



The House Un-American Activities Committee

Student Name _____ Date _____

Activity #2: HUAC vs. Hollywood

Directions (Group #6): Your group has been assigned to play the part of Ronald Reagan, 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.

Ronald Reagan

"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>

Best known today as President of the United States from 1981 to 1989, Ronald Reagan (1911-2004) was a popular movie actor in the 1940s, having signed on with Warner Brothers in 1937. He starred in a number of popular films such as *Santa Fe Trail* (1940), *Knute Rockne*, *All-American* (1940), and *This is the Army* (1943). Although a Democrat and a staunch supporter of Harry Truman, Reagan was concerned about what he saw as the growing strength of communism in Hollywood. In 1947 Reagan was elected president of the Screen Actors' Guild, and in that capacity was called to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee.