
Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI
RECORD NUMBER : 124-90143-10161

RECORD SERIES : HQ

AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 100-370750-NR

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI
FROM : LA
TO : HQ

Released under the John F. Kennedy
Assassination Records Collection Act of
1992 (44 USC 2107 Note). Case#:NW
66000 Date: 11-03-2021

TITLE :

DATE : 01/26/1943
PAGES : 13

SUBJECTS :

HERBERT JOSEPH BIBERMAN
JOHN HOWARD LAWSON

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified
RESTRICTIONS : Consulted; 4
CURRENT STATUS : Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 10/09/1998

OPENING CRITERIA : INDEFINITE, APPROVAL OF USSS

COMMENTS : RPT, REFERRED TO USSS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

2
7

Form No. 1

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

FILE NO. **100-6769**

REPORT MADE AT LOS ANGELES	DATE WHEN MADE 1/26/43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11/6 to 12/24, 30/42 1/13, 15, 17, 18/43	REPORT MADE BY JOHN R. VICARS	DRB
TITLE HERBERT JOSEPH BIBERMAN, ET AL			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - R CUSTODIAL DETENTION	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

BIBERMAN and LAWSON signed petition sponsored by League of American Writers advocating the immediate opening of a second front. [Informants disclose that subject has been ill and has not been particularly active. Has attended meetings with other Hollywood fellow travelers as in the past. Also interested in the sale of certain tickets, believed to be for EARL BROWDER mass meeting.] No contact between the subjects and EARL BROWDER noted. File reviewed, leads set out. Bank account of subjects fail to reflect any unusual transactions. Some personal history of BILLIE KREL, associate of BIBERMAN, set out.

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE~~

(C) (u)

- P -

6/17/87
Classified by [signature]
Declassify on OADR

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent JOHN R. VICARS, Los Angeles, dated 11/9/42.

DETAILS:

DECLASSIFIED BY 5668-328/mde
ON 6-16-95 (JFK)

During the period of this report, subject BIBERMAN, according to informants, has not been active in one sustained drive following the Communist Party line, as he has been in the past. He has attended various meetings with Communist fellow travelers who have been associated with him during the current investigation. [According to Confidential Source A, he was ill with the flu, as was his wife, GALE SONDERGAARD, which may account for his inactivity.] (C) (u)

The People's World dated September 23, 1942, on page 5, contains an article entitled "American Writers Call for Second Front Now". The

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

COPIES OF THIS REPORT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

- 5 - Bureau
- 3 - New York
- 2 - Boston
- 2 - San Francisco
- 3 - Los Angeles

DATE 4-15-84 BY 9145

NOT RECORDED

MAR 3 1950

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-6769-211

CONFIDENTIAL

article states that among the signers of this petition to the President as announced by DANIELA BISHOP, President of the League of American Writers who sponsored this petition, are JOHN HOWARD LANSON and HENRY BISHOP. Others who have been associated with subjects and who signed this petition are ALBERT BISHOP, ALVIN KATZ, DONALD OWEN STEWART, GUY BROWN, MARVIN CALDWELL, LIONEL MONTAGNA, and W. L. RIVER. It will be noted that the report of the writer dated September 15, 1942, refers to a drive led by BISHOP advocating a second front.

Concerning the meetings BISHOP has attended, it was ascertained from Confidential Source B that MARJORIE FISKE conferred with BISHOP on November 5, 1942, stating she was expecting him to come to Beverly Hills that evening. Apparently MARJORIE stated that BISHOP should come to the home of MARSHALL BISHOP, where MARJORIE is a daily visitor. (C)(U)

On November 6, 1942, according to Source B, BISHOP visited BARBARA ALEXANDER BISHOP, wife of HENRY BISHOP, and advised her that he wished her to be present at a meeting Monday evening to discuss the elections. He made an appointment to see HENRY BISHOP at the Shrine Auditorium meeting Sunday, November 8, 1942, in order to give BISHOP instructions which were to be passed on to BARBARA. In this connection it should be noted the Communist Party of the Los Angeles area has also held meetings to discuss the election results. Further, it is noted that a car registered to BARBARA ALEXANDER was spotted by Bureau Agents being entered by a person or persons who attended a closed meeting of the Communist Party for general functionaries held December 14, 1942. This car bore license number 5D-2-518 and was listed to BARBARA ALEXANDER, address 2159 West Wilshire Avenue, Hollywood. This would indicate that BARBARA or HENRY BISHOP mingle with the Los Angeles C communists as distinguished from the Hollywood Movie Industry Communists, such as BISHOP and LANSON. (C)(U)

On November 7, 1942, GAIL STEPHENS was in contact with LINDA COLLINS, and a discussion ensued concerning the Citizen's Committee to Defend the American-Mexican Youth, which committee was set up by the Communist Party of Los Angeles, with LA RUE McBRIDE as Secretary in order to give McBRIDE a strong plank in her campaign platform as a defender of the minority groups. LINDA COLLINS stated she was working on this committee. Both she and GAIL were somewhat concerned over Mayor HESTON BROWN's blast at the committee which appeared in the Los Angeles newspapers the previous day to the effect that the committee was prompted by " sinister forces". It was subsequently ascertained through this informant that HENRY BISHOP was contacted by LINDA COLLINS and invited to attend the meeting at the Beverly Hills Hotel, the purpose of which was to enlighten movie industry people about the Citizen's Committee for the Defense of American-Mexican Youth, and the work it was doing in the "Sleepy Lagoon" murder trial. BISHOP was instructed to get a lot of people to come to the meeting. This meeting was covered by Special Agents MARCUS M. BRIGHT and FRANK J. KENNETT, but BISHOP was not observed at this meeting. (C)(U)

CONFIDENTIAL

Reference report contains information that BISHOP was interested in the Congress of American Soviet Friendship, a two-day affair culminating November 8, 1942, at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, with a program entitled "Salute to Our Russian Allies". Despite the fact that BISHOP was writing the script to be used by one of the speakers on the program, it is noted from a perusal of the program which was obtained from Confidential Source

CONFIDENTIAL

B, that BIBERMAN's name does not appear either on the list of committees or as a patron. However, it is noted that JOHN HOWARD LANSON is listed as a member of the program and arrangements committee, along with such other associates of BIBERMAN as ROBERT ROSEN, SIDNEY BUCKMAN, HENRY MYERS, RICHARD COLLINS, WALDO SALT, MARY C. McCALL, JR., and LAURA SCOTT. A copy of this program is being retained in the file.

On November 11, 1942, BIBERMAN was in contact with MARY McCALL, recently elected President of the Screen Writer's Guild, and made an appointment to see her the following day between 2:30 and 3:00 p.m. On November 12, 1942, it was ascertained by physical surveillance by Special Agents M. M. ERIGHT and A. M. RYAN that MARJORIE FISKE conferred with BIBERMAN for possibly ten minutes near the corner of Beachwood and Graziessa Drive, Hollywood, after which BIBERMAN drove in his car directly to the Beverly Wilshire Hotel, Beverly Hills, where he was observed having lunch with two men, and conferred for an hour or so. One of the men left in a Buick Sedan bearing California license 9T1240, which checks to HAROLD BUCKMAN, 1324 Miller Drive, Hollywood. The other man left in a Cadillac Convertible Coupe bearing California license 9R9934, registered to ANDRE DAVEN, 520 North Beverly Drive, Beverly Hills, California. BIBERMAN left alone in his car. This information is contained in a memorandum for the file dated November 12, 1942. (X) (u)

It was ascertained through Confidential Source A that on November 11, 1942, one HAROLD (believed to be HAROLD BUCKMAN) visited BIBERMAN and suggested that they have lunch the following day with ANDRE DAVEN. HAROLD also suggested that they pick a quiet spot where they could talk. During the conversation, BIBERMAN asked HAROLD what ANDRE's attitude was, and HAROLD advised that he (HAROLD) had told ANDRE about HERBERT's "extensive leadership in the field", and ANDRE said HERBERT would be a good man. HAROLD also added, "You know how deeply he feels about this thing", meaning ANDRE. There was no further indication as to the exact nature of this conference from this informant. (C) (u)

