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4-27-1953

## Groucho Marx- FBI Files part one

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**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION**  
**COVER SHEET**

**SUBJECT: GROUCHO MARX**

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SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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TO: SAC

Date: August 27, 1953

From: [REDACTED] SA

RE: INFORMATION FROM [REDACTED]

Ref: 100-1882821  
Cmpd 276 884  
Classified by SP5CJ  
Declassify on: OADR LPT  
3-6-89

A report dated August 17, 1953 was received on August 20, 1953 by SA [REDACTED] from Confidential Informant [REDACTED] of known reliability. The report is filed as serial [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] reports [REDACTED] on August 17, 1953. [REDACTED] that GROUCHO MARX contributes heavily to the Communist Party.

[REDACTED] said not to get impatient as the CP in Orange County is not well organized now.

[REDACTED] 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.

[REDACTED] said [REDACTED] is a member of the CP.

EJK

CC [REDACTED]  
CC [REDACTED]  
CC [REDACTED]  
CC [REDACTED]  
CC [REDACTED]  
2 CC Los Angeles (1) Groucho Marx  
(2) [REDACTED]

921 R. [REDACTED]

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 29 1953	

100-4665-1

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

SAC, SAN DIEGO

September 21, 1953

SAC, LOS ANGELES

(100-46665)

GROUCHO MARX  
SECURITY MATTER -

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classified by ~~SPS~~

Declassify on: OADR

b7C/D Re memo of SA [redacted] San Diego, dated August 27, 1953, captioned "Info from [redacted]" (S) b2 b7D

(S) [redacted] noted that during a [redacted] on August 17, 1953, the latter said GROUCHO MARX contributes heavily to the Communist Party. [redacted] apparently referred to GROUCHO MARX, the film and T-V star, but no further elaboration is indicated in referenced memo. (S)

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 [redacted] or the informant in connection with this particular allegation, it should be furnished along with available details concerning the basis upon which [redacted] statement was made. If you deem it necessary, it is suggested that [redacted] be recontacted specifically in reference to this matter. (S)

b2  
b7D

JJ

902691  
DECLASSIFIED BY 60267NLS/BCE/AV  
ON 9/24/99

Reg.

MMB:aem

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

100-4665-2

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-46665)

DATE: 10/12/53

FROM : SAC, SAN DIEGO (100-9534)

SUBJECT: GROUCHO MARX  
SM - CALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISEClassified by SP5C  
Declassify on: OADRDECLASSIFIED BY 6026TNS/BCE/KS  
ON 8/24/99

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

b2 b7D  
[redacted] was recontacted by SA [redacted] on 10/7/53. He orally advised that [redacted] on 8/17/53 mentioned his acquaintance with Hollywood celebrities.

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

[redacted] GROUCHO commented he should be given half a membership because his mother was a gentile. [redacted] 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. [redacted] concluded that "GROUCHO now gives big hunks of money. [redacted] advised that [redacted]

b2 b7D [redacted] concerning GROUCHO MARX. [redacted]

py  
Enc. by  
12-1-53 RUC.

REG.  
EJK:mbj

CONFIDENTIAL

100-46665-3

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 14 1953	

b7c

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC

DATE: 10-30-53

b7C

FROM : [REDACTED] SA

Period: Same

SUBJECT: GRAUCHO MARK  
SM-C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3-6-89 BY SP5CJPT

b2 b7D

[REDACTED] advised that during the [REDACTED] he was in the CP in Hollywood, he never had any reason or information to believe that MARK was in the Party or sympathetic to it. Informant thinks MARK knew some Party people like [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] but everyone in Hollywood did. Informant states he is sure that MARK was never a member and is of the opinion that any allegation that he was or is is not based on fact.

b7C  
b7D

[REDACTED] was contacted and he said he had never heard MARK's name even remotely connected with the CP, and [REDACTED] 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 MARK is or was a Party member. [REDACTED] mentioned incidentally that he had had an inquiry along the same line about a month ago from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is inclined to think that the basis for such inquiries might be the fact that the MARK show has a musician by the name of [REDACTED] connected with it who is or was a Communist. [REDACTED] says that [REDACTED] of the HCUA is aware of [REDACTED] connections with the CP and intends to subpoena him at the next HCUA hearings.

b2 b7D

[REDACTED] had no information connecting MARK with the CP either past or present.

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

Cumulative Index to Publications of the  
Committee on Un-American Activities, U.S.  
House of Representatives released in Jan. 1953.

