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SAC, NEW YORK

March 10, 1948

DIRECTOR, FBI

CLAUDIA VERA SCHOLNICK, was.  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
(New York File 100-18878)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

In view of the subject's recent apprehension by representatives of the Immigration and Naturalization Service and an Agent of the FBI, the Bureau desires that you submit a report bringing her activities up to date.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

100-72390

DATE 12-30-83 BY SP5 BJS/TB

RECORDED

100-72390-68

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51 MAR 12 1948

EX-25

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Pennington
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 11  
MAR 10 1948 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

12 MAR 18 1948

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK

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NY FILE NO. 100-18676

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 4/2/48	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1/19, 20, 22, 23, 25, 29, 2/1-3, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 19, 22, 23, 27, 29; 3/13, 17-19/48	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
TITLE CLAUDIA VERA SCHOLNICK, was		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C	

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES ADVISED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

CLAUDIA JONES apprehended 1/19/48 by representatives of INS and an agent of the FBI at her home, 504 West 143rd St., Apt. 6A, NYC. Subject did not sign waiver of search of premises or give statement concerning her Communist activities. She admitted membership on the National Committee of the CP and admitted her status as an alien. Subject remanded to the custody of the INS officials at Ellis Island. Released on \$1,000 bond, 1/20/48. IRA GOLLOBIN appointed attorney for the subject by the American Committee for the Protection of the Foreign Born. Subject active in speaking at rallies protesting deportation of Communists held in NY, Newark, Boston, New Haven, and Detroit. She appeared in the picket line in front of INS Headquarters on 2/2/48. A "Claudia Jones Defense Committee" has been formed by leaders of the Harlem Section of the CP.

ENCL ATTACHED

Classified by 1359  
Exempt from GDS  
Date of Review 11/2/78

DEFERRED RECORDING

## REFERENCE:

Bureau File #100-72390.  
Report of SA [REDACTED] New York, 12/26/47.  
New York teletype to Bureau, 1/20/48.  
New York letters to Bureau, 1/21, 29/48. NY OF FBI

Classified by SP8 BCT/ld  
Declassify on: OADR  
12-30-83

This report contains information from confidential sources and is to be controlled and distributed outside of agency boundaries.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED [Signature]	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT (5) Bureau (2 Encls.) 3 New York Copies destroyed 11-21-58 R99		100-72390-69 APR 5 1948 RECEIVED RECORDED INDEXED 109 CONFIDENTIAL



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DETAILS:

The following is a summary of the activities of CLAUDIA JONES set forth in chronological order from the time of her arrest on January 19, 1948 to March 15, 1948:

As set forth in reference teletype to the Bureau dated January 20, 1948, CLAUDIA JONES was apprehended at 8:40 P.M. on January 19, 1948 at her home, 504 West 143rd Street, New York City, Apartment 6A. The warrant of arrest was served by Immigration & Naturalization Inspectors JAMES P. CAREY and HAROLD W. RAMSEY. Special Agent [REDACTED] accompanied the Immigration & Naturalization Service officials and aided in the apprehension.

The warrant for the arrest of CLAUDIA VERA SCHOLNICK, with aliases, Mrs. NICK SCHOLNICK, CLAUDIA JONES, CLAUDIA VERA CUMBERBATCH, charged that subject "entered this country at New York on the ninth day of February, 1924, and has been found in the United States in violation of the immigration laws thereof and is subject to be taken in custody and deported pursuant to the provisions of the Act of October 16, 1918 as amended, in that she is found to have been, after entry, a member of the following class, set forth in section one of said act: An alien who believes in, advocates and teaches the overthrow, by force or violence, of the Government of the United States, and the Act of October 16, 1918, as admitted in that she is found to have been, after entry, a member of the following class, set forth in section one of said act: An alien who writes and publishes and causes to be written and published any written or published matter advising, advocating or teaching the overthrow, by force or violence, of the Government of the United States".

The warrant was dated October 27th, 1947 and signed by A. R. MACKEY, Chief, Exclusion and Expulsion Section. In accord with a stipulation in the warrant, authority was granted to release the subject under \$1,000 bond.

A log of activities was made by Agent [REDACTED] and signed by Inspector RAMSEY and CAREY of Immigration & Naturalization Service. This log is being maintained in the files of this office. The contents of the log is set forth below:

Log of activities, January 19th, 1948. Re: CLAUDIA JONES.

