

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
MARCH 18, 1953

DONALD L. JACKSON
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Hollywood AFL Film Council assures you that everything which it can do to prevent the showing of the Mexican picture [sic] *Salt of the Earth* will be done.... The film council will solicit its fellow members in the theaters to assist in the prevention of showing of this picture in any American theaters, but the extent to which we can as a union take action such a matter is limited by reason of the restrictive features in the Taft-Hartley Act....

Sincerely,

ROY M. BREWER,
CHAIRMAN, HOLLYWOOD AFL COUNCIL

MARCH 18, 1953

CONGRESSMAN DONALD L. JACKSON
HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN JACKSON:

In your telegram you asked the question, "Is there any action that industry and labor in motion picture field can take to stop completion and release of picture and to prevent showing of film here and abroad?"

My answer is "Yes."

... Before a motion picture can be completed or shown in theaters, an extensive application of certain technical skills and use of a great deal of specialized equipment is absolutely necessary.

Herbert Biberman, Paul Jarrico, and their associates working on this picture do not possess these skills or this equipment.

If the motion picture industry—not only in Hollywood, but throughout the United States—will refuse to apply these skills, will refuse to furnish this equipment, the picture cannot be completed in this country.

Biberman and Jarrico have already met with refusal where the industry was on its toes. The film processing was being done by the

Pathe Laboratories, until the first news broke from Silver City.

But the minute Pathe learned the facts, this alert laboratory immediately refused to do any further work on this picture, even though it meant refunding cash paid in advance.

Investigation fails to disclose where the laboratory work is being done now. But it is being done somewhere, by someone, and a great deal more laboratory work will have to be done by someone, before the motion picture can be completed.

Biberman, Jarrico, and their associates cannot succeed in their scheme alone. Before they can complete the picture, they must have the help of the following:

1. Film laboratories.
2. Suppliers of film.
3. Musicians and recording technicians necessary to record music.
4. Technicians who make dissolves, fades, etc.
5. Owners and operators of sound recording equipment and dubbing rooms.
6. Positive and negative editors and cutters.
7. Laboratories that make release prints.

If the picture industry wants to prevent this motion picture from being completed and spread all over the world as a representative product of the United States, then the industry and particularly that segment of the industry listed above, needs only to do the following.

Be alert to the situation.

Investigate thoroughly each applicant for the use of services or equipment.

Refuse to assist the Bibermans and Jarricos in the making of this picture.

Be on guard against work submitted by dummy corporations or third parties.

Appeal to the Congress and the State Department to act immediately to prevent the export of this film to Mexico or anywhere else.

Sincerely,

HOWARD HUGHES