

# MY LIFE ON THE

A famous writer reveals that he was once a Communist, and tells about his career since he "declined to testify."

*This extraordinary personal statement is revealing not only of the author's character but of the climate of thought that prevailed in many segments of American society in the 1930's and 1940's. The Post in no way is pleading justification for Mr. Lardner. We believe merely that any thoughtful reader will find his story a contribution to the history of our times.* —THE EDITORS.

**T**he blue prison fatigues hung loosely on the weary, perspiring man whose path across the quadrangle was about to meet mine. I felt I looked comparatively dapper in the same costume after a day of mild stenographic labor in the Office of Classification and Parole, but his job, while not exactly strenuous, kept him in the August sun all day. He was custodian of the chicken yard at the Federal Correctional Institution, Danbury, Connecticut, and his name was J. Parnell Thomas, formerly chairman of the Committee on Un-American Activities of the House of Representatives.

He had lost a good deal of weight, and his face, round and scarlet at our last encounter, was deeply lined and sallow. I recognized him, however, and he recognized me, but we did not speak. It would have been hard for either of us to pick up the thread after our sole previous exchange which, according to the official record, had ended:

MR. LARDNER: I could answer the question exactly the way you want, Mr. Chairman —

THE CHAIRMAN: No —

MR. LARDNER (*continuing*): —but I think that is a —

THE CHAIRMAN: It is not a question of our wanting you to answer that. It is a very simple question. Anybody would be proud to answer it—any real American would be proud to answer the question, "Are you or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?" Any real American.

MR. LARDNER: It depends on the circumstances. I could answer it, but if I did, I would hate myself in the morning.

THE CHAIRMAN: Leave the witness chair.

MR. LARDNER: It was a question that would —

THE CHAIRMAN: Leave the witness chair.

MR. LARDNER: Because it is a question —

THE CHAIRMAN (*pounding gavel*): Leave the witness chair.

MR. LARDNER: I think I am leaving by force.

THE CHAIRMAN: Sergeant, take the witness away.

Nearly three years had elapsed between that bit of repartee before a battery of microphones and newsreel cameras, and our meeting in the jailyard in the summer of 1950. Along with nine other Hollywood writers and directors, I had lost an appeal of my conviction for contempt of Congress, and the Supreme Court had denied our request for a review of the constitutional issues in the case.

During the same period Mr. Thomas had been brought to trial for putting nonworkers on the Government payroll and appropriating their salaries to himself. Offering no defense and throwing himself on the mercy of the court, he had received an eighteen-months prison sentence, later reduced by parole to an actual term of about nine months.

My own stint was one year, reduced by "statutory good-time" to ten months and by "meritorious good-time" to nine and a half. This last concession of fifteen days was a tribute to my spelling and punctuation, which, I was told by a grateful official at the Connecticut spa, were markedly superior to the institutional norm.

Though far from happy at being where I was, I was sharply aware of the difference between my situation and that of this pathetically aging man. Even if the torch of super-Americanism he had brandished so fiercely during his two years of glory had not already been picked up by Sen. Joseph McCarthy, there was no conceivable political future for Thomas. Perhaps he could return to the obscurity of the insurance business in New Jersey, but no business or social contacts would ever again be easy for a man whose downfall had been so pitilessly publicized.

My own future was at least speculative. I had taken the position that, while public servants are answerable to the people, citizens cannot be summoned, in the absence of even an allegation of an illegal act, to account to government for their beliefs and associations—matters that have traditionally been an American's own business.

It was a position that had commanded a good deal of support, some of it quite respectable. In fact, I had based it on what seemed to me unequivocal language in a 1943 Supreme Court decision: "If there is any fixed star in our constitutional constellation, it is that no official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion or other matters of opinion, or force citizens to confess by word or act their faith therein."

Forced confessions, or disavowals, were what the committee was clearly demanding, and I felt it was an abuse of the legislative function that needed challenging. Unfortunately the only legal way to challenge it involved the risk of losing the argument.

The impulse to resist such assaults on freedom of thought has motivated witnesses who could have answered "no" to the Communist question as well as many, like myself, whose factual response would have been "yes." I was at that time a member of the Communist Party, in whose ranks I had found some of the most thoughtful, witty and generally stimulating men and women of Hollywood. I also encountered a number of bores and unstable characters, which seemed to bear out Bernard Shaw's observation that revolutionary movements tend to attract the best and worst elements in a given society.

With both these extremes the relationship had been a confidential one, and an added reason for taking the chance of a contempt citation was the fact that I had no legal defense at all if I first admitted my own membership and then declined to implicate other people.