Also on November 11, 1942, HENRY MYERS conferred with SONDERGAARD in the absence of BIBERMAN and told her that the Screen Writer's Guild Board was holding an election the following evening, and he wanted BIBERMAN's counsel as to who should be elected. It should be noted here that BIBERMAN has no official capacity in the Screen Writer's Guild; yet despite this fact the above conversation would indicate he has some power in lining up their votes. (C) (u)

During the period of this report, BIBERMAN has been a frequent visitor of BARBARA MYERS, also known as BARBARA ALEXANDER. Throughout this investigation BIBERMAN has generally had one contact, a woman who appears to do his "leg work", that is, take his instructions, call meetings, and run his errands concerning activities furthering the Communist Party line. MADELINE RUTHVEN has acted in this capacity and was followed by MARJORIE FISKE. Although FISKE still appears to do this work, BARBARA ALEXANDER seems to be used during the period of current report more frequently. For example, on November 12, 1942, BIBERMAN visited BARBARA MYERS and suggested that a meeting be called for the following Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday night, in order that "all of us can get together at that time". BARBARA advised she would try to arrange it. She appears to be a trusted worker, and, according to Source A, has been very cautious in her conversation in this informant's presence. (C) (u)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

On November 10, 1942, a Mr. MORROW conferred with BIBERMAN, advising him that AL ROSEN was putting on a play in San Francisco and wanted BIBERMAN to direct it. An appointment was made for BIBERMAN at ROSEN's office, 1223 Guarantee Building, Ivar and Hollywood Boulevard, at 2:30 p.m. that day. This information was relayed by Source A, who later advised that BIBERMAN had contacted ROSEN and stated he had read the script to the play and it did not fit his talents. This would indicate that despite BIBERMAN's unemployment, which has been continuous since January, 1942, he refuses to take a legitimate job if it is not exactly what he wants. It should also be noted that BIBERMAN has been very anxious to obtain director's jobs and to sell stories which he has written, the former especially when they are anti-Fascist. (X)u

On November 19, 1942, one SADIE (believed to be SADIE HORNITZ, wife of SAM HORNITZ, Communist) conferred with BIBERMAN concerning a report which BIBERMAN was supposed to deliver the following Tuesday. SADIE advised BIBERMAN that it should be forty-five minutes in length, but he stated that it was a terrific job and much good could be done when the people who had heard the review "went out in the community and told of the magnificent co-ordination in Russia when compared with that described in the book, 'Last Train from Berlin'". (X)u

On November 22, 1942, BIBERMAN remarked in the presence of Source A that he had tried to get in the Army department having to do with films, but that he had not heard anything from it. It was suggested by the unknown party visiting him that he go to San Francisco where there was more military activity. It will be noted that it was suggested by SAM HORNITZ, as reported in reference report, that BIBERMAN write the U. S. Army, Dayton, Ohio, concerning admission to the U. S. Signal Corps. (X)u

On November 30, 1942, ALBERT MALTZ, according to Source A, advised BIBERMAN that there would be a meeting at the home of GERTRUDE PURCELL on the following Thursday evening. MALTZ also told BIBERMAN that he thought he, BIBERMAN, should go into special Red Cross work. On the same date it was learned that MARJORIE FISKE invited BIBERMAN to her home the following Wednesday night. On the same date it was ascertained that BIBERMAN had an appointment with HENRY MYERS and J. CORNEY to collaborate on songs and skits, for luncheon the following day. The above two individuals are the authors of "Meet the People". This luncheon and conference was later canceled. (X)u

