

DATE: 11-14-2017

JFK Assassination System  
Identification Form

Date: 5/13/201

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Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI  
RECORD NUMBER : 124-90143-10388  
  
RECORD SERIES : HQ  
  
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 100-370750-142

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Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI  
FROM : LA  
TO : HQ  
  
TITLE :  
  
  
DATE : 01/28/1949  
PAGES : 18  
  
SUBJECTS :  
JOHN HOWARD LAWSON  
  
DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT  
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified  
RESTRICTIONS : 4  
CURRENT STATUS : Redact  
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 10/09/1998  
  
OPENING CRITERIA : INDEFINITE  
  
COMMENTS : RPT

FD-75

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
 THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

LOS ANGELES

FILE No. LA 100-21198

REPORT MADE AT <b>LOS ANGELES</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>1/28/49</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>12/12/48; 1/5,7/49.</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>BERNARR M. PTACEK</b> <span style="float: right;">MCR</span>
TITLE <b>JOHN HOWARD LAWSON, w.a.s., Jacob Levy, Jack Lawson.</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY-C</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

On 11/8/48 the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear LAWSON's contempt case prior to the case review by U. S. Court of Appeals. Subject is anxious to get a job in the motion picture studios as it would be a "tremendous victory" if he could get a writing job. LAWSON's forthcoming book now in the hands of the publishers. LAWSON's activities in A.S.P. set out. Subject considers himself most qualified person in Hollywood to speak on the Russian Revolution. LEN GOLDSMITH, National Director of C.R.C. had dinner with LAWSON on his recent trip to Los Angeles. Subject later spoke at C.R.C. Conference. He spoke on California Labor School Conference on topic "History of Democratic Thought in America." Dr. PHILLIP FOMER of the New York Jefferson School of Social Science spoke on the same California Labor School Conference and resided at LAWSON's home while in Los Angeles. At election time subject commented that J. PARNELL THOMAS may be off the House Committee on Un-American Activities and further commented that RANKIN will replace him. This is desirable, according to the subject, as "we have cooked up a lot of stuff regarding him." Contribution to I.P.P. set out. On 1/31/49 LAWSON will start series of six lectures sponsored by the A.S.P. Council on "A New Approach to American History and Our Cultural Heritage." Announcement of above inclosed with this report.

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REFERENCE: Bureau File 100-2449.  
 Report of SA BERNARR M. PTACEK, Los Angeles, 9/17/48.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 12/27/95 BY 5668 SJU/jde  
 (JFK)

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CNDI LA JO-1 advised that to the best of his knowledge LAWSON has occupied his time writing a book or books on his own initiative. CNDI LA JO-1 reported on December 16, 1948 that LAWSON has now commented that he would take any writing job even if it meant a cut in salary. LAWSON said it would be a tremendous victory if he could get hired.

CNDI LA JO-1 advised that JACK LAWSON is writing a book and that he was employing JANET STEVENSON and EDITH DIAMOND to type some of the material. In this connection Los Angeles T-1 reported on October 12, 1948 that a large husky man who was lame in the right leg appeared at the home of EDITH DIAMOND in Sherman Oaks, California. This person drove a Ford car bearing 1948 California license plate #71 W 273. The records of the Division of Motor Vehicles for the State of California reflected that the above mentioned automobile license is assigned to JOHN HOWARD LAWSON.

Los Angeles T-1 specifically stated that <sup>Mr</sup> JOHN HOWARD LAWSON entered the house at 15120 Hesby Street, Sherman Oaks. The Los Angeles telephone directory reflects that this is the home of MUNI DIAMOND and EDITH DIAMOND. CNDI LA JO-1 has advised that both MUNI and EDITH DIAMOND are members of the Los Angeles County Communist Party.

CNDI LA JO-1 advised on October 17, 1948 that LAWSON asked R.B. ROBERT (movie producer), 1052 North Carroll Drive, Los Angeles, California, to get a letter for him permitting him to use excerpts from the movie script BODY AND SOUL. LAWSON requested Mr. ROBERT to send the letter of authorization to MARJORIE MAYER, c/o G. P. PUTNAM & Sons Company, to W. 45th Street, New York City. CNDI LA JO-1 has advised that LAWSON's new book is being published by the Putnam Company. In this connection it should be noted that the title of LAWSON's forthcoming book has not been announced in Los Angeles to date.