For reasons of no particular pertinence to this story, my political activity had already begun to dwindle at the time Mr. Thomas popped the question, and his only effect on my affiliation was to prolong it until the case was finally lost. At that point I could and did terminate my membership without confusing the act, in my own or anyone else's head, with the quite distinct struggle for the right to embrace any belief or set of beliefs to which my mind and my conscience directed me.

It was clear, in any event, that my un-co-operative attitude had not improved my status. Long before going to jail I had lost my job. A scant month after my 1947 appearance there was a top-level meeting of the indus-

try that had previously awarded me one of its Academy Oscars—for the picture *Woman of the Year* with Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy—and a salary of \$2000 a week at the age of thirty-one. It ended with a joint public statement declaring my colleagues and me unemployable.

This blacklisted status, expanded to cover more than 400 people from various crafts in movies, television and radio, has persisted ever since. A few of the writers among these outcasts have been able to operate under other names in the "black market." Others have had to find new occupations entirely, among them carpentry, selling women's clothing, bartending, driving a school bus and waiting on tables in a restaurant.

For actors, of course, pseudonyms were out of the question, and the only branch of the entertainment world remaining more or less open to them has been the ailing Broadway theater.

While I didn't anticipate, during my Danbury sojourn, how long and how zealously my former employers would maintain their decree of exile, I could see, in the ample time for reflection provided by my Government, that the prospects were tougher than anything I had faced in a rather sheltered life.

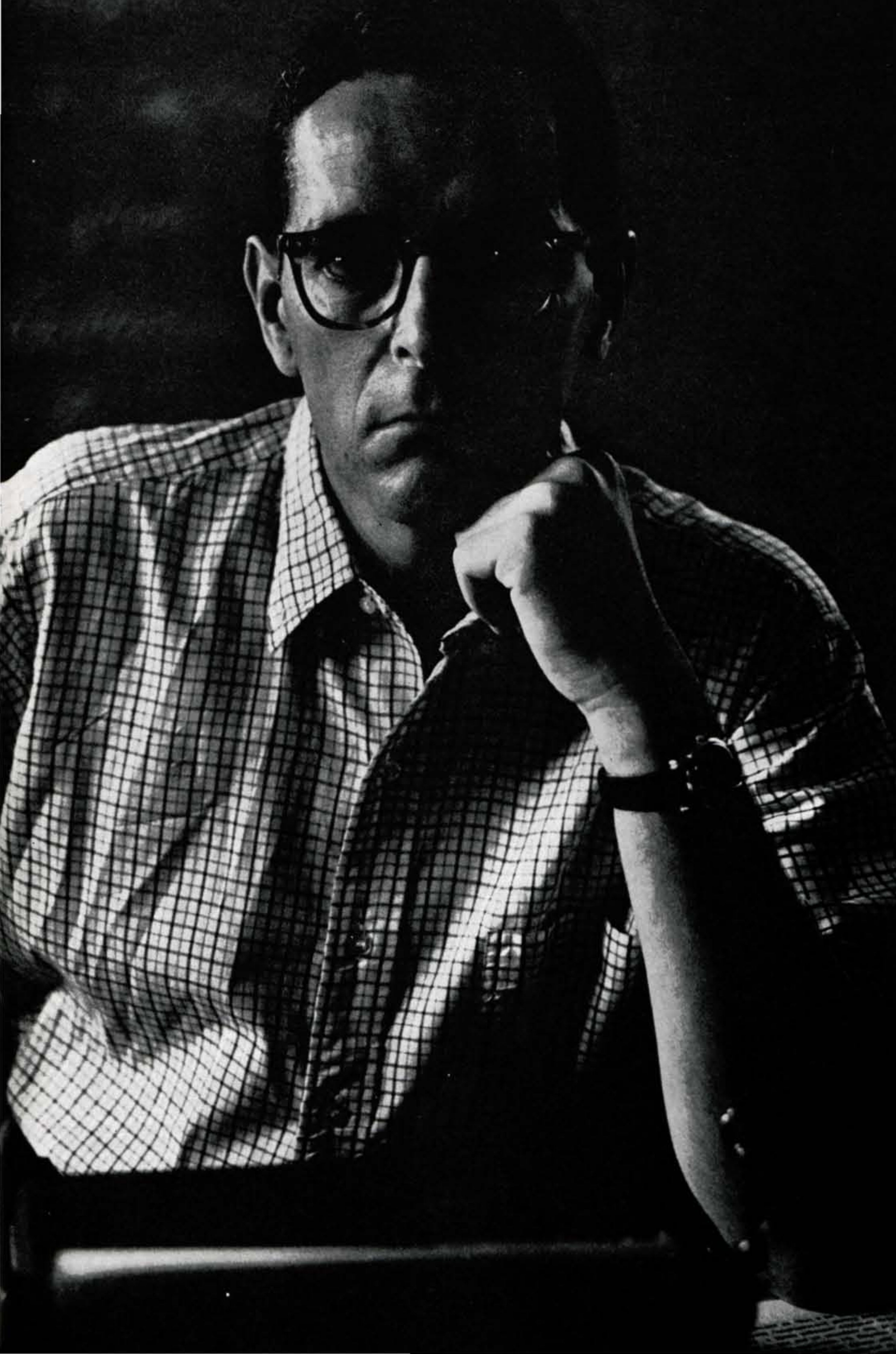
I could assume that the newspaper and publicity businesses, in which I had been briefly employed before becoming a screen writer at the age of twenty-one, were not likely to welcome me back. I had no experience whatsoever as a novelist or playwright, and even these relatively open fields were somewhat restricted by the knowledge that my work could not be sold to the movies.

Writing for any of the major magazines was a highly dubious proposition and remained so up to the time of my present assignment. The only two blacklisted writers I know of who have sold their work profitably to magazines in recent years have had to do so under assumed names, despite the fact that both had previously been in considerable demand under their real ones.

The situation clearly demanded a readjustment for which my background had done nothing to equip me. When you are descended from a Lardner who sat on the Governor's Council in colonial Pennsylvania, and an Abbott who fought with the minutemen at Lexington and Bunker Hill, you find it hard to accept the

# BLACKLIST

By RING LARDNER Jr.



"un-American" designation. And the fact that I bore, through no fault or merit of my own, a well-known name in American letters simply made it the most easily remembered among the "Hollywood Ten" by people who read about the case in the newspapers.

As a complicating detail, in the summer of 1947 my wife and I had bought a large house with a tennis court in Santa Monica, on the strength of a new contract with 20th Century-Fox. We had just begun the process of moving in when my subpoena from Mr. Thomas was delivered in September by the local United States marshal.

My employer's reaction to my Washington debut the following month was provocatively erratic. A week after I returned to work, I was asked to waive a contractual provision limiting the studio's use of my services to two pictures annually and to undertake a third screenplay for the current year. Then, after the industry heads had convened at the Waldorf Astoria in New York in November, I was directed to quit the premises on approximately two hours' notice.

I held out in the new house while the case against us progressed slowly from citation by the House of Representatives to indictment, arraignment, trial, conviction and appeal. My tennis game improved; my wife conceived and bore another child, making five for whose rearing and education I was financially responsible; what insecurity I felt was tempered by the general sentiment in Hollywood that the whole thing would blow over like other periodic tempests in the movie business. Among liberals at least, including those who considered my conduct unwise or quixotic, it was widely conceded that I had a clear legal right to take the stand I had.

Reflecting this attitude, the blacklist was not as rigid during this interim as its formal announcement had seemed to indicate. True, the doors of all the major studios were closed to me. But independent and semi-independent producers and the stars and directors who were beginning the now-prevalent practice of forming their own corporations were not nearly so timid as they later became about making furtive arrangements with the proscribed ten.

On completing one piece of work for a prominent star, I met him at his bank, where he drew and paid over my compensation in cash. The amount,

# BLACK LIST

while considerably more than I was accustomed to carry about, was much less formidable than it would have been before the blacklist, since even the most friendly of such secret employers were motivated in part by the opportunity to hire our services at cut rates.

There was also for some of us the chance to work abroad, where we encountered the almost unanimous opinion that what had happened to us was a piece of temporary American insanity. A European producer who came to Hollywood to employ me and to borrow one of 20th Century-Fox's leading stars found himself in negotiation with the same executive who had signed my dismissal notice. Before he was permitted to sublet the actor, for a fee of \$200,000, he was asked who was doing the script. Given my name, the studio executive said, "Good man," and O.K.'d the deal.

These and other clandestine movie jobs enabled me to keep the food supply moving into hungry young mouths until April 10, 1950, when the Supreme Court announced its refusal to consider the issues in the two pilot cases on which the other eight of us had agreed to stand. This meant the imminent end of my precarious liberty and a distinctly reduced standard of living for my family. The first step was to finance their upkeep during my absence by selling the house, into which all my savings had gone, and moving them to rented quarters.

