4-27-1953

Groucho Marx- FBI Files part one

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SUBJECT: GROUCHO MARX
NOTICE

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A report dated August 17, 1953 was received on August 20, 1953 by SAC 27C from Confidential Informant of known reliability. The report is filed as serial MR04 reports that GROUCHO MARX contributes heavily to the Communist Party.

said not to get impatient as the CP in Orange County is not well organized now.
said the CP was going to reorganize in Orange County in the near future. At that time every member will be evaluated and individual jobs will be reassigned.

said is a member of the CP.
SAC, SAN DIEGO

SAC, LOS ANGELES

GROUCHO MARX
SECURITY MATTER

Re memo of SAC, dated August 27, 1953, captioned "Info from San Diego," (b2 b7D)

It noted that during a

on August 17, 1953, the latter said GROUCHO MARX contributes heavily to the Communist Party. Apparently referred to GROUCHO MARX, the film and T-V star, but no further elaboration is indicated in referenced memo.

You are requested to furnish your evaluation of the informant in this matter as well as the information received. If further elaboration was made by the informant in connection with this particular allegation, it should be furnished, along with available details concerning the basis upon which statement was made. If you deem it necessary, it is suggested that be recontacted specifically in reference to this matter.

Reg.

MMB: amD

902691
DECLASSIFIED BY 402671NS/800/9X ON 9/24/95
Office Memorandum

TO: SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-46665)
FROM: SAC, SAN DIEGO (100-9534)

DATE: 10/12/53

SUBJECT: GROUCHO MARX

CONFIDENTIAL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

Declassified by: OADR on 8/24/95.

Re: Los Angeles letter to San Diego 9/21/53.

was recontacted by SAC on 10/7/53. He orally advised that on 8/17/53 mentioned his acquaintance with Hollywood celebrities. said he

whether there were actually a large number of celebrities who were Communists replied there were a lot of big names. mentioned GROUCHO MARX. He went on to say that GROUCHO MARX

GROUCHO commented he should be given half a membership because his mother was a gentile went on to say that GROUCHO was a Communist Party member, but that he could not be active because of the position that he holds in the public eye. concluded that "GROUCHO now gives big hunks of money."

advised that concerning GROUCHO MARX.

b2-b7D

b7C/D

9/21/53:

10-4

HUC.

12-7-53

REG.

EJK: mbj

CONFIDENTIAL

SEARCHED: 6/24/53

INDEXED: 6/24/53

SERIALIZED: 6/24/53

FILED: 6/24/53

CONFIDENTIAL
TO: [Redacted]
FROM: [Redacted]
SUBJECT: [Redacted]

DATE: 10-30-53
Period: [Redacted]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: [Redacted]
FROM: [Redacted]
SUBJECT: [Redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS CONFIDENTIAL.

b2 b7D advised that during the time he was in the CP in Hollywood, he never heard any reason or information to believe that MARX was in the Party or sympathetic to it. Informant thinks MARX knew some Party people like himself, but everyone in Hollywood did. Informant states he is sure that MARX was never a member and is of the opinion that any allegation that he was or is is not based on fact.

b2 b7D was contacted and he said he had never heard the MARX name even remotely connected with the CP, and states that based on his own experience and knowledge of the CP in Hollywood based on his former membership therein, there is no foundation for any allegation that MARX is or was a Party member. "I mentioned incidentally that he had had an inquiry along the same line about a month ago from [Redacted], but he is inclined to think that the basis for such inquiries might be the fact that the MARX show has a musician by the name of [Redacted] connected with it who is or was a Communist." He says that the MCUA is aware of no connections with the CP and intends to subpoena him at the next MCUA hearings.

b2 b7D had no information connecting MARX with the CP either past or present.

Subject's name is not listed in the indices of either of the following publications:


Complete Index of all reports of the California State Committee on Un-American Activities from its inception in 1943.

100-46665

BEST COPY AVAILABLE
On 11/14/53 at 3:15 AM, a person described as "the person" telephonically contacted this office and stated that the FBI to know that GROUCHO was "pro-Communist and subscribed to all the Communist magazines and newspapers". He stated that GROUCHO was "pro-Communist and subscribed to all the Communist magazines and newspapers".

He stated that the fact that the FBI concerning MARX was never a member of the CRK and appeared to be.

AJD: BKB
LA 100-46665
**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL**

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<th>9/21/63</th>
<th>PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE</th>
<th>9/10/30/11/79, 13, 14, 16, 17/53</th>
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<td>ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN</td>
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**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Subject is radio and TV comedian currently starring in TV show, "You Bet Your Life" sponsored by DeSoto-Plymouth Dealers over NBC. Recently remarked to confidential informant that GRAUCO MARX contributes heavily to CP; however, original source gave no basis for this allegation. Los Angeles informants familiar with CP activity in Hollywood motion picture and radio industry throughout 1940's state MARX was never affiliated with CP and never a contributor so far as informants are aware.

On subject's TV program, is reported CP member, however. In 1934 the Daily Worker quoted MARX as saying, "The battle of the Communists for the lives of these boys (Scottsboro defendants) is one that will be taught in Soviet America as the most inspiring and courageous battle ever fought." Subject reported to have been affiliated or otherwise interested in varying degrees during 1940's with a number of Communist front or influenced organizations, including League of American Writers, American Council of Soviet Friendship, Hollywood Democratic Committee, Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee, and others. MARX was indicted and convicted for violation of Copyright law in 1937.

**DETAILS:**

**AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

**APPROVED AND FORWARDED:**

**SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE**

**DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES**

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Confidential sources, for whom T symbols are designated hereinafter, are of known reliability unless otherwise stated.

The 1950 issue of the International Motion Picture Almanac identifies subject as JULIUS MARX, professional name GRAUCHO MARX, one of the well known Marx Brothers, all of whom were born in New York City. GRAUCHO MARX, as he is best known to the public, was born in New York on October 2, 1895. His brothers are LEONARD (CHICO), ARTHUR (HARPO), and ZEPPO MARX. Their first stage experience was in a vaudeville with their mother and aunt, and were known as "Six Musical Mascots." Later they toured as the "Four Nightingales," and finally as the "Four Marx Brothers." They are all musicians of note. GRAUCHO MARX is rated as one of the best guitar players in the country and also plays the piano, mandolin, and harp. HARPO gets his name from playing the harp, and also plays the piano, flute, and trombone. CHICO is an artist at the piano, but he is also accomplished with cornet, zither, and violin. Brother ZEPPO plays the saxophone, piano, cello, and flute.

GRAUCHO MARX, together with his brothers, has starred in a number of motion picture productions including Paramount films, "The Coconuts," "Animal Crackers," "Monkey Business" (1932), "Horse Feathers" (1933), and "Duck Soup" (1935).

