

THERE ARE MANY HAZARDS AND LOSSES TO WHICH A WRITER IN THE BLACK MARKET QUICKLY BECOMES ACCUSTOMED. SINCE THE EMPLOYMENT IS COMPLETELY SECRET, THERE CAN BE NO WITHHOLDING FOR SOCIAL SECURITY. THERE CAN BE NO STATE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE. ALL FORMER RETIREMENT FUNDS WITH COMPANIES AUTOMATICALLY CEASE. FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE OR SIX YEARS, IT WAS NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE TO PURCHASE LIFE INSURANCE. (JUST TWO MONTHS AGO, I WAS WRITTEN UP IN RATES BY SEABOARD LIFE BECAUSE OF MY PAST POLITICAL RECORD).

DURING THE FIRST TEN YEARS OF THE BLACKLIST, WHEN EVERYONE WAS INFORMING ON EVERY ONE ELSE, NO SANE EMPLOYER IN THE BLACK MARKET WOULD DRAW A CHECK TO THE NAME OF A BLACKLISTED PERSON, LEST SOME BANK CLERK REPORT PASSAGE OF THE CHECK TO TRADE PAPERS OR SOME FRIEND OF THE COMMITTEE. THE MOTION PICTURE ALLIANCE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF AMERICAN IDEALS, HEADED BY SAM WOOD, JAMES K. MCGUINNESS, MORRIE RYSKIND, ADOLPH MENJOU, WARD BOND, JAMES MURPHY, HEDDA HOPPER, LEILA ROGERS (MOTHER OF GINGER), JOHN WAYNE, AND OTHER PATRIOTS HAD ITS REPRESENTATIVES AND INFORMANTS IN EVERY FIRM IN HOLLYWOOD THAT HAD BUSINESS OF ANY SORT WITH FILMS. PHONES WERE ALSO TAPPED (NOT BY THE FBI BUT BY PRIVATE BUSYBODIES), AND TAILS WERE USED. IT WAS A HAPPY, HAPPY COMMUNITY.

DURING THIS PERIOD I USED AS PSEUDONYMS SUCH NAMES AS JOHN ABBOTT, DOC ABBOTT, JAMES BONHAM, THEODORE FLEXMAN, C.F. DEMAINE, EVELYN BONHAM, SAM JACKSON, PETER FLINT, AND VARIOUS OTHERS. IN ORDER TO CASH CHECKS MADE OUT TO SUCH VARIOUS PERSONS, MY WIFE AND I OPENED AN ACCOUNT UNDER THE NAME OF JAMES AND DOROTHY BONHAM. THEN WE FORGED THE PSEUDONYM OF THE PERSON TO WHOM THE CHECK WAS MADE OUT, ENDORSED IT OVER TO OURSELVES (JAMES AND/OR DOROTHY BONHAM), DEPOSITED IT IN THE BONHAM ACCOUNT. THEN WHEN WE WISHED TO PLACE MONEY IN OUR REGULAR COMMERCIAL CHECKING ACCOUNT FOR THE CONDUCT OF OUR NORMAL BUSINESS ACTIVITIES, WE WITHDRAW IT FROM THE BONHAM ACCOUNT, AND PLACED IT IN OUR TRUMBO ACCOUNT AT ANOTHER BANK. THUS THERE WAS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN TRUMBO AND THE PRODUCERS IN TERMS OF MONEY TRANSACTIONS FOR SNOOPS TO DISCOVER.

INEVITABLY SUCH PROCEDURE, COMBINED WITH TRADE PAPER RUMORS OF VAST SUMS FLOWING UNDER THE TABLE TO BLACKLISTED WRITERS, COMPELLED THE INTEREST OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. LATE IN 1960, DUE TO A FATUOUS ERROR ON MY PART, THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT OVERNIGHT SUPOENED ALL RECORDS FROM MY TWO ACCOUNTANTS, AND SUMMONED ME TO APPEAR.

IT WAS NOT TO BE AN ORDINARY INCOME TAX AUDIT. IT WAS A CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED BY A SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE AGENT OF THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT. THEY INVESTIGATE, I UNDERSTAND, ABOUT 3,000 CASES A YEAR; INDICT 1400, AND SECURE CONVICTIONS IN 1200. THE INSTANT YOU ARE IN SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION, THE CHANCES ARE ABOUT 1 IN 3 YOU'LL END IN A FEDERAL PENITENTIARY. IT IS NOT A HAPPY PROSPECT.