Quick sales of property were common amid the sudden changes of fortune in Hollywood, and the local trade papers often carried advertisements with such eye-catching captions as OWNER GOING ABROAD or OWNER RETURNING TO BROADWAY. I composed a notice featuring the line OWNER GOING TO JAIL and inserted it in one of these publications. A national news magazine, whose space rates I could scarcely have afforded, picked it up as a news story, reprinting the entire ad, and a Beverly Hills physician who was doing research in emotional stress at the gaming tables of Las Vegas, read it there, mounted his Cadillac before dawn and concluded by midday a deal that left me with a net loss of \$9000.

The Danbury prison featured hygienic austerity and a clientele that specialized in nonviolent offenses such as mail theft, traffic in narcotics, driving stolen automobiles across state lines, embezzlement, tax evasion, and using the mails to defraud. We also had a smattering of murderers, armed robbers and rapists, mostly transfers from Army disciplinary barracks who were permitted to pass their final months before release in our less stern surroundings.

What qualms I had about being accepted by my fellow inmates turned out to be groundless. No matter how sketchily they grasped the issues involved in our case, criminals of all kinds regarded my colleagues and me as men who had followed the basic underworld precept of exchanging no unnecessary words whatsoever with the law.

An example of my successful integration was a Sunday visit from a prisoner about to be discharged who was concerned about his professional future. Having heard that I was from Hollywood, he wanted to know whether it was true that "a lot of those stars out there go for the main line."

I was sufficiently assimilated to realize he was referring to heroin addiction, but when I confessed my ignorance as to

## The Affair of the Hollywood Ten



In 1947 J. Parnell Thomas (above, right), chairman of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, charged that Communism had made "serious inroads" in the film industry. Thomas and his investigator Robert E. Stripling (left) called a parade of witnesses—including ten writers, directors and producers who skirted questions, were cited for contempt of Congress, tried and jailed.

**JOHN HOWARD LAWSON:** year in jail, \$10,000 fine. A one-time newsman and Red Cross publicity director, he wrote *Counter-Attack*, *Smash-Up*.



**ALBERT MALTZ:** year in jail, \$1000 fine. Wrote *This Gun For Hire*, *Destination Tokyo*, won a 1943 Oscar for a documentary, *Moscow Strikes Back*.



**EDWARD DMYTRYK:** six months in jail, \$1000 fine. After purging himself in 1950, directed *The Caine Mutiny*, *Broken Lance*, *The Young Lions*.



**HERBERT BIBERMAN:** six months in jail, \$1000 fine. Directed 1954 film, *Salt of the Earth*, which won laurels in France, was boycotted in U.S.



**SAMUEL ORNITZ:** year in jail, \$1000 fine. Screenplay credits include *Little Orphan Annie*, *Mark of the Vampire*. He died of cancer in 1957.



**RING LARDNER JR.:** year in jail, \$1000 fine. He won a 1942 Oscar for co-authoring *Woman of the Year*, collaborated on *Forever Amber*.



**DALTON TRUMBO:** year in jail, \$10,000 fine. Pre-blacklist screenplays include *30 Seconds Over Tokyo*. Recent credits: *Spartacus*, *Exodus*.



**ADRIAN SCOTT:** year in jail, \$1000 fine. Before hearings he produced *Corned*, *So Well Remembered*, *Crossfire*. Now he writes screenplays.



**LESTER COLE:** year in jail, \$1000 fine. Writing credits: *Hostages*, *Objective Burma*, *Men in Her Diary*. Presently writing in London and Hollywood.



**ALVAH BESSIE:** year in jail, \$1000 fine. Helped write *Northern Pursuit*, *Hotel Berlin*. Now works for San Francisco night club, the hungry i.

its popularity among movie actors, the conversation withered quickly. He was too polite to say as much, but I think he concluded I wasn't really from Hollywood at all—just one more big talker in a jailful.

The atmosphere in Hollywood had changed considerably when I returned in the spring of 1951. The blacklist up till then had covered only the ten of us and a few others who were bracketed with us by reason of marriage or an overly ardent support of our position. Now the Un-American Activities Committee had resumed the offensive, and what had been one of the main issues all along was clearly exposed for the first time in the case of an actor, Larry Parks.

Summoned before the committee, he admitted a nominal association with the Communist Party that had ended five years previously. "I would prefer," he added, "if you will allow me, not to mention other people's names." He was told sharply that in testifying about himself he had forfeited the protection against self-incrimination in the Fifth Amendment, a right none of the ten of us had invoked because, among other reasons, almost no one at the time considered Communist Party membership a crime. Between our appearance and his, however, had occurred the first prosecution and conviction of Communists under the Smith Act.