On December 3, 1942, it was learned from a highly confidential source that HERBERT BIBERMAN planned to meet a man named GEORGE that evening at 8:15 p.m. at the corner of Sunset and Fairfax, and that BIBERMAN planned to take GEORGE and some unidentified man to a meeting. The writer and Special Agent MAX SATER conducted a surveillance in this vicinity, and observed two men standing on the corner, apparently waiting for someone. These men were both dark complexioned; one was about 170 pounds, 5 feet 6 inches, stocky build, wavy brown hair, approximately thirty-eight years old, racial characteristic being Jewish; the other man was approximately 5 feet 8 inches, 165 pounds, thirty years old, build rangy. At approximately 8:25 p.m., HERBERT (X)u

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

BIBERMAN was seen walking on Sunset Boulevard from the west. It is believed that he had been let out of a passing car. The three men then got into a 1940 Buick Coupe, license 13-Q-333. The short, stocky man, first described above, was believed to be the driver. This car is registered to JULES DASSIN, 898 South Bronson, Los Angeles, legal owner G.M.A.C., 7046 Hollywood Boulevard. (u)

The three men drove in this car to 1100 Sierra Alta Way. They parked the car and it is believed that they entered the apartment at 1100 Sierra Alta Way, although Agents did not see them enter the door. Two other cars were parked directly in front of the house: 50-Q-815, 1941 Willys Coupe registered to BARBARA ALEXANDER, 2159 Willetta Avenue, Hollywood, legal owner same; and 39-Q-945, registered to HY KRAFT. Also parked next to 1100 Sierra Alta Way was a 1935 Ford two-door, license 9-Z-4588, registered to MACK A. MANN, 1328 - 23rd Street, Santa Monica, California, legal owner same. This car was not grouped with the other three. (u)

The address 1100 Sierra Alta Way is that of GERTRUDE PRUCELL, member of the League of American Writers, and who in 1941 was an instructor in the school for writers sponsored by the League. JULES DASSIN, a writer, has been a contact of BIBERMAN's in the past. HY KRAFT is well known in the current investigation. (u)

[On December 2, 1942, one Mrs. BROMILLER (phonetic), of the Progressive School, contacted GALE SONDERGAARD, asking GALE if she wished to send her child to school there. It was ascertained that GALE did not intend to send the girl there until after the first of the year. It was ascertained on December 7, through Source A that GALE intended to send her girl to Mrs. BELL's School the following morning.] Concerning the Progressive School, located at 2140 North Highland, it is interesting to note that HELENE BOUGHTON, 118 North Manhattan Place, Los Angeles, wrote a letter to Miss JOSEPHINE VOLLMER, Apartado 1179, Mexico D.F. This letter was obtained by Confidential Source E and relates that BOUGHTON has just returned from Mexico City and wants to volunteer for any work she can do in Los Angeles for the anti-Fascist Committee, apparently referring to the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee. In the letter BOUGHTON states "I didn't succeed in reaching Mrs. MILLAN. This Mrs. MILLAN may refer to VERNA C. MILLAN, author of "Mexico Reborn", whose husband, according to Source E, is IGNACIO MILLAN. The latter was denounced by DIEGO RIVERRA, Mexican artist, as a member of the Communist Party and therefore a member of O.G.P.U. This letter further reflects that BOUGHTON was also unable to get to talk to Mrs. SCHINDLER or to Mrs. BIBERMAN, the Hollywood Chairman. (u)

Continuing, the letter states, "One of the musts of this week is to see the people I have in mind who would be pretty sure to foot the picture bill, so I hope that by the time I write again the check will be on its way. I wonder whether addressing Mrs. MILLAN at the Luis Vives School is all right. Mrs. BIBERMAN will surely know." The writer also referred to one CHULA BLACK, whose energies she thinks might be utilized. The Mrs. BIBERMAN referred to in this letter is Mrs. SONJA DAHL BIBERMAN, Chairman of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee in Los Angeles, wife of EDWARD BIBERMAN, who is the brother of HERBERT BIBERMAN. (u)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

In connection with DR. IGNACIO MILLAN it will be noted that BIRSHMAN and his wife were entertained together with HERMAN La BOMBE, General Secretary of the Communist Party in Mexico, at the home of MILLAN in Mexico City in 1938. This information was obtained from a review of the file, which will be set out more comprehensively later. (X)

