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The Attorney General

November 13, 1947

Director, FBI

Classified by: SP7 MAC/lak  
Declassify on: OADR 9/1/89

DORE SCHARY

DORE SCHARY SUMMARY

Reference is made to the telephonic request from [redacted] of your office on November 12, 1947, for a summary of the information contained in the files of this Bureau regarding the above-captioned individual. There is set forth hereinafter a summary of data contained in our files on Dore Schary.

BACKGROUND

Schary was born in Newark, New Jersey, August 31, 1905. He attended Central High School in Newark. He is married. At one time he was a Little Theatre director, an actor, and he played in stock companies. He was editor of the state "Y" (YMCA) papers in New Jersey, and handled newspaper publicity for Admiral Byrd. He is the author of several Broadway shows, such as "One Every Minute," "Gentleman of Distinction," "Man of Ideas" and "Violence." He was columnist for the Newark Sunday Call and for Charm Magazine. Among the pictures which he has written are "He Couldn't Take It" (Monogram); "Fog" (Columbia); "Fury of the Jungle" (Columbia); "Comin' Round the Mountain" (MGM); "The Most Precious Thing in Life" (Columbia); "Let's Talk It Over" (Universal); "Murders in the Clouds" (Warner Brothers); "Mississippi" (Paramount); "P-Man" (Paramount); "Silk Hat Kid" (20th Century Fox); "Mind Your Own Business" (Paramount); "Outcast" (Paramount); "Big City" (MGM) and "Boys' Town" (MGM). He won the 1938 Academy Award for original story in "Boys' Town." He also wrote "Young Tom Edison" (MGM); "Behind the News" (Republic); "Married Bachelor," "Edison the Man," "Broadway Melody of 1940," all MGM. Schary was appointed to the position of executive producer at MGM in 1941. (1942-1943 issue of International Motion Picture Almanac. 62-46321-175)

GENERAL INFORMATION FURNISHED BY INFORMANTS REGARDING SCHARY'S COMMUNISTIC SYMPATHIES

On December 2, 1940, a confidential informant in Los Angeles, California, furnished the following information regarding Schary. Informant characterized Schary as one of a group of individuals who had been sympathetic with Communists, had attended Communist gatherings, had helped raise funds by allowing the use of his name, and had knowingly traveled with Party members. Informant stated also that Schary was a sort of ethenic type of person who is cautious to the point of cowardice and who will not face any situation with any degree of strength or determination. Informant stated that at one time Schary had spoken before the Jewish Peoples Committee, which informant described as a Communist front organization. At a later

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Pennington
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy

JLS:mer

SENT FROM D. O. [redacted]

TIME 11:15 AM

DATE 10-15-47

BY R.P.

RECORDED

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date this same informant stated that Schary was a member of the League of American Writers and conducted a course in the Writers School of the League in 1939. He also stated that Schary was one of the signers of the Call for a Fourth Congress of the League of American Writers in New York on June 6, 1941. Informant was of the opinion that this alone would stamp Schary as a follower of the Communist Party line at that time.

[redacted] Confidential Informant)

Another informant in Los Angeles, California, furnished the following information concerning Schary in December, 1942. Informant described Schary as one who is always pushing some new movement or group of social significance. This informant stated that Schary is a consistent protester against "reactionism" and Fascism and was a strong advocate of the "Second Front Now." The informant added that Schary is open in his contempt for the Southern white man. (Confidential Informant [redacted])

Another informant in Los Angeles, California, advised in December, 1942, that Schary was probably the most potent of MGM studios' "Comrades." In view of his position with MGM, Schary had the power to hire and fire writers and to establish the policy of the unit over which he exercised authority. The informant stated that Schary consistently absorbed into his unit only those writers and producers whose philosophy and politics agreed with his own. Informant stated that Schary insisted that all the pictures produced by his unit contain social significance and that Schary had engaged in the glorification of the Negro race. Informant further said that Schary had stated that America could not possibly win the war unless the Southern States were brought into line. According to the informant, when anybody took issue with Schary, Schary's reactions were contemptuous and he would make the charge of "Fascism." The informant stated that Schary's office was the headquarters for the "Demand Second Front Now" at MGM and that his secretary circulated petitions and demands upon the United States Congress such as a demand for the immediate passage of the Anti-Poll Tax Bill. It was further stated by informant that the reactionary employees of MGM half humorously and half grimly termed the group of "red tinted comrades" within the studio walls as the "cell" and looked to Schary for leadership and encouragement.

(Confidential Informant [redacted] Writer for MGM)

At a later date this same informant stated that he was personally convinced that Schary was sympathetic with the Communist movement although he was unable to furnish any specific information to that effect. Informant pointed out that among Schary's close associates were Hyman Kraft, John Howard Lawson, and Robert Rossen, all of whom informant described as "fellow travelers."

