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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **LOS ANGELES**

FILE NO. **100-21198**

REPORT MADE AT <b>LOS ANGELES</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>11/20/44</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>8/31; 9/2, 4, 22, 24, 27, 28; 10/12, 13; 11/7/44.</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>JOHN R. VICARS</b> <span style="float: right;">AM</span>
TITLE <b>JOHN HOWARD LAWSON, alias Jacob Law</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

[Subject attended the L.A. Co. CPA Executive Committee meeting at home of CARL WINTER, Co. President, Communist Political Assn., Sept. 3, 1944, and birthday party for WINTER Sept. 24, 1944.] He testified under oath before the Cal. Legislature's Joint Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American activities that he had never been a member of the Communist Party, USA, or CPA. Hollywood Writers Mobilization to investigate this Committee as a result of the hearing. Subject spokesman for Hollywood Democratic Committee in meetings held to decide the political fate of HAL STYLES, exposed Ku Klux Klan member running for Congress from the 15th Congressional District. Subject is a candidate for Executive Board, Screen Writers Guild, and was instrumental in having LESTER COLE withdraw as candidate for President, Screen Writers Guild.

~~DECLASSIFIED BY~~ *SLD/nd*  
*6-10-95*

P - ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE *4-15-84* BY *9145 JAL/ogf*

**REFERENCE:**

Bureau file 100-21499  
Report of Special Agent JOHN R. VICARS dated September 19, 1944.

**DETAILS:**

Subject is a Communist key figure in the Los Angeles Field Division.

COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES

During the period of this report, subject has continued his activities in the Communist Political Association.

APPROVED AND  
FORWARDED:

*[Signature]*

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other forces might center their attack on him, undoubtedly referring to the anti-Communist forces in the Guild. LAWSON also feared he might have to withdraw as a candidate for the Executive Board on the same ground, although he indicated that he was anxious to be a member of the Board. This same Guild Bulletin reflects that LAWSON is also a member of the Conciliation Committee of the Screen Writers Guild. (C)(u)

MOTION PICTURE WORK

The motion picture "COUNTER-ATTACK" which LAWSON scripted, is now in production, and has been for approximately one month. According to SOURCE A, LAWSON is still busy on this picture, and on its completion will take approximately a ten week vacation. (C)(u)

SOURCE A advised that, recently, LEE SABINSON, who originally produced "COUNTER-ATTACK" as a legitimate drama, asked LAWSON to script the play "FREEDOM ROAD", written by HOWARD FOST. SABINSON stated that both he, SABINSON, and FOST, were anxious for LAWSON to do this work. LAWSON told SABINSON, according to SOURCE A, that he could not do it, because he was under contract to Columbia Studios, although he would like to do so, because he believed that this was FOST's best work. (C)(u)

It is to be further noted that the writers of the drama entitled "COUNTER-ATTACK", which was produced in New York some time ago, were JANET and PHILIP STEVENSON, both of whom are now reported by CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE E to be members of the Northwest Section, Los Angeles County Communist Political Association, having been recently transferred to this section from New York.

A mail cover is being placed on subject.

CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE F advised Special Agent ERWIN P. HAIR that subject's bank account in the California Bank has not been active recently. The last deposit was \$500.00 in May, 1944, and the balance there now is \$1700.00. Subject's bank account at the Bank of America, Hollywood Main Office, continues active, with regular weekly deposits of \$850.95. The only pertinent check noted was one dated September 27, 1944, for \$500.00 to REX INGRAM, Negro actor, who, according to SOURCE E, is a member of Club F, Northwest Section. This check was cashed by INGRAM. It is interesting to note that CONFIDENTIAL NATIONAL DEFENSE INFORMANT L.A. 2896 advised, on October 5, 1944, that at the last Board meeting of the Council for Civic Unity, REX INGRAM donated \$500.00. This meeting was held prior to October 5, 1944. The Council for Civic Unity was reportedly instigated by the Hollywood Democratic Committee.

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LA 100-21198

CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES

*Informant*  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SOURCE A: [CNDI JO-1] (S)(U)

SOURCE B: [KW-7] (S)(U)

SOURCE C: [EE-1] (S)(U)

SOURCE D: [CNDI L.A. 1357] (S)(U)

SOURCE E: CNDI L.A. E-2900

SOURCE F: CNDI L.A. 78

The Confidential National Defense informants above listed have been given temporary symbols to further protect their identities.

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