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

100-46665

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100-46665-4

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 30 1953	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

TO : SAC

B: 11/16/53

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: GROUCHO MARX  
SM - CALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3-6-89 BY SP5/OT

On 11/14/53 at 3:15 AM [REDACTED] b7C b7D  
[REDACTED] Calif., who described [REDACTED]  
telephonically contacted this office. [REDACTED] stated that  
the FBI to know that [REDACTED] GROUCHO [REDACTED] and prior  
thereto, while [REDACTED] GROUCHO was "pro-  
Communist and subscribed to all the Communist magazines and newspapers".  
[REDACTED] "The New Republic" and "The  
Nation". [REDACTED] that MARX believed the Communist line set forth in  
the various Communist publications and tried to [REDACTED]  
publications. [REDACTED] stated that MARX was never a member of the CP [REDACTED]  
knowledge.

[REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] the fact that [REDACTED]  
the FBI concerning [REDACTED] be kept confidential. During the  
course of the writer's conversation with [REDACTED]  
and appeared to be [REDACTED]

AJD:EKB  
LA 100-46665

100-46665-5

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 16 1953	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

b7C



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

FORM No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT <b>LOS ANGELES</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>12/1/63</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>9/21; 10/30; 11/9; 13, 14, 16, 17/53</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b>
TITLE <b>JULIUS H. MARX, wa. Graucho Marx</b>	ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SECURITY MATTER - C</b> <b>3-6-89</b> Classified by <b>SPS</b> Declassify on: <b>OADR</b>
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. [REDACTED] 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. [REDACTED] 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. (u)			
<p>902691 DECLASSIFIED BY 60267NLS/BCE/OSI - C - ON 8/25/95</p> <p>DETAILS:</p> <p><u>AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA</u></p> <p>CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY <b>SP-1</b> on <b>4/26/79</b> REASON FOR EXTENSION FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION <b>4/26/89</b> copy sent to 9/22/80</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <b>[Signature]</b>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau (REG.) <b>nh</b> ③ - Los Angeles (100-46665) <b>1 cc to OSI</b> <b>9/11/64 [Signature]</b>		<b>100-46665-6</b>	

PROPERTY OF FBI—This confidential report and its contents are loaned to you by the FBI and are not to be distributed outside of agency to which loaned.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

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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 [REDACTED] GRAUCHO MARX resides at 806 North Foothill Road, Beverly Hills, California. (u)

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.

#### COMMUNIST AFFILIATIONS

In August, 1953, [REDACTED] reported that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] remarked that GRAUCHO MARX contributes heavily to the Communist Party, but [REDACTED] gave no information upon which he based this allegation. (u)

[REDACTED] confidential informants who between them had considerable knowledge and information regarding the (u)

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 [redacted] 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. (S)

b2  
b7D  
[redacted] advised that during the [redacted] he was a member of the Communist Party's Motion Picture Section in Hollywood up to [redacted] 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 [redacted] but informant pointed out that practically everybody in the film industry did know [redacted] Both [redacted] 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. (S)

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.

[redacted] Motion Picture [redacted] and former member of the Communist Party in Hollywood between [redacted] and [redacted] advised that he never knew or heard GRAUCHO MARX's name connected with the Communist Party. [redacted] advised



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.

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

(W) [redacted] advised that he had no information or evidence that GRAUCHO MARX was ever an actual member of the Communist Party; however, it is [redacted] 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.

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

[redacted] and a member of the Communist Party in Hollywood up to [redacted] is personally acquainted with GRAUCHO MARX and states that he has never been a Communist Party member as far as informant is aware. [redacted] 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.

[redacted] was a member of the Communist Party's [redacted] from [redacted] to [redacted]. 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 [redacted].

[redacted] was still a Party member at that time, although her ex-husband had dropped out of the Party. If anyone had been [redacted] (W)

able to influence GRAUCHO MARX to join the Communist Party, it would have been [REDACTED]. Informant recalls that [REDACTED] invited GRAUCHO MARX to attend a [REDACTED] one of the top figures of the Communist Party, USA, at the time. MARX went along but informant recalls that he was horrified over the [REDACTED]. Informant advises that he has talked with GRAUCHO MARX directly on the subject of the Communist Party and that everything he has ever said 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 organizations in Hollywood in which the Communist Party was interested if not instrumental in organizing. 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 members of the Communist Party. (u)

b7C  
b7D

2  
1D [REDACTED] former member of the Communist Party in Hollywood during [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] states that MARX was never a member of the Communist Party, as far as informant was aware. (u)

[REDACTED] former member of [REDACTED] in the Communist Party in Hollywood during the [REDACTED] as well as [REDACTED] in an organization strongly influenced by the Communist Party, had no information regarding GRAUCHO MARX's alleged interest or sympathy in the Communist Party. (u)

[REDACTED] former member of the Communist Party in [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] 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." (u)

[REDACTED] of unknown reliability, who was [REDACTED] and associated with GRAUCHO MARX for a number of years up to [REDACTED] advises that in so far as informant was aware, MARX was not a member of the Communist Party but that he appeared to (u)

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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. (S)(u)

b2  
b1D [redacted] who is not a member of the Communist Party but is active in the [redacted] in 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. (S)(u)

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

b7C

#### 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.

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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...."



