
In Re: Communist Activities — Special Report.

by C.J. Scully

DoJ/BoI Investigative Files, NARA M-1085, reel 939, doc. 202600-1775-8.

Report Made At: New York City.

Date When Made: 5/1/21.

Period for Which Made: 4/27-30.

Report Made By: C.J. Scully.

Title and Character of Case: IN RE: COMMUNIST
ACTIVITIES — SPECIAL REPORT.

Facts Developed:

On Wednesday, April 27th, information was communicated to the New York Office over the telephone by the Washington Office of the Bureau to the effect that the Pittsburgh Office of Bureau had under surveillance a man believed to be actively affiliated with one of the Communist organizations, and who was expected to leave Pittsburgh for New York to attend a convention of Communist deputies. Arrangements were made whereby an agent of the Pittsburgh Office would “shadow” the suspect to New York, and this office was prepared to take up the surveillance of the suspect upon arrival here.

Agents [Edward] Anderson and [Albert L.] Weitsman of the New York Office of Bureau were assigned to the matter and kept in touch with the office during the entire night, but no information had been received from either the Pittsburgh or Washington Offices that would tend to show that the suspect had left for this city.

On Thursday, April 28th, information was received from Washington by telephone, to the effect that the suspect, whose name had been given as FLYNN [Edward Lindgren], would leave Pittsburgh tonight at 11:15 o'clock, via Pennsylvania Railroad, and was due to arrive in New York early tomorrow morning. The suspect was described as being about 5'6", 155 pounds, wearing black derby, mixed dark

suit, light hair, looks like a Pole; has anchor tattooed on right hand and numerals “1893” on left hand. It was ascertained that Agent Daniel Tatom of the Pittsburgh Office would show the man to this city.

Immediately upon receipt of the aforementioned information, Agents Weitsman, Anderson, and [J.F.] Loren were directed to be at the Pennsylvania Terminal, this city, early tomorrow morning to take up the surveillance on Flynn [Lindgren].

From the information obtained from the various agents assigned to this investigation, Flynn [Lindgren] proceeded to 226 West 41st Street, a printing shop, where he remained for some time. At this point of the investigation Director Flynn was advised as to what had transpired, and he directed that the information in the possession of this office be turned over to the local Police, and that we render every assistance possible in assisting said Police in making this investigation.

From the telephonic reports receive from the agents, it appears that during the day, after a successful surveillance of Flynn [Lindgren], he was seen to hand over a large package to a man whose identity is unknown. This stranger was then shadowed by one of the Police Officers and an agent, and it was found that he entered a house located at 170 Bleecker Street, where said stranger entered the apartment of one HELEN WARE, said HELEN WARE believed to be a daughter of ELLA REEVES BLOOR.

Shortly after this package was delivered at the aforementioned address, 6 men were seen to enter. In the interim, the agents engaged in shadowing Flynn [Lindgren] stated that they had followed him to a restaurant located on St. John's Place, near Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn, where he had met an elderly woman, and together the subject and woman visited a moving

picture theatre. This information was immediately furnished to Detective Sergeant GEGAN, in charge of the New York Police Bomb Squad, both by agent and by his (Gegan's) detectives assigned to the case, and Gegan decided about 8 pm to enter the premises at 170 Bleecker Street and ascertain what was going on in that place. These premises were entered by Detective Sergeant Gegan and his officers, together with Agents Loren and Andeson, and later they were joined by Agents Dillon, Starr, and Haas.

At this place Detective Sergeant Gegan seized an immense quantity of Communist and radical literature, and placed under arrest ISRAEL AMTER, 205 Brook Avenue, Bronx, claiming to be a citizen of the United States, and A. JAKIRA, an alien. Both of these men were brought to Police Headquarters, as was the seized literature. Later in the evening, at the direction of Detective Sergeant Gegan, Police Detective KILEY took the man known as Flynn [Lindgren] into custody and brought him to Police Headquarters, arriving about midnight.

Flynn [Lindgren] was questioned regarding his identity and he refused to furnish any information whatsoever other than to state that his name was JOHN EDWARD SEIBERT, residing at 2756 East 27th Street, Brooklyn, New York, and at first denied having been in Pittsburgh, but admitted arriving here from that city early today.

Prior to Seibert [Lindgren] leaving the Pennsylvania Terminal, and upon his arrival in this city, he checked a typewriter and a hand grip, both of which were later brought to Police Headquarters, and in his hand grip, as well as in the possession of the prisoner at the time of his arrest, there appeared sufficient data to show that Seibert [Lindgren] was an active organizer for an organization known as the YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE, and that he was traveling about extensively during the past three or four weeks. His papers also showed that he had been using the name of LANDY and SMITH.

Prior to Seibert [Lindgren] being taken into custody, Agents Daniel Tatom and Loren, who were also engaged in shadowing him in this city, noticed that Seibert [Lindgren] deposited in two different mailboxes a number of packages. Those witnessed by Loren were traced to the Main Post Office, until such times as a search warrant could be secured. (Arrangements are

now being made to have a search warrant issued and you will be advised on this point as soon as said search warrant has been served).

