
Bureau of Investigation Outline for the Interrogation of Radical Aliens and Instructions for Its Use [circa Jan. 1, 1920]

by Frank Burke

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Instructions for Use of the Following Outline of Examination.

In examining aliens for deportation on the ground of membership in Communist or Communist Labor parties the chief points to be established are:

1. Present membership;
2. Alienship; and
3. Activities for or on behalf of the organization.

Other matters, however, are of great interest. The attached outline of examination is suggested.

Do not follow strictly the wording of this outline as the formality thereof puts the alien on his guard and has a tendency to keep him from talking. Adopt an attitude and form of speech required by the particular examination. The outline is serviceable only to keep the examiner from omitting to cover all points. Use simple language the alien can understand. Keep repeating in different wording until you are sure he does understand. Do not frame the questions in such a way as to suggest untruthful answers. For example, do not say at first "Are you a member of the Communist Party?, etc." but rather "When did you join the Communist Party?" or "What did you do with your membership card?" "What local organization of the Communist Party do you belong to?" or others of that nature.

If you are convinced that the alien is untruthful in his answers do not be satisfied but argue with him

and cross-examine severely, gaining admissions if possible, and if not possible, establish case against him by other proof.

If alien's answers suggest sidelines of examination, be sure to follow these out.

If no stenographer is available, make notes of answers on questionnaire and rewrite later in report form.

This questionnaire is to be used in connection with the letter of confidential instructions, issued by the Bureau, of date December 27, 1919.

Frank Burke,
Chief.

1. Name and if a woman so state.
2. Address.
3. Date of birth and age.
4. Birthplace in detail.
5. Married or single.
6. Number of children and where born.
7. Date of arrival in US.
8. Port of embarkment and port of arrival.
9. Name of steamship and steamship line.
10. Did subject formally pass through immigration authorities at port of arrival and pay prescribed head tax.
11. Name of relatives, if any, in US and their addresses.

12. Inquire whether Socialist, IWW, Communist or Communist Labor, Anarchist, Syndicalist, or member Union of Russian Workers.

13. If member of any of above specify how long and ascertain definite location of headquarters of same, names and addresses of secretary and other officers of organization concerned, local or otherwise. What did he do when he became a member as to signing anything or paying dues. Did subject ever hold an office in the organization.

14. Specify in detail any aliases used by subject.

15. Has subject ever declared his intention to become naturalized; If so, specify Court — State or Federal — and date.

16. Does subject intend to remain in United States?

17. Does subject approve of present government in US?

18. Is subject in favor of the Soviet form of government in Russia?

19. Does or is subject:

- (a) An anarchist.
- (b) Advocate or teach anarchy.
- (c) Believe in, or advocate, or teach, the overthrow by force or violence of the Government of the United States.
- (d) Believe in, or advocate, or teach, the overthrow by force or violence of all forms of law.
- (e) Disbelieve in, or opposed to, all organized government.
- (f) Advocate, or teach, the assassination of public officials.
- (g) Advocate, or teach, the unlawful destruction of property.
- (h) Member of, or affiliated with, any organization that entertains a belief in, teaches, or advocates the overthrow by force or violence of the Government of the United States.
- (i) Member of, or affiliated with, any organization that entertains a belief in, teaches, or advocates, the overthrow by

force or violence of all forms of law.

- (j) Member of, or affiliated with, an organization that entertains or teaches disbelief in, or opposition to all organized government.
- (k) Member of, or affiliated with, an organization that teaches the duty, necessity, or propriety of the unlawful assaulting or killing of any officer or officers, either of specific individuals, or of officers generally of the Government of the United States, or of any other organized government, because of his or their official character.
- (l) Member of, or affiliated with, an organization that advocates or teaches the unlawful destruction of property.

20. Does subject believe in the One Big Union of workers.

21. If subject is an IWW, does he believe in sabotage or subscribe, believe in, or adhere to the principles announced in the preamble of the IWW organization.

22. What periodicals, newspapers, or other writings does the subject read?

23. Does subject believe conditions of workers in this country to be satisfactory. If answer no — What methods he advocates to improve conditions.

24. Did subject participate in, actively or passively, any revolutionary movement in Europe or his native country? If so, specify details.

25. Ascertain and specify in each instance what lodges, clubs, organizations, or associations, benevolent or otherwise, subject belongs to.

26. Does subject attend radical lectures or meetings and if so, where?

27. Does subject advocate the overthrow of so-called Imperialistic Capitalist Governments? If so, by what means does he believe such overthrow should be brought about?

28. Have subject identify as many as possible other aliens who are members of the organization under consideration.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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