Brother ZEPPO quit acting and opened the Zeppo Marx Agency in Hollywood during the 1930's; and thereafter, GRAUCHO, CHICO, and HARPO appeared in "A Night at the Opera" produced by MGM. In 1937 GRAUCHO collaborated on a screen play entitled "The King and the Chorus Girl" produced by Warner Brothers. In 1936 GRAUCHO, CHICO, and HARPO made a film "A Day at the Races" for MGM. Other film productions in which the Marx Brothers have appeared have been "Room Service" for RKO in 1938, and "At The Circus" for MGM in 1938. In 1940 they made "Go West" for MGM. More recent pictures have been "Night in Casablanca," "Love Happy," and "Copacabana."

In regard to GRAUCHO MARX's background, the following appears in the Daily Worker, an East Coast Communist newspaper, issue of May 23, 1934, in a column about MARX by EMANUEL EISENBERG:

"GRAUCHO MARX is of working class origin: His father was an Eastside tailor, and his mother sewed in
sweat shops. Once GRAUCHO worked with a vaudeville troupe called the Leroy Trio; he received $5 a week for soprano singing (he was then 13). Another time, stranded, he took a job driving a grocery wagon between Victor and Cripple Creek in Colorado at $3 a week. Today he is one of the most diverting entertainers in America. He has never forgotten his origin—and his nonsense contains, as many have felt, considerable satire and passionate thrusts at contemporary society.

EMPLOYMENT

GRAUCHO MARX is currently the star of a weekly radio and television show over NBC called "You Bet Your Life" sponsored by the Desoto-Plymouth Dealers. This show is produced and is broadcast weekly from Hollywood.

RESIDENCE

According to records of the Federal District Court, Los Angeles, GRAUCHO MARX, together with his brother CHICO, were indicted and convicted in November, 1937, for violation of the Copyright law. They were sentenced to pay a fine of $1,000 and be committed to jail until paid.

COMMUNIST AFFILIATIONS

In August, 1953, it was reported that GRAUCHO MARX contributes heavily to the Communist Party, but gave no information upon which he based this allegation.
Communist Party membership of Los Angeles County for some ten years between 1937 and 1947, advised that at no time have they had any reliable evidence that GRAUCHO MARX was a member of or a contributor to the Communist Party who was particularly well acquainted with the membership of the Communist Party's Motion Picture Section in Hollywood during the early 1940's, advised that GRAUCHO MARX was never known to be a Party member in Hollywood.

advised that during the 1940's, he was a member of the Communist Party's Motion Picture Section in Hollywood up to
he never had any reason or information to believe that GRAUCHO MARX was affiliated with the Party or sympathetic to it. Informant recalls that MARX, along with a great many other Hollywood film personalities of that period, was probably affiliated in one way or another with various so-called mass organizations in which the Party had an interest. It is informant's recollection also that MARX was acquainted with such writers in the film industry as, but informant pointed out that practically everybody in the film industry did know them. Both were members of the Communist Party, but whether MARX was aware of that fact, informant did not know. Informant reiterated that he personally is sure that MARX was never a member of the Communist Party, and informant is likewise sure that he, informant, would have known or at least heard about it had MARX been a member. Informant added that, based on his own past experience and information concerning the Communist Party in Hollywood, any allegation that MARX was a member or is a contributor to the Communist Party is not based on any fact of which informant is aware.

It is noted that the cumulative index to publications of the Committee on Un-American Activities, U. S. House of Representatives, released in January, 1953, does not contain any reference to GRAUCHO MARX.

The complete index of all reports of the California State Committee on Un-American Activities from its inception in 1943, likewise contains no reference to GRAUCHO MARX.

advised that he never knew or heard GRAUCHO MARX's name connected with the Communist Party.
that, based on his own experience and knowledge of the Communist Party in Hollywood, there is no foundation within his knowledge for any allegation that MARX is or has been a member of the Party.

... a member of the Communist Party of Los Angeles County from ... and assigned to the Hollywood Section from ... to ... advised that he never knew or had any information that GRAUCHO MARX was a member of or sympathetic to the Communist Party.

... advised that he had no information or evidence that GRAUCHO MARX was ever an actual member of the Communist Party; however, it is ... information that MARX was affiliated in one way or another with several Communist Party front organizations during the 1940's, as will be set out in more detail subsequently herein.

... who has been connected with the film industry in Hollywood from ... and was a former member of the Communist Party's Motion Picture Section between ... and ... had no information to indicate that GRAUCHO MARX has been affiliated with the Party.

... and a member of the Communist Party in Hollywood up to ... is personally acquainted with GRAUCHO MARX and states that he has never been a Communist Party member as far as informant is aware. Informant characterizes MARX as not as politically conscious as his brother HARPO is, and that in some respects GRAUCHO is a very naive person and an individual who is easily moved emotionally. Informant rates HARPO MARX as a considerably smarter individual politically, but states that both HARPO and GRAUCHO are definitely anti-Communist at the present time, in informant's estimation.

... was a member of the Communist Party's ... from ... to ... Informant is a personal acquaintance of GRAUCHO MARX, and states that so far as informant is aware, MARX has never been affiliated with or interested in the Communist Party. Informant recalls that in about 1943 GRAUCHO MARX was romantically interested in ... and was still a Party member at that time, although her ex-husband had dropped out of the Party. If anyone had been
able to influence GRAUCHO MARX to join the Communist Party, it would have been
Informant recalls that
one of the top figures of the Communist Party, USA, at the time.
GRAUCHO MARX was in'the past tied up with one- or more off the
of the subject of the Communist Party and that everything he has ever
Indicates that not only has he never been affiliated with it but
has no sympathy for the Party. Informant stated that undoubtedly
GRAUCHO MARX was in the past tied up with one or more of the mass
Informant pointed out, however, that most of these organizations were designed as
Communist fronts and that a great many people in Hollywood were
members of or otherwise affiliated with them, who were not mem-
bers of the Communist Party. 

Informant, a former member of the Communist Party in Hollywood
and states that
MARX was never a member of the Communist Party, as far as
informant was aware.

Informant, a former member of the Communist Party in Hollywood during the
as well as
in an organization strongly influenced by the
Communist Party, had no information regarding GRAUCHO MARX's
alleged interest or sympathy in the Communist Party.

Informant advised in October, 1952, during an account of his experiences as
a Communist Party member, recalled that he had met GRAUCHO MARX
at several Progressive Party functions in
during 1948. Informant never saw MARX at a Communist Party meeting but stated
that from the general tenor of MARX's remarks, he, informant,
rated GRAUCHO MARX as an "extreme left-winger."

Of unknown reliability, who was
and associated with GRAUCHO MARX for a number of years
up to
advises that in so far as informant was aware, MARX
was not a member of the Communist Party but that he appeared to
be sympathetic thereto. Informant bases this on the recollection that MARX was an avid reader of such publications as "New Republic" and "The Nation," and tried to get informant interested in such reading material. Informant had no information that MARX ever contributed money to the Communist Party.

who is not a member of the Communist Party but is active in the Hollywood at the present time, advises that GRAUCHO MARX is not a member of this organization and has never been referred to by the leaders of the organization in such a way as to indicate that he is a friend of or sympathetic to this group.

advises that he has no evidence that GRAUCHO MARX is or ever has been a member of the Communist Party, but that MARX's radio and television program "You Bet Your Life," is or has been a member of the Party, according to information which considers reliable. Informant had no information, however, as to whether GRAUCHO MARX is aware of any affiliations.

