



## The House Un-American Activities Committee

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Activity #2: HUAC vs. Hollywood

**Directions (Group #1):** Your group has been assigned to play the part of Walt Disney, one of the individuals involved in the 1947 HUAC investigation of the motion picture industry. Read the following document, and then prepare a 3-5 minute presentation in which you identify who you are and explain your views on the HUAC and communism in the entertainment industry. Choose one member of your group to make this presentation to the class. Be prepared to discuss, after all the presentations have been made, your opinion on whether or not HUAC was right to investigate subversive influences in the entertainment industry.

### Walt Disney

"We Must Keep the Labor Unions Clean": "Friendly" HUAC Witnesses Ronald Reagan and Walt Disney Blame Hollywood Labor Conflicts on Communist Infiltration:

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6458> (scroll to about halfway down the page)

Perhaps the most famous animator of all time, Walt Disney (1901-1966) in 1947 was already a celebrity thanks to his creation of the popular cartoon character Mickey Mouse in the 1920s. In the late 1930s and early 1940s his fame—and wealth—had grown with the production of full-length animated films such as *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (1938), *Pinocchio* (1940), *Fantasia* (1940), *Dumbo* (1941), and *Bambi* (1942). During World War II he produced a series of short training and instructional films for the military. Disney became suspicious of communist influence in Hollywood after a strike temporarily halted work at his studios in 1941; he therefore readily agreed to serve as a friendly witness before HUAC.