Agent Tatom called at the office of Bureau after leaving the Post Office, and stated that while he was not fully familiar with the details concerning the subject, he had heard that Flynn's [Lindgren's] true name was MACALPINE. For your information, MacAlpine is a fugitive from justice, the New York Police Department having had a warrant for his arrest on charges of "Criminal Anarchy" for some time.

At Police Headquarters a hasty examination was made of the literature seized, and there was found a large quantity of correspondence showing in detail the workings of the YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE, as well as the names and addresses of their agents and organizers throughout the United States. There were a number of typewritten manifestoes, as well as minutes of the various secret meetings held by the groups. However, in these minutes the names given are fictitious.

Several large maps, showing notations thereon, ostensibly the outline of organization work of the Young Communist League, were found among the data taken by the Police.

At this writing, through Agent Tucker, it has been learned that MRS. SEIBERT [Lindgren], residing at 2755 East 27th Street, up to a short time ago was a widow and that she had married ERNEST LINDGREN, and that in Agent Tucker's opinion Lindgren and Seibert are one and the same. To definitely ascertain this, Detective Sergeant Gegan has sent for one of his former detectives, who is acquainted with Lindgren, to come to Headquarters and see the prisoner.

After the seizure was made by the Police at 170 Bleecker Street, Agent Loren found a document, which document read as follows:

Letter of Introduction.

To Comrade Ganetski-Fuerstenberg,
Hotel Bellevue, Riga, Latvia.

Comrade Ilyin Asnewsky,
Liban, Latvia;

Or Others Whom It May Concern:

Comrades:

This will introduce to you Comrade Julius Farber, who

is known to us and in whose behalf we solicit your kind consideration.

Dated, New York, April 16th, 1921.

(sgd.) Charles Recht.
(typewritten) Charles Recht.

Attorney for Ludwig C.A.K. Martens.

Description.

Signature (sgd.) Julius Farber

Age 40.

Height 5 ft. 11 1/2 in.

Weight 150 lbs.

Eyes brown.

Hair black.

Complexion dark

Distinctive Marks none.

Citizen of the United States.

(Photograph of Farber with name of Julius Farber signed in ink as well as the name of Charles Recht, also signed in ink, across the photograph.)

On the back of this appeared a vise No. 5641, dated April 16, 1921, bearing the signature of John J. Kalnin, Latvian Consular Agent for America.

A photostat copy of the above is hereto attached. It might be called to your attention that Farber and Amter are one and the same person. I personally questioned Amter on this, and he stated that he is a writer of music, and that it was his intention to visit Soviet Russia to advance his musical knowledge. That his purpose in assuming a fictitious name was so that the name of Farber could not be connected with Amter. Beyond this Amter refused to make any explanation, other than he had visited the office of CHARLES RECHT; that Recht had given him the document and that same had been vised on the back by John J. Kalnin, Consular General of Latvia.

Early today the Police visited the printing shop located at 226 West 41st Street, where they seized a large quantity of Communist May Day circulars, together with radical documents and literature. Agents of this office have been assigned to assist the Police Detectives in making a careful examination of the papers seized, and you will be kept advised accordingly.

In the apartment of Helen Ware there was found a loaded revolver, which the Police confiscated, but the ownership of which was denied by Jakira, Amter, and Mrs. Ware.

It has been reported that the data secured at the

printing shop is even of more value to the Government and State than that found in the Ware apartment, as it shows the secret meetings of several radical organizations.

It will take at least a week or ten days to have detailed report submitted as to the contents of the data seized.

It is the opinion of the officials of the Police Department that the papers found in this investigation are of far more value than any papers heretofore seized by either the Government or State, or by any investigative agency.

The three defendants were arraigned by the Police today (April 30th), in the First District Magistrate's Court, before Magistrate Simpson, who upon hearing the charges preferred by the Police, held all three without bail under the State Anarchy Act. The attorneys representing the defendants then appealed to Judge McIntyre of the Criminal Court, who fixed the bail bond at \$50,000 in each case, and according to information received by this office, furnished by a Police Officer, Judge McIntyre when asked to consider a lower bail bond, stated that he could not do so inasmuch as the matter evidently savored of treason.

Detective Sergeant Gegan later advised by telephone that Patrolman MICHAEL ORLOWSKY had positively identified Seibert as being EDWARD LINDGREN, one of the most active Communists in the United States, and who it is believed represented the United States at the recent meeting of the Third International in Russia, under the name of Flynn.

The statements carried in today's newspapers concerning the arrests and investigations, is the result of information furnished by Detective Sergeant Gegan late Friday night, at Police Headquarters, in the presence of a number of Police officers and Agents of this office. The account, however, appearing in the daily papers is misleading, and is not reported upon the information given by Mr. Gegan. For your information, there was absolutely no trouble or violence whatsoever. However, it might be called to your attention that the woman calling herself Mrs. Seibert, but who we believe to be Mrs. Lindgren, struck Agent Weitsman at the time her husband was being placed under arrest by Police Detective KILEY.

A circular was found entitled "RULES FOR UNDERGROUND PARTY WORK," issued by the

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF AMERICA. Photostat copies of this circular are hereto attached. Also, please find samples of posters issued by the UNITED COMMUNIST PARTY, which posters were found at the printing shop located at 225 West 41st Street.

C.J. Scully,
Special Agent.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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