ACTIVITIES

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR DEFENSE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS (NCFDPP)

The NCFDPP has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

The Daily Worker, Communist news organ in New York City, in its issue of May 23, 1934, page 5, carried a column by EMANUEL EISENBERG under the caption "GRAUCHO MARX on MOONEY, USSR, and Political Prisoners."

The write-up was the result of the author's having visited GRAUCHO MARX in New York to ask him to appear at the June Jamboree which the NCFDPP was to hold on June 1 (1934) at 138th Street and 7th Avenue, New York City. The jamboree was being held for the benefit of the organization's campaign for recognition of the status of political prisoners. It stated that MARX immediately accepted the invitation to appear at the jamboree to help in the campaign.
The article thereafter quoted GRAUCHO MARX on a number of subjects and issues.

In regard to TOM MOONEY, the imprisoned labor leader, MARX is quoted as stating, "I have always considered the imprisonment of TOM MOONEY an outrage. There's absolutely no question in my mind that he's innocent...If it wasn't for political reasons he would have been released years ago."

In regard to the Scottsboro defendants, MARX is quoted in the article as stating, "The battle of the Communists for the lives of those boys is one that will be taught in Soviet America as the most inspiring and courageous battle ever fought. It will be a red letter day on the calendar. It will be what Bunker Hill is to the modern textbooks."

Commenting on the Soviet Union, the article quotes MARX as stating, "You know, that's a wonderful country they have there. Everybody expected it to fail. But its been going on for something like 16 years now--so I guess its a success! My brother HARPO was there a few months ago at the request of the Government and he came back with great reports. You know, they have no unemployment there at all. I wish we could say the same here."

"NEW DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE"

EUGENE LYONS, author and publisher, in a book entitled "Red Decade," deals with the activity of the Communist Party and particularly its front organizations in Hollywood and elsewhere during the 1930's. With reference to the above organization, LYONS' book states:

"Only Hollywood could have doped this one out... The declaration called for nothing less than the immediate breach of all economic relations with Germany. Nearly all Hollywood clamored for the honor of signing, for the most part neither knowing nor caring that it was at bottom another Communist fund raising and propaganda stunt. Unluckily, only 56 had signed the original document in 1776, wherefore no more could endorse the new one. Among the lucky ones to rate as Hollywood Hancocks were...."
The book thereafter lists a large number of Hollywood personalities including GRAUCHO MARX who allegedly signed the "New Declaration of Independence."

LEAGUE OF AMERICAN WRITERS

The League of American Writers has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

In June, 1942, the Hollywood Chapter of League of American Writers issued a card advertising a function to be sponsored by this organization at the Hotel Roosevelt in Hollywood on June 12, 1942. This announcement card stated that the program would include an analysis of humor and the war, and that among the speakers would be GRAUCHO MARX.

RUSSIAN WAR RELIEF

The Fourth Report (1948) of the California Legislative Committee on Un-American Activities, on page 357, characterizes the Russian War Relief as "in every respect a satellite front of the Communist Party and...not an organization similar to the American Red Cross."

"News Letter," Volume 1, No. 3, published by the Southern California Division of Russian War Relief, Inc., dated August 1, 1942, carried an article advertising that the Music Committee of the Hollywood Committee of Russian War Relief held a Shostakovich Concert on Sunday, July 19, 1942, and that among those present were GRAUCHO MARX among other motion picture film personalities.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AMERICAN-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP (NCASF)

The NCASF has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450, as has also been its predecessor organization American Council on Soviet Relations.

obtained from the Executive Secretary of the Los Angeles Council of American-Soviet Friendship in July, 1943, a copy of an open letter to the American people which had been put out by the American Council on Soviet Relations. This letter
offered suggestions as to how to further American-Soviet friendship, and contained a contribution form. This letter purported to be signed by a large number of people, among them being many Hollywood personalities including GRAUCHO MARX.

"NEW MASSES"

According to Congressional Record, September 24, 1942, page 7688, "New Masses" is characterized as a "Communist Periodical" by the then Attorney General of the United States, FRANCIS BIDDLE.

In 1943, it advised that an art auction for the benefit of "New Masses" was held July 13--16, 1943, at 8524 Sunset Blvd. in Hollywood. One of the guest auctioneers at this event on July 16 of that year was to be GRAUCHO MARX along with several other Hollywood personalities.

HOLLYWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE (HDC)

The 1948 Report of the California Legislative Committee on Un-American Activities characterizes HDC as follows: "This Communist front grew out of a series of fronts designed to entrap Hollywood's innocents in the motion picture industry."

According to "New Masses," GRAUCHO MARX was among a list of sponsors of a mass meeting sponsored by the Radio Division of HDC in the spring of 1944.

An advertisement clipping from "Variety" trade paper for the entertainment industry, in its issue of May 12, 1944, announced that a mass meeting sponsored by the Radio Division of HDC would be held May 12, 1944, to hear political issues discussed. Among the sponsors of this event was GRAUCHO MARX along with a number of other radio and screen personalities.

JOINT ANTI-FASCIST REFUGEE COMMITTEE (JAFRC)

The JAFRC has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

According to "New Masses," as part of the campaign put on by the National JAFRC organization in 1944, the Hollywood Branch of JAFRC secured a number of names to support a campaign to secure ...
the release of JESUS HERNANDEZ TOMAS and his retinue who were being held in Seattle, Washington, by the State Department. They were en route from the USSR to Mexico. TOMAS had been the Minister of Education in Spain during the Spanish Revolution, after which he went to the USSR. According to informant, GRAUCHO MARX was one of the above mentioned signers along with other Hollywood film people.

HOLLYWOOD WRITERS MOBILIZATION FOR DEFENSE (HWM)

Hollywood Writers Mobilization for Defense has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450. According to information from HWM held a meeting of its Executive Council on March 13, 1946. Among other things discussed at this meeting was a report on radio activities, particularly regarding a radio workshop. According to HWM claimed to have organized an Advisory Committee pledged to cooperate in a radio series dealing with the Atomic Bomb. On this Advisory Committee was GRAUCHO MARX along with a number of other prominent motion picture actors and actresses.

In this connection, it is noted that and a member of the Communist Party at that time as has been heretofore noted has no information, however, that GRAUCHO MARX was ever a member of the Communist Party.

HOLLYWOOD INDEPENDENT CITIZENS COMMITTEE OF ARTS, SCIENCES, AND PROFESSIONS (HICCASP)

The HICCASP is characterized on page 51 of the 1948 Report of the California Legislative Committee on Un-American Activities as one of a number of organizations which were controlled and directed by Communists.

