

Ms. Nina King, editor
Book World
The Washington Post
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Harold Weisberg
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Dear Ms. King,

For Robert Sklar's teaching of cinema studies at NYU and and more reviews he writes like that ~~about~~^{on} Darryl Zanuck he needs to brush up a bit ~~about~~ what ended that well-intended but misdirected Senate investigation of Hollywood ~~as~~^e allegedly intending to get us in World War II. In fact Zanuck had little to do with bringing ~~what~~^{w/} that had turned into a propoganda investigation to an end than you did. ~~And~~ much less than I did.

Senator Gerald Nye, a Republican, of North Dakota, ran that investigation. He had conducted the important and often sensational investigation of the munitions industry. (For which my wife was assista~~nt~~ editor.) Nye was a friendly, sincere and conscientious man. I knew him. He let me use his office safe when I was editor of the Senate Civil Liberties Committee (1936-9). We had no safe.

When I was in New York City, after returning to writing, a friend in the Newspaper Guild office took me to the press club. He introduced me to ~~the~~^a man who was doing publicity for the coming Edward G. Robinson movie, "Confessions of a Nazi Spy," Wellington Roe. ~~Roe~~^{Roye} asked for my ~~to~~ help with Washington promotions and I arranged a super-spectacular one for him.

Nye's then administrative assistant, ^(night) Spike Mauvious, and I had bent elbows often en~~ough~~ afternoons in the Carroll Arms bar. Nye had introduced a bill to prohibit the wearing of uniforms by groups like the one he really aimed at, the pro-Hitler German -American ~~und~~. I suggested to ~~to~~^{to} Spike that the movie would help get that bill passed if Nye sponsored a preview of it in Washington. He and Nye agree~~d~~ and they arranged for that movie to preview, to an invited audience only, in the ~~D~~^epartment of Labor auditorium.

^his was some time before the Senate movie investigation.

In those years I also knew people on Warner Brothers Washington staff,

particularly Frank La Falce (right), who headed public relations. His office was on the top floor of the Earle Building. I brought him and Mauvius together ^{to arrange} for that preview for top government and other important people.

(Paul Porter, who had been an FCC commissioner, had his law office on that floor and near Frank's. I think he handled the Warner Law Work in Washington then. I knew him. Later he was one of my lawyers. *He was a founding partner of Arnold and Porter.*) Nye was the big wheel in the Senate movie investigation. He and Spike by then had forgotten about their part in promoting that Robinson movie. In fact, with Harry Warner on the stand, Nye went after him with vigor over the alleged war incitation of that very movie, "Confessions of a Nazi Spy." When Warner had so little to say in response after that day's hearing I went to Frank's office and reminded him. He, too, had forgotten! He rushed out to get to Warner and his staff and lawyers in particular to tell them this story. Before the next day's hearing Warner had it firmly in mind.

He then recounted to the Senate and to the country how Nye had sponsored the very movie he now claimed was aimed at getting us into the war!

and that was the end of that investigation, as your morgue will show, I am sure, if there is access to those years of it.

It was not Zanuck, who may have testified exactly as Sklar says. It was Nye's record that did Nye's investigation in, ended it, as your morgue will also show, I am confident.

My recollection is not clear on one aspect but I believe that the movie investigation was developing anti-Semitic overtones.

My initial interest was anti-Hitler and that is why I arranged for that unusual and very effective promotion.

Feel free to forward this to Sklar. If you would like to use any of it, feel free to cut and edit. Please tell Sklar that if he wants to talk to me more about that to do it before suppertime, by which time, feeble as I now am at 84 and in impaired health, I'm usually abed. Sincerely, Harold Weisberg *Recollection*