
Special Report on Radical Activities in the San Francisco District.

[Week Ending Jan. 10, 1920]

by F.W. Kelly

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Report made at: San Francisco
Date When Made: Jan. 10, 1920.
Period for Which Made: Week ending Jan. 10, 1920.
Report Made By: F.W. Kelly
Title and Character of Case: RADICAL ACTIVITIES IN SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT.

Facts Developed:

At San Francisco, California.

Shipbuilders' Strike.

The various plants involved continue to operate and no violence or disturbances resulted from the Picket Line surveillance maintained by the strikers during the past week; no hearings have been held to date on the injunctions prayed for restraining the picketing of plants by strikers.

Communist Labor Party.

Of the 28 warrants received by the Immigration authorities for the apprehension of alien members of the COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY, 21 of the persons so covered were arrested and interviewed by this department on the night and morning of January 2nd and 3rd, as covered by statements and reports of last week.

ALFRED HILKER, for whom a warrant was issued at Portland, Oregon, was apprehended on January 3rd, as a result of telegraphic advice from Portland and Seattle. PAUL ESPERSTEDT was apprehended

in San Francisco on January 5th, 1920. Warrants for all of those arrested have been served by the Immigration authorities and the defendants are now under their supervision. Of those not arrested, two have been definitely located; one in New York City and one in Savannah, Ga. and departmental offices of those cities advised as to their whereabouts.

The arrests by this office did not embrace a single instance of the arrest of a citizen of the United States, the status of citizenship in each instance where affidavits were issued having been authentically determined before any step was taken. Membership in the COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY on the part of those apprehended, however, could only be based on the fact that the SOCIALIST PARTY locals, which they joined, and to which they belong, voted to go over to the COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY in a body.

All records of the COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY relating to membership were either destroyed by members of the American Legion, who raided the State Headquarters at Oakland early in November, or have been kept under cover by the officials of the organization, who have been apprehensive of prosecution under the CRIMINAL SYNDICALIST LAW from the time the formation of the state organization was conceived. In an effort to secure these records, the homes of all officials have been searched by state authorities without avail. Informants directed to ascertain the whereabouts of these records have also failed in securing this information, and assert that the disruption of the organization as a result of CRIMINAL SYNDICALIST prosecutions is such that official de-

defendants are suspicious of each other, and that a number of them are openly accused of being "Stool pigeons."

This department is now conducting an investigation at the places where those aliens denying membership have been employed, and will follow with an investigation in the neighborhood in which they reside, for the purpose of securing evidence of expression of radical convictions or acknowledgment of affiliation with this party, and will endeavor in each instance to furnish the Immigration authorities with evidence that will clearly determine the status of the defendants.

Agent yesterday took up the matter of dependent families among those arrested, and arrange with the Cooperative Charities of Oakland for the care of the single family requiring this attention.

IWW Activities.

All IWW activities in California are now being conducted underground. Censored communications and confidential information indicate that organization activities in the large industrial centers in California have practically ceased as a result of the CRIMINAL SYNDICALIST convictions, and that these activities are now limited to outlying districts where migratory workers are employed and that the recruiting at this time is limited to a few members weekly, and which falls short of the large defection taking place through those not paying dues and who have abandoned the order as a result of the CRIMINAL SYNDICALIST PROSECUTIONS.

INVESTIGATION TO BE

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