THIS ENVELOPE CONTAINS A RECORD OF THE INVESTIGATION (LASTING

ALMOST A YEAR); THE DROPPING OF CHARGES; THE APPEARANCE IN TIME MANAGAZINE OF A QUOTE FROM ME ON LYING WHICH CAUSED THE CASE TO BE REOPENED ON SHEER HUNCH FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE, AND FINALLY, AFTER MORE DEPOSITIONS, "RELUCTANTLY" DROPPED.

UNLIKE MOST BUSINESS MEN, WHO UNDERSTAND TAX MATTERS, I HAD NOT DESTROYED MY FINANCIAL RECORDS AT THE END OF EVERY THREE OR SIX YEARS. I HAD (AND HAVE) THEM IN THE GREATEST DETAIL FOR THE PAST 22 YEARS. IT WAS THE RECORDS THAT SAVED ME---PLUS AT LEAST THREE MONTHS OF MY OWN TIME SPENT PORING OVER THEM, TRYING TO REMEMBER OBSCURE NOTES AND ODD FIGURES, SEEKING TO RECONSTRUCT MY REASONS, IN 1958, FOR WIRING \$2,500 TO THE COUNTY CLERK OF FRESNO COUNTY. THE GOVERNMENT HAD A COPY OF THE WIRE. THEY CONCLUDED IT RELATED TO HIDDEN REAL ESTATE. ACTUALLY, IT WAS FOR MY WIFE'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE. THUS IT WENT, AN ENDLESS MOUNTAIN OF DETAIL TO PLOUGH THROUGH, INCLUDING A COMPLETE AUDIT OF THE YEARS 1957, 1958, AND 1959.

A FAIR RECORD OF THE WHOLE ORDEAL IS CONTAINED IN THIS ENVELOPE. OF THE MATTER, I WILL SAY THREE THINGS:

1. THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH CAUSED MY ERROR COULD NEVER HAVE OCCURRED IN THE ORDINARY MARKET; ONLY IN THE SECRECY AND FISCAL CONFUSION OF THE BLACK MARKET.
2. SPECIAL AGENT SULLIVAN, WHO WAS ASSIGNED THE CASE, AND, OF COURSE, WORKED ON IT A GOOD TIME BEFORE I KNEW IT WAS EVEN CONTEMPLATED, WAS A SERIOUS, COURTEOUS, CORRECT AND VERY EFFICIENT MAN. GIVEN THE PRELIMINARY EVIDENCE WHICH HE GATHERED, I, IN HIS POSITION, WOULD HAVE DECIDED, AS HE DID, THAT THE CASE WARRANTED CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION. I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A CONVINCING MASS OF SUSPICIOUS DETAILS AND COINCIDENCES. I CAN BEAR SPECIAL AGENT SULLIVAN, NOT THE LOCAL BUREAU OFFICIALS, NO ILL WILL FOR WHAT HAPPENED.
3. BUT THE REGIONAL OFFICIAL IN SAN FRANCISCO WHO, ON THE BASIS OF AN IRONIC QUOTATION IN A NATIONAL MAGAZINE, OVERRULED THE SPECIAL AGENT, HIS SUPERIOR, THE LOS ANGELES OFFICE, AND REOPENED THE INVESTIGATION, AND THEN WAS OBLIGED TO CLOSE THE CASE "RELUCTANTLY"---THIS FELLOW HAS SOMETHING MORE THAN TAXES ON HIS MIND. HE HAS POLITICS AND PERSONAL OPINIONS ALSO, AND HE SHOULD NOT HAVE. HE IS RATHER A HIGH OFFICIAL IN THE REGIONAL OFFICES OF THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT (I DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS), AND I FANCY HE WILL NOT FORGET MY NAME. HENCE I CAN EXPECT SPECIAL TREATMENT FROM HIM WHENEVER HE IS IN A POSITION TO ADMINISTER IT. SO BE IT.

Robert Tremble

OCTOBER 1, 1962

P.S. MANY PRODUCERS PAID ONLY IN CASH. I RECEIVED \$26,000 IN CASH ON ONE OCCASION, \$10,000 ON ANOTHER, AND MANY LESSER SUMS. CASH EXCITES THE FEDS.

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