
**Second 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

Re: arrests of Communists. Warrants for members of Communist Labor Party and Communist Party now in hands of Immigration Inspectors your district. Confer at once with Inspectors for purpose of cooperation. Arrests of members covered by warrants and affidavits are to be made Friday evening January second nineteen twenty at nine pm eastern time. No arrests should be made of persons not aliens and who are not members of or affiliated with Communist Party of America or Communist Labor Party. Under no conditions are American citizens to be apprehended. Where any mistake of this nature is made and a citizen is taken into custody his

case is to be immediately referred to state authority for action. Desire that each subject taken into custody be thoroughly examined and you should prepare at once a set of questions to be asked each subject bringing out fact that subject is alien comma date of arrival in the United States comma and affiliation or membership with either of the parties under investigation. This statement should be taken stenographically and sworn to or affirmed by alien. Effort has been made to supply sufficient agents for the purpose of carrying out arrests in your district. Assistance of local police authorities should only be used where absolutely necessary and should not be requested until a few hours before arrests in order to avoid any leak. Of utmost importance that charge of membership be proven in each case. Where alien refused to admit membership detailed examination should be made to bring out communistic views of subject basing examination on contents of memorandum brief forwarded to you. Particular attention should be given to the manner in which evidence is col-

†- 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.

lected in order that Immigration authorities have no difficulty in the handling of the hearings of the cases. No arrests should be made of any persons connected with other organizations than the Communist Party and the Communist Labor Party. Arrests should all be completed and examinations concluded by Saturday morning January third nineteen twenty and full report forwarded by special delivery addressed attention Mr. Hoover. I desire that you wire this office by nine am Saturday morning January third nineteen twenty giving number of persons arrested comma nationality comma and any other interesting and important pieces of evidence secure. The department in Washington will issue statement Saturday January third on national aspect of raids. Statement may be issued by you covering local situation. This statement should not be given out before ten am Saturday morning January third nineteen twenty. Make every effort to obtain perfect cases and to fully conduct and conclude the arrests in your district. Five Stop.

Burke. Chief.

Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport.

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