Concerning HELEN BOUGHTON, Confidential National Defense Informant L.A. 20-2 advised on January 9, 1943, that BOUGHTON was born in North Tonawanda, New York, on August 12, 1900. She is an American citizen, single, and employed as a teacher in the Progressive School in Los Angeles at 2140 Highland Avenue. She is a member of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee, and a member of the Executive Committee. Apparently this informant interviewed BOUGHTON, as the report states, "She states positively that this organization has no political connections whatsoever. Its work is to assist people out of the Nazi concentration camps. Subject took a vacation trip to Mexico City. She left December 19, 1942, and returned January 3, 1943. While in Mexico, she contacted Republican Spaniards, including LUIS CASTELLONI, a Republican Spanish newspaper writer who is Executive Secretary of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee in Mexico." The report of this informant concludes, "It is believed that subject is sincere, and does not know that this organization has radical tendencies."

Concerning the "vacation" which BOUGHTON took, it is noted in the letter obtained by Confidential Source B that the writer expresses interest in a plan which demands her return to Mexico City and possibly the Provinces. Apparently the "vacation" was long planned, in view of the fact that the letter obtained from Confidential Source B was dated August 21, 1942, at Los Angeles.

On December 3, 1942, it was learned from Confidential Source A that BIRSHMAN was expecting his brother-in-law and sister, BEN and REBECCA LASKIN of Philadelphia to visit him over the Holiday. Through subsequent information from this informant it was ascertained that their coming to Los Angeles was apparently a social visit, as no contacts or conferences with BIRSHMAN's associates were planned for Mr. and Mrs. LASKIN. (X)

On December 11, 1942, it was ascertained that WALDO SALT, MARJORIE FISKE, EDWARD BIRSHMAN, GALE BIRSHMAN, and HERBERT BIRSHMAN were going to a dinner party at the home of PAUL JARRICO, 2009 North Canyon Drive, Hollywood. All of these have been frequent associates of BIRSHMAN's in his Communist activities during the current investigation. (X)

On December 12, 1942, BIRSHMAN conferred with MARJORIE FISKE, asking her whether it would be O.K. if he made a check payable to cash as payment for the twenty-four tickets he owed her for. FISKE advised that this was not a very good idea, so BIRSHMAN advised he would arrange other means. This conversation is believed to refer to tickets for the EARL BROWDER rally held Sunday, January 17, 1943, at the Philharmonic Auditorium. These tickets were distributed to all Branches of the Communist Party for sale. It should be noted here that EARL BROWDER arrived in Los Angeles Saturday, January 16, 1943, about noon. Spot surveillances and other confidential informants used (X)

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

in connection with the Communist Party affairs, some of whom have very intimate contact with officials of the Communist Party, failed to reflect that BILL BRONNER contacted either BISHMAN or LAWSON while he was in Los Angeles. Sunday night, January 17, 1943, a spot check was made at the home of BISHMAN at approximately 9:00 o'clock, and both of the BISHMAN cars were in the garage, and no other cars were parked in the vicinity. Also the home of JACK WITZEL was spot checked by the writer and Special Agent W. M. SMITH, with negative results. Photographs were taken at the BISHMAN rally held January 17, but a perusal of these by the writer failed to disclose the presence of BISHMAN. (X) (u)

On December 10, 1942, BISHMAN conferred with Mrs. HELEN BISHMAN, wife of BISHMAN, at which time he advised her that she owed him \$25.00, which BISHMAN desired to obtain in the near future, in view of the fact that he had to account to JACK for it. JACK is the nickname for JOHN HOWARD LAWSON. It will be noted that reference report indicates JACK (believed to be JOHN HOWARD LAWSON) as recording secretary of the Movie Industry section of the Communist Party. (u) (c) JACK LAWSON

