

RECORD GROUP 208

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

Records of the Bureau of Motion Pictures

Series 285, General File of the Chief of Newsreel Liaison

"Hollywood Information Manual"

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION MANUAL FOR THE MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
SUITLAND, MARYLAND: 1978

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION MANUAL

for the

MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

There have been many requests from the motion picture industry for basic information on government aims and policies in the war effort. To meet that demand, the Office of War Information has established an office in Hollywood. The purpose of this office is to assist the motion picture industry in its endeavor to inform the American people, via the screen, of the many problems attendant on the war program. Its set-up is purely advisory.

You will receive a continuous flow of material weekly to be added to this manual. It is being supplied to you in looseleaf form for that purpose.

The members of the staff of the Office of War Information are available at all times to responsible individuals and groups of the industry for conferences. The office also stands ready to supply the industry with pertinent information for films which are contemplated or in preparation, to supplement in detail any of the subjects covered in this manual, and, in general, to serve as a liaison agency between Hollywood and Washington in obtaining government assistance or information of any sort.

The office address is Sixth Floor, Taft Building, Hollywood, California--telephone HEmpstead 3211. Nelson Poynter is in charge of the Hollywood office.

THIS MANUAL IS GOVERNMENT PROPERTY, AND IS NOT TO BE REPRINTED IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT SPECIFIC PERMISSION.

THE FRAMEWORK OF THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION PROGRAM

On January 6, 1942, the President of the United States, Commander in Chief of a nation at war, addressed the Congress on the state of the Union. In his speech were six basic themes that pointed a way toward a better understanding of this war. The six themes are:

- I. THE ISSUES - Why we fight. What kind of peace will follow victory.
- II. THE ENEMY - Whom we fight. The nature of our adversary.
- III. THE UNITED NATIONS AND PEOPLES - With whom we are allied in fighting. Our brothers-in-arms.
- IV. WORK AND PRODUCTION - How each of us can fight. The war at home.
- V. THE HOME FRONT - What we must do. What we must give up to win the fight.
- VI. THE FIGHTING FORCES - The job of the fighting man at the Front.

The Government Information Program is predicated on the following basic premises:

- I. The overwhelming majority of the people are behind the government in its war program but they do not have adequate knowledge and understanding of this program. In the United States we are not for "blind followers." Unless the public adequately understands the war program, a few military reverses can shatter the high morale of the American people. Unless they adequately understand the magnitude of the program, the people will not willingly make the additional sacrifices that they shall be called upon to make in the prosecution of total war and total victory.

The Government of the United States has an unwavering faith in the sincerity of purpose and integrity of the American people. The American people, on the whole, are not susceptible to The Strategy of Lies. They prefer truth as the vehicle for understanding. The government believes that truth in the end is the only medium to bring about the proper understanding of democracy, the one important ingredient that can help make democracy work. Axis propogandists have failed. They have not

told the truth, and their peoples are now beginning to see through this sham. If we are to keep faith with the American people, we must not resort to any devious information tactics. We must meet lies with a frontal attack -- with the weapon of truth.

II. We believe that mass opinion is intelligent and will support an intelligent program -- if informed. The people will support a program of decency and integrity, idealism and enlightened selfishness -- if adequately informed.

III. We believe that support of Fascism can be marshaled only from the ignorant, the frustrated and the poverty-stricken, in some measure backed by reactionary men of wealth. We must keep these groups in mind constantly and try to overcome their ignorance, their frustration and their want.