



## The House Un-American Activities Committee

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

### Activity #2: HUAC vs. Hollywood

**Directions (Group #2):** Your group has been assigned to play the part of Eric Johnston, 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.

#### Eric Johnston

"A Damaging Impression of Hollywood Has Spread": Movie "Czar" Eric Johnston Testifies before HUAC: <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6443>

A successful businessman from Spokane, Washington, Eric Johnston (1895-1961) became at the age of 46 the youngest person ever elected president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. In this position he advocated close cooperation between management and labor, and traveled internationally as a goodwill ambassador on behalf of the Roosevelt administration. In 1945 he became president of the Motion Picture Association of America, where his chief responsibility was the marketing of American films abroad. In late November 1947—just weeks after his appearance before HUAC—Johnston held a meeting with forty-seven of the industry’s leading executives in which they agreed not to hire any of the so-called “Hollywood Ten” until they were willing to swear that they were not communists.