

# A. Robert Kaufman Papers

## at University of Baltimore's Langsdale Library Special Collections

Elizabeth Youle

### Introduction

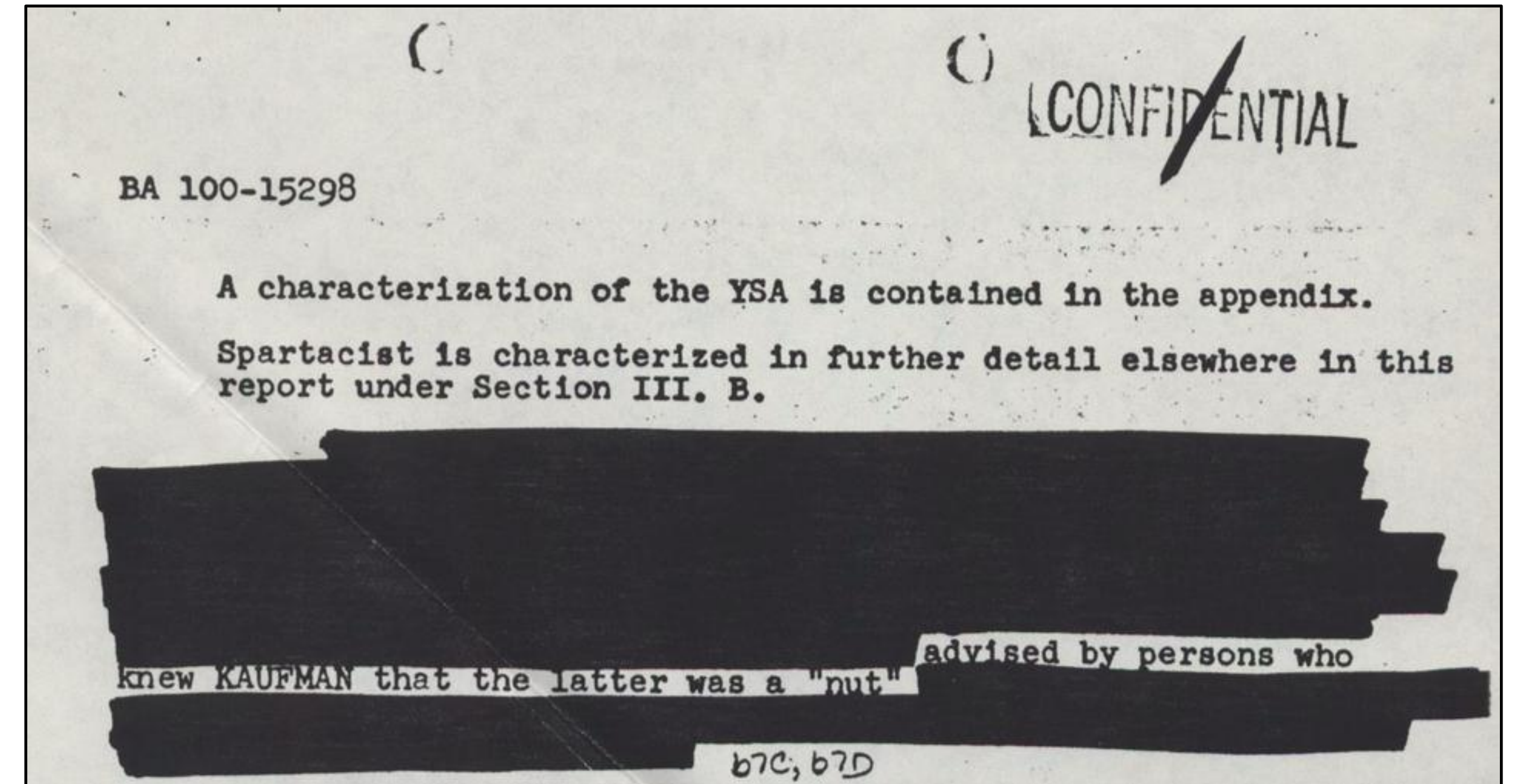
For my field study in Spring 2015 I performed two main functions. The first was for the archival audiovisual collection at the University of Baltimore. I improved online discoverability of digitized video content through enhanced descriptive metadata, performed research using historical newspaper databases, and tagged timecodes through HTML hyperlink tagging. The second part of my project was to process a 3 linear-foot collection of personal papers, the A. Robert Kaufman Papers, and create a finding aid.

A. Robert Kaufman was a passionate activist and political gadfly in Baltimore, Maryland from 1947 until his death in 2009. He was involved with numerous left-wing groups in the region and ran for many political offices including for Baltimore City Council, Baltimore City Mayor, MD Senator, and even US president. His papers offer a dynamic and personal look into the political life of the left in Baltimore City.