During the period of this report BISHMAN also conferred with the following people, all of whom are known as being Communist fellow travelers: GEORGE WILSON, former West Coast Representative of "New Masses", and now working for the RAY GOLDSTONE AGENCY in Hollywood; TAMIA TUTTLE; PAUL JARRING; FRANK TUTTLE; HAROLD HUGHMAN; and WALDO SALT. Although the conferences with these people appeared to be social, according to Source A, their names are set out to indicate that BISHMAN's associates, as in the past, are almost entirely fellow travelers. (X) (u)

The report of the writer dated September 15, 1942, reflects information concerning the activities of one BILLIE BELL. She was formerly secretary to FRANK TUTTLE, a notorious Communist fellow traveler of the Hollywood Movie Industry. [Confidential Source A advised that on November 23, 1942, BILLIE BELL was planning to marry, and asked BISHMAN to arrange the wedding for her. BISHMAN contacted Rabbi MARSHALL DUBIN and arranged for appointments with BELL and her husband, one RALPH M. BISHMAN. It is interesting to note in this connection that Source A advised that BELL contacted Rabbi DUBIN, then advised BISHMAN that the Rabbi had made her sign a paper that she would raise all her children in the Jewish religion and would read a lot of Jewish literature, in view of the fact that she was a Gentile and BISHMAN was Jewish. BELL appeared quite worried about this, and BISHMAN directed that she should make the promises and forget them later.] The records of the Bureau of Vital Statistics, examined by the writer on December 30, 1942, and Marriage Record Book 1841, page 205, reflect that WILMA LOUILLA BELL, 3833 Pine Avenue, Long Beach, white, age twenty-eight, was born in Topeka, Kansas. Her father is WILLIAM LOUILL BELL, and her mother is LILLIAN BISHMAN, both born in Topeka, Kansas. She stated that this was her first marriage, and she stated her occupation is restaurant owner. RALPH MILLS BISHMAN, 234 North Hollywood Drive, Beverly Hills, the groom, stated he was white, thirty-four, a Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps. He stated this was his first marriage, and that his father was SALOMON BISHMAN and his mother EVA BISHMAN, both born in Warsaw, Poland. BELL and BISHMAN were married November 20, 1942, by MARSHALL (u) (c)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E. DUBIN, Associate Rabbi, Mikvah Boulevard Temple, 657 North Rodeo Drive, Beverly Hills. Witnesses were LEO LAMBERT, 251 South Boharly Drive, Beverly Hills, and HERMAN HILBERMAN, Los Angeles. This is apparently a misspelling of HERBERT HILBERMAN, since Source A advised that HILBERMAN was to be a witness at the wedding. It will be noted that BILLIE ANN can be reached at WILLIAM ANN's Tea Room, 345 East 7th Street, Long Beach, California, telephone Long Beach 64065. This is apparently the restaurant which BILLIE ANN owns, according to her statement in her marriage application.

The bank account of JOHN EDWARD LAMSON, examined by Special Agent VERNON F. RAIN through Confidential National Defense Informant L.A. 78, reflects no deposits during the month of December or November. The balance as of November 24, 1942, was \$498.05, and the balance as of December 23, 1942, was \$658.71. Checks written include one to Larry's Book Shop for \$22.71. This appears to be the Hollywood Book Shop, which the Communists used most frequently. There was also noted a check dated November 4, 1942, in the amount of \$5.00 payable to the Hollywood Democratic Committee, bearing the notation "contribution from LEO LAMBERT". LEO LAMBERT is a reported Communist and a frequent associate of LAMSON.

On November 23, 1942, a check payable to FRANCIS E. PARADA in the amount of \$10 was noted. PARADA is a fellow traveler of long standing.

