



UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

WASHINGTON 20547

October 31, 1966

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. David Stevenson  
Department of Justice

From: Richard M. Schmidt, Jr.  
General Counsel  
U. S. Information Agency

Subject: Kennedy Film Showing in California

On October 20, 1966 USIA, Washington received a call from Congressman Glenard P. Lipscomb concerning the showing of the USIA-produced film "Years of Lightning; Day of Drums," October 4 and Wednesday, October 5, 1966, at the Tower Theatre in Santa Paula, California. At 6:15 p.m. the same date USIA was contacted by Mr. Ralph Becker, Attorney for the J. F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, concerning the same showing and requesting that this office contact the Department of Justice. Mr. Edwin Spievack of the Office of the General Counsel of USIA contacted Mr. David Stevenson on Friday, October 21, 1966.

On October 21, Mr. Becker replied to Congressman Lipscomb in answer to a letter directed to Mr. Roger L. Stevens, Chairman of the Kennedy Center from Congressman Lipscomb, concerning this matter, dated October 12, 1966. The copy of Mr. Becker's letter received by this office shows a copy was sent to Mr. Stevenson with Congressman Lipscomb's letter attached, together with an ad from the Santa Paula Chronicle of October 3, 1966. The ad states the film was to be shown at the Tower Theatre on the dates described above with "free" admission, sponsored by the Santa Paula Crusade Against Poverty. Honored guests at the showing were to be Charles A. Storke, Democratic nominee for Congress, Santa Barbara--Ventura Counties and Alvin C. Weingand, California State Senator, Santa Barbara--Ventura Counties. The ad states: "Paid for by the Friends of Charles A. Storke and Alvin C. Weingand, Timothy Lemucchi, Chairman."

This matter was called to the attention of the undersigned upon his return to Washington on Monday, October 24, 1966.

We requested an investigation by our television and motion picture service as to whether any prints of this film, owned by USIA, had been released to any of the persons involved in this showing. Their answer was negative.

On October 25, 1966, the undersigned contacted Mr. Edward Solomon, Embassy Films Corporation, in New York City, who informed us that the matter had been investigated for Embassy Pictures and the Kennedy Center by Mr. Duke Douglyn, Branch Manager for Embassy Films in Los Angeles. On October 25, 1966 we talked to Mr. Douglyn in Los Angeles. He informed us that his office had talked to Mr. Gordon West, Manager of the Tower Theatre (AC 805 - 495-9407), who informed him "the theatre is closed for refurbishing and operates on Friday, Saturday and Sunday only and features Spanish-language films." Douglyn stated the theatre had been rented for \$15 per night on October 4 and 5 by the Santa Paula Crusade Against Poverty (AC 805 - 525-9613) for the showing of the Kennedy film. The film was 16-mm and the film, projectionist and the projector were all furnished by the group renting the theatre. He identified an Ernest Jenkins (AC 805 - 525-9732) as the person who had brought the film to the theatre.

I attempted to contact Mr. Jenkins but was unable to reach him until October 27. Mr. Jenkins informed me that he was a volunteer worker for the Santa Paula Crusade Against Poverty and for some time had been attempting to get a copy of the film in the Spanish language to show to the persons with whom the Crusade is working. He had been unsuccessful in obtaining a film after contacting "several persons." The only source he would identify as having contacted was "The Peace Corps." He did not identify what person or persons in the Peace Corps he had contacted. He then stated that he finally got in touch with Mr. Tony Lemucchi (AC 805 - 963-1835) who informed him he could obtain a 16-mm English-language version of the film and would allow the Crusade Against Poverty group to borrow the same. In return for the use of the film Lemucchi asked permission to run the ad which appeared in the Santa Paula Chronicle. Jenkins informed us that neither Storke nor Weingand were present at the showings of the movie. Mr. Jenkins denied any knowledge of where Mr. Lemucchi had obtained the print.

We immediately attempted to contact Mr. Lemucchi by telephone and finally succeeded in reaching him on October 27. Mr. Lemucchi acknowledged the fact that he had furnished to Mr. Jenkins and the Santa Paula Crusade Against Poverty a 16-mm print of the film which had an English-language narration; that he had made arrangements for the ad in the Santa Paula Chronicle; that the narration was not used in the showing but a Spanish-language commentary was given by an unidentified person in the theatre at the time of the showing. Mr. Lemucchi refused to disclose where he obtained the print but repeatedly stated that "it would not be shown again." He asked if our interest was raised by Congressional inquiry and wanted to know particularly if it had been instigated by the incumbent Congressman from Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties, Charles M. Teague of Ojai, California. I cited Public Law 89-274 and the Committee reports in conjunction therewith in answer to his inquiry as to why this film should not be shown under these auspices.

On Friday, October 28, Duke Douglyn called the Office of the General Counsel of USIA at approximately 3:30 p.m. reporting that the Kennedy film, 16-mm version, was to be shown at the Glasgow Playhouse, Ojai, California, on Sunday, October 30, 1966 at 5:00 p.m., again honoring Charles A. Storke, candidate for Congress. He gave us the name of the theatre manager, Mr. C. W. Smith, P. O. Box 154 (AC 805 - 646-6569).

The undersigned succeeded in reaching Mr. Lemucchi at approximately 6:00 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, to ask of his knowledge concerning this proposed showing. He stated that the Ojai showing had been cancelled as a result of my telephone conversation with him of the preceding date and once again refused to disclose where he had obtained the film print. He again reiterated that it would not be shown again and again asked for information concerning P. L. 89-274. I again read him excerpts from the bill and the reports and cited to him the Congressional Record of August 30, and September 1, 1966 concerning Congressional statements on the showing of the film.

Mr. Ted Curran of USIA talked to Congressman Lipscomb on Friday, October 28 and informed him of the results of our investigation. He informed him that we had not been able to discover where Mr. Lemucchi obtained the print which was shown in Santa Paula and that we would turn over all information we had concerning the same to the Department of Justice.