

STATEMENT -- ADRIAN SCOTT

I do not believe it is necessary for me to raise my voice against the open war now being waged on civil liberties and on a free screen by the Committee on Un-American Activities. Voices more eloquent than mine have spoken.

I wish to speak about another war. I would like to speak about the "cold war" now being waged by the Committee on un-American Activities against the Jewish and Negro people.

The evidence is clear and incontrovertible.

Edward Dmytryk, who directed "Crossfire", and I, who served "Crossfire" as producer, have extended invitations to the Committee to view this picture. Our invitations were ignored or refused.

We who made this picture are proud of it. We are proud to lend our voices, however small, in the enormous fight now being waged -- and yet to be waged -- to destroy the un-American practice of anti-Semitism. We detest anti-Semitism. We detest anti-Catholicism. We detest anti-Protestantism. We detest any practice which degrades any minority or any religion or any people.

We expected the committee to refuse our invitation to see and to discuss "Crossfire". We expected them to refuse to discuss measures by which the practice of anti-Semitism could be abolished. To do this would be incompatible with the committee's bigoted record and bigoted support.

Individually a member of this committee may protest that he is not anti-Semitic. He may say that some of his best friends are Jews--or even that some of his best constituents are Jews. Or he may say, in protest, that he loves the Negro people; and the Negro people love him--that, in his poll tax district, the colored man knows that he loves him, providing the colored man keeps his place. But despite his protestations of individual innocence, the evidence of the Committee's collective guilt is cynically clear.

Let the committeeman say he is not anti-Semitic. But the rabble rousing anti-Semitic Gerald L. K. Smith publicly approves and supports him.

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Let the committeeman say he is not against the colored people. But the anti-Negro Ku Klux Klan and all hate groups love and work for him.

Let the committeeman whisper in the cloak room that he disapproves of the hate monger, John Rankin of Mississippi. But has he disavowed him publicly? Has he repudiated his racist doctrines? Has he, more important, recommended legislation which would destroy John Rankin's racist doctrines?

Let the committeeman say he is opposed to inhuman treatment for minorities--and bad housing and unsanitary ghettos. But what measures has the committeeman personally recommended to change all this? Where has his hand been evident in assisting minorities to take their rightful place among their fellow men? What has he done to make fair employment practices a reality?

Let the committeeman say he is not anti-Semitic. But let the record show he does the work of anti-Semites.

Let the committeeman say he is not anti-Negro. But let the record show that he does the work of the Ku Klux Klan.

Today this committee is engaged in an attempt to destroy nineteen subpoenaed witnesses. The record of these men is clear. They have always stood for issues which are beneficial to the great mass of the American people.

Many times in their films they have presented the Jew and the Negro (and other minorities as well) in unsteretyped terms. They have made it an uncompromising rule in motion pictures to treat all minorities with dignity.

These men oppose and actively work against Gerald L.K. Smith and the Ku Klux Klan and the Black Legion and the Columbians and all kinds and varieties of hate groups.

They not only say they are against ^{minority} oppression, they do something about it.

The Committee is now attempting to deprive these nineteen men of jobs, to establish a black list. By slander, by vilification, this Committee is attempting to frighten and intimidate those men and their employers; to silence those voices which have spoken out for the Jewish and the Negro people and other people.

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Statement--Adrian Scott --3--

The Committee wants these eloquent voices stilled.

This is the cold war now being waged by the Committees on Un-American Activities against minorities. The next phase--total war against minorities--needs no elaboration. History has recorded what has happened in Nazi Germany.

For myself and my colleagues, we will not be intimidated. We will not be frightened. We will not permit our voices to be put into moulds or into concentration camps. We will continue to lend our voices so that fundamental justice will obtain for Jews, Negroes and for all citizens.

Here is the partial motion picture record of these men in behalf of minorities:

ROBERT ROSSEN--Rossen wrote the anti-lynch picture THEY WON'T FORGET. His latest picture is BODY AND SOUL which treats Negro and Jew with dignity and justice as free men.

HOWARD KOCH --Koch wrote CASABLANCA and IN THIS OUR LIFE. The Negro is treated honestly as a free man.

ALBERT MALTZ-- Maltz wrote PRIDE OF THE MARINES and THE HOUSE I LIVE IN which was sung by Frank Sinatra. Both pictures exposed anti-Semitism and religious and racial intolerance.

WALDO SALT -- Salt wrote THE COMMINGTON STORY for the OWI. An attack on anti-Semitism.

RING LARDNER, JR. Lardner wrote the BROTHERHOOD OF MAN calling for more understanding among races and religions.

HERBERT BIBERMAN--Biberman produced NEW ORLEANS, hailed by the Negro press as intelligent treatment of Negroes.

LEWIS MILESTONE--Milestone directed OF MICE AND MEN in which the Negro was handled with dignity.

LESTER COLE---- Cole wrote NONE SHALL ESCAPE which exposed Nazi brutality to the Jews.

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Statement of ~~Adrian Scott~~

RICHARD COLLINS - Collins wrote DON'T BE A SUCKER for
the armed services. Subsequently, it was
released to the public. It exposed anti-
Semitism and kindred hatreds.

IRVING PICHEL - Pichel directed A MEDAL FOR BENNY, which
treated a Mexican minority with dignity.

Will the American people allow this bigoted Committee to
sit in judgment of these men and their records?

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Adrian Scott's statement to HUAC.

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