Two other informants of the Los Angeles Office furnished information as follows in December, 1942: They advised that Schary was a very

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capable writer and held a position of considerable importance. They stated he is intensely anti-Fascist. Both informants were of the opinion that Schary's attitude and leanings were in the direction of the "Communist Party line." One informant advised that on one occasion during the production of the film on Andrew Johnson, Schary advocated that the production be along the lines of glorifying the policies of Thaddeus Stevens, who was Johnson's personal enemy. This informant expressed the belief that Stevens' ideas were similar to those of Marx and Lenin. Neither of these two informants could furnish any information indicating that Schary was a member of the Communist Party but both expressed their opinion that he was one of a number of individuals in the motion picture industry who had gained such a foothold in the industry that there was grave danger that the entire motion picture industry might become a propaganda machine maintained for socialist and Communist ideas. (Informants [redacted])

Another informant in Los Angeles, California, advised in December, 1942, that Schary had "pinkish" tendencies but that he did not believe that Schary could be classed as one of the more dangerous figures in the film colony. The informant stated that he supposed Schary considered himself a liberal thinker. He characterized Schary as the type of individual who argued sincerely for what he thought was right even though others may not have agreed with him. [redacted] (62-46321-175X)

CONNECTIONS WITH ALLEGED COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATIONS

Hollywood Writers Mobilization

The March 9, 1945 issue of "Variety," Hollywood trade publication, lists Schary as a member of the Hollywood Writers Mobilization Editorial Committee. (100-74274-10)

A confidential informant in Los Angeles, California, advised on June 6, 1945, that on this date officers were elected at a meeting of the Hollywood Writers Mobilization. The informant furnished information that Dore Schary was elected as a Vice Chairman. (Highly confidential and most reliable source 100-138754-108)

The California "Eagle" for November 28, 1946, contained an article captioned "Counteroffensive Against Local-National Witch Hunters." This article stated that a full-fledged offensive against the witch-hunting and book-burning assault on the basic freedom of the American people had been organized in Hollywood under the direction of the Hollywood Writers Mobilization. The article further listed Dore Schary as one of the speakers who would take part in this campaign. (100-102217-58)

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The report dated in 1947 of the Joint Fact Finding Committee on Un-American Activities in California, page 141, lists Dore Schary as one of the speakers at forums conducted by the Hollywood Writers Mobilization. This report also describes this organization as a Communist front.

(1947 Tenney Report)

Council for Civic Unity

Informants in Los Angeles, California advised that the Council for Civic Unity held a meeting in Los Angeles, California, on February 29, 1945. According to informants, Schary was elected as a member of the Board of Directors of this organization at this meeting. It may be noted that it had been reliably reported that this organization was initially formed by and thereafter under the influence of reported Communists and Communist sympathizers. It should be further noted, however, that it is also known that highly reputable citizens are also members of the Council for Civic Unity. (Special Agents attended this meeting. 100-300464-7,12)

Hollywood Independent Citizens Committee of Arts, Sciences and Professions

A confidential informant in Los Angeles advised in October, 1945, that Dore Schary was a member of the Interim Committee of the Hollywood Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions.

(CI [redacted] 100-338892-23)

American Youth for Democracy (formerly known as the Young Communist League)

An informant in Los Angeles advised that the second anniversary meeting of the American Youth for Democracy was held at the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, California, on December 16, 1945. According to informant, Dore Schary was included among the sponsors of this celebration.

(CI [redacted] 100-138754-118)

American Committee for Yugoslav Relief

A reliable informant in Los Angeles advised in August, 1946, that Dore Schary was a national sponsor of the American Committee for Yugoslav Relief.

(CI [redacted] 100-168670-25)

American Arts Committee for Palestine

An informant in Los Angeles, California, advised on April 9, 1947, that the American Arts Committee for Palestine had recently been formed and was under the control of the Communist Party. Informant stated that the purpose of the organization was to secure immigration of displaced Jews into Palestine. According to informant, Schary was active in creating this organization.

(100-138754-151)

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MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

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Through a confidential source it was ascertained that on May 9, 1942, Herbert Biberman conferred with Hyman Kraft, both known Communist Party members. According to the informant, Biberman and Kraft discussed the "Free Earl Browder Movement" and Kraft suggested a list of individuals who might be interested in lending their names to this movement. Dore Schary was included in this list of names. (U) (U)

Los Angeles' 100-24499-156) (U) Tech Surveillance on CP Headquarters, (U)

A reliable source advised that on August 5, 1946, arrangements were made between Joseph W. Losey and John Grierson, both of Los Angeles, California, whereby Grierson was to have lunch with Schary. It may be noted that both Losey and Grierson are known to have associated closely with known Communists and suspected Soviet espionage agents. (Tech surveillance on Joseph Losey 100-343468-25)

The California "Eagle" for September 26, 1946, contained an article captioned "Citizens Lend Support to Strikers." In this article it is stated that William Randolph Hearst had locked out members of the Guild who had struck against the "Herald-Express" plant in Los Angeles. The article listed Schary as a member of this citizens committee.

(100-7326-28)

The "Daily Worker" for September 22, 1947, page 12, contains an article captioned "Subpoena 43 to Testify at Movie Witch-Hunt." This article reflects that Schary was on the list of those who had been subpoenaed to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee of which J. Parnell Thomas is Chairman.

(100-138754-A)

Information is also available reflecting that as of October, 1947, Schary was the Director of Productions at RKO studios. It should also be noted that no investigation has ever been conducted by this Bureau as to Schary.

(100-138754-248)

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Report on Dore Schary, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover to the Attorney General, November 13, 1947.