### FBI File

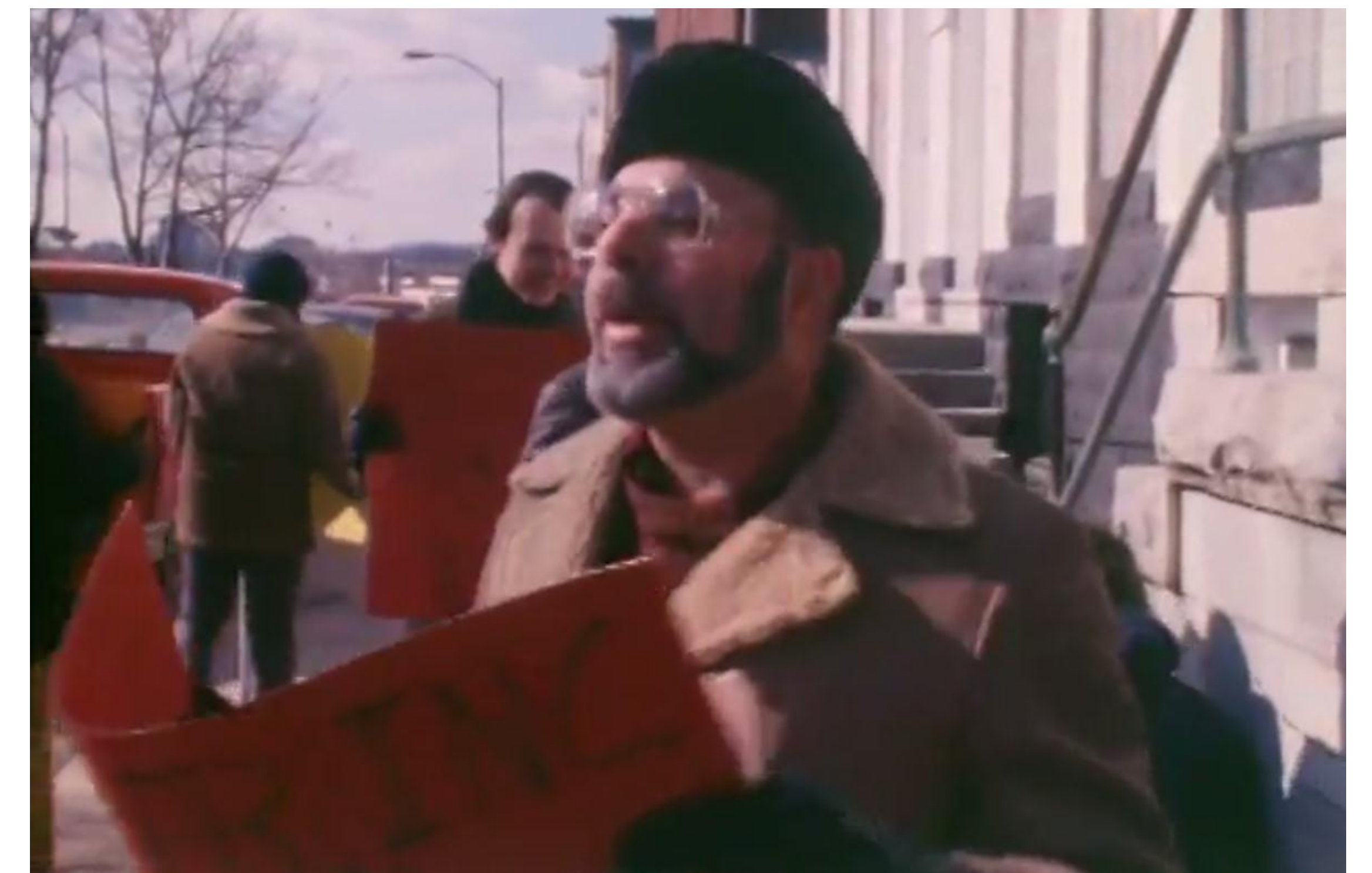
Kaufman requested his FBI file under the Freedom of Information act. His file revealed that he had been surveilled since he was a college student.



Kaufman at age 16 on the picket line to integrate Ford's Theater in Baltimore in 1947. Famed actor, singer, and civil rights activist Paul Robeson is in the foreground.

### Kaufman was involved with:

- City-Wide Coalition
- City-Wide Insurance Coalition
- Jews for Peace
- Baltimore Free School
- TGIF Singles
- Liberated Singles
- Baltimore Green Party
- Baltimore Anti-War Coalition
- Baltimore Teacher's Union
- Central America Solidarity Committee
- Coalition on Voter Registration
- D.C. Labor Film Festival
- People's Campaign for Rent Control
- People's Summit
- Socialist Study Group
- Baltimore Coalition to End War and Terrorism
- New Jewish Agenda
- Citizen's Holocaust Committee



Kaufman's sign reads "MURDER, INC." in 1976 WMAR-TV footage.

### Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Benjamin Blake, Siobhan Hagan, and Aiden Faust at the University of Baltimore, Langsdale Library Special Collections for all of their help with this project.