In 1946 described HICCASP as probably the most effective instrument of the Communist Party in the Southern California area at that time since it had succeeded the Hollywood Democratic Committee. Informant reported that there had been some withdrawals from the HICCASP membership in 1946, following exposures of the Communist Party's relations to the USSR and that country's attitude toward other nations. To make up for these
resignations, according to a number of Hollywood people were added to the Executive Council of HICCASP, and among these was GRAUCHO MARX

According to GRAUCHO MARX and two of his brothers were among those who were contributors of $100 or more to HICCASP between

COMMITTEE FOR THE FIRST AMENDMENT

The California Committee on Un-American Activities, in its 1948 Report on page 210, identifies the Committee for the First Amendment as "a recently created Communist front in the defense of Communists and Communist fellow travelers. Its immediate purpose is to create favorable public opinion for the Communists who refuse to testify (in October, 1947) before the House Committee on Un-American Activities in Washington, D. C."

The "Peoples World," Communist news organ for the West Coast, in its Los Angeles edition for October 29, 1947, page 3, column 1, carries an article under the caption, "More Celebrities Join Defense Group, Denounce Film Industry Inquisition." The article thereafter stated that GRAUCHO MARX was among an expanded list of actors, writers, directors, and others in the Hollywood film industry released by the Committee for First Amendment; that the Committee condemned the attempt by the House Committee on Un-American Activities to smear the motion picture industry, and that "any investigation into political beliefs of the individual is contrary to the basic principles of democracy."

CIVIL RIGHTS CONGRESS (CRC)

The Civil Rights Congress has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

According to, in 1949, GRAUCHO MARX of 9437 Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills, California, was carried on the mailing list of CRC at Los Angeles. The same information was furnished by who, however, pointed out that the appearance of the individual's name on a mailing list of CRC or any other front organization did not of itself indicate membership in or sympathy with the organization.
The AYD has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

According to the 1948 GRAUCHO MARX of 710 North Hillcrest, Beverly Hills, California, was among those who had been sent an invitation to attend an "FDR Rally" sponsored by the AYD.

MISCELLANEOUS

The "Daily Worker," Communist news organ on the East Coast, in its issue of February 9, 1939, carried an article under the caption "Lift Embargo Say Screen Stars." The article thereafter includes the photographs of a number of motion picture actors and actresses, including that of GRAUCHO MARX. According to the article, all of these were for lifting the embargo on the Spanish Government.

The "People's World," Communist periodical for the West Coast, in its issue of April 25, 1945, page 2, column 4, carried a news item from San Francisco, California, under the caption "Anti Franco Forces Open Office in SF." GRAUCHO MARX was indicated in the article as active in a new committee called Friends of the Spanish Republic, which had been formed to insure that no recognition should be accorded to the Franco Government at the United Nations Conference.
It is noted that the referred to in the details is who is the subject GRAUCHO MARX. At approximately 3:15 AM, November 14, 1953, Los Angeles Office and furnished the information attributed to in the foregoing details. In what appeared to be reason for the contact was that specifically stated identity not be disclosed. Indices of the Los Angeles Office do not reflect any previous reference to.
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Orally
Five copies of report of San Diego dated 12/1/53, Los Angeles, are enclosed herewith. This report incorporates the pertinent information contained in the Los Angeles files concerning GRAUCHO MARX, together with results of a check of all available confidential sources who would logically have been in a position of knowing or hearing of the affiliation, if any, of GRAUCHO MARX with the Communist Party.

Predication is based on receipt, by Los Angeles from the San Diego Office, of a copy of a routine report dated August 17, 1953, from a confidential informant, on August 17, 1953. Among other matters set out in the report, it was mentioned that GRAUCHO MARX contributes heavily to the Communist Party. However, the report set out no additional details or the basis upon which based his statement.

San Diego was requested to recontact specifically for additional details and the basis for the allegation. Results of the recontact revealed no particulars, details of value upon which to base an evaluation of the information. A copy of San Diego letter to Los Angeles dated October 12, 1953, setting out results of the recontact is enclosed for the Bureau's file.

Reference is made to the administrative section of enclosed report, referring to a telephone call received from GRAUCHO MARX. Unless the Bureau directs otherwise, no personal contact is being made with.

There is no information in the Los Angeles files which tends to corroborate the allegation of and UACB no further investigation is being conducted at this time.
INDICES SEARCH SLIP

TO CHIEF CLERK:  
DATE

SUBJECT:  

ALIASES

ADDRESS

DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH: 10-2-25

Exact Spelling
All References
Subversive References
Main File
Restricted to Locality of

FILE & SERIAL NO.  REMARKS  FILE & SERIAL NO.  REMARKS

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100-18355-137 (1) 6341, 9, 69  IV
100-18355-138 (1) 97
100-18355-138 (1) 97
100-18355-1318-1V18 01739
100-18355-35 02, 67
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100-31191-1181(1) 002
100-34374-7
100-20470-1P1621
100-153132-2290

Searched by  Agent  References Reviewed by

Clerk  67C  FBI-LOS ANGELES

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE  10-2-25  SERIAL

Searches by

Agent

References Reviewed by

NOV 23 1953

FBI-LOS ANGELES
100 - 19333 -425  p 63
100 - 6769 - 365  p 3
100 - 6769 - 123  p 4
100 - 7473 - 228  p 3
100 - 19390 - 41  p 8
100 - 19720 - 212  2
100 - 16513 - 1 (file and recheck) NC
100 - 7690 - 74  p 35
100 - 7777 - 9  p 9, 11
100 - 5377 - 32
100 - 3514 - 137
100 - 18874 - 121
100 - 1668 - 21 (missing from the file) NC
100 - 3514 - 126
100 - 15732 - 353 / 600  p 3
100 - 18731 - 59
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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREAFTER IS UNCLASSIFIED.
CONFIDENTIAL

INFORMATION USED FROM THIS MEMO SHOULD BE CAREFULLY PARAPHRASED SO AS TO PROTECT THE IDENTITY OF THE INFORMANT.

Confidential Informants, each of whom have furnished reliable information in the past, telephonically contacted SAC on 10/25/55. Information furnished will be submitted by them in report form later. (2)

The informant was advised the informant was told by

The informant advised further, information

and the informant was unable to

advised that the

FLO: no

cc: (6) Los Angeles (REGISTERED)

CP, USA

CROSS-OFF

DECASSIFIED BY 6/8/77
CP 8/25/99

10-4666-10

168

112666

(20)
stated that Marx is not a CP member because of his position, but he is in fact a CP member. Further, Marx as saying that Marx is not a CP member, or that the Communist Party in the United States is the source of the information. Advised that the Communist Party in the United States is the source of the information.
A report dated 10-24-55 was received by mail on 10-26-55 by SAC, San Diego, from Confidential Informants, each of whom has furnished reliable information in the past. The original report is filed as Confidential Information.

The contents of this report have not been discussed with the informants. The matter will be discussed with them on the occasion of the next contact and additional information obtained will be made a matter of record in a supplemental report and memorandum.

