
“The Red Evening”:

Bureau of Investigation Report on the Mass Meeting Held at West Side Auditorium, Chicago, Nov. 1, 1919.

by Jacob Spolansky

Document in DoJ/BoI Investigative Files, NARA M-1085, reel 922, file 154434.

Report made by: J. Spolansky.

Place where made: Chicago, Ill.

Date when made: Nov. 3, 1919.

Period for which made: Nov. 1, 1919.

*Title of case and offenses charged or
nature of matter under investigation:*

In re: “The Red Evening” Meeting and entertainment held by the Russian Communist Federation at the West Side Auditorium, Saturday Evening, November 1, 1919.

*Statement of operations, evidence collected, names and
addresses of persons interviewed, places visited, etc.:*

AT CHICAGO:

Acting upon the instructions of Division Superintendent Edward J. Brennan, I had Confidential Informant #43 attend this meeting, held at the West Side Auditorium under the auspices of the Russian Communist Federation. *M. Ruchilis* was chairman and introduced a Lettish orchestra, and while doing so made the following remark:

“In spite of the policy of the Imperialistic government which has surrounded Russia with an iron ring, the Red Armies of Russia are fighting and are destroying everything in their way. They are paving the way for a social revolution in every country in the world and we have convened here tonight to show to our Russian comrades that we hear their call, and that we are ready for this revolution in this country.”

The chairman then introduced the Lettish orchestra, who played “The Internationale” and Lettish and Lithuanian choruses, after which Alexander Stoklitsky spoke, and among other things stated as follows:

“Just a year ago our ‘machine gun government’ was running around from hand to hand and hollered that we are fighting to make the world safe for democracy. What do we see now? All those beautiful words as have been proclaimed by Mr. Wilson are nothing but damnable lies! Instead of democracy, we have autocracy and the worst kind of autocracy that ever existed. We are facing a tremendous task. We are about to offer enormous sacrifices on the alter of freedom. Don’t let those things scare you, comrades, there will be many comrades of ours in prison, tortured, killed, but that should not stop you. There has been no freedom won without sacrifices, and tonight we are assembled here for the purpose of extending our proletarian solidarity to the working class our Russia — our brothers. We pledge our lives for the great cause of Communism. So onward, comrades, in the name of Communism, onward! In the name of the final triumph of the international proletariat — onward!”

The attendance was about 1700, the majority being Russians.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing Corvallis, OR, 2007. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.