

of those organizations or any organization which you considered to be a Communist front organization," Reagan responded, "Well, Sir, I have received literature from an organization called the Committee for a Far Eastern Democratic Policy [sic]. I don't know whether it is Communist or not. I only know that I didn't like their views and as a result I didn't want to have anything to do with them."

A similar report was made to the Los Angeles FBI office concerning Reagan's participation as a national fundraiser for the American Veterans Committee, which the Communist Party had been busy infiltrating. But, the most influential of Reagan's associations was with the Hollywood Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions (HICCASP), where there was a major faction fight in 1946 between the Roosevelt liberals and the Communists of the Popular Front. Hollywood Independent Citizens emerged in 1945 through the merger of the Hollywood Democratic Committee, which supported President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, with the HICCASP. In 1946, the year that Ronald Reagan was an emerging leader on the board of HICCASP, it elected James Roosevelt, son of the late President, to be national director of political organization. HICCASP was seen as a stepping stone for a bid by James Roosevelt to unseat Harry S. Truman.

A 1947 *Time* cover story on HICCASP said it had a "leftist tinge" and was controlled by Communists. James Roosevelt responded, "I feel strongly that to adopt a principle barring from membership so-called Communists is a very dangerous and un-Democratic procedure." Yet, four months later, James Roosevelt resigned, along with Ronald Reagan and Olivia De Havilland, after a resolution condemning both Communism and Fascism equally failed to pass. HICCASP then went through several transformations to emerge as a full-blown Popular Front institution backing Henry Wallace for President, in a campaign run by Michael Straight from the offices of the *New Republic*, with Communist Party support.

Ronald Reagan's older brother, Neil, was an informant for the FBI, and he warned Ronald that, because of his membership in HICCASP, he was under FBI surveillance. Concerned about his future in movies, Reagan decided to talk to the FBI, when they approached him for information about HICCASP and other organizations. On April 18, 1947, Reagan and his wife of that time, Jane Wyman, told the FBI that HICCASP was strongly influenced by Communists. In the same year Ronald Reagan reported several more times, "naming the names" of those he suspected were the Communists in the Screen Actors Guild, which he had recently become president of. Reagan's transformation was dutifully reported to the FBI by an actress, "Informant T-9," who was cited in a Dec. 19, 1947 report. Shortly thereafter, the FBI listed Ronald Reagan as informant "T-10."

An FBI report on Dec. 19 notes, "T-10 advised Special Agent [deleted] that he has been made a member of a com-

mittee headed by L.B. Mayer, the purpose of which allegedly is to 'purge' the Motion Picture Industry of Communist Party members, which committee was an outgrowth of the Thomas Committee [HUAC] hearings in Washington and the subsequent meeting of motion picture producers in New York City." Still, Reagan informed the FBI that, with respect to the HUAC hearings, he "regretted the whole affair," and he thought it would be next to impossible to clean out the Communists, unless there were clear guidelines provided by Congress, which would include outlawing the Communist Party as "a foreign-inspired conspiracy."

A March 3, 1949 interoffice memo from D.M. Ladd to J. Edgar Hoover on the subject of "Communist Infiltration of the Motion Picture Industry," notes that "The Hollywood Reporter, in its issue of Nov. 11, 1948, reported on the formation of the Labor League of Hollywood Voters for the purpose of blocking Communist penetration of motion pictures. Ronald Reagan was the chairman and Roy Brewer was vice chairman of the group."

## Books Received

**The Secret War in Central America: Sandinista Assault on World Order**, by John Norton Moore. University Publications of America, Inc., Frederick, Md., 1987. \$17.95, 195 pages.

**The Shadow War: German Espionage and United States Counterespionage in Latin America during World War II**, by Leslie B. Rout, Jr. and John F. Bratzel. University Publications of America, Inc., Frederick Md., 1986. \$29.50.

**History of the Military Intelligence Division, Department of the Army General Staff: 1775-1941**, by Bruce W. Bidwell, Col. U.S. Army (ret.). University Publications of America, Inc., Frederick, Md., 1986. \$29.50.

**Empire: William S. Paley and the Making of CBS**, by Lewis J. Paper. St. Martins Press, New York, N.Y., 1987. \$19.95, hardbound, 384 pages.

**Good Families of Barcelona: A Social History of Power in the Industrial Era**, by Gary Wray McDonogh. Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J., 1986. \$30.00, hardbound, 262 pages.

**Partners in Conflict: The United States and Latin America**, by Abraham F. Lowenthal. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Md., 1987. \$19.95, hardbound, 240 pages.