8:40 P.M. At apartment 6A, 504 West 143rd Street, New York, warrant served by Inspector HOWARD W. RAMSEY and JAMES P. CAREY, accompanied by SA [REDACTED] Agents identified.

8:45 P.M. CLAUDIA JONES asked to call HENRY WINSTON. Permission granted. No answer. She next called BEN DAVIS, New York Councilman.

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8:55 P.M. CLAUDIA JONES accompanied by Inspectors CAREY and RAMSEY and Agent [REDACTED] departed by car for Ellis Island.  
9:30 P.M. Arrived at Barge Office, Immigration and Naturalization Service, to await Ellis Island boat.  
10:00 P.M. CLAUDIA JONES turned over to HARVEY VAN NOSTRAND, Security Officer and SADIE HAINE, Matron of the Detention Station, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Ellis Island. She was placed in the private cabin aboard the boat in the custody of VAN NOSTRAND and HAINE.  
10:45 P.M. Boat departed for Ellis Island.

H.W. RAMSEY, Immigration Inspector  
J.P. CAREY, Immigration Inspector  
[REDACTED] Special Agent, F.B.I.,  
New York.

As outlined in the above Log of Activities, CLAUDIA JONES was served the warrant of arrest by Inspector RAMSEY. She was asked to state her full name and citizenship. She refused to do this and advised that she would answer no questions without first having an attorney. She was then asked if she would sign a waiver of search of the premises. She stated that she would permit no search without a search warrant.

CLAUDIA JONES then asked to make a telephone call and was granted permission to call HENRY WINSTON and New York City Councilman BENJAMIN DAVIS, JR., both members of the National Committee of the Communist Party. WINSTON was not at home. She told DAVIS that the Immigration authorities were present and were going to take her to Ellis Island. She was overheard stating, "I am getting the BITTELMAN treatment".

DAVIS asked to talk to one of the agents. Inspector RAMSEY spoke to DAVIS and when asked by him to withhold taking CLAUDIA JONES into custody until such time as he might talk to her, he was advised that Miss JONES would be given sufficient time to prepare to be taken into custody and then would be immediately taken to Ellis Island.

Before leaving the premises, YVONNE and SYLVIA CUMBERBATCH, adult sisters of the subject were advised that she was being taken directly to the Detention Station at Ellis Island. Miss JONES would not talk while in her home, but enroute to the Barge Office in the course of conversation with Agent [REDACTED] she admitted the following concerning her background and her activities in the Communist Party:

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She said she was born in Trinidad, British West Indies, February 25, 1916. She came to this country in 1924 with her aunt and three sisters. She admitted that she took preliminary steps to become a citizen of this country, but to this date has never been naturalized. She advised that she was still an alien. She admitted that she joined the Communist Party approximately ten years ago. She was first active with the youth groups of the Communist Party and later, because of her work in the Party, was elected to the National Committee of the Communist Party.

She said that the elections to the National Committee were made at a meeting attended by delegates representing the Party from all parts of the United States. She attributed her election to the fact that she worked diligently for the Party, writing numerous articles under her own name and by preparing Communist Party literature, distributed in the name of the Party. She informed that she has been on several speaking tours for the Party. She did not elaborate on any of the above information, but stated that the "FBI knew of all of her activities and that everything she had revealed was already known to this Bureau".

She mentioned that she was the Secretary of the National Womens Commission of the Communist Party and as such was active in the womens work in the Party and on several occasions CLAUDIA JONES referred to the Party with pride and stated that she wholeheartedly believed in the principles and doctrines of the Communist Party. She charged that being arrested because she was a Communist was preposterous because the Communist Party was a legally constituted Party in the United States.

During the course of the conversation CLAUDIA JONES on several occasions acknowledged that she was active in the Communist Party and expressed her complete confidence in the Communist Party. She stated that if the leaders in this country would only listen to the wisdom given out by the Party there would be an end to the class struggle and discrimination practiced in this country.

In referring to her education, CLAUDIA JONES revealed one of the reasons why she became a Communist. She stated that she was graduated from high school in New York and at first had ambitions to become a doctor and then a social worker. She changed her mind about this, however, when she was confronted with the fact that "certain quotas were set up in New York City on the number of negroes that might enter the medical profession and social field".

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She admitted attendance at New York University night school for approximately two years. She said that the depression and the uneven distribution of wealth in this country had caused her to search for an escape from the existing struggle that she was going through. She admitted that it was at this time that she at first became interested in Communism.