The informants reported...
RECORD OF INFORMATION FURNISHED OTHER AGENCIES

Orally ___ date ___ By Telephone ___ date ___ Written Communication ___ date ___

Information concerning:

Fernando Muro

Information furnished from File, Serial, and Page Number:

RC. Y6665-6

Information furnished was obtained:

☑ during course of Bureau investigation

☐ from informants

☐ from complainants or other sources

Information furnished to:

Agnes Lowrence

CS1

Remarks:

Letter of Scint was jenerated

8/26/79

#502491

DATE 8-6-79, SP53

SEP 1 1984

FILED

FBI-LOS ANGELES

Special Agent

B7C
1. 2 photostatic copies of page from 5/23/34 "Dailey Worker".  (12/18/53)
Date Received: 11/8/53
From: (Name of contributor)
(Address of contributor)
(Name of Special Agents)
To Be Returned: Yes ( )
No ( )
Description:
2 photographs each of page
from 5/23/34 "Dick Whittington"
File No. 100-46665-121

All information contained
herein to be used solely
DATE 3-6-54 BY SPECIAL
OFF. 276,554 UPT
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 21/09/09 BY 60267NS/6CE/09
Director, FBI

FROM: SAC, Los Angeles (100-46665)

SUBJECT: JULIUS H. MARX, wa. Grauco Marx
SECURITY MATTER - C
(00 Los Angeles)

DATE: December 1, 1953

Five copies of report of SAC 12/1/53, Los Angeles, are enclosed herewith. This report incorporates the pertinent information contained in the Los Angeles files concerning GRAUCHO MARX, together with results of a check of all available confidential sources who would logically have been in a position of knowing or hearing of the affiliation, if any, of GRAUCHO MARX with the Communist Party.
Subject is radio and TV comedian currently starring in TV show "You Bet Your Life" sponsored by Desoto-Plymouth Dealers over NBC. Rank and file member of Communist Party (CP), San Diego County, recently remarked to confidential informant that GRAUCHO MARX contributes heavily to CP; however, original source gave no basis for this allegation. Los Angeles informants familiar with CP activity in Hollywood motion picture and radio industry throughout 1940's state MARX was never affiliated with CP and never a contributor so far as informants are aware.

In 1934 the Daily Worker quoted MARX as saying, "The battle of the Communists for the lives of these boys (Scottsboro defendants) is one that will be taught in Soviet America as the most inspiring and courageous battle ever fought." Subject reported to have been affiliated or otherwise interested in varying degrees during 1940's with a number of Communist front or influenced organizations, including League of American Writers, American Council of Soviet Friendship, Hollywood Democratic Committee, Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee, and others. MARX was indicted and convicted for violation of Copyright law in 1937.

CLASS. & EXT. BY 3R/146640
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2. 4. 2 12/19/53
DETAILS: DATE OF REVIEW 12/26/53

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
Confidential sources, for whom T symbols are designated hereinafter, are of known reliability unless otherwise stated.

The 1950 issue of the International Motion Picture Almanac identifies subject as JULIUS MARX, professional name GRAUCHO MARX, one of the well known Marx Brothers, all of whom were born in New York City. GRAUCHO MARX, as he is best known to the public, was born in New York on October 2, 1895. His brothers are LEONARD (CHICO), ARTHUR (HARPO), and ZEppo MARX. Their first stage experience was in a vaudeville with their mother and aunt, and were known as "Six Musical Mascots." Later they toured as the "Four Nightingales," and finally as the "Four Marx Brothers." They are all musicians of note. GRAUCHO MARX is rated as one of the best guitar players in the country and also plays the piano, mandolin, and harp. HARPO gets his name from playing the harp, and also plays the piano, flute, and trombone. CHICO is an artist at the piano, but he is also accomplished with cornet, zither, and violin. Brother ZEppo plays the saxophone, piano, cello, and flute.

GRAUCHO MARX, together with his brothers, has starred in a number of motion picture productions including Paramount films, "The Coconuts," "Animal Crackers," "Monkey Business" (1932), "Horse Feathers" (1933), and "Duck Soup" (1935).

Brother ZEppo quit acting and operated the Zeppo Marx Agency in Hollywood during the 1930's; and thereafter, GRAUCHO, CHICO, and HARPO appeared in "A Night at the Opera" produced by MGM. In 1937 GRAUCHO collaborated on a screen play entitled "The King and the Chorus Girl" produced by Warner Brothers. In 1936 GRAUCHO, CHICO, and HARPO made a film "A Day at the Races" for MGM. Other film productions in which the Marx Brothers have appeared have been "Room Service" for RKO in 1938, and "At The Circus" for MGM in 1938. In 1940 they made "Go West" for MGM. More recent pictures have been "Night in Casablanca," "Love Happy," and "Copacabana."

In regard to GRAUCHO MARX's background, the following appears in the Daily Worker, an East Coast Communist newspaper, issue of May 23, 1934, in a column about MARX by EMANUEL EISENBERG:

"GRAUCHO MARX is of working class origin. His father was an Eastside tailor, and his mother sewed in
sweat shops. Once GRAUCHO worked with a vaudeville troupe called the Leroy Trio; he received $5 a week for soprano singing (he was then 13). Another time, stranded, he took a job driving a grocery wagon between Victor and Cripple Creek in Colorado at $3 a week. Today he is one of the most diverting entertainers in America. He has never forgotten his origin—and his nonsense contains, as many have felt, considerable satire and passionate thrusts at contemporary society."

EMPLOYMENT

GRAUCHO MARX is currently the star of a weekly radio and television show over NBC called "You Bet Your Life" sponsored by the Desoto-Plymouth Dealers. This show is produced and is broadcast weekly from Hollywood.

The same source advises that MARX has a business address of 1150 South Beverly Drive, Los Angeles, telephone CR 46001.

IDENTIFICATION RECORD

According to records of the Federal District Court, Los Angeles, GRAUCHO MARX, together with his brother CHICO, were indicted and convicted in November, 1937, for violation of the Copyright law. They were sentenced to pay a fine of $1,000 and be committed to jail until paid.
It is noted that the cumulative index to publications of the Committee on Un-American Activities, U. S. House of Representatives, released in January, 1953, does not contain any reference to GRAUCHO MARX.

The complete index of all reports of the California State Committee on Un-American Activities from its inception in 1943, likewise contains no reference to GRAUCHO MARX.

advised that he never knew or heard GRAUCHO MARX's name connected with the Communist Party.
that, based on his own experience and knowledge of the Communist
Party in Hollywood, there is no foundation within his knowledge
for any allegation that MARX is or has been a member of the
Party.
ACTIVITIES

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR DEFENSE
OF POLITICAL PRISONERS (NCFDPP)

The NCFDPP has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

The Daily Worker, Communist news organ in New York City, in its issue of May 23, 1934, page 5, carried a column by EMANUEL EISENBERG under the caption "GRAUCHO MARX on MOONEY, USSR, and Political Prisoners."