CNDI LA JO-1 on November 3, 1948 advised that SUE LAWSON, wife of the subject, said that HERTA JERKOVITZ and LOU HARRIS were reading the manuscripts of LAWSON's new book. Both were very enthusiastic in praise of the book.

ARTS, SCIENCES AND PROFESSIONS COUNCIL

CNDI LA JO-1 advised on November 15, 1948 that PHILIP STEVENSON advised LAWSON that he was ready to make out a report and desired LAWSON's advice. LAWSON told STEVENSON to make the report up by topics and each topic should not contain too much historical background. LAWSON stated the article was for papers published by the International Workers Order whose readers were already familiar with the background. LAWSON said to

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"THE 'LOYALTY' OATHS which demand that government employees conform to a prescribed opinion or be fired from their jobs--which defines loyalty on the basis of whether you ever opposed such things as a Franco Spain or a lynching in the South.

"THE TAFT-HARTLEY ACT which denies the American worker the freedom to organize as he chooses.

"THE INDICTMENTS of the Communist Party officials in New York simply because they are Communists despite the fact that the Supreme Court has ruled this is no crime.

"THE DISCRIMINATION being practiced against Negroes, Mexicans and other minorities through denial of their right to vote, lynchings, police brutality and segregation.

"THE GRAND JURY HEARINGS which deny freedom of speech--the right to choose when and where one will speak or be silent regarding his political belief or association."

This hand bill was signed by HERBERT BIBERMAN and JOHN HOWARD LAWSON who were described as two of the Hollywood victims of the Un-American Committee. The bill was signed by numerous other persons, many of whom are known to be members of the Communist Party in Los Angeles. CNDI LA 10-1 advised on December 17, 1948 that IRIS NOBLE planned to meet with JOHN HOWARD LAWSON on that date. It would be noted that NOBLE was subpoenaed by a Federal Grand Jury in Los Angeles on November 25, 1948 to testify in connection with loyalty hearings conducted in Los Angeles. IRIS NOBLE is a member of the Communist Party, according to CNDI LA 2619.

#### CALIFORNIA LABOR SCHOOL

The Daily PEOPLES WORLD for Monday, January 3, 1949 stated as follows:

"A full schedule of addresses, conferences and receptions for Dr. PHILLIP FONER, distinguished historian, and writer, was released today by the California Labor School. Dr. FONER will visit Los Angeles on January 7, 8 and 9, 1949. One of the founders of the Jefferson School of Social Sciences in New York and a leading Marxist authority on the American Labor Movement, Dr. FONER, will analyze and discuss past and present developments in the history of the United States Trade Unionism. His first appearance will be at the Embassy Auditorium, South Hall, Friday January 7, 1949." JOHN HOWARD LAWSON, lecturer and authority, shared the platform with him, discussing "History of Democratic Thought in America."

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On December 29, 1948 JACK LAWSON advised CNDI LA 10-1 that LESTER COLE was going to New York to fill engagements arranged by HANNAH (DORNER) in New York.

CONTRIBUTES TO INDEPENDENT  
PROGRESSIVE PARTY

The referenced report reflects that on Sunday, August 29, 1948 JOHN HOWARD LAWSON held an outdoor party at his residence 9354 Bonnet, San Fernando between the hours of one and seven P.M. The proceeds were to be given to the Independent Progressive Party.

LA T-4 stated that he attended an I.P.P. Party held at the home of BURL IVES, 14716 Nordhoff Street, Van Nuys, California from four to seven P.M., on September 11, 1948. About 35 people were in attendance at this meeting. JOHN HOWARD LAWSON spoke regarding Civil Rights, Racial Discrimination, Freedom of Speech and communication in all fields. He stated that the reactionaries were trying to cripple and suppress communication between and news about the "Peoples Movement." He stated that fear was preventing people from supporting WALLACE openly, but that if "we" carry on openly and fearlessly that even if WALLACE lost in 1948, that "we" should sweep the country in '52, with the support of those now too fearful or pessimistic. Work and money and enthusiasm are the weapons of the people against the war. Oppression and chaos, born of lies. He stated that the United States and Western Europe are falling into Fascism.

