



The House Un-American Activities Committee

Student Name _____ Date _____

Activity #2: HUAC vs. Hollywood

Directions (Group #4): Your group has been assigned to play the part of Jack Warner, 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.

Jack Warner

"The World Was at Stake": Three "Friendly" HUAC Hollywood Witnesses Assess Pro-Soviet Wartime Films: <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6442>

A native of Ontario, Canada, Jack Warner (1892-1978) entered the motion picture industry at the age of eleven, when he and his three older brothers opened a movie theater in New Castle, Pennsylvania. Fifteen years later the Warner Brothers opened a studio on Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood, and quickly produced a series of successful films, including *The Jazz Singer* (1926), the first movie to use sound. By the 1940s Jack Warner was one of the most powerful men in Hollywood, with his studios producing popular cartoons as well as blockbuster films.