

MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA, INC.
5504 Hollywood Boulevard
Hollywood 28, California
Gladstone 6111

February 27, 1947

Mr. Harold Melniker
RKO-Radio Pictures, Inc.
780 North Gower Street
Hollywood 38, California

Dear Mr. Melniker:

This goes to you in confirmation of our conference today with yourself and Messrs. Dmytryk and Paxton, with regard to the script for your proposed picture CRADLE OF FEAR.

As we advised you, the basic story seems to meet the requirements of the Production Code.

However, there are a few minor items which we believe should be changed, and which are set forth in detail below:

Page 11: Please change the line, "He used to do nudes."

Page 13: We suggest rewriting the line "some soldiers can get away with that sort of thing, to avoid any suggestion that this refers to adultery.

Page 15: We suggest changing the expression, "nigger".

Page 18A: Please change the expression, "lousy", (used twice).

Page 20: In this, and the succeeding scenes in Samuels' apartment, please cut down the actual scenes of pouring liquor and any excessive display of liquor.

Page 24: Please change the expression, "Hot dame".

Page 25: Please change the line, "I say nuts" as being on the Association's list of forbidden words.

Page 35: We recommend changing the expression "kikes".

Page 38: In this second scene in Samuels' apartment, please also cut down the emphasis on liquor and drinking. Specifically, we suggest omitting the line, "Drink up, kid. It's on the house". Also, it might be possible to have the succeeding conversation revolve about something else besides liquor and drinking.

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Page 38A: Please omit the action of Floyd pouring a drink, at the bottom of this page.

Page 40: Please omit or rewrite the dialogue, "You know what I'd like to do?" "Let's keep it clean".

Page 41: We suggest omitting the action of Mitchell downing a drink in scene 89.

Page 44: We suggest omitting the line, "I had another drink someplace."

Page 47: We feel it will be essential to make some radical change in this scene, which will remove any flavor of prostitution. Our recommendation is that this man who wanders in should definitely be indicated as Ginny's divorced or separated husband who is trying to win her back.

As indicated today at the conference, in its present form we believe it could not be approved.

Page 52: We suggest omitting the dialogue, "Monty, I got to have a drink. Let me have a drink, won't you?"

Page 53: We suggest changing the expression, "Yid."

Page 55: We suggest omitting the underlined words in the line, "I got in a jam with a girl."

It is understood, of course, that there will be no suggestion of a "pansy" characterization about Samuels or his relationship with the soldiers.

Page 56-B: This beating of Floyd should be handled in such a way as to avoid excessive brutality.

Page 61-62: We suggest the possibility of some other phrase to replace "He picked up a girl".

Page 65: We suggest changing Mary's line, "everything will be all right", so as to avoid any possible flavor of condonation.

Page 68: We suggest rewriting Ginny's line, "I was with a lot of men tonight."

Page 71: We suggest omitting or rewriting Mary's line, "but that doesn't matter anymore."

Page 72: We suggest omitting the dialogue, "He wasn't here with me --- but what if he was? What would be wrong with that?"

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Page 75: We suggest rewriting the line, "I met her at the Dragon -- same as everybody else---".

Page 82: We suggest rewriting the line, "But they aren't sweethearts".

In conclusion, we assume that you will make certain that nothing in the finished picture will cause any complaint from the War Department.

We also direct your particular attention to the need for the greatest possible care in the selection and photographing of the dresses and costumes for your women. The Production Code makes it mandatory that the intimate parts of the body -- specifically, the breasts of women -- be fully covered at all times. Any compromise with this regulation will compel us to withhold approval of your picture.

You understand, of course, that our final judgment will be based upon the finished picture.

Cordially yours,

-s-

Joseph I. Breen

P.S. On page 1, we suggest the advisability of omitting the name of Jesus Christ in the opening narration, in view of the fact that in its present context, being mentioned along with Genghis Khan and Attila the Hun, it might prove highly offensive to religious-minded people.

J.I.B.

cc: Mr. N. P. Rathvon
Mr. D. Schary
Mr. J. J. Nolan
Mr. L. Goldberg

Mr. A. Scott ✓
Mr. E. Daytryk (2)
Mr. J. Paxton
Mr. J. Wilkinson (2)
Script Clerk.

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Joseph Breen to Harold Melnicker, July 27, 1947.

Courtesy Adrian Scott Papers, American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming-Laramie.