TO: Director, FBI

FROM: SAC, Los Angeles

SUBJECT: CONFIC; EDWARD DUMTRIK
SECURITY MATTER - C

DATE: February 13, 1951

On February 6, 1951, the Independent Motion Picture Producers Association, telephonically advised me that DUMTRIK was desirous of obtaining employment in the motion picture industry, and the suggestion had been made to him that he come to the office of the FBI in order to make a statement which it was thought would be an indication to prospective employers that he was cooperative with the government. It related that the industry did not necessarily desire to bar DUMTRIK from any employment whatever, but producers were very skeptical about employing him without some type of clearance. It was pointed out that I would be glad to receive DUMTRIK if he desired to come to the office, but that no inference was to be drawn by anyone from his appearance here; that the FBI is not in a position to grant any clearance and none should be inferred from the fact that he might come here for an interview; furthermore, no information would be forthcoming to anyone concerning the nature of his visit if such were made. I stated that he was sorry the FBI could not be of assistance in connection with the matter, but he appreciated our position and stated he would accompany DUMTRIK. An appointment was made for February 8, 1951 at the office.

On that date DUMTRIK came alone to the office and was interviewed by the writer and SAC. At the outset of the interview DUMTRIK stated that he came here voluntarily to furnish us with any information in his possession, the suggestion that he come here having been made by an unofficial group of persons in the motion picture business, most of whom were members of the Motion Picture Alliance and who, according to him, act as a rather unofficial clearing body for the independent producers.

DUMTRIK related that he had joined the Communist Political Association, and he distinguished this from the Party, shortly after Stalingrad when the relationship between this country and Russia was apparently very friendly, and he allegedly joined because of intellectual curiosity. He stated he was somewhat familiar with Marxism although he found Marx impossible to read, personally.

RBR: MSS

100-15732 (CONFIC) 100-8837
100-21068 100-21998 (LANSON)
100-8854 100-20659
100-20076 100-7905 (MALTZ)
100-6769 (H.BIRKMAN) 100-18395 (A.S.P.)
100-19369 (JARRICO) 100-23042
100-22282 100-22505
100-20095 (PEPPER) 62-2357
100-20411 100-7654
100-18421 (BREIT) 61-541
100-3179 (AVILEZ) 100-32686
100-23030 100-18900 (HOSSET)
100-20383 100-3962

AIR MAIL
He was invited to what turned out to be a Communist meeting held in San Fernando Valley, and then soon after attended another meeting in the same area. One of those meetings was at the home of [name]. He thereafter attended several meetings in the Hollywood area of Los Angeles. He claims that he never actually attended more than about five Communist meetings, and he denies that he knows the other residences at which those meetings were held. He names the following persons as having been in attendance at some of these meetings but he cannot distinguish specifically which gatherings they attended: BRYAN MARLOW (deceased), HERBERT WIDRUMAN, PAUL JARRICO, GEORGE PEPPER, and [name].

He advises that normally only six or seven persons were present at these particular meetings. ALVAH BESSELE spoke at one of them, and after attending the first meeting DEUTSCH was invited to sign up with the CPA. He believed that HERBERT WIDRUMAN was actually the one to ask him to join the Communist Political Association. He was invited to attend a meeting at which the negro question was to be discussed in detail. He states this is the type of discussion that really interested him for he has seen a great deal of oppression, misery and the plight of various minorities, and the study of such problems and their ultimate solution vitally interested him. He states this was the time when the Party, under the leadership of EARL BROMBERG, was following its doctrine of enlightened capitalism, and he was anxious to study this development. On questioning he did state that one of the Communist Party meetings was held at the home of THANK TUTTLE, who is a motion picture director.

DEUTSCH states that he believes he signed three separate applications for membership in the Communist Political Association or the Communist Party. He had some receipts in this connection but destroyed them at the time, not desiring to have them found, indicating that he then felt it was somewhat of a conspiracy and was not the sort of thing that would be understood by persons who might know of his membership. He states that the last time he joined the Party he was requested to sign, bringing the card to DEUTSCH at his home. He places this date in 1945 after the Communist Party had been re-established. He states that in his own mind he had never ceased to be a member at this time, but had never formally declared himself and went ahead and signed the card when presented to him by [name].

To emphasize the casualness of this occasion DEUTSCH recalled that he was washing his car in the driveway at home and signed the card in front of the house without any prolonged discussion.

He states that he had never paid the regular weekly dues into the Party, but may possibly have given as much as $5.00 in cash on an occasion or two, but states that he never did make any real contributions. However, after he had severed his connection with the Party, PAUL JARRICO, on one occasion, brought two men to visit him. Allegedly both were from New York. One was tall, thin-faced, and had piercing eyes. They stated they were after a fund of at least $100,000.00 for the Party, and after much discussion, in order to get rid of them he promised $1,000.00 which he never gave. He pointed out at this time he was on a $25.00-a-week allowance from his business manager and could not have made any real contributions to the Party without disclosing it.
IMTRYK related that early in 1945 he was advised by ADRIAN SCOTT to go with him to a meeting at the home of FRANCIS FARAGOH. Another meeting, which also attended, was attended by [possibly] and was held at the home of [al- though the latter was not present at any time. This was a political discus-

sion group, and IMTRYK states he felt considerably out of place not being able
to engage in the theoretical discussions which were under the leadership of
JOHN HOWARD LAWSON. He states that he attended two such meetings and then,
because of differences of opinion with LAWSON, IMTRYK feels that he, from
that time on, was never really accepted into the Party. The difficulties
arose over the treatment of a story entitled, "Cornered", which was being made
into a motion picture by IMTRYK and ADRIAN SCOTT. ALBERT MALITZ came to see
SCOTT and IMTRYK and informed them that they were treating this story wrong
and endeavored to have it afforded story treatment in line with Communist
principles. IMTRYK and SCOTT stated the story could not be so handled, and
he refused to change it. JOHN HOWARD LAWSON attended several discussions con-
cerning "Cornered" and told IMTRYK he was undisciplined because he would not
change the movie as suggested by LAWSON. It was as a result that ALBERT MALITZ
wrote a series of articles for "How Movies" which he was later required by the
Party to repudiate.