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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.

b2 b7D [REDACTED] 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 (u)

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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 (S)(u)

"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. b2 b7D

In 1943 [redacted] 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 (S)(u)

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." b2 b7D

According to [redacted] GRAUCHO MARX was among a list of sponsors of a mass meeting sponsored by the Radio Division of HDC in the spring of 1944. (S)(u)

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. b2 b7D

According to [redacted] 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 (S)(u)

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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. (u)

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 [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] 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. (u) b2 b7D

In this connection, it is noted that [REDACTED] and a member of the Communist Party at that time as has been heretofore noted [REDACTED] has no information, however, that GRAUCHO MARX was ever a member of the Communist Party. (u) b2 b7D

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.

b2 b7D [REDACTED] 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 (u)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

resignations, according to [REDACTED] a number of Hollywood people were added to the Executive Council of HICCASP, and among these was GRAUCHO MARX. *EW*

b2  
b7D

According to [REDACTED] GRAUCHO MARX and two of his brothers were among those who were contributors of \$100 or more to HICCASP between [REDACTED] *EW*

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 [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] 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.

b2  
b7D

*X*

AMERICAN YOUTH FOR DEMOCRACY (AYD)

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

According to [REDACTED] in 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 "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.

- C -

- 13 -

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

It is noted that [REDACTED] referred to in the details is [REDACTED] who is the [REDACTED] subject GRAUCHO [REDACTED]. At approximately 3:15 AM, November 14, 1953, [REDACTED] Los Angeles Office and furnished the information attributed to [REDACTED] in the foregoing details. [REDACTED] in what appeared to be [REDACTED] reason for the contact was that [REDACTED] specifically stated [REDACTED] identity not be disclosed. Indices of the Los Angeles Office do not reflect any previous reference to [REDACTED]

b2  
b7c  
b7D



ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity And/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Agent to whom Furnished</u>	<u>File Number where Located</u>
-------------------------------	---	--------------------------	--	--

(S) [REDACTED] Alleged contribu-  
tion to CP [REDACTED]

LA 100-  
46665-1

[REDACTED] CP records [REDACTED]

100-23933-1A

(deceased)

etal

[REDACTED] CP records [REDACTED]

100-18874-1A  
etal and 1A1

(S) [REDACTED] CP records [REDACTED]

100-23933-15

etal

[REDACTED] Negative as to  
CP membership [REDACTED]

100-46665-4

" [REDACTED]

"

Orally

" [REDACTED]

"

"

"

" [REDACTED]

"

"

"

" [REDACTED]

"

"

"

" [REDACTED]

"

"

"

" [REDACTED]

"

"

"

b2  
b7C  
b7D

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity And/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Agent to whom Furnished</u>	<u>File Number where Located</u>
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Negative as to  
CP membership

Orally

1948

100-15732-  
2790; Chi-  
cago letter  
to Seattle  
dated 12/1/  
52.

1942

Orally

ASP membership  
negative

Orally

Pretext contact by SA [redacted] in 1943 with  
Executive Secretary NCASF, Los Angeles.

100-7690-74  
p. 35

HDC

100-18355-  
1B8-1, p.47

etal

JAFRC  
HICCASP

100-3514-137  
100-18355-  
262, p.3

b2  
b7c  
b1D

A

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity And/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Agent to whom Furnished</u>	<u>File Number where Located</u>
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HWM

100-12416-  
1134, V.2,  
p.45

CRC

100-31791-  
Lb1-1 p.26

AYD

100-22035-  
1B7- p.301

Re

Orally

Residence and  
business

Orally

Director, FBI

December 1, 1953

SAC, Los Angeles (100-46665)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

JULIUS H. MARX, wa. Graucho Marx  
SECURITY MATTER - C  
(OO Los Angeles)

Classified by **SPSC1**  
Declassify on: **OADR**  
**190-18828-21**

Five copies of report of S [redacted] 12/1/53, b7C  
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.

b2  
b7D  
[redacted] 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,  
[redacted] Among other matters set out in the report,  
[redacted] mentioned that [redacted]

on August 17, 1953, [redacted] that GRAUCHO  
MARX contributes heavily to the Communist Party. However,  
the report set out no additional details or the basis upon  
which [redacted] based his statement. [redacted]

b2  
b7D  
[redacted] San Diego was requested to recontact [redacted]  
specifically for additional details and the basis for  
[redacted] allegation. Results of the recontact revealed  
no pertinent details of value upon which to base an evalua-  
tion of [redacted] 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. [redacted]