The bank account of HERBERT HILBERMAN, checked through this informant, revealed the following depositories:

November 12, 1942	\$118.00
December 12, 1942	239.00
December 21, 1942	139.90
December 22, 1942	243.00

The balance as of November 24, 1942, was \$494.74. The balance as of December 23, 1942, was \$472.21. Checks include the following:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>
November 16, 1942	\$253.77	County Tax Collector
November 9, 1942	22.15	County Tax Collector
December 11, 1942	3.15	LARRY KIMMEL's Book Shop
October 26, 1942	20.00	Democratic State Control Committee
November 7, 1942	49.00	CHARLES RAY
December 4, 1942	3.35	Hollywood Women's Council (14-570)
November 9, 1942	150.00	JANE KELLY (Bank of Amer- ica 6307)

A review of the file made by Special Agent VERNON I. RAIN, set out in a memorandum for the file of instant case dated October 2, 1942, is set out below in full:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

"From a review of this file, it has become apparent that the investigation in this case has been well worth while, as far as the obtaining of information concerning the so-called intellectual or Hollywood group of Communists. However, it is also apparent that the investigation has deviated from the path originally set for it and, in fact, very little investigation has gone to substantiate the original allegation. The original allegation set out by the Bureau, who received advice from a confidential source, was that BIRNMAN and his wife, GALE SOMMERGAARD, were the chief contacts in California between the Executive Committee of the Communist International in Mexico City and Communist officials in the United States, and that JOHN HOWARD LAWSON is courier between Los Angeles and New York.

"It is noted that in 1938, BIRNMAN and his wife were entertained, together with BERNARD LA BOASSE, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Mexico, at the home of Dr. IGNACIO MILLAN in Mexico City. It is also noted that BIRNMAN met the Minister of Finance for Loyalist Spain in Mexico and later entertained him at his home in Hollywood. BIRNMAN has also spent some time in Moscow, Russia. No effort has been made to check the State Department for information as to BIRNMAN's and LAWSON's passports or the Immigration Service for any immigration data which possibly would give some data as to the dates and places BIRNMAN and LAWSON might have been contacted to act as couriers. This should be done.

"The Bureau should be asked to have the original informant, whose name has never been supplied, re-interviewed for definite details concerning the original allegation in light of the investigation conducted to date.

"The Bureau, through sources now available to them, should also be requested to have some check made on the activities of BERNARD LA BOASSE, the General Secretary of the Communist Party in Mexico, in an effort to determine the names of any Americans or others who might contact this individual as couriers between Mexico and the United States, to determine if any of these individuals have been in contact with BIRNMAN. *exy*

"While considerable information has been obtained concerning BIRNMAN's background, some having been furnished by him voluntarily to a Bureau Agent, none of this information has been checked or verified. Somewhere in BIRNMAN's life he must have made such contacts as would raise him to the position he now holds. His activities since his connection with the now defunct American Peace Mobilization have been well covered, but are extremely vague prior to that time. It is indicated he came to Hollywood from New York about seven years ago. These gaps in his history should be filled in.

"Serial 145 in instant file is a letter from G-2 which indicates that G-2, Eighth Corps Area, advised that KATHRYN BUNKE, who makes her headquarters at the Casa Blanca, apparently in Mexico City, is the chief director of courier operations and subversive data between the United States and Mexico, and that she acts as a contact for GALE SOMMERGAARD, subject BIRNMAN's wife. The only inquiry concerning this was to establish that KATHRYN BUNKE was a motion picture actress known as the "Furber Woman". G-2, Eighth Corps Area, through the appropriate Bureau office should be requested to seek the informant available to the Bureau for thorough interview. *KATHRYN BUNKE*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

whereabouts should be determined, and a reasonable amount of investigation conducted to determine her activities. It is the writer's recollection that EATHEEN BUNKS, while engaging in a motion picture some years ago, suffered a tropical disease which was almost fatal, and which caused her to sue the studio for damages. It is possible that she is without funds and would be susceptible to acting as a courier.

"The New York Office should be closely followed in their investigation of the activities of ALEXANDER STEVENS."

Since the date of this memorandum, records of the State Department concerning the passports of subjects and their wives have been checked. Concerning subject's chronological history, which this memorandum for the file states has not been explored thoroughly previous to RIBBMAN's connection with the American Peace Mobilization, his Draft Board records reflect that he filed an occupational questionnaire postmarked May 15, 1942, at which time he stated he was unemployed. He listed the following previous occupational experiences: Administrative official, 1921 to 1925 as Production and Sales Director of RIBBMAN BROTHERS, INCORPORATED, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Manufacturer of women's clothes; theater director, 1920 to 1935; motion picture writer and director since January, 1935. It will be noted that between 1930 and 1935 subject listed no occupation.