The following is a review of the statements made by various members of the National Committee of the Communist Party and members of the Editorial Staff of the "Daily Worker" concerning the arrest of CLAUDIA JONES.

In the "Daily Worker", January 21, 1948, Page 2, Column 1, the following statement was made:

"The Communist Party National Board in a signed statement by WILLIAM Z. FOSTER, Chairman, EUGENE DENNIS, General Secretary and HENRY WINSTON, Organizational Director, called for the removal of Attorney General TOM CLARK." The article continued by stating that the arrest was part of a drive by the Government against all progressives in the United States. The article continued by quoting Councilman BENJAMIN DAVIS, as stating: "The arrest of the Negro womens leader is a foul attack against the militant Negro women of America, against the West Indian population and against the civil rights which your committee claimed to uphold."

Other statements were made by ROBERT THOMPSON, State Chairman of the New York Communist Party, and HOWARD STRETCH JOHNSON, Educational Director, New York County Communist Party.

In an article in the "Daily Worker", January 23, 1948, Page 11, Column 3, ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN, member of the National Committee of the Communist Party, stated, "Justice Department hits all time low on the attack on CLAUDIA JONES". In reviewing the work of CLAUDIA JONES, Miss Flynn stated the following: "Beautiful, eloquent as a speaker, gifted as a writer, she became a leader of the Young Communist League before she was twenty, and its Educational Director in 1940. She wrote under the pen name of CLAUDIA JONES in the "Daily Worker" and other publications. She ably aided "Spotlight", an excellent AYD magazine."

In the "Worker", January 25, 1948, Section 1, Page 9, Column 1, City Councilman BENJAMIN DAVIS in commenting on the arrest for deportation of CLAUDIA JONES, stated the following:

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"CLAUDIA JONES is a worthy daughter of the militant and enterprising Negro West Indian Citizen League of the country. The attempts of the subversive, poll tax TOM CLARK to deport this outstanding Negro leader, one of the most beloved Communist figures in America, will be defeated and will backfire with the detonation of an atom bomb." He continued by stating: "Comrades HITTELMAN and JONES were both framed in a technical immigration charge."

In the "Daily Worker", February 6, 1948, Page 4, Column 1, in the column by ART SHIELDS, entitled "Foster Recalls Past Frame-ups", it was mentioned that WILLIAM Z. FOSTER, National Chairman of the Communist Party had recently commented on the "amazing support that labor defense committees had given persecuted workers and political leaders in America".

On January 20, 1948 Inspector HAROLD W. RAMSEY, of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, advised that CLAUDIA JONES was released on that date with the posting of \$1,000.00 bail at the Immigration Service Office by Attorney IRA GOLLOHIN of the American Committee for the Protection of the Foreign Born.

On January 22, 1948 CLAUDIA JONES headed a "mass mobilized and defense rally for ALEXANDER HITTELMAN, held at Webster Hall, New York City, under the sponsorship of the Morning Freiheit Association, Incorporated. Approximately twelve hundred people attended this rally.

[redacted] and Special Agent [redacted] and [redacted] attended this rally.

(c) [redacted] and agents reported that CLAUDIA JONES addressed the group and related in story form the incidents of her arrest. She admitted that she was a member of the National Committee of the Communist Party. Other speakers at this rally were ABNER GREEN, Executive Secretary of the American Committee for the Protection of the Foreign Born, ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN, WILLIAM Z. FOSTER, BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, all members of the National Committee of the Communist Party, and JOSEPH WINOGRADSKY, Assistant Manager of the Fur and Leather Workers Union, PAUL NOVICK, Editor and Chief of the "Morning Freiheit", HERT ALVES, Head of the Harlem Section of Civil Rights Congress and GEDALIA SANDLER, Executive Secretary of the Jewish People's Fraternal Order.

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On January 23, 1948 "Emergency Conference" to protest the arrest of CLAUDIA JONES was held at the Trade and Commerce building, 2370 Seventh Avenue, Harlem, New York, sponsored by a group headed by DR. CHARLES A. PETIONI, Chairman of the West Indian Negro Congress and member of the American Committee for the Protection of the Foreign Born, BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, ROSE GAULDEN, members of the National Committee of the Communist Party and AUDLEY MOORE, CYRIL PHILLIPS, members of the Harlem Section of the Communist Party.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In the "Daily Worker", January 23, 1948, Page 4, Column 1, there appeared an article announcing the Harlem Conference for CLAUDIA JONES. In this article it was stated that the conference was called by DR. CHARLES PETIONI, Chairman of the West Indian Council and ESTELLE MASSEY RIDDLE of the National Council of Negro Nurses.