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

DECLASSIFIED BY **60267NLS/BCE/AS**  
ON **8/25/99**

b2  
b7D  
There is no information in the Los Angeles files [redacted] #902691  
which tends to corroborate the allegation of [redacted]  
to [redacted] and UACB no further investigation is being con-  
ducted at this time. [redacted]

REG.  
ENCLS-6  
MMB:JER

CLASSIFIED AND  
EXTENDED BY **SP-1** 12/26/79  
REASON FOR EXTENSION  
FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
EXEMPTED FROM GDS  
DATE 4/26/89

100-46665-7

INDICES SEARCH SLIP

10/5/53 b7c  
1953

TO CHIEF CLERK:

DATE

SUBJECT

*Graccha Mare*

ALIASES

ADDRESS

DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH

*10-2-25*

*NYC*

*Consolidate to report November 12-1*

Exact Spelling

All References

Subversive References

Main File

Restricted to Locality of

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE *3-5-89* BY *SPS*

FILE & SERIAL NO.

REMARKS

FILE & SERIAL NO.

REMARKS

*100-46665\**

*100-18355-137(1) p341, 9, 69*

*IV*

*100-18355-138(1) p97*

*I*

*100-18355-1318-1V18 p1739*

*I*

*100-18355-35 p2, 67*

*I*

*100-18355-34*

*I*

*100-18355-1218-1*

*I*

*100-18355D-330*

*I*

*100-18355-262 p3/270 p3*

*I*

*100-31791-1131(1) p26*

*I*

*100-34374-7*

*I*

*100-20420-131 p21*

*I*

*100-15732-2750*

*I*

Searched by

*[Redacted]*

clerk

Agent

*100-46665-8*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>am</i>	FILED <i>am</i>
NOV 23 1953	
FBI-LOS ANGELES	
7	

References Reviewed by

*b7c*

100-19373-425 p63.	I ✓
100-6769-365 p23.	I ✓
100-6769-123 p4	I ✓
100-7473-228 p32	I ✓
100-19390-11 p8	I ✓
100-19320-212 a	I ✓
100-16583-1 (file out - no check out)	NC ✓
100-7690-74 p35	I ✓
100-7777-9 p9,11	I ✓
100-5377-52.	I ✓
100-3514-137	I ✓
100-18874-1a1	I ✓
100-1668-21 (Missing from the file)	NC ✓
100-3514-12 p4	I ✓
100-15732-358/400 p3	I ✓
100-18231-55	I ✓
100-20035-1B7 p301, 361	I ✓
100-12416-1B4 V2 p3	I ✓
100-0-3997 (Wrong ref)	NC ✓
100-0-30966-67	I ✓
100-	



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

12-3-53 5034 ms

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
Director

The following FBI record, NUMBER **501 403 B**, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
USM Los Angeles Calif	Julius H. Marx #5922	9-27-37	Vio Copyright Act	\$1000 F to stand comm in L.A. Co J1 until Pd

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5-6-89 BY SPSC/ST

100-46665-9

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 9 1953	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Notations indicated by \* ARE NOT BASED ON FINGERPRINTS IN FB  
furnished this Bureau concerning individuals of the same or similar names of  
INVESTIGATIVE LEADS.

MEMO

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

10/26/55

TO: SAC, SAN DIEGO

FROM: SA [REDACTED]

RE: CP, USA, DISTRICT # 13  
SAN DIEGO DIVISION  
IS - C

Classified by ~~SP5CJ~~  
Declassify on: OADR

3-6-89

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

Confidential Informants [REDACTED] each of whom  
have furnished reliable information in the past, telephonically con-  
tacted SA [REDACTED] on 10/25/55. Information furnished will be  
submitted by them in report form later. (S)

[REDACTED] advised the informant was told by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] informant advised further, infor-  
mation [REDACTED] and the informant was unable to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that the [REDACTED]

EIK: [REDACTED]

cc: [REDACTED]

cc: (6) Los Angeles (REGISTERED)  
CP, USA

#902691  
DECLASSIFIED BY 60267NLS/BCE/RS  
ON 8/25/99

(20)

I double  
after running the  
file  
(S)

CONFIDENTIAL

100-46665-10  
Pg 28

(S) b7C

b7C/D

[REDACTED]

b2  
b7D  
b7C

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] to the Communist Party in the State.  
[REDACTED] advised this statement appeared fantastic to the informant and the informant [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was the source of the information. (S)

[REDACTED] further stated that [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] as identifying GROUCHO MARX as a member of the CP, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] as saying that MARX is not openly  
a CP member because of his position, but he is in fact a CP member.  
[REDACTED] stated no further information was elicited from [REDACTED]

(S)

