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Director, FBI

Re: **COMPIC**
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Reference is made to Los Angeles letter dated November 10, 1949, and also Detroit letter dated November 23, 1949, in the above-captioned matter.

²
JOHN HOWARD LAWSON and his wife arrived at Grand Central Station, New York City, at 6:40 A.M. on October 26, 1949. They were met by their son and daughter-in-law and immediately proceeded to the apartment of JIM STERLING at 404 West 25th Street, New York City.

It will be noted that the indices of the New York Office reflect that JIM STERLING is a sponsor for PEOPLES SONGS, INC., which was cited as a Communist front by the California Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, 1948, Page 392.

The "Daily Worker" for October 24, 1949, page five, column one, carried an article to the effect that LAWSON, whose conviction for contempt of the House Un-American Activities Committee is now on appeal to the United States Supreme Court, was flying from Hollywood to speak the following Thursday at a "defense of freedom" meeting at the St. Nicholas Arena. The article stated that the announcement came from the New York Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions. It pointed out that the meeting, which would feature thirty leading American intellectuals, had been called to consider the significance of the conviction of the eleven Communists and the contempt citation of their counsel in relation to the traditional American rights of free speech, liberty, and human dignity.

cc: Boston
Los Angeles
Philadelphia

GJS:MC
100-50670

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Letter to Director
NY 100-50370

Confidential Informant ID-304, attended a mass meeting protesting the conviction of the eleven Communist leaders at the St. Nicholas Arena, New York City, on October 27, 1949. The informant advised that approximately fifteen hundred persons were in attendance and that the meeting was held under the auspices of the New York State Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions. The informant advised that the Chairman of the meeting was a party whose name he did not clearly ascertain, but to the best of his knowledge he believed it was RICHARD G. BOYER. BOYER, G. JOHN ROGGE, Dr. W. E. B. DuBOIS, HOWARD EAST, YIP HARBURG, CLIFFORD OWENS, Father CLARENCE DUFFY, COTTIE CROCKETT, HARRY SACHSE, JOHN HOWARD LAWSON, and Reverend JOHN DARR were the speakers at the event, and the principal speaker, according to Confidential Informant ID-304, was JOHN HOWARD LAWSON.

LAWSON said, "Some two years ago we (the Hollywood Ten) warned the American people about the conspiracy against their freedom. In Foley Square we witnessed the same scene . . . police and stool pigeons. We saw in Washington at the so-called trial of the 'Hollywood Ten' exactly the same thing. A shocking act took place at Foley Square. They are out to outlaw a philosophy and a thought. We must fight against this conspiracy with everything we've got."

LAWSON urged those present to read DALTON TRUMBO'S pamphlet, "The Time of the Teardrop", from which LAWSON quoted EMILE ZOLA'S article by the same name. He then said, "At Foley Square the issue was not free speech alone. The actual issue is peace or war. True patriotism is to protect the country from the men in Washington and Wall Street, who are out to rule the world."

LAWSON said, "It is the duty of men of culture to fight the conspiracy to destroy the freedom of the American people." He underlined that in the Soviet Union and countries of "other peoples democracies" they have real democracy and that the forces of progress there and in the rest of the world can win the fight for peace.

Confidential Informant ID-415 attended a meeting of approximately 150 persons at the Hotel Sutton in New York City at 8:30 P.M. on that date. This meeting was also sponsored by the New York Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions. According to the informant, there were three speakers and the theme of their speeches concerned the prosecution of the "Hollywood Ten". JOHN HOWARD LAWSON was the principal speaker, and he said that there is collaboration in Hollywood that never existed before. He added that Wall Street is not responsible for the production of pictures which comply with their purpose of "blood and destruction" and that progressive pictures are rarely made but when they are the large chain theaters refuse to accept them. (R)(u)

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10/27/49

