

Director, FBI

January 2, 1951

SAC, Los Angeles

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INTERNAL SECURITY - C

On December 12, 1950 Mr. DORE SCHARY, Managing Director, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, Culver City, California, came to the office by appointment and was interviewed by me in the presence of SA [redacted] It should be noted that SCHARY is second in command at MGM only to LOUIS B. MAYER in connection with the production of all movies made at that studio.

SCHARY advised at the outset that MGM at this time is very concerned that they do not hire any members of the Communist Party or Communist sympathizers in connection with any film production. SCHARY pointed out that recently BETSY BLAIR, wife of GENE KELLY, movie star, had been selected for a small part in a picture. Prior to this selection KELLY personally had assured SCHARY that his wife entertained no Communist sympathies. After she had been hired for the part, however, information came to SCHARY that she had participated in a meeting sponsored by the Arts, Sciences & Professions Council to protest the book "Red Channels." Thereafter, BLAIR was notified that she was being released from her commitment. Shortly thereafter, GENE KELLY came to see SCHARY and protested concerning this action. KELLY advised that his wife was willing to sign an oath concerning her loyalty and had not realized the political nature of the ASP meeting. SCHARY advised that after talking with BETSY BLAIR and making certain inquiries of his own, that he had rehired BETSY BLAIR for the part in the movie, having obtained authority to do so from New York. SCHARY pointed out that in the course of his conversations with BLAIR he had arranged to have her execute an affidavit concerning her loyalty.

SCHARY stated that it was extremely difficult for men in positions such as his to know what action should be taken concerning a particular individual. He pointed out that although he knew many prominent individuals in the industry well and could vouch for their loyalty, he found it difficult in a case such as the one involving BETSY BLAIR as to what action he should take. He inquired if there was any assistance the Bureau could give him in matters of this nature. He was advised, of course, of the confidential nature of Bureau files and stated that he could readily understand the reason for the Bureau's role.

SCHARY then stated that many prominent individuals in the movie industry have been attacked as Communists and that it has greatly hurt their

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reputations. SCHARY cited as an example a book, "Red Treason in Hollywood", put out by MYRON C. FAGAN, of the Cinema Educational League, in which SCHARY himself is cited as a Communist. SCHARY pointed out that on an inside cover of the book was a photograph of the Director and that many people on a casual reading gained the impression that the Director was endorsing the book. I pointed out immediately to Mr. SCHARY that the Director's picture was placed in this booklet completely without Mr. HOOVER's authority and that I had personally discussed this matter with FAGAN and insisted that he withdraw the picture from the books which has been done. I further advised Mr. SCHARY that FAGAN has no connection whatsoever, directly or indirectly, with the FBI.

SCHARY stated that a prominent personality such as DANNY KAYE is referred to in FAGAN's book as a Communist. SCHARY stated that he knows DANNY KAYE very well and that he is no more political than the draperies hanging on the wall. SCHARY advised that he had considered bringing suit against FAGAN and had discussed the matter with Attorney MANUAL SILVERBERG. SILVERBERG had recommended that he not dignify FAGAN by bringing suit against him, and accordingly, SCHARY stated he had taken no action.

SCHARY stated that in 1947 when the House Committee on Un-American Activities had scheduled hearings concerning Communist infiltration of the motion picture industry, ADRIAN SCOTT, EDWARD DMYTRYK and BARTLEY CRUM had approached him at RKO Studios where he was then associated, concerning these hearings. SCOTT, DMYTRYK and CRUM argued to SCHARY that this hearing was the wrong way to approach the Communist situation in Hollywood. SCHARY stated that he pointed out to them that those who were not Communists have nothing to hide, and that he could offer them no support in opposition to the hearing. At this point EDWARD DMYTRYK stated that he was willing to sign an affidavit that he was not then a member of the Communist Party.

SCHARY advised that he was in Washington at the time the House Committee on Un-American Activities hearings were held. He stated that he was present at the hearing when JOHN HOWARD LAWSON, first of the "Hollywood 10" had testified. He advised that he had been acquainted with LAWSON for a period of years and knew him to be a very able man who could argue calmly and well under adverse conditions. He said that he, himself, had argued with LAWSON on more than one occasion at various meetings at Hollywood on various issues. He said he was extremely surprised to see LAWSON more or less blow up in the face of the questions that were asked him and was forced to the conclusion that this was a studied action on the part of LAWSON to create a definite impression. He said shortly thereafter, the Committee for the First Amendment was formed and a number of Hollywood personalities, including JOHN HUSTON, JOHN GARFIELD and HUMPHREY BOGART, flew to Washington to protest the action of the House Committee. Shortly after the arrival of this group representing the Committee for the First Amendment, they called upon SCHARY at his hotel room and stated that they

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desired to immediately call a press conference and make a release protesting the action of the House Committee. SCHARY stated that he had pointed out to the representatives who had contacted him that there appeared to be something wrong with the action of men like LAWSON and that he recommended that the representatives of the Committee for the First Amendment take no action; that they were merely being used by the so-called "Hollywood 10." SCHARY advised that the representatives of the Committee for the First Amendment, however, disregarded his advice, made a press release, became involved in various public and private discussion. He said that it was some time later before men like HUMPHREY BOGART and his wife realized that they had been used by the Communists.

At this point SCHARY turned the conversation to the recent publication "Red Channels" published by former FBI Agents concerning individuals in the radio and television industry. In this connection SCHARY pointed out that although specific information is set forth in this book concerning the organizational affiliations of various individuals, the publication has failed miserably because it has failed to state the year in which the individual was a member. SCHARY pointed out that many individuals were active in organizations in 1943, 1944 and 1945 in a period when the United States was allied with Russia, who would no longer under any circumstances consider such an affiliation in 1948, 1949 and 1950. Because of this SCHARY stated that he felt this book did a disservice to many liberals who have no sympathy with Communism.

SCHARY pointed to his own case and stated that in 1945 he, as well as such other well known anti-Communists as RONALD REAGAN had been active in the Hollywood Independent Citizens Committee of Arts, Sciences & Professions. SCHARY stated that it was in 1945 at an open meeting of the organization at which he was present that the Communists definitely took over and that he, as well as others, seeing the turn the organization had taken, dropped out of the organization and no longer had any connection with it. SCHARY recalled that at that time he was one of the individuals from the floor who had opposed certain resolutions and actions by JOHN HOWARD LAWSON.

All of the information set forth above was volunteered by SCHARY and no attempt was made to obtain details concerning any of these allegations other than as specifically noted.

Complete information concerning MYRON C. FAGAN and the Cinema Educational League has previously been furnished to the Bureau.

[redacted] advised that on November 10, 1950 BETSY BLAIR was one of the speakers at a meeting sponsored by the Arts, Sciences & Professions Council protesting the publication "Red Channels." b2 b7D

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SCHARY advised that he had recently submitted a movie script to LOU NICHOLS, Assistant Director at the Bureau, concerning a possible FBI story.

SCHARY in the interview as set forth above, volunteered some information concerning his own political views, and it is felt that prior to coming to the office he must have been aware of the confidential nature of Bureau files and desired to make a statement concerning his own views at this time.

FBI memo on Dore Schary, January 2, 1951.