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On January 27, 1948, the neighbors in the vicinity of 504 West 143 Street, the residence of CLAUDIA JONES, held a meeting at the apartment of HOWARD "STRETCH" JOHNSON who also resides at this address.

The "Daily Worker" for January 29, 1948, Page 3, Column 1, reported that approximately thirty neighbors attended this meeting. The following was noted in this article: "Fifty tickets to the big HENRY WALLACE meeting at the Golden Gate Auditorium, Lenox Avenue and 140th Street, on February 15, 1948, were sold before the party was over." A neighborhood defense committee for CLAUDIA JONES was formed with Mrs. MERCEDES OWEN elected as Chairman and Mrs. KIND as Secretary.

On February 2nd, 1948, the New York State Committee of the Communist Party sponsored a picket line in front of the headquarters at Immigration and Naturalization Service, 70 Columbus Avenue, New York City. WILLIAM NORMAN, New York State Organizational Secretary and a member of the National Committee, headed the activities of this affair. Approximately one hundred pickets were present and paraded back and forth in front of Immigration and Naturalization Service Headquarters from 11:45 A.M. to 1:15 P.M. The announced purpose of this picket line was to protest the deportation proceedings being carried out by the Department of Justice against CLAUDIA JONES and ALEXANDER BITTELMAN.

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The picket line carried placards calling for the end of the deportation and discrimination against the minority groups. Special Agent [redacted] observed the picketing and noted that the inscriptions on some of the placards were:

"End Department of Justice Attacks On Minorities";

"Tom Clark, Don't Tread On Me"

Under this inscription was a large sketch of the Statue of Liberty;

"Halt U.S. Department of Justice Deportation of Jones and Bittelman";

"Stop Deportation of Jones, Negro Woman Leader";

"Stop Deportation of Alexander Bittelman, New York Jewish Leader";

"Remove Poll Tax Attorney Tom Clark";

"Stop Minority Persecution of Jones and Bittelman".

It was noted that at the bottom of each of the placards was the statement that picketing was sponsored by the New York State Committee of the Communist Party.

From time to time during the period of the picket the members chanted various slogans. Some of the slogans recalled were:

"Let's get rid of Clark and Hoover—Free JONES & BITTELMAN".

"Tom Clark, you can't deport Democracy".

"Mr. TRUMAN, Wall Street Middleman".

At each end of the block members of the Party passed out leaflets issued by the New York State Committee of the Communist Party. Copies of two of these leaflets were obtained. One called for an immediate removal of "Poll Taxer Attorney General Tom Clark from office" and the immediate dismissal of the charges against CLAUDIA JONES and ALEXANDER BITTELMAN. In this pamphlet charges were made that the government is using HITLER's plan to keep the people quiet. The description of the arrest of CLAUDIA is briefly set forth on this pamphlet.

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A second pamphlet distributed to members of the press who attended the picket was a statement of the New York Communist Party. In this statement a review of the arrests of BITTELMAN and JONES was given. The following is quoted from this pamphlet:

"This deportation drive is part of the larger blits to set up a 'police state' in the United States. The witch hunts, Taft-Hartley Law, the unconstitutional activities of the House Un-American Committee, 'loyalty' tests, make up one big campaign which seeks to overthrow the traditional and Constitutional democratic rights of the people."

These two pamphlets are being retained in instant file as exhibits.

A committee of four headed by WILLIAM NORMAN, Organizational Secretary of the New York State Committee and including AUDLEY MOORE, IRVING FREED and GEORGE BLAKE CHARNEY, the latter being members of the New York State Committee of the Communist Party were elected as a delegation to see the District Director of Immigration. At about 12:30 P.M. members of this delegation attempted to enter the building at 70 Columbus Avenue, but were denied entrance by the police when it was made known that the District Director WATKINS was not in the building. At this time the members in the picket line chanted that the delegation should be permitted to see someone in the INS, and they called for democracy to be displayed.

CLAUDIA JONES was observed marching in the picket line from about 12:45 P.M. to 1:00 P.M. She was also seen leaving the picket line with AUDLEY MOORE and ROSE GAULDEN.