Parks pleaded with his inquisitors: "Don't present me with the choice of either being in contempt of this committee and going to jail or forcing me to really crawl through the mud to be an informer. . . . I beg of you not to force me to this."

The Congressmen remained unmoved, and Parks proceeded to provide them with what they wanted, setting a pattern that reached its high point later in the year when Martin Berkeley, a writer who specialized in movies whose main characters were horses, listed 162 men and women he alleged had been party members with him.

The industry blacklist policy was extended to cover every person subpoenaed by the committee who failed to answer all the questions put to him, or who, having been named by a witness, did not appear voluntarily to clear or purge himself. It didn't matter whether, as in the case of writers and directors, they might conceivably exert a subversive influence on the content of movies, although all the studio heads had sworn to the committee that even this was impossible under their vigilant control. Actors, musicians, technicians and stenographers were chopped from the payrolls with equal dispatch.

It also didn't matter whether the grounds for not answering was the First Amendment, which the appellate-court decision in our case had rated as invalid protection, or the Fifth, which the Supreme Court had meanwhile upheld as a fully applicable use of a precious freedom that no man might legally construe as evidence of guilt.

Nor did it matter that some witnesses took a position that came to be known as the "diminished Fifth," declaring that they were not now Communists but declining to say whether they ever had been. They, too, were promptly added to the blacklist.

When Arthur Miller admitted attending a single meeting under Communist auspices as an invited guest, but refused as a matter of conscience to say who else had been present, he was brought to trial

# BLACK LIST

and convicted of contempt.

It was made clear beyond misunderstanding that there was no proper penance for past political misconduct except the naming of names: big names, little names, token names, names the Committee already had. It was a ritual, but not a meaningless one. To the unordained confessors in Washington and Hollywood, it was an act of perfect contrition.

To others, like Robert Rossen, a direc-

tor who took the "diminished Fifth" in 1951, it was incompatible with "individual morality." Two years of unemployment later, Mr. Rossen conceded that "no one individual can even indulge himself in the luxury of individual morality" and proceeded to spill into the record all the names he could think of.

In this altered atmosphere, black-market offers such as I had received while the case was still in the courts had become extremely rare, and I turned the major part of my attention for two years to writ-

ing a novel. It may or may not have been a sign of the times that I submitted the book, *The Ecstasy of Owen Muir*, to seven or eight American publishers without success, and when it was finally done by a little-known firm, it could not be distributed through ordinary channels and received almost no reviews. In England, at any rate, the reaction was pleasantly different.

There only one submission was necessary, to the eminently respectable house of Jonathan Cape. It was not until after they had accepted the book and written

asking for biographical data that I revealed, with some misgiving, the shadier aspects of my past. A partner in the firm replied: "I am extremely interested to learn that you were one of the group known as the 'Hollywood Ten.' I well remember reading about this curious incident at the time. There may possibly be some publicity value, at least in this country, on account of this fact."

Although the novel was translated into several languages and still brings in some revenue, it was scarcely enough to provide what I had come to consider a satisfactory income. While still working on it, I made a few forays into the new field of television writing, which was to become my main source of income for four years. Here I found that certain rather elaborate precautions were required.

The people for whom I was directly working knew who I was, but the men who signed the checks in some instances did not. In others they did, but their records were subject to inspection at a higher echelon. To meet this situation my blacklisted collaborator and I had to use pseudonyms not only on the air but in our financial transactions.

It would have been preferable to keep on using the same name, so that it would become familiar to potential purchasers of our material. We learned, however, that if a writer appeared to be doing more than a few scripts in the same series, there would be a demand for personal contact with him from investors, sponsor representatives and network executives who wished to communicate their views on how to improve the program. A variety of pseudonyms became necessary in order to avoid undue attention.

Cashing a check made out to an imaginary person is not a simple matter when your own name cannot appear as an endorser. You have to open a bank account under your alias, and my recommendation is that you start in the savings department, where no attempt is made to verify your identity. Checking accounts, in New York at least, require credit information, but once your savings account is well established, you can transfer money from it to a new checking account in the same bank without going through the rigmarole.

On your tax return you simply report all income as if it had been paid to you in your own name. You may expect, of course, that at some point the Internal Revenue Service will note that so many thousands of dollars have been paid by a certain corporation to a man who has apparently filed no tax return. They will then trace your bank account through the canceled checks you have deposited and very likely conclude they have a hot lead on a shifty bit of tax evasion. This can result, if you are careful about keeping your records straight, in the rare satisfaction of demonstrating to an eager investigator that no illegality has been committed.

