

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR



EHW:eh  
100-530

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

February 25, 1944

Mr. Tolson ☒  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols ☒  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Boehm \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE  
Los Angeles, California

DATE 3-14-81 BY SP-6 BJA/omh  
SP-6 BJA/omh 7/11/84 #259,356

I thought you would be interested in information concerning the subject organization recently given to the Los Angeles office by Jack Holmes of Warner Brothers Studio, a Special Service Contact. Holmes stated that the Anti-Defamation League received donations in the amount of \$3,000,000 during the last year. Most of this was contributed by the major motion picture studios and by prominent Jewish motion picture actors, directors, and other persons prominent in the industry. Holmes said that Warner Brothers Studio alone contributed \$60,000 to the fund.

Holmes related that the principal purpose of the Anti-Defamation League is to ferret out persons of anti-Semitic leanings and to oppose any legislation affecting Jewish people or restricting the privileges of minority groups. He said that any legislative or Presidential decree affecting races or minority groups is a matter of grave concern to this organization. In his opinion, the League is secretly opposed to Government restrictions on native-born persons of Japanese ancestry, feeling that a precedent has been or might be established restricting the freedom of a minority group.

Holmes said he is well-acquainted with this organization's operatives in Los Angeles, namely Mendel Silverberg, Leon Lewis [redacted] In addition to these persons, Dr. John Lechner, the Americanization Chairman of the Inglewood, California, Post of the American Legion, is, according to Holmes, employed by the Anti-Defamation League and paid out of their secret fund. He described Lechner as a "phony" and stated his local reputation is not especially good, inasmuch as he is regarded as the promoter type.

According to Holmes, Lechner testified before the Costello Committee in Washington; and his testimony concerning Japanese activities at Manzanar and Tule Lake was based on information reportedly furnished by the Anti-Defamation League. He related that it was at the time Lechner appeared before the Costello Committee that the Dies Committee was reportedly planning a series of hearings to determine the extent of Communist infiltration of the motion picture industry. Holmes is of the opinion Lechner went to Washington to create an interest on the part of the Committee in the Japanese problem in order to have the proposed inquiry into the motion picture industry suspended. Holmes states that there was considerable worry in Anti-Defamation League circles at the time you visited Los Angeles last summer that you had come to that city to investigate the Communist activities of Charles Chaplin.

RECORDED  
Respectfully,  
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D. M. Ladd

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