TO: SAC, SAN DIEGO  
FROM: [REDACTED]  
RE: CP, USA, District #13  
San Diego Division  
IS-C

Date: 11-1-55

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

Classified by SP5CJ  
Declassify on: OADR  
8-6-89

A report dated 10-24-55 was received by mail on 10-26-55 by  
SA [REDACTED] from Confidential Informant [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] of whom has furnished reliable information in the past.  
The original report is filed as [REDACTED]

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 [REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED BY 60267NLS/BCE/DA  
ON 8/25/95

(G roucho MARX)

CONFIDENTIAL



b7C  
b7D  
1

[REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION ON THIS  
PAGE IS CLASSIFIED ~~(S)~~  
UNLESS INDICATED OTHERWISE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

... as saying GROUCHO MARX is a communist, but he  
cannot be active because of his work. MARX allegedly dropped out of  
the CP in 1946.

[REDACTED]

The Informants 1-11-11

b7C  
b7D

The Informants concluded that the

The informant quoted

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

## RECORD OF INFORMATION FURNISHED OTHER AGENCIES

Orally 9/11/64 By Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Written Communication \_\_\_\_\_  
date date date

Information concerning:

*Grancho Marx*

Information furnished from File, Serial, and Page Number:

*100-46665-6*

Information furnished was obtained:

☒ during course of Bureau investigation☐ from informants☐ from complainants or other sources

Information furnished to:

*Chas. Lookhouse*  
*CSI*

Remarks:

*1 cc of Serial 6 furnished.*

*8/25/99*  
*#902691*  
 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE *3-6-89* BY *SP5*  
*CA 276, SS4* *PT*

*100-46665-12*

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
SEP 11 1964	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

*67C*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Agent

1. 2 photostatic copies of page from 5/23/34 "Dailey Worker". (12/18/53)

# EVIDENCE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

CA 276 554  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3-6-89 BY SP5EJ/PT

100-46665-12  
SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
DEC 18 1953  
FBI - NEW YORK  
ER

Date Received 11/2/53

b2  
b7D

From \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of contributor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address of contributor)

b7C

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned Yes ( )  
No (X)

Description:

*2 photostat copies of Page  
from 5/22/34 "Dilly Worker."*

File No. \_\_\_\_\_

*100 - 46665 - 1a1*

*hl*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3-6-89 BY SP5CJ

04 276,534 LPT







ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN

DATE

~~8-6-89~~

SPSC

WT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2/24/99 BY 60267NLS/BCE/DA



~~SECURITY MATTER~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Office Memorandum

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: December 1, 1953

FROM : SAC, Los Angeles (100-46665)

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

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-1 gpr/ea  
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 4-26-89 b7c

Five copies of report of SA [REDACTED] 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.

Classification  
DATE 4/26/79 BY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

*Nichols*

52 DEC 16 1953  
ENCLS-6

RECORDED-24

INDEXED-34

DEC 7 1953

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR  
ADD. DISSEMINATION

FEDER

BUREAU OF II

ATION

FORM NO. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES

~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~

REPORT MADE AT <b>LOS ANGELES</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>12/1/53</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>9/21; 10/30; 11/9, 13, 14, 16, 17/53</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED] JER b7c</b>
TITLE <b>JULIUS H. MARX, wa. Graucho Marx</b>		APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) <b>DATE 4/30/79 Classification</b>	CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SECURITY MATTER - C</b>
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: <p>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. [REDACTED] b7c</p> <p>[REDACTED] 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. (u) cc 12 12/1/53 RLS GKL</p> <p>CLASS. &amp; EXT. BY <b>SP1924</b> REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2. 4. 2. 2 DATE OF REVIEW <b>4-26-89</b> <b>4/26/79</b></p> <p><b>AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA</b></p> <p><b>ENCLOSURE</b> [REDACTED] (Info-comp)</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <b>[Signature]</b>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT <b>⑤ - Bureau (REG.)</b> <b>3 - Los Angeles (100-46665)</b> <b>COPIES DESTROYED 18 AUG 20 1993</b>		<b>100 - 407258 - 1</b> <b>RECORDED-34</b> <b>INDEXED-34</b> <b>DEC 7 1953</b> <b>EX-125</b>	

PROPERTY OF FBI—This confidential report and its contents are loaned to you by the FBI and are not to be distributed outside of agency to which loaned.

BY: **[Signature]**~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~

LA 100-46665

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.

b1 [REDACTED]

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.

b1 [REDACTED]  
b7D [REDACTED]  
b1 [REDACTED]

b1

[REDACTED]

b1

[REDACTED]

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.

b7c

[REDACTED] advised that he never knew or heard GRAUCHO MARX's name connected with the Communist Party. [REDACTED] advised

CONFIDENTIAL

LA 100-46665

CONFIDENTIAL

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.

b1

[REDACTED]

b1

[REDACTED]

b1

[REDACTED]

b1

[REDACTED]

b1

[REDACTED]



LA 100-46665

CONFIDENTIAL

b1

[REDACTED]

b1

[REDACTED]

b1

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL

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b1

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.