During these years there were movie jobs to be had in Europe, though without screen credit, since foreign producers did not wish to be denied an American release for their pictures. The State Department, however, notified me in 1953 that it would "not be in the best interests of the United States" for me to travel abroad. While it is gratifying to be informed officially that your country can't spare you in a time of crisis, I felt the department was interfering unduly with my personal liberty, but it was not until the Supreme Court reached the same conclusion in 1958 that a passport was issued to me once more.

Where fudge meets banana in a tantalizing taste rhythm ...



# BANANA RHUMBA

## ICE CREAM



The subtle richness of banana, ridged and rippled with deep, dark fudge. And creamy-smooth, as only Borden's Ice Cream can be. Once you taste the tantalizing treat that is Banana Rhumba, it will be your dessert mañana—and mañana and mañana.



GET BORDEN'S VANILLA, the dream Vanilla Ice Cream, when you're in the store. No home freezer should be without it.

# BORDEN'S

## VERY BIG ON FLAVOR

© 1961, THE BORDEN CO.

Available in Canada in Quebec and Ontario Provinces



Albert Maltz lives in Mexico City, recently wrote a script under a pseudonym. During hearings he addressed investigator Stripling as "Mr. Ouisling."



Nedrick Young was blacklisted as an actor in 1953. Under a pseudonym he collaborated on screenplay of *The Defiant Ones*, which won a 1958 Oscar.



Carl Foreman wrote *High Noon* before 1951-57 blacklisting, ghosted *Bridge on the River Kwai* with another writer, and produced *The Guns of Navarone*.

Hundreds of lives have been scarred by the blacklist, and even I, who have managed to survive it more successfully than most, would not claim that being on it has any compensations to outweigh the penalties and frustrations. But at least the restoration of freedom to travel has taken me to Europe, whereas during my more prosperous decade in California I never achieved more than an occasional trip to New York.

I have also paid a couple of working visits to Hollywood recently, where I encountered restrictions that did not exist abroad, such as having to register in a hotel under a false name so that my producer could telephone me through the studio switchboard.

Despite the fact that this cloak-and-dagger aura persists to the present day, a breach in the iron screen has been effected almost singlehandedly by the fertile talent, capacity for hard work, imaginative flair for publicity, and unswerving devotion to a high living standard, of a writer named Dalton Trumbo. Like the rest of us, he is still officially anathema to the major studios that joined together to launch and maintain the blacklist, yet in a three-month period last year more thousands of feet of film were released under his openly acknowledged authorship than any screen writer has ever inflicted on the American public in a similar space of time in the history of the business.

In 1957 Mr. Trumbo won an Academy Award under the name of Robert Rich for a movie called *The Brave One*. When nobody came forward to receive the Oscar, it was clear to the industry that one of its pariahs was refusing to succumb gracefully to banishment. Trumbo's name was soon mentioned in a number of movie columns, and although he waited two years before admitting that the prize picture was his, he declined meanwhile to deny it.

In fact, he maintained an astute policy of refusing to deny the authorship of any picture, and his name was attached by gossip to more screenplays than even as energetic a man as he could turn out. But he has privately confessed that it was the quality rather than the quantity of these attributions that touched him most deeply. To the frustration of the actual writers, some of the best work in Hollywood was being assigned by rumor to Trumbo, and the more outstanding the picture, the broader the leer with which he declined to comment.

Otto Preminger, a man of rare discernment among film entrepreneurs, chose Trumbo to write the screenplay of *Exodus* because he thought he was the best man for the job. But Preminger, too, has a native talent for public relations, and undoubtedly his genuinely courageous decision to announce the assignment to the newspapers was influenced by the publicity value Trumbo had gained by his own gifts in the same area.

A short time later Universal-International, the distributor of *Spartacus*, confirmed the report that Mr. Trumbo had written that picture and would receive screen credit for it. To casual readers it began to appear that the blacklist was at an end.

What they overlooked was that United Artists, which distributed *Exodus*, was not a member of the association that formulated the blacklist, and that Universal-International had temporarily withdrawn its membership. Trumbo's achievements had shattered the myth that public indignation would injure the box-



## New Travel Iron plugs in around the world!

This new General Electric Steam & Dry Travel Iron works wherever there's electricity. It has two unique adapter plugs that fit almost all outlets, here and abroad. 120-230 volts AC or 120 volts DC.

It steam-irons, dry-irons. Just like its big brother. The translucent water bulb lets you know when to add water. Fold down the handle and the iron tucks away in a corner of your suitcase. It's only 1¾ pounds light! Makes a bonny bon-voyage gift. Ask your General Electric dealer about it. General Electric Co., Portable Appliance Department, Bridgeport 2, Connecticut.