The write-up was the result of the author's having visited GRAUCHO MARX in New York to ask him to appear at the June Jamboree which the NCFDPP was to hold on June 1 (1934) at 138th Street and 7th Avenue, New York City. The jamboree was being held for the benefit of the organization's campaign for recognition of the status of political prisoners. It stated that MARX immediately accepted the invitation to appear at the jamboree to help in the campaign.
The article thereafter quoted GRAUCHO MARX on a number of subjects and issues.

In regard to TOM MOONEY, the imprisoned labor leader, MARX is quoted as stating, "I have always considered the imprisonment of TOM MOONEY an outrage. There's absolutely no question in my mind that he's innocent....If it wasn't for political reasons he would have been released years ago."

In regard to the Scottsboro defendants, MARX is quoted in the article as stating, "The battle of the Communists for the lives of those boys is one that will be taught in Soviet America as the most inspiring and courageous battle ever fought. It will be a red letter day on the calendar. It will be what Bunker Hill is to the modern textbooks."

Commenting on the Soviet Union, the article quotes MARX as stating, "You know, that's a wonderful country they have there. Everybody expected it to fail. But it's been going on for something like 16 years now--so I guess it's a success! My brother HARPO was there a few months ago at the request of the Government and he came back with great reports. You know, they have no unemployment there at all. I wish we could say the same here."

"NEW DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE"

EUGENE LYONS, author and publisher, in a book entitled "Red Decade," deals with the activity of the Communist Party and particularly its front organizations in Hollywood and elsewhere during the 1930's. With reference to the above organization, LYONS' book states:

"Only Hollywood could have doped this one out...
The declaration called for nothing less than the immediate breach of all economic relations with Germany. Nearly all Hollywood clamored for the honor of signing, for the most part neither knowing nor caring that it was at bottom another Communist fund raising and propaganda stunt. Unluckily, only 56 had signed the original document in 1776, wherefore no more could endorse the new one. Among the lucky ones to rate as Hollywood Hancocks were...."
The book thereafter lists a large number of Hollywood personalities including GRAUCHO MARX who allegedly signed the "New Declaration of Independence."

LEAGUE OF AMERICAN WRITERS

The League of American Writers has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

In June, 1942, the Hollywood Chapter of League of American Writers issued a card advertising a function to be sponsored by this organization at the Hotel Roosevelt in Hollywood on June 12, 1942. This announcement card stated that the program would include an analysis of humor and the war, and that among the speakers would be GRAUCHO MARX.

RUSSIAN WAR RELIEF

The Fourth Report (1948) of the California Legislative Committee on Un-American Activities, on page 357, characterizes the Russian War Relief as "in every respect a satellite front of the Communist Party and....not an organization similar to the American Red Cross."

"News Letter," Volume 1, No. 3, published by the Southern California Division of Russian War Relief, Inc., dated August 1, 1942, carried an article advertising that the Music Committee of the Hollywood Committee of Russian War Relief held a Shostakovich Concert on Sunday, July 19, 1942, and that among those present were GRAUCHO MARX among other motion picture film personalities.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AMERICAN-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP (NCASF)

The NCASF has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450, as has also been its predecessor organization American Council on Soviet Relations.
"NEW MASSES"

According to Congressional Record, September 24, 1942, page 7688, "New Masses" is characterized as a "Communist Periodical" by the then Attorney General of the United States, FRANCIS BIDDLE.

HOLLYWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE (HDC)

The 1948 Report of the California Legislative Committee on Un-American Activities characterizes HDC as follows: "This Communist front grew out of a series of fronts designed to entrap Hollywood's innocents in the motion picture industry."

An advertisement clipping from "Variety" trade paper for the entertainment industry, in its issue of May 12, 1944, announced that a mass meeting sponsored by the Radio Division of HDC would be held May 12, 1944, to hear political issues discussed. Among the sponsors of this event was GRAUCHO MARX along with a number of other radio and screen personalities.

JOINT ANTI-FASCIST REFUGEE COMMITTEE (JAFRC)

The JAFRC has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.
Hollywood Independent Citizens Committee of Arts, Sciences, and Professions (HICCASP)

The HICCASP is characterized on page 51 of the 1948 Report of the California Legislative Committee on Un-American Activities as one of a number of organizations which were controlled and directed by Communists.
COMMITTEE FOR THE FIRST AMENDMENT

The California Committee on Un-American Activities, in its 1948 Report on page 210, identifies the Committee for the First Amendment as "a recently created Communist front in the defense of Communists and Communist fellow travelers. Its immediate purpose is to create favorable public opinion for the Communists who refuse to testify (in October, 1947) before the House Committee on Un-American Activities in Washington, D. C."

The "Peoples World," Communist news organ for the West Coast, in its Los Angeles edition for October 29, 1947, page 3, column 1, carries an article under the caption, "More Celebrities Join Defense Group, Denounce Film Industry Inquisition." The article thereafter stated that GRAUCHO MARX was among an expanded list of actors, writers, directors, and others in the Hollywood film industry released by the Committee for First Amendment; that the Committee condemned the attempt by the House Committee on Un-American Activities to "smear the motion picture industry, and that "any investigation into political beliefs of the individual is contrary to the basic principles of democracy."

CIVIL RIGHTS CONGRESS (CRC)

The Civil Rights Congress has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.
AMERICAN YOUTH FOR DEMOCRACY (AYD)

The AYD has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

MISCELLANEOUS

The "Daily Worker," Communist news organ on the East Coast, in its issue of February 9, 1939, carried an article under the caption "Lift Embargo Say Screen Stars." The article thereafter includes the photographs of a number of motion picture actors and actresses, including that of GRAUCHO MARX. According to the article, all of these were for lifting the embargo on the Spanish Government.

The "Peoples World," Communist periodical for the West Coast, in its issue of April 25, 1945, page 2, column 4, carried a news item from San Francisco, California, under the caption "Anti Franco Forces Open Office in SF." GRAUCHO MARX was indicated in the article as active in a new committee called Friends of the Spanish Republic, which had been formed to insure that no recognition should be accorded to the Franco Government at the United Nations Conference.
TO: MR. MOHR
FROM: W. S. TAVEL
SUBJECT: GROUCHO MARX "YOU BET YOUR LIFE" PROGRAM

I called on 2/29/60 to advise that he had been listening to the captioned program on last Thursday, 2/25/60, on NBC, Channel 4, and that one of the contestants was an individual described by [redacted] as a "stumble bum" who admitted being a former pugilist and bootlegger. I said that when this contestant, whose name he did not recall, stated he had been a bootlegger, Marx asked, "You mean you were a bootlegger for the FBI?" in an apparent effort to be funny. I said the contestant made some noncommittal answer and there was little laughter from the audience. I stated that he felt that Marx's question was in poor taste and simply wanted to call it to the Bureau's attention.

I certainly agree that, if the question was phrased as stated, it was in poor taste but I do not feel that any further action is warranted.