LA 100-46665

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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.

b1 [REDACTED]

LA 100-45665

CONFIDENTIAL

b1 [REDACTED]

"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.

b1 [REDACTED]

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."

b1 [REDACTED]

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.

b1 [REDACTED]

LA 100-46665

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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.

b1

[REDACTED]

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b1 [REDACTED]

b1 [REDACTED]

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.


b1 [REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AMERICAN YOUTH FOR DEMOCRACY (AYD)

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

61 

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.

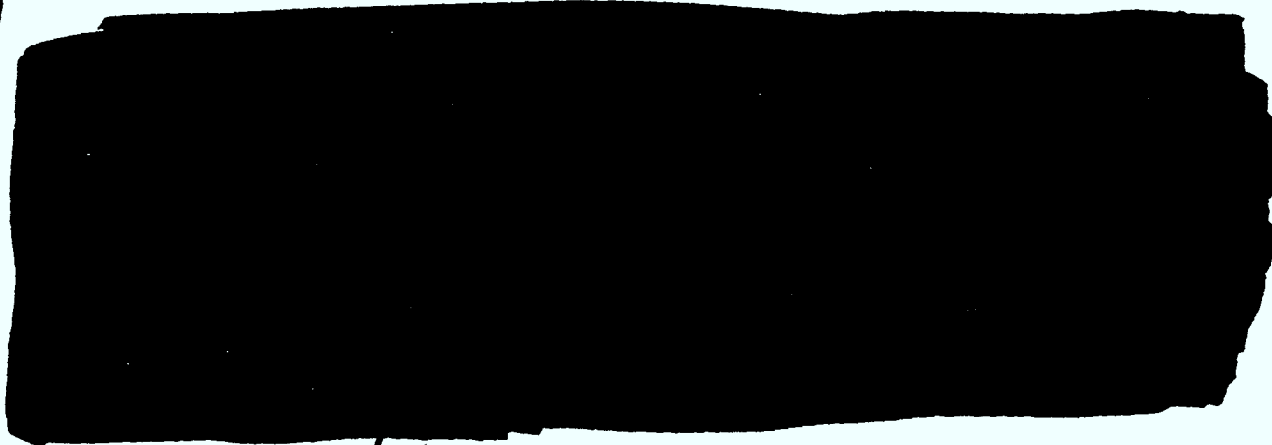
- C -

LA 100-46665

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

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LA 100-46665

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED]

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

LA 100-46665

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFIDENTIAL

LA 100-46565

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE~~SECRET~~

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UNITED STATES

*Memorandum*

TO : MR. MOHR

DATE: 3/1/60

FROM : W. S. TAVEL

SUBJECT: GROUCHO MARX  
"YOU BET YOUR LIFE" PROGRAM

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
 McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

b7c [REDACTED] 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. [REDACTED] 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. [REDACTED] said the contestant made some non-committal answer and there was little laughter from the audience. [REDACTED] stated that he felt that Marx's question was in poor taste and simply wanted to call it to the Bureau's attention.

b7c I certainly agree that, if the question was phrased as [REDACTED] stated, it was in poor taste but I do not feel that any further action is warranted.

RECOMMENDATION:

Submitted for information.

WST:hif  
(2)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 4/26/79 BY SP-1824/REG-18  
 EX-132

100-407258-2

23 MAR 11 1960

CRIME/REC

91  
52 MAR 15 1960

SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-46665)

10/12/53

SAC, SAN DIEGO (100-9534)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

GROUCHO MARX

~~SM - C~~

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES

AND FIELD OFFICES

ADVISED BY ROUTING

SLIP

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

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RUC.

100-407258-1

REG.

BJK:mbj

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-1 gsk/mbj

REASON - FCIM II, 1-2.4.2

DATE OF REVIEW 4-26-89

100-46665-3

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>nk</i>	FILED <i>nk</i>
OCT 14 1953	

137

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Miss Gandy

June 17, 1960

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,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/24/79 BY SP-1 GSK/ao

MCT-1 REC-6

100-407254-3

10 JUN 28 1960

Bureau files indicate no reference on

JUN 20 1960

June 24, 1960

REC-6/100-407258-3

CLASS. & EXT.  
REASON = FCIM 1  
DATE OF REVIEW  
4/24/79

SP1 gpr/20  
1-2 4-2 5-2  
6-24-80

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

MAILED 2  
JUN 24 1960  
COMM-FBI

1 - Los Angeles - Enclosure

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

HHA:ldg/nss  
(4)