*Progress Is Our Most Important Product*

**GENERAL  ELECTRIC**

**BLACK LIST** office value of a picture bearing a proscribed name, but the major studio executives have yet to abandon the policy they professed to base on that myth.

The Robert Rich incident was particularly disconcerting to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences because that organization had just taken a definitive step to protect its highly publicized Oscars from contamination in the hands of writer outcasts. Writing awards for 1951 and 1953 had already been won by blacklisted men for pictures they had written previous to their exile. By 1956 the academy felt secure in the assumption that this backlog of hot scripts had long since been exhausted.

In that year, however, a movie called *Friendly Persuasion* was made from an old script by Michael Wilson, whose ostracism in the fall of 1951 had been followed by his winning the best-screenplay award in the spring of 1952, for *A Place in the Sun*. The producer of *Friendly Persuasion* announced that Wilson's script had been so rewritten that he was no longer entitled to credit. An arbitration committee of the Writers Guild of America, West, which has final jurisdiction over all writing credits, disagreed. The guild ruled that Wilson's name was the only one deserving credit.

In the face of this crisis the Academy Board of Governors passed a secret resolution, to be announced only if Wilson were voted one of the five nominees for best-screenplay writer. He was, and the academy, making public its new policy that any nominee who qualified for the blacklist was ineligible for achievement honors, promptly reduced the number



The mysterious "Robert Rich," who won an Oscar for *The Brave One* in 1957, turned out to be Dalton Trumbo. His present film (note props) is *Montezuma*.

of nominations to four. With the ballot thus purified, the board could look forward serenely to its 1957 ceremony. No one had taken any special note of the unfamiliar name Robert Rich among the best-story nominations.

The following year the academy demonstrated that it had added a new trick to its repertoire: It could close its eyes firmly when its leg was pulled. The picture that walked away with most of the awards, including best screenplay, was *The Bridge on the River Kwai*. The script writer, so it said on the screen, was Pierre Boulle, author of the French novel on which it was based. How Monsieur Boulle had so brilliantly mastered film technique and the English language was no mystery at all to informed people in Hollywood; it was a wide-open secret that *The Bridge on the River Kwai* was the joint work of

two blacklisted men, Carl Foreman and the academy's most relentless gadfly, Michael Wilson.

Again in 1959 the ghost that wouldn't die haunted the academy, that year in a new and perplexing shape. By the time Nathan E. Douglas and Harold J. Smith were nominated by vote of the Writers Guild for *The Defiant Ones*, it had already been revealed in *The New York Times* that "Douglas" was a pseudonym for Nedrick Young, who, blacklisted as an actor in 1953, had displayed his versatility by turning his talents first to bartending and then to screen writing.

The academy governors realized they couldn't sweep this one under the rug. There was no way to invoke the political exclusion law against Mr. Young without being unfair to Mr. Smith, who passed all the tests of respectability. The ab-

surdity of the dilemma dramatized the absurdity of the rule itself, and the governors voted to repeal it. Henceforth, they announced, honors would be awarded for achievement alone.

*The Defiant Ones* won the vote for best screenplay written expressly for the screen, and for the first time a blacklisted man strode up in view of the television cameras to receive his award. He got an impressive hand.

With these various chinks appearing in the iron screen, I find myself increasingly confronted with the social problem of persuading acquaintances outside the movie business that the blacklist still exists for me and all the others who have not made their peace with the industry. In earlier years people were generally too tactful to ask what I was doing; now they are astonished to hear that I am still obliged to respect the confidential nature of the agreements I make with employers.

