

June 8, 1951

Foote, Cone & Belding, Inc.,  
6233 Hollywood Boulevard,  
Hollywood 28, California.

Attention: Mr. Robert Nye

Gentlemen:

I am sending this letter to you voluntarily in order to give you certain facts. Under ordinary circumstances you would not ask for such facts, nor would I be inclined to supply them. However, at this time I recognize the problem created by the times and not only am I writing this letter, but I am authorizing you to exhibit it in case you desire to do so at any time to any person or persons.

The statements made herein are true and correct and I shall swear so before a notary public of the State of California.

First, and foremost, let me say positively, without reservation or equivocation that I am not now, or have I ever been a member of the Communist Party.

Second, just as positively let me say that I have never knowingly or unknowingly, to the best of my knowledge, been a member of any group designated as subversive by any official of the United States Government or by any official governmental body after the time such group was so designated.

These unequivocal statements ordinarily should be sufficient. However, I propose to go beyond that and to state certain facts with reference to my political activities for a period of time beginning in the early 1940's.

During my entire political career I have always been a Democrat and a member of the Democratic Party.

When the Hollywood Democratic Committee was formed I became a member and subsequently a member of the board of directors of that organization. Subsequently this committee became the Hollywood Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions and I continued as a member of that organization

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during the war years. Subsequent to the conclusion of the second world war this organization either merged into or became known as the Progressive Citizens of America, or PCA.

My connection with the PCA was severed by me at the time the PCA came out in favor of a third party and against the policies of the Democratic administration. This, to the best of my recollection, was in 1947.

While I was a member of the Hollywood Democratic Committee, I ran for and was elected to the California Legislature as an Assemblyman and served two years in that body as an out-spoken Roosevelt Democrat. I was not defeated for re-election since I decided not to run again for two reasons. One, the war was over and I felt I had rendered a civilian war-time service and, secondly, the duties of the Legislature and the many speaking engagements required of me interfered with my earning a living as an actor.

As a legislator I made friends and enemies. Unfortunately, one of the enemies was then a State Senator who was then Chairman of the Joint Fact Finding Committee on Un-American Activities of the California Legislature. I mention this because any complaints which may be made against me must find their genesis in the reports of the committee headed by my political rival. I, therefore, propose to take every mention of my name in the reports of that committee and to show that each one of them is entirely without merit in so far as any justifiable complaint may be made about me as a loyal citizen of the United States.

The Third Report on Un-American Activities in California for the year 1947 mentions my name at the following places in connection with the following matters:

Page 98. My name is mentioned as having appeared on a circular announcing a meeting of the Progressive Citizens of America and the date of the news item in which that appears is January 28, 1947. Nowhere does it appear what the meeting was about. In any event, nothing in that statement can possibly reflect on my loyalty as a citizen in any way.

Page 101. This discusses a meeting of the California Labor School set for the week end of August 2-4, 1946. The advance notice of that meeting lists me as an invited speaker. The article does not state whether I spoke or not and I have no recollection of whether I did or not. However, nothing in that statement impugns me or my activities.

Page 183. This relates to a telegram sent by me to an emergency committee on KFI sometime in 1945. The contents of the telegram are not quoted. My recollection is that it related to a resolution introduced by me in the California Legislature respecting free speech, which was overwhelmingly passed.

Page 186. This refers to a meeting of December 28, 1945 and deals with the proposed formation of a committee for radio freedom. No criticism is leveled at the committee for anything it did or did not do.

Page 235. My name is mentioned as one of the signers of a folder announcing an organization meeting of the Progressive Citizens of America. The date was February of 1947. The list of names is enough to show that at that time there was nothing subversive about the PCA.

Page 237. This lists me as contributing \$100 to help start the PCA on its way in 1947.

Page 239. My name is listed on the official ballot of February 11, 1947 as one of those nominated for the executive board of the PCA. It was one of approximately 100 names, very few of whom are subject to suspicion.

Page 242. My name is listed with many others as one of the sponsors of a legislative conference called for February 15 and 16, 1947 in Sacramento.

Page 249. My name is listed in a question with reference to a picture in the Peoples' Daily World for Friday, November 2, 1945. There is no way of knowing what the picture was about, nor have I any recollection of what it was about.

Page 296. My name appears on Page 296 in the testimony of a witness who merely stated that I was the Assemblyman for the witness's district, the 57th, and as such I was very helpful.