Los Angeles T-4 furnished information concerning contributors to the 1948 campaign of REUBEN BOROUGH, candidate for Congress from the 20th Congressional District on the Independent Progressive Party. The informant stated that JOHN HOWARD LAWSON contributed \$100.00. In this connection, CNDI LA 1138 stated that REUBEN BOROUGH was a Communist Party line follower and has been so for many years.

MASSES AND MAIN STREAM

On September 17, 1948 CNDI LA 2900-1 advised that JOHN HOWARD LAWSON and CHARLES GLENN were discussing proposed material for the magazine "MASSES and MAIN STREAM." It should be noted that the reference report reflects information regarding an article written by LAWSON in this magazine. The informant was of the opinion that GLENN had written an article for "MASSES and MAIN STREAM." LAWSON commented to GLENN the political situation wasn't tied up closely enough with the rest of the article; for instance, LAWSON said, concerning the Negroes in the radio part. LAWSON told GLENN that he should stress the economic control in advertising, etc. GLENN was advised by LAWSON that there was a lot of revealing information about the radio industry that could be used. CHARLES GLENN is a member of the Communist Party, according to CNDI LA 2900.

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MEETINGS ATTENDED

Based on information received from ~~CNDI~~ CD-54 SA FRED G. DUPUIS conducted a surveillance at 320 South Sherbourne in Los Angeles on the evening of August 25, 1948. According to the informant, the meeting was arranged by Mr. SIDNEY BERNSTEIN with alias SID BENSON, although the informant did not know the exact purpose of the meeting. SA DUPUIS observed automobiles bearing California licenses 1 R 8528; 67 D 704; 6 C 3664.

The Division of Motor Vehicles reflects that 1 R 8528 is registered to MARY SALT, 1221 North Kings Road, Los Angeles. She is a member of the Communist Party, according to CNDI LA 2900.

67 D 704 is registered to JOHN HOWARD LAWSON, 9354 Bonnet Avenue, San Fernando, who is a member of the Communist Party, according to CNDI LA 2900.

6 C 3364 is registered to LEONA CHAMBERLAIN, 437 W. 48th Street, who is a member of the Communist Party, according to ~~CNDI~~ LA 2900.

CNDI LA CD-51 reported that a meeting was scheduled at the home of ALBERT MALTZ, 6526 Lindenhurst, for the evening of September 20, 1948 on behalf of the "Hollywood 10", that is the ten men who were indicted for contempt of Congress as an outgrowth of the investigation by the House un-American Activities Committee. Accordingly, SA E. BRUCE RYDER and FRED G. DUPUIS, conducted a surveillance at the MALTZ residence and observed numerous persons in attendance who, according to informants, are members of the Communist Party. The full list of those in attendance will be found in L.A. 100-21198-367. The agents conducting the surveillance observed JOHN HOWARD LAWSON in attendance at this meeting.

CNDI LA JO-1 advised on December 15, 1948 that LARRY ROLFE of the Arts, Sciences and Professions told LAWSON that WALT DISNEY had repudiated the black list and was dropping proceedings against any of the "Hollywood 10." LAWSON said he would call a meeting at his house in regard to DISNEY's action. ROLFE said that this was the first local aid they'd had and they must act quickly to take advantage of it and release the news to the press. LAWSON said, "I'll call PAUL JARRICO and tell him, it's wonderful!" In this connection LARRY ROLFE and PAUL JARRICO are both members of the Communist Party in Los Angeles, according to CNDI LA 2900.

*Whelan*  
On September 14, 1948, SAs JULIAN BLODGETT and ERNEST J. VAN LOON were advised by CNDI LA 2718 that approximately a week or ten days previously DALTON TRUMBO, in the presence of JOHN HOWARD LAWSON, approached a friend of hers who has known TRUMBO for years and asked this friend