(NOTE CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

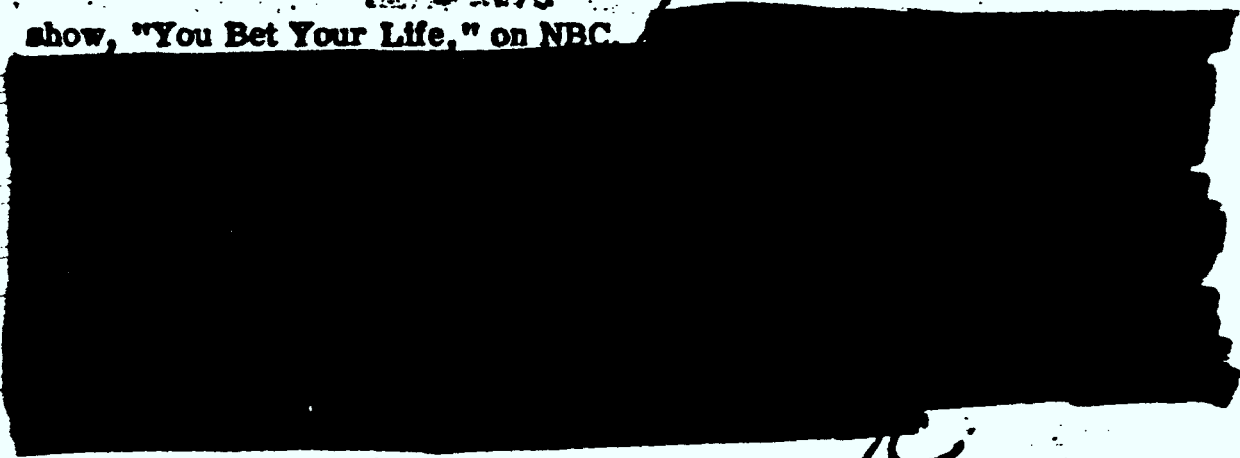
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Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

62 JUL 5 1960

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

NOTE continued.

show, "You Bet Your Life," on NBC.



b1

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

67C [REDACTED]  
Oct. 23, 1961

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.

① 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,

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DATE 4-21-79 BY SP-1 SPK/ao

67C  
Letter to  
10-27-61  
JTH: [REDACTED]

EX 110

REC-100-4475-1  
20-30  
Gandy [REDACTED]  
INVEST.



[redacted] b7c

REC-98  
EX 110  
100-407258-4

October 27, 1961

OCT 27 6 07 PM '61  
FBI  
REC'D - READING ROOM

b7c  
Dear [redacted]

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

MAILED 20  
OCT 27 1961  
COMM-FBI

Enclosures - 2

LTG:peb:sky (3)

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Bufiles reveal that in June, 1960, correspondent requested the Bureau to investigate Groucho Marx. She was sent an in-absence reply. In October, 1960, [redacted] 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)

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Evans \_\_\_\_\_
- Malone \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Ingram \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

64 NOV 2 1961

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Classified by  
6283  
5/18/80  
15  
12/19/80  
REC'D

**NOTE ON YELLOW (continued):**

b7c  
organize a group of students, such money to be under the control of Mr. Hoover. He requested that a copy of his proposals be sent to Senator Everett Dirksen. Reply sent to [redacted] 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: (u)

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

DATE: February 3, 1959

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: YOU BET YOUR LIFE  
GROUCHO MARX  
NBC

Tolson	_____
Belmont	_____
DeLoach	_____
McGuire	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Trotter	_____
W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

We received a letter from [REDACTED]  
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.

b7c/b6

b7c/b6

BEC-101

ECK:lmh

(2)

FEB

330-04  
FEB 10 1959  
COMM-FBI

Jones to DeLoach memo

b7C / b6

[REDACTED]

RECOMMENDATION:

In view of the above background, it is not felt that anything can be accomplished by acknowledging [REDACTED] letter, and if we do we will undoubtedly promote further correspondence.

b7C / b6

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*Ague*  
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## CTIVITIES

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## 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. RUSHMORE, 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 con-  
nected 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 3. Hollywood again proved its sympathy for the Scottsboro boys at the benefit last night at the Central Avenue Club Alabama. Although proceeds are not totaled, a similar benefit given at the same place 2 months ago netted \$1,000. Among those in attendance were Francis Lederer, Lionel Stander, Robert Armstrong, Clarence Muse, Guy Endore, Samuel Ornitz, Lou Darro, Robert Tasker, John Bright, Arthur Strawn, 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. P. Ryland, Frank Sully, 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'Neil 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, Yonkers, and a couple of others. I was with 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 went

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Mr. HURLEY. In the Western Worker for March 29, 1937, the following item appeared:

Screen Actors for Mooney Pardon. A wire to Lieutenant Governor Hatfield urging favorable action on a pardon for Tom Mooney was sent by the following prominent screen actors, directors, and writers: Friedrich March, Florence Eldridge, Robert Montgomery, Groucho Marx, James Cagney, Edward G. Robinson, Gloria Stuart, Jean Muir, Lionel Stander, and others.