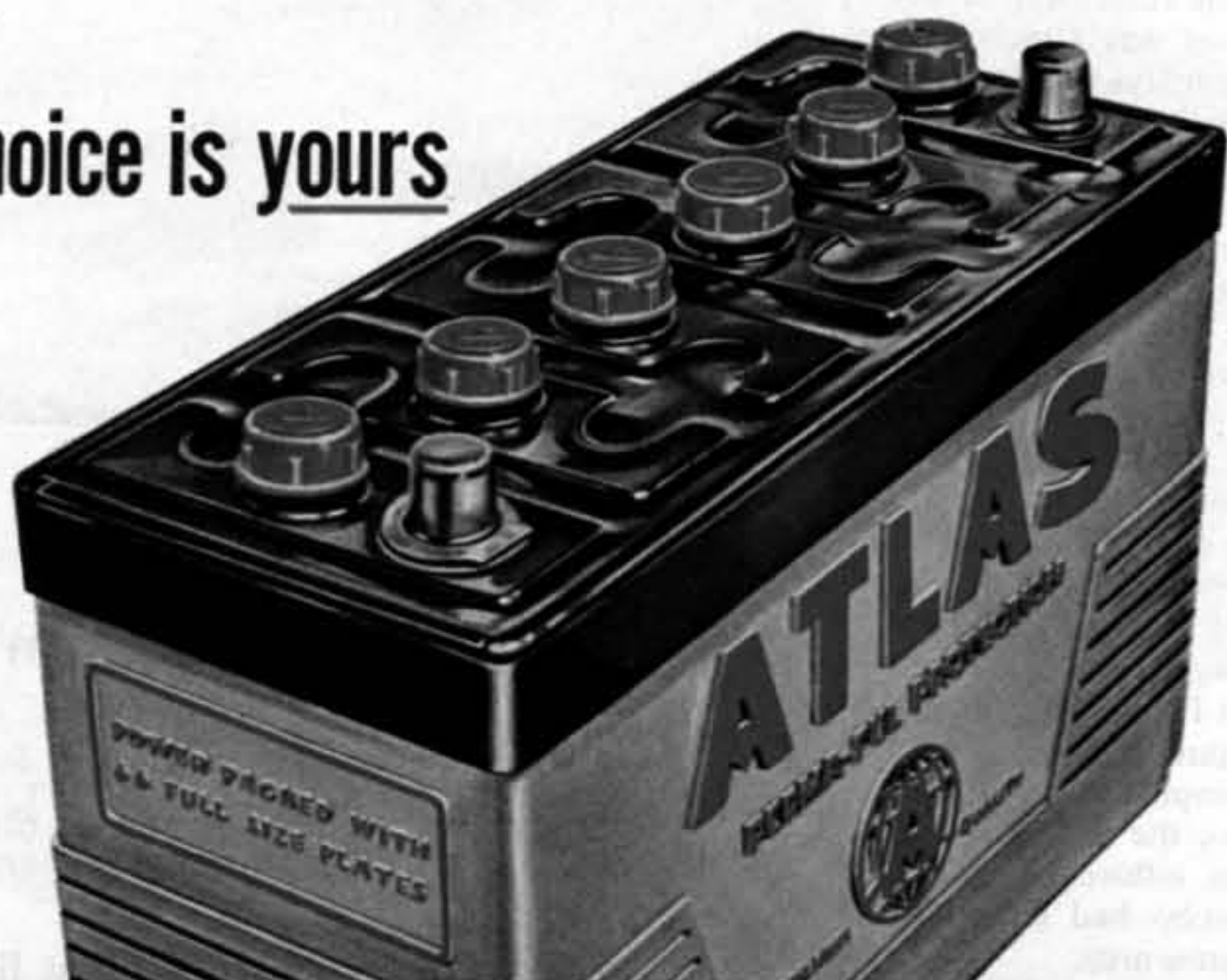
The fact is that while I have made my living as a writer for all of these fourteen years, I can claim public credit only for one book and one still unproduced play. Nevertheless, it has been a comfortable-enough living, even if well below the standard to which I had almost become accustomed.

And if there is an occasional craving for the satisfaction of seeing my name attached to a piece of work, there is always the solace I share with all those on the blacklist. We can look at our old movies on television. It is a rare night that you cannot find one of the proscribed names on the still-unaltered credits. Some factor, very likely the smaller screen, has deprived them of the power to subvert.

THE END



When the choice is yours



...choose **ATLAS**

Only Atlas Batteries show all the ratings that determine battery quality . . . right on the case.

- **Perma-Ful Protection** — guards against damage from heat and low water level.
- **Milder Electrolyte** — prolongs plate life. Battery stays charged longer.
- **Microplastic Separators** — provide better insulation against internal shorts.
- **High-impact Rubber Case** — protects against effects of extreme heat, cold and vibration.

**Result:** Atlas Perma-Ful\* Batteries are built to even higher standards than batteries on new cars.



**RESERVE COLD WEATHER STARTING POWER.** Ample power for cold weather starting and for sure operation of all electrical accessories.



**FROZEN IN BELOW 0° COLD** in the lab—your assurance of sure, quick starts even in bitterest cold. Atlas "Zero Starting" rating is stamped right on the battery.



**YOU'RE NEVER FAR FROM ATLAS SERVICE!** Atlas tires, batteries and accessories are recommended and sold at 46,000 leading service stations in all 50 states and Canada.

\*Trade-marks "Atlas", "Perma-Ful" Reg. U.S. Pat. Off. © 1961 Atlas Supply Co., Newark 2, N. J.