
First Telegram to Agents in Charge of Offices of the Bureau of Investigation, from J. Edgar Hoover in the name of Frank Burke, Assistant Director and Chief, Dec. 31, 1919

Document in DoJ/BoI Investigative Files, NARA M-1085, reel 931, file 313846.

JEH:MH
Code

December 31, 1919

Doyas, †
Federal Bldg.
Baltimore

You should at once make every effort to ascertain whether any aliens connected with editorial boards your territory of communist papers. Particularly desirable that these persons be taken into custody at time of arrests. If affidavits have not already been submitted upon these persons advise reason and delay as same should have been covered in original lot of affidavits. Desire that you at once submit copies of affidavits already forwarded to this department to local Immigration Inspector. Immigration Inspectors under instruction to communicate with you Friday morning, January 2nd [1920] for the purpose of cooperating in arrests of Communists. Warrants for arrests of all communists have been mailed the Immigration Inspectors. Same will be delivered to you by Immigration Inspectors and you will serve these warrants at time which will later be designated. No change in present plan for

arrests to be made evening January second. You will however be advised definitely as to this date. Every effort should be made by you to definitely establish fact of subject being an alien and member of Communist Party or of Communist Labor Party before arrests. Policy of bureau is to have perfect cases rather than a large number of arrests. Particular attention should be given to form in which evidence is collected in order that same may be immediately turned over to Immigration Inspectors and hearings start at once. You should give all cooperation and assistance to Immigration Inspectors in these matters. No seizure of personal effects or belongings not necessary for evidence should be made by you. Documentary evidence connecting subject with party or documentary evidence on party is the only evidence which should be taken. You should be guided in securing same by local conditions and as pointed out in my confidential letter you should obtain search warrants where necessary. Wire at once whether all arrangements in your territory have been made and whether your office is in condition to adequately handle the matter when ordered to proceed. Five Stop.

Burke. Chief.

†- Although this particular specimen was sent to William M. Doyas of the Baltimore office of the Bureau of Investigation, it is believed that copies of this communication were sent to all offices.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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