Is that article substantially true?

Mr. STANDER. That is true. Even Jimmie Walker went there. I felt that when I gave money to the Tom Mooney cause it was justified.

The CHAIRMAN. We have in our possession indisputable evidence that the Communist Party did seize upon this issue to raise money, but 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 on Peace Day. Four student speakers addressed the University of California meeting. Meetings were also held at Los Angeles and San Francisco junior colleges and in numerous 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. Ryle, Frank Scully, and Lionel Stander. Francis Lederer was among the speakers at 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 support 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 German 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 would call that communism or not, but many people throughout the country realized that the cause of democracy was at stake. Of course I could be wrong.

The CHAIRMAN. No one is 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?

Mr. STANDER

(Statement)

Yes; that is

Mr. HURLEY

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Mr. STANDER

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Mr. HURLEY

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Mr. HURLEY

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Following article appeared in **LOS ANGELES TIMES** - column 2 - **March 10, 1968**

The first threat letter sent to **JOHN GUNDEL PRODUCTIONS** was from **JOHN GUNDEL PRODUCTIONS** from Brooklyn, New York, dated **March 10, 1968**. The letter was sent through the **Los Angeles** office and contained a threat to send a bomb through the mail.

"That inspired this article is how we all remember **JOHN** had with an English woman on his TV show. He asked her if she had ever loved **JOHN**. 'Yes,' was the answer. 'Have you ever seen him?' was the question. 'No,' she replied. 'Did you?' 'Well, you can't have to see him to love him.' That was it."

"Thousands of wild protests poured in but only the message from the Brooklyn 'mob' and a similar one to the **FBI** seemed to have any effect."

**b7c** [redacted] Production Staff member, **John Gundel Productions**, **Bollywood, Calif.**, advised that the letter in question was sent from Brooklyn to **FBI**, New York, was forwarded by **FBI** San Francisco to the **Los Angeles** office, **Boston**, **Portland** & **Chicago**. They in turn sent it to that **LA** office and [redacted] representative of the **LA** office of that time, furnished the letter to [redacted] in New York. [redacted] is to various staff members of **John Gundel Productions**, which firm produces the **GUNDEL** show. The letter was received by [redacted] in **LA** and was ultimately sent to the Legal Dept., **FBI**, **Los Angeles**. [redacted] stated that **GUNDEL** had never seen the letter and probably has no knowledge of it.

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REPRODUCTION AVAILABLE

SA [redacted] HEC Legal Dept., furnished the letter to [redacted] this date. He exhibited a cover letter from [redacted] John Gandel Productions, which indicated that the envelope for the letter had been lost. [redacted] cover letter further indicated that HEC in MI 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 childish prank. The letter, which is handwritten in English and which bears the date 12/7/56, is quoted as follows:

[illegible]

"If you know what's good for you, you would get golden  
 membership."

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

**B. S. P. J. & A.**

9-31463-1



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~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
10/7/56

Dear Gruncks,

A long time  
ago we wrote you,  
asking you to apologize  
to Eric Riving, for what  
you said about him,  
but you never did.

Now we're telling you,  
if you don't apologize,  
you won't see 50th Dec  
1956.

We, and lots  
of others, think, you are  
the most jealous old  
bramblehead, that we've

LA 9-20.

b7c [redacted] stated that he had advised [redacted] of John Guede's  
production that he felt the letter would be of no value to the FBI  
inasmuch as the envelope was lost and because there was no name or  
address furnished.

Original letter and photostat being furnished to FBI  
Laboratory 12/31/70. Photostats being furnished to NY. NUC report  
being submitted.

ENCLOSURE

*Original letter*

31 103-1

some reason, you are  
also in Went Great.  
I don't know  
if you receive these  
letters or not, but if  
you do, don't think  
we are bluffing, because  
we aren't. We mean  
everything we say.

That's the honest truth.

If you know  
what good for you,  
you would get police  
protection.

No doubt you  
have already traced  
the postmark on this  
letter, to Bklyn, but  
we want you to

know that we are  
have friends in  
Hollywood. That is so  
you day and night.  
You can go  
forget what the  
picture we do  
for you look like.  
That is again.

Thanks you.

So long for now.  
See you real  
soon, as far  
below.

Your devoted  
fans.  
B, S, P, J, & A.

D-243723 Q1 AX  
FBI