The Fourth Report on Un-American Activities in California for the year 1948 mentions my name at the following places in connection with the following matters:

Page 183. My name is mentioned in connection with a dinner held on December 31, 1944 at which I acted as master of ceremonies and in connection with a dinner on December 16, 1945 where I am stated as having made a short address.

Page 201. This relates to a citizens' committee for the motion picture strikers and my name is mentioned as included

in the activities of that citizens' committee. No date is given but it must have been during 1946 since I distinctly remember feeling it my duty as a member of the State Legislature as well as an actor to do what I could to see if the strike could not be settled. This was particularly important to me since the strike occurred in the district from which I had been elected and concerned my constituents, both those striking and not striking.

Page 231. This notes a report in the Peoples Daily World for March 12, 1947 with reference to a Congress of American Women chaired by my wife.

Page 253. This deals with the Hollywood Independent Citizens' Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions. My name is mentioned with reference to a meeting held on June 5, 1945 at Warner Bros. Studio. This had to do with changing the name of the Hollywood Democratic Committee to HICCASP.

Page 255. This merely quotes my name from the letterhead of HICCASP in 1945 and includes my name as one of the executive council of that organization in that year.

Page 309. My name is mentioned in connection with the Council for Civic Unity and its organizer Mr. G. Raymond Booth. This was also in 1945.

Page 346. My name is listed as having been connected with Peoples' Educational Center. This is, of course, untrue since the only connection I had was once making a speech there while I was in the State Legislature which was in 1945 or 1946.

Page 355. This refers to a ballot for officers of the Los Angeles Branch of the PCA dated October 27, 1947. This is a duplication of the same list of names mentioned in the earlier volume.

The foregoing exhausts the mention of my name and the name of my wife in the reports of that committee.

Let me say that this record is the only record of its kind and that it certainly has listed everything that a political rival could find to list which might be deemed to be invidious. As a matter of fact, there is not a single organization listed therein which at the time that I belonged to it engaged in anything but the most patriotic political and civil activities. As stated above, I severed my connection with the PCA when it

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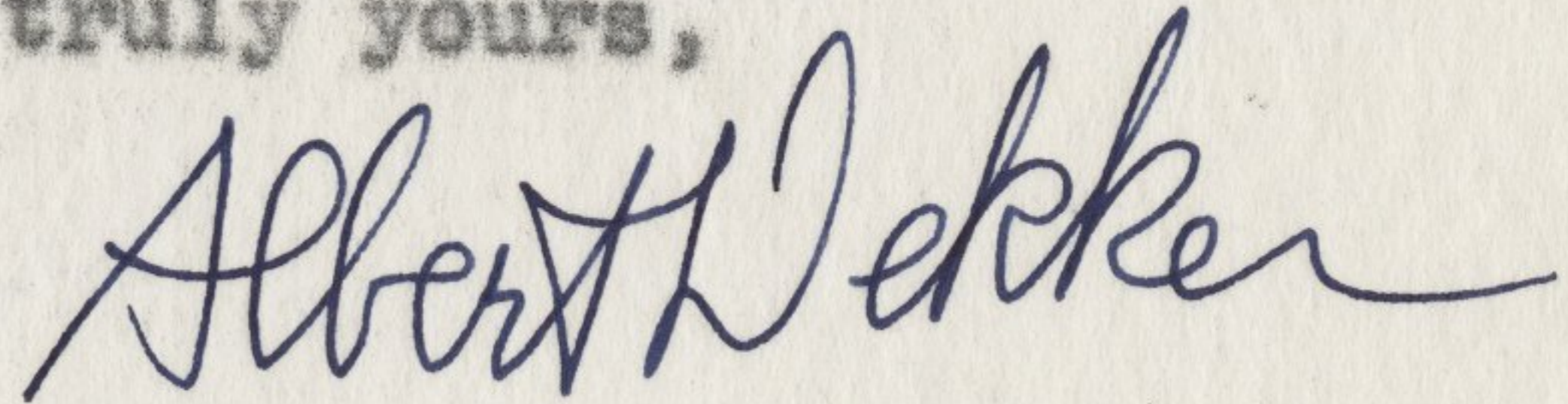
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came out against the Administration's policies, particularly against the Marshall Plan which I favored.


Since 1947 I have belonged to no group of any kind or nature whatever except the Democratic Party.

Very truly yours,



Albert Dekker

Subscribed and sworn to  
before me this 8th day of June, 1951.

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Notary Public in and for the  
County of Los Angeles, State of  
California.