In the "Daily Worker", February 3, 1948, Page 7, Column 5, there appeared an announcement that a mass rally "to demand an end to the State Department embargo on arms to Palestine", sponsored by the East Side Sections of the Communist Party will be held on Wednesday, February 4, 1948, at the Grand Central Palace, 90 Clinton Street, New York City. CLAUDIA JONES was listed as one of the principal speakers at this rally.

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On February 9, 1948, the Communist Party sponsored a "Rally for the Defense of Claudia Jones". The rally was held at the Hotel Diplomat, 108 West 43rd Street. The principal speakers were WILLIAM Z. FOSTER, ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN and CLAUDIA JONES.

[REDACTED]

In the "Daily Worker" of February 18th, 1948, Page 10, Column 2, it was announced that CLAUDIA JONES would appear as the principal speaker at a Negro History Week meeting, sponsored by the New Haven Section of the Communist Party on February 18, 1948 at the Ukrainian Hall, 222 Lafayette Street, New Haven, Connecticut.

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On February 21st, 1948, the "Claudia Jones Defense Committee" held a meeting at the Elks Lodge, 160 West 129th Street, New York City. Approximately 150 persons were present at this meeting. RICHARD B. MOORE was Chairman of the meeting. He briefly again related the events surrounding the arrest of CLAUDIA JONES and attempted to point out that this arrest was a political move on the part of the Government to confuse a Third Party move in this country.

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Several pieces of literature were distributed at this meeting consisting of a statement of the proposed plans of action by the "Claudia Jones Defense Committee". In this statement, the following was noted:

"Sunday, February 22, 1948 is to be designated as Claudia Jones Day and is to be celebrated by a tea sponsored by the Women's Committee for Claudia Jones. Beginning the week of February 22, 1948, and extending throughout the week, a drive will be conducted to obtain a minimum of five thousand signatures on a petition to President Truman protesting the arrest of CLAUDIA JONES for deportation."

"On Friday, February 27, 1948, a delegation will take the signed petitions to the Attorney General, TOM CLARK, and Immigration Authorities in Washington." It was also announced that a mass meeting would be held on Sunday, February 29, 1948. The second piece of literature carried a picture of CLAUDIA JONES and was addressed to all organizations, clubs, lodges, churches, societies, and so forth. This pamphlet called for the immediate dismissal of the deportation charges against CLAUDIA JONES and listed the officers and members of the Executive Committee of the Claudia Jones Defense Committee. These officers are listed below:

PROVISIONAL OFFICERS

Chairman	RICHARD B. MOORE *
Vice Chairman	BERTRAM ALVES *
	ADA B. JACKSON *
Executive Secretary	ROSE GAULDEN *
Financial Secretary	HALOIS MOOREHEAD *
Recording Secretary	ELSIE DRAYTON *
Treasurer	CYRIL PHILIP *
Director	AUDLEY MOORE *
Co-Director Women's Committee of 1,000	CLARISSA CUMBO
Publicity Committee	ADELE GLASGOW
Fraternal Committee	SAMUEL PATTERSON *

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

DR. CHARLES A. PETIONI \*  
Councilman BENJAMIN J. DAVIS \*  
ELISE BURKE  
ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN \*  
PATRICIA HARLAND  
OSCAR GREENE  
HORACE MARSHALL  
WINIFRED NORMAN \*  
BEA STAMPER \*  
HOPE R. STEVENS  
MAUDE WHITE \*  
HELEN WORTIS

COUNSEL

HOPE R. STEVENS

(c) [REDACTED]

On February 22nd, 1948, the New York County Communist Party in the name of the Claudia Jones Defense Committee held a reception in honor of CLAUDIA JONES at the Hotel Theresa, 125th Street and Seventh Avenue, New York City.

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(c) [REDACTED]

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From February 23, 1948 to February 29, 1948 was known as CLAUDIA JONES WEEK in Harlem.

The "Daily Worker" of February 23rd, 1948, Page 4, Column 3, reported that the "days of picketing and street corner meetings" were preceding the rally for CLAUDIA JONES on February 29th, 1948 at the Golden Gate Auditorium in Harlem.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In the "Daily Worker" of February 27th, 1948, Page 16, Column 2, it was announced that CLAUDIA JONES appeared at a rally sponsored by the Communist Party of Massachusetts at Boston, Massachusetts on February 26, 1948. The article stated that nearly one thousand dollars was contributed to the defense of CLAUDIA JONES at this meeting.

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