IMTRYK stated that HERBERT BIEBERMAN did not participate in the
political discussion groups just mentioned, and it was understood that he
had a similar group of his own. From this time on IMTRYK stated that he
really had no contact with Party members and although he had not formally or
officially withdrawn from the Party, he had done so and apparently it was so
regarded by the Party inasmuch as he was not contacted at all.

He stated that at no time was there ever any discussion relative
to the overthrow of the government and he was never solicited to carry out
any type of a mission for the Party, and he never met any individuals who
came from other sections of the country except the two men from New York men-
tioned heretofore. IMTRYK states that he never used any name other than his
own in connection with any Party activities.

IMTRYK states that at the invitation of FRANK TUTTLE he was asked
to participate in the school conducted in Hollywood by the People's Educational
Center. He states he did not know that the Party controlled it at that time,
and he was solely interested in the technical phases of motion picture direction
and not politics at this school. He states he also lectured at the Actors Lab,
which he knows is regarded as a front group. He was a member of the Hollywood
Writers Mobilization and participated on several panels in discussions spon-
sored by that group, but again they were of a technical nature. He admits that
he allowed his name to be used as a sponsor for the American Youth for Demo-
cracy. He claims not to know what the group stood for politically, and was
informed that it was an organization to render assistance to the young wives
of war veterans, and he was solicited by two unknown women who came to his
residence. He claims not to know their identities.
He states he was elected to the Executive Board of Hollywood Independent Citizens Committee of Arts, Sciences & Professions, and attended a few meetings. He states definitely this was subsequent to his withdrawal from the Communist Party, and he regarded HICASP as a broad progressive movement headed by what he thought were strong progressives. He cited HOWARD KOCH as the type of non-Communist extremely active in HICASP. He further identified GEORGE PEPPER as one of the motivating forces in HICASP at the time.

DMITRYK states that when he and ADRIAN SCOTT were served with subpoenas by the House Un-American Committee they were glad of the opportunity to express their positions. Both were then employed at RKO Studios. SCOTT decided to employ BARTLEY CRUM of San Francisco as his attorney, and DMITRYK decided to also employ him, and they informed CRUM fully of their Party membership and activities. They did not have much cash between them and after the other persons had been served with their subpoenas the association with them and the formation of the group known as the "Hollywood 19" came about. This was never an official group actually, and the only semblance of real organization came about as a result of a meeting held at the home of EDWARD G. ROBINSON. ROBINSON was not present at this time though was in the house. Senator CLAUDE PEPPER of Florida was in attendance at the meeting, and he told about the activities of the House Un-American Committee and advised them to fight the Committee. DMITRYK states that HERBERT BIRENBAUM, ADRIAN SCOTT, and IRVING FICHEL were also present. He stated that in his opinion FICHEL is not a Communist. A subsequent meeting of the group was held at the home of Not all of the so-called "Hollywood 19" were at this meeting or the subsequent one held at the home of

Some of those under subpoenas had retained Attorney and still others had counseled with He states that there definitely was no conspiracy among the group on the individual positions that they were to take before the Committee. DMITRYK definitely feels that and were under the sponsorship of the Communist Party. He pointed out that the financial problem was a considerable one to the group, and remarked that ALVIN BESSEK and SAMUEL ORNITZ had absolutely no money and were carried entirely by the Committee, as was RENT BRETCH. He stated that some individuals who had participated in the meetings dropped out altogether, for example, IRVING FICHEL.

He stated that ROBERT ROSSUK, who is openly a Communist, was not at any meeting when DMITRYK was there. He stated that as it turned out, the real legal work was performed by and apparently went along for the ride as he did considerable drinking and performed very little services. He stated that BARTLEY CRUM was of the opinion
Director, FBI

that they should answer all questions put to them by the Committee, but 

finally came up with the strategy that was followed, and that even 
gave the appearance of going along with

DIETRICH states positively that he would never have gone along and followed the legal 
advice of 

and he foresaw the consequences of his act, for he cer-
tainly never intended to become so involved in a legal fight and he threat-

and subsequently serve a jail sentence. He says he believed that 

stated that the motion picture industry was behind the group and 

felt that they were doing right, and then just a few days later after 

had testified, he made a complete switch in his position. DIETRICH cites this 
as proof of the fact that he felt he was getting good advice. He indicated 

that he still believed that Justices MURPHY and RUTLEDGE been on the Supreme 

Court his position would have been upheld.

In general discussion with DIETRICH it was learned that in his 
opinion both of whom 

had beenCommunist Party members, might be in such a frame of mind that 

they would be willing to talk to the FBI. He is not certain what position 

ADRIAN SCOTT might take at this time. No statement was made that any approach 

would be made to those persons by this office.

DIETRICH is divorced from one wife and is presently remarried, and 

he stated that his first wife is not a member of the Party and objected to 
his participation and activity. His second wife, he states is not a Party 

member and never did anything but to work for his behalf as a member of the 

"Wives of the Hollywood 10."

DIETRICH states that he presently resides at 8338 Delongpre, Holly-

wood 36, California, with home telephone HEmptead 3709. His agent is 
of Famous Artists. DIETRICH evidenced a friendly attitude 

and stated that he would be available to meet with Agents at any time for 

further discussion of any of the above matters or anything else we might de-
sire to question him about.
FBI memo on Edward Dmytryk, February 13, 1951.