It was ascertained through CHARLES MacFARLAN, Credit Manager of the JACK BELL Clothing Shop, Hollywood and Vine Streets, Hollywood, that HERBERT RIBBMAN formerly had an account at this shop, which was closed in 1930. It was ascertained by Special Agent ERWIN F. HALL at the Security First National Bank, Hollywood and Cahuenga Branch, that JACK BELL's Clothing Shop maintains an account at this bank. It will be noted that a check which RIBBMAN drew payable to JACK BELL was deposited in this bank. MacFARLAN, of the JACK BELL Shop, had no record of this transaction, but stated that books were only kept on credit accounts.

- P E N D I N G -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

20173-10181

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE SAN FRANCISCO FIELD DIVISION

* At Redwood City, California, will ascertain the background and Communist activities and tendencies of MILLEN SHUL (woman), American Trust Co., and will check her bank account, if located, bearing in mind the indications on page 77 and 78 of the report of Special Agent JOHN R. VIGANS, Los Angeles, dated September 15, 1942, that money from Hollywood Communists has been transmitted to her. It is requested that this monitoring be made for the past six months.

THE BOSTON FIELD DIVISION

* At Williamstown, Massachusetts, will review records of the Registrar, Williams College, for personal history of JOHN HOWARD LARSON, it being noted he regularly receives mail from the Alumni Fund, Williams College. It is believed LARSON's true name is JACOB LEVY. He was born September 25, 1895, at New York City.

* At Boston, Massachusetts, will attempt to locate a criminal record on JOHN HOWARD LARSON, believed true name JACOB LEVY, it being noted at page 78 of report of Special Agent JOHN R. VIGANS, Los Angeles, dated September 15, 1942, that he admitted being arrested August 27, 1937, in Boston for picketing the State Capitol in connection with the Sacco-Vanzetti execution.

THE NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

At New York City, N. Y., will furnish the Los Angeles Field Division with copies of the pertinent investigative report on ALFRED J. BROOKS, Internal Security - R, Custodial Detention, and ALEXANDER STEVENS, a.k.a. ALEXANDER GOLDENBERG, Internal Security - R, Custodial Detention, it being noted that since the date of reference report of the writer, separate case files have been opened on these two subjects in the New York Field Division. The Los Angeles Office is particularly interested in receiving information of the Communist connection and activity of BROOKS and GOLDENBERG, especially any contact with BIRNBAUM or movie industry people of Hollywood who may be acting as couriers for BIRNBAUM, or connection with suspected Russian espionage agents in New York.

THE LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

* At Los Angeles, California, will maintain contact with CIBX LA 78 for bank checks on subjects, and also for check on entrance of BIRNBAUM's safe deposit box at this bank, #320.

* Will develop informant in LINCOLN neighborhood for continuous surveillance, it being noted that MARTHA and ELWOOD KAY (employed at Lockheed), residing at 4524 Coldwater Canyon Avenue, is a good location, and which we have previously used to advantage.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

* Will watch possibility of developing informant in the HIRSHMAN neighborhood, it being noted the home of H. S. HIRSHMAN may be vacated soon. Others in vicinity are friends of subject.

* Will conduct inquiries about HILMA HIRSH, care of LILLIAN HIRSH's Tea Room, 345 East Seventh Street, Long Beach. Telephone Long Beach 6-4065.

* Will contact the appropriate officers of the U. I. Grand Company, 819 South Spring Street, to ascertain the identity and Communistic tendencies of H. A. HIRSH.

Will ascertain subject HIRSHMAN's activities prior to his leadership in the American Peace Mobilization through CMBI LA 1133.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ INFORMATION

SOURCES A, B, and C:	CIDE LA H.D.-1.] (C) (u)
SOURCE D:	CIDE LA 1997.	
SOURCE E:	Office of Postal Censorship.	

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

19101-10101