RECOMMENDATION:
Submitted for information.
SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-46665)
SAC, SAN DIEGO (100-9534)

GROUCHO MARX

Re Los Angeles letter to San Diego 9/21/53.
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I suggest that the TV entertainer Groucho Marks be investigated as being a Communist.

Last night on his program both my husband and I understood him to pronounce "The United States" as "The United Snakes."

In his book "Groucho and Me" he speaks quite affectionately of Charlie Chaplin, who is a well known Communist.

By the way, your own book "Masters of Deceit" is a masterpiece. I have bought a copy for myself and four or five copies as gifts. It is simply a wonderful book. Thank you for it.

Please, Mr. Hoover, investigate Groucho Marks.

Sincerely,

June 17, 1960
Your letter of June 17, 1960, was received during Mr. Hoover's absence from the city, and I am acknowledging it for him. It will be called to his attention upon his return to Washington. I know he will be appreciative of your favorable remarks concerning, "Masters of Deceit."

Sincerely yours,

Helen W. Gandy
Secretary

NOTE: An in-absence reply is being used in view of her demand that we investigate Groucho Marx, because she is convinced he is a communist. Marx is the subject of Bufile 100-407258. His real name is Julius H. Marx and he is presently starring in the TV RHA:ldg/nss (4)
NOTE continued...
show, "You Bet Your Life," on NBC.
PERSONAL

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Department of the Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

As a loyal citizen of the United States, I am writing to you concerning the TV program entitled "Dupont Show of the Week" which was broadcast last night over NBC.

I am outraged by this show which appeared to be full of Communist propaganda — so much of it that I cannot begin to name it all. It was NOT funny. The Red stench was unmistakable. The program went out of the way to make the automobile industry in our country appear to be silly and the American people weak, incompetent and arrogant.

As one example among too many to even mention, Groucho Marx said, in speaking of the American people, "They drove around in their ARROGANCE."

I understand that Groucho Marx has strong Red leanings and that he was a member of the Red Front called "Committee for the First Amendment" and that he signed Cablegram of allegiance to Stalin. Please write and let me know if this is correct and what other information I am entitled as a United States citizen to know concerning his Red affiliations, so I can speak with authority when discussing him.

No doubt you have already thoroughly investigated Groucho Marx, but please also investigate the writer or writers of the TV script for the Dupont sponsored show.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I am

Sincerely and gratefully yours,
October 27, 1961

Dear [Name],

I have received your letter dated October 23, 1961, and the interest which prompted your communicating with me is appreciated.

While I would like to be of assistance, the jurisdiction and responsibilities of the FBI, strictly an investigative agency of the Federal Government, do not extend to furnishing evaluations or comments concerning the character or integrity of any individual, organization or publication. I am sure you will understand the necessity for this policy and will not infer that we do or do not have in our files the information you desire.

I am enclosing two items of literature which you may like to read.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures - 2

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Files reveal that in June, 1960, correspondent requested the Bureau to investigate Groucho Marx. She was sent an in-absence reply. In October, 1960, same address as correspondent, sent a letter to the Bureau with proposal to combat communism, wherein he suggested that Congress establish a $5,000,000 fund to (note continued page 2)
organize a group of students, such money to be under the control of Mr. Hoover. He requested that a copy of his proposal be sent to Senator Everett Dirksen. Reply sent to ___, and proposals sent to the Senator. Groucho Marx is the subject of Bufile 100-407258. His real name is Julius H. Marx. He is a well-known television and movie personality. In 1953, a rank-and-file member of the CP in California remarked to an informant that Marx contributed heavily to the CP. However, source gave no basis for allegation. Los Angeles informants familiar with CP activities, Hollywood motion picture and radio industry, throughout the 1940’s stated Marx was never affiliated with the Party and never to their knowledge contributed to it. Marx reported to have been affiliated or otherwise interested in varying degrees in the 1940’s with a number of CP front and CP-influenced organizations. The “Committee for the First Amendment” cited as a communist front “in the defense of communists and communist fellow travelers” by the California Senate Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities. The following items of literature were sent correspondent:

1. "What You Can Do to Fight Communism and Preserve America"

2. "Director’s Statement, April 17, 1961, re Internal Security"
Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: Mr. DeLoach
FROM: M.E. Jones

DATE: February 3, 1959

SUBJECT: YOU BET YOUR LIFE
GROUCHO MARX
NBC

We received a letter from Los Angeles 48, California, suggesting that the Director see Romaine Fielding talk Russian to Groucho Marx on the Groucho Marx television show Thursday evening, January 29, 1959.

The show was monitored and there was nothing on it concerning the Bureau or matters of any interest to us.

The Thursday night show is originally taken from the radio show which precedes it and something could, of course, have been cut from the Kinescope of the radio version.

[Redacted text]

ECK 1mh
(2)
RECOMMENDATION:

In view of the above background, it is not felt that anything can be accomplished by acknowledging the letter, and if we do we will undoubtedly promote further correspondence.
INVESTIGATION OF UN-AMERICAN PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 1940

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES.
New York, N. Y.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Present: Hon. Martin Dies (chairman).
Also present: Dr. J. B. Matthews, director of research; George F. Hurley, investigator; and Stephen W. Birmingham, investigator.

TESTIMONY OF HOWARD C. RUSEMORE, FORMER WRITER FOR THE DAILY WORKER

(The witness was duly sworn by the chairman.)

Mr. Matthews. What is your full name?
Mr. Rushmore. Howard C. Rushmore.

Mr. Matthews. Where do you live?
Mr. Rushmore. Here in Manhattan, 75 Thayer Street.

Mr. Matthews. Where were you born?
Mr. Rushmore. In South Dakota, July 2, 1912.

Mr. Matthews. Are you a member of the Communist Party?
Mr. Rushmore. Yes.

Mr. Matthews. When did you join the Communist Party?
Mr. Rushmore. I joined in 1933.

Mr. Matthews. Where?
Mr. Rushmore. In St. Louis, Mo.

Mr. Matthews. Do you recall who recruited you into the party?
Mr. Rushmore. A man by the name of William Sentner.

Mr. Matthews. Do you recall whether William Sentner was connected with the Radio Workers Machine Works of America?
Mr. Rushmore. Yes.

Mr. Matthews. Was Sentner holding some official position in the Communist Party?
Mr. Rushmore. He was organizational secretary of the Missouri Party.

Mr. Matthews. After you joined the Communist Party, did you hold any official positions in the Communist Party?
Mr. Rushmore. You want a list of what I did?

Mr. Matthews. Yes.
accuse a person, and I am definitely going to file action against Mr. Leech, because there must be some protection against such a practice.

