

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. NICHOLS *[Handwritten initials]*  
 FROM : M. A. JONES *[Handwritten initials]*  
 SUBJECT: DORE SCHARY MEMO

DATE: October 29, 1951

*[Handwritten initials]*  
 Tolson   
 Ladd   
 Clegg   
 Glavin   
 Rosen   
 Tracy   
 Harbo   
 Belmont   
 Mohr   
 Tele. Room   
 Nease

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 9/8/89 BY SP-7MAC/PSK

PURPOSE:

To summarize briefly attached detailed memorandum on Schary.

BACKGROUND:

Information was received from the SAC, Los Angeles, on 10-13-51 that Schary wanted to see the Director on or after 11-2-51.

SUMMARY OF MEMO:

Schary is American born, a native of Newark, New Jersey. He is married, has three children and is 46 years old. He has been in theatrical and publicity work since 1926 and is now regarded as the most important man in Hollywood. In July, 1951, he was named top production man at MGM, ousting Louis B. Mayer.

In 1942 and 1943 Schary was in charge of making a Bureau picture for MGM and after many delays and promises wrote us on 6-9-43 that he couldn't do a story and his notion for the FBI picture had faded into nothing. MGM never made the picture and you thought Schary figured prominently in their decision.

Although our files reflect no allegation of Communist Party membership on Schary's part, we do have considerable information indicating his association with numerous Communist front groups, including the American Committee for Yugoslav Relief, American Youth for Democracy, The Second Front Now campaign, Harry Bridges Victory Committee, Hollywood Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions and others.

In addition, we have received a number of allegations that Schary has been responsible for employing pro-Communist or Communist writers, actors, etc., in the studios in which he held executive positions.

Schary himself denies that he is a Communist, said he has fought Communists and told SAC Hood on 12-12-50 that he wanted to be careful about not hiring any Communist sympathizers for his film productions.

ENCL

*Summary Attached*

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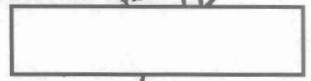
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Memo to Mr. Nichols  
Re: Dore Schary Memo

October 29, 1951

COMMENT:

Schary's record quite clearly indicates that he is one of the politically immature "intellectuals" in the "arts" who was captured by the Communists assigned to developing just such recruits and he apparently aligned himself with the Communists as long as ten years ago.

Our information fails to indicate definitely whether he has reformed or whether he has merely been kicked into a semblance of anti-Communism by the exigencies of the movie business in the light of current anti-Communist trends.

ADDENDUM: LBN:FML, 10/31/51:

Dore Schary, in the conversation I had with him leading up to the assignment of George Murphy to our picture "Walk East on Beacon," stated that the next time he was in Washington he wanted to come in and discuss a personal problem, namely, what steps he could take to once and for all let everyone know that he had no affinity for anything for which the Communist Party stood, or fellow travelers, or for those who espoused the Party line. When Schary first brought this up I told him it was rather simple, that he, of course, knew what organizations he had belonged to, what Communists he had associated with, what causes he had made contributions to, which later turned out to be of a Communist nature and all he needed to do was to get the record straight, namely of repudiating top front organizations and others which he had either joined or made contributions to and stating that he now refused to have anything further to do with the Communist Party members or fellow travelers. He stated this was exactly what he wanted to do, that he wanted to work out a program. I told him, of course, there was very little we could tell him and in response to his inquiry I told him I would be glad to see him when he came to Washington.

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[redacted] called me a week or ten days ago and stated he would be in Washington on November 2, that he wanted to come over and see us prior to Dore Schary's arrival on the third. I told [redacted] of course, I would be glad to see him.

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The letter from the Los Angeles office indicates that [redacted] had advised the Los Angeles office that Schary requested [redacted] to arrange for him to meet the Director and that [redacted] indicated he

*some*  
intended to request SAC Hood to make the arrangements. I do not see any point in the Director seeing Schary and I think that Hood might very well be tipped off about this.

I think I will just about have to see Schary which I can do with very little inconvenience to myself and which I feel obligated to do inasmuch as he was very cooperative in connection with the George Murphy matter.

Schary has gone out of his way to curry favor during the past year. On two occasions he killed pictures on which MGM no doubt had put out a great deal of money in the development of the script, namely, the civil rights story which was based upon a novel by the wellknown Mississippi author, William Faulkner, and the story on a defected Satellite diplomat, merely because we told him that the stories weren't too hot from our standpoint. In another instance he was on the verge of buying a story last April, he called me on the phone, I told him it didn't sound good, and that was the end of it.

George Murphy on several occasions while he was in the East told me that if the good people had spent as much time on Schary as the left wingers had, he probably would never have gotten involved to the extent he was some years ago.

If Schary brings up the point again, I will tell him as I have told him before, that what he should do is to get up a list of all the organizations which have been suspect with which he had any connection and be certain he had resigned, or get a letter on record some place explaining his connections and that he is no longer affiliated. In addition, I will tell him that if he wants to prepare a statement, we will be glad to put it in our files and he might want to consider placing a copy with the HCUA and possibly the American Legion.

*✓ jbr*  
Schary in my <sup>own</sup> estimation is another "Johnny come lately".

*11/3/57*  
*McNichols advised*  
*jbr*  
*H.*

FBI memo on Dore Schary, October 29, 1951.