

THE "HOLLYWOOD TEN" and "THE UNFRIENDLY 19"

In 1947 the House of Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC), chaired by J. Parnell Thomas, began an investigation into the Hollywood Motion Picture Industry. The HUAC interviewed 41 people who were working in Hollywood. These people attended voluntarily and became known as "friendly witnesses". During their interviews they named nineteen people who they accused of holding left-wing views.

Some of the 41 "friendly" witnesses were well-known names in the industry such as

1. Robert Taylor
2. Gary Cooper
3. Ronald Reagan
4. Jack Warner
5. Walt Disney
6. Lela Rogers,
7. Ayn Rand

The "Hollywood Ten" of the "unfriendly" 19 witnesses

1. John Howard Lawson
2. Dalton Trumbo
3. Albert Maltz
4. Alvah Bessie
5. Samuel Ornitz
6. Herbert Biberman
7. Edward Dmytryk
8. Adrian Scott
9. Ring Lardner, Jr.
10. Lester Cole

11. Bertolt Brecht*
12. Richard Collins
13. Howard Koch
14. Gordon Kahn
15. Robert Rossen
16. Waldo Salt
17. Lewis Milestone
18. Irving Pichel
19. Larry Parks

The witnesses who denounced the committee became known as the "Hollywood Ten." They were blacklisted from the movie industry for many years afterward. The blacklist itself was not developed by HUAC, but by a group of studio executives. The executives met shortly after the hearings and adopted a resolution against employing Communists, including the Hollywood Ten. With the exception of Dmytryk, who later changed his position and cooperated with the committee, the Hollywood Ten either did not work on American movies or used pseudonyms for most of the 1950s.

* Bertolt Brecht, an emigrant playwright, gave evidence and then left for East Germany.