Mr. Hurley. In a previous question I asked you whether or not you spoke at any meeting for the Scottsboro boys, and I believe your answer was "No." In the Western Worker of July 13, 1936, the following news item appears:

Hollywood aids Scottsboro boys, Los Angeles, July 2. Hollywood again proved its sympathy for the Scottsboro boys at the benefit last night at the Central Avenue Club Alabama. Although proceeds are not tallied, a similar benefit given at the same place 2 months ago netted $1,000. Among those in attendance were Francis Lederer, Lionel Stander, Robert Armbrust, Clarence Muse, Our Endure, Samuel Ornitz, Lou Darro, Robert Tanker, John Bright, Arthur Sraaw. Alan Baxter, Jorg Ivens, Frank Tuttle, and Russell Hicks.

What do you have to state?

Mr. Lederer. I have to state the following: That I have been again and again to the Club Alabama quite a number of evenings. I go often to these colored night clubs, and it just happens this was on a Sunday night—yes, Sunday, I think, and suddenly everything stopped, and somebody—I don’t know who it was, got up and spoke about the Scottsboro case and said people should contribute to it. Yes; I was there that night, just as I would be going to any night club, but I didn’t contribute anything.

Mr. Hurley. In the April 29, 1937, issue of the Western Worker, the following news item appears:

California students demand peace—30,000 participated on peace day. * * *

Four student speakers addressed the University of California meeting: At U. C. L. A. the speakers were Rev. E. F. Ryland, Frank Scully, and Lionel Stander. Francis Lederer was among the speakers at L. A. Junior College.

Is that the meeting to which you referred previously?

Mr. Lederer. Yes. Will you allow me to present to you—I think this has nothing to do with it—I have with me a leaflet and membership card which are the only literature which we have ever given out, and which would clarify to you that the organization has no political significance.

The Chairman. I do not think that is necessary to this matter.

(Witness excused.)

TESTIMONY OF LIONEL J. STANDER, ACTOR

(The witness was duly sworn by the chairman.)

Mr. Hurley. What is your full name?

Mr. Stander. Lionel J. Stander.

Mr. Hurley. What is your profession?

Mr. Stander. Actor.

Mr. Hurley. Are you a citizen of the United States?

Mr. Stander. Yes; native born, here in New York City.

Mr. Hurley. Will you briefly state your career as an actor?

Mr. Stander. I started in the Provincetown Playhouse in the village in the early days with John O’Neill and Robert Edwin Jones and others who got their start there. Then I performed as a newspaper reporter, working on the Evening Journal, in Charlotte, Vermont, and a couple of others. I was in the Theater Guild for a year, and played in a number of independent plays—in 26. Then on the road with Fred Allen, and played 9 regular programs. After that played with Fannie Brice, Bert Lahr, and others, and in 1935 was
Mr. Hurley. In the Western Worker for March 29, 1937, the following
item appeared:

Screen Actors for Mooney Pardon. A wire to Lieutenant Governor Hartfield
arguing favorable action on a pardon for Tom Mooney was sent by the follow-
ing prominent screen actors, directors, and writers: Frederick March, Florence
Elridge, Robert Montgomery, Groucho Marx, James Cagney, Edward G. Rob-
son, Gloria Stuart, Jean Muir, Lionel Stander, and others.

Is that article substantially true?
Mr. Stander. That is true. Even Jimmie Walker went there. I
called him when I gave money to the Tom Mooney cause it was jus-
tified.

The CHAIRMAN. We have in our possession indisputable evidence
that the Communist Party did seize upon this issue to raise money, not
for the purposes of helping Tom Mooney.

Mr. Stander. It is a question of a person being wise in choosing the
agencies through which they give to charity. I would not give to any
Fascist organization—but I see your point.

The CHAIRMAN. Were you ever known under any other name than
Lionel Stander?
Mr. Stander. NEVER.

The CHAIRMAN. Did you ever hear the name “J. Rand”?
Mr. Stander. The first time I ever heard the name was when the
Los Angeles grand jury asked me if I had ever heard of that name.

Mr. Hurley. Under date of April 29, 1937, the Western Worker,
western organ of the Communist Party, U. S. A., carried an item as
follows:

California Students Demand Peace—30,000 Participated in Peace Day.
Four
student speakers addressed the University of California meeting. Meetings
also held at Los Angeles and San Francisco junior colleges and in number
other junior colleges and colleges. Four student speakers addressed the
University of California meeting. At U. C. L. A. the speakers were Rev. E. P. Bots
Frank Scully, and Lionel Stander. Francis Lederer was among the speakers
Los Angeles Junior College.

Is that a true statement?
Mr. Stander. YES. Dr. Allan and Scully called me up, and I asked
them what it was for, and they told me that it was for peace.

Mr. Hurley. Did you ever belong to any organization for the sup-
port of Loyalist Spain?
Mr. Stander. That was it—sending ambulances to Spain. Yes, we
sent medical aid and ambulances to aid the victims of Italian and Ger-
man fascism. I read in the newspapers that Franco has now joined
up with Hitler and Mussolini, which is proof positive that our
support of the Loyalist cause was right. I don’t know whether you call
that communism or not, but many people throughout the country
realized that the cause of democracy was at stake. Of course, I can’t
be wrong.

The CHAIRMAN. No one is the questioning your right to give what
you wish. Many people believed in the Loyalist cause and many people
believed in the Franco cause. It is not for us to pass judgment on
what a man believes in. All we are interested in is that we want to
substantiate these records.

Mr. Hurley. In the magazine known as Soviet Russia Today, in
the edition of May 1938, there is an article entitled “American
Progressives on the Moscow Trials.” Your name is listed as a signer
of the statements made in that article!
The legal department furnished the letter to this date. They submitted a cover letter from John Sando Productions, which indicated that the envelope for the letter had been lost in the mail. Further letters indicated that MCA in LA had previously received a post card, evidently from the same source, which was threatening in nature. It had been disregarded and presumably destroyed or considered to be a joke.

The letter, which is handwritten in English and Chinese with the date 12/7/68, is quoted as follows:

"If you are still in the picture, and you have a fan, I want you to know that you have a lot of people who care about you. I can't have it if you suggest that you can't, but if you do, don't bother to write because you can't. I can't see everything we write, that's the problem.

"If you have something good for you, you would get public protection.

"To those you have already read the postcard on this letter to Sardon, but we want you to know that we also have friends in Hollywood, and we want you dry and right.

"In case you forgot what the picture we drew for you looks like, here it is again.

"Thank you."

"So long for now."

"See you real soon, six feet below."

"Your devoted fans."

"S., D., P., Jr., & A."

The letter contained a crude drawing of a dagger pointed toward an undistinguishable object which is labeled (The Organ).
Dear Grunche,

A long time ago we wrote you, asking you to apologize to Sissy Raising for what you said about him, but you never did. Now we're telling you, if you don't apologize, you won't see 30th Dec 1956.

We, and lots of others, think you are the most jealous old hackishhead, that we're...
I don't know Hollywood. I will say if you receive these your day and wonder if you do, don't think forget what we are bluffing, because picture we did we aren't. It's mean for you look at everything we say. That's the honest truth. Thank you.

If you know, I so long for you what good for you, see you real you would get police soon, you put protection. No doubt you your devoted have already traced the postmark on this letter to Brooklyn but we want you to