidentified car let out three or four people. Other people scheduled to attend were Mrs. SULLIVAN (possibly Mrs. ELLIOTT SULLIVAN), GEORGE VOGER, and a Miss BATESON (last two are phonetic).

Confidential National Defense Informant IA-1138 attended a meeting of the HOLLYWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE, Wednesday, June 16, 1943, at the Hollywood-Roosevelt Hotel, the announced purpose of which was to take up the question of the recent zoot suit riots in Los Angeles. About

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