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# In re: Bolsheviki Activities

## [Nov. 11, 1918]

by Charles M. Robinton

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*Report Made By:* Charles M. Robinton.

*Place Where Made:* Boston, Mass.

*Date When Made:* Nov. 29, 1918.

*Period for Which Made:* Nov. 11, '18.

*Title of Case and Offense Charged or Matter Under Investigation:*

### **In re: Bolsheviki Activities** (Revolutionary Matter)

*Statement of Operations, Evidence Collected, Names and Addresses  
of Persons Interviewed, Places Visited, Etc.:*

#### **At Boston, Mass.**

Pursuant to instructions of Division Superintendent [John J.] Kelleher and in response to a telephone message from a sailor stationed at Commonwealth Pier that a body of "Reds" passed Atlantic Ave., headed towards the South Station carrying red banners and red signs, Agent accompanied by Agents [John] Dow, [Albert] Lyon, and [William] Hill proceeded to the South Station and sometime later caught up with the procession carrying red banners on Washington St. Agent accompanied by Agent Dow followed the parade up Washington St. and made note of the following inscriptions on what appeared to be hastily painted signs in red on white cardboard:

- (1) "Long Live the Workers' Republic"  
"Bolsheviki"  
"Workers Unite and Break Your Chains"
- (2) "Red Dawn" and on reverse side  
"Free Mooney"
- (3) "Open the Jail and Free Debs"

In front of the procession alongside of a stan-

dard-bearer with the Stars and Stripes there was carried a large red banner inscribed in gold letters "Boston Council of the Socialist Party." Immediately behind that there was a large red plain banner without any inscription and most all of those in the procession carried plain red banners. The procession headed for the headquarters at 885 Washington St. and Agent counted 43, of which about 10 were women, who participated in this parade. When they filed upstairs to their headquarters there were about 150 or 200 already present there.

Louis C. Fraina, associate editor of the magazine *Class Struggle* of New York city took the platform and made a short address, announcing that there would be a meeting at the Dudley Street Opera House that evening, also stating that while the marchers were parading that a meeting was held at the Dudley Street Opera House during the day at which it was proposed to issue a new paper entitled the *Revolutionary News*, which was to appear, at first, 3 times a week and later to become a daily.

*Fraina* stated that at the meeting held that afternoon at the Dudley Street Opera House, which is the headquarters of the Lettish [Latvian] Socialist and Revolutionary Organization, that over \$500 was contributed towards this paper, and he requested those who wished to contribute to step up to the desk and put down their names and make payments to Miss Minnie Federmann, their secretary, a request to which quite a few responded.

Cheers were then given for the American Bolshevik Republic, for the Russian Soviet Government, for the German Revolution and Bolshevik Movements, for Tom Mooney and for Debs — not all under the one head but separately proposed by different ones

present.

Agent then communicated with the office by phone reporting the proposed meeting at the Dudley Street Opera House. This meeting, which began at 8:00 pm, was covered by Agent, together with Agents Weiss, West, Lyon, Mill, Nolan, and Donovan. Speeches were made in English by Louis C. Fraina, which Agent believes have been covered by Agent Weiss in his report.

*Mr. Jacob Klawa*, a Lettish [Latvian] revolutionary agitator, spoke briefly in Russian for the benefit of the Russians present. Then held quite a lengthy discourse in Lettish. In his Russian remarks he referred to the freedom which the Russian workers have established for themselves and which the German workers were just establishing and he hoped soon to see such freedom established here in the United States and he hoped it would not be long before a war would be started for such freedom here. He stated that King George of England sent a communication to the Kaiser who had escaped to Holland saying that there were

too many Socialists in Holland and that Holland was not a safe place for him and, therefore, invited him to come to England where he would be safe, whereas if he remained in Holland the Socialists would kill him. Then pointing to the audience said, "You see, they stick up for one another." This latter statement of the speaker's, Agent considers a fabrication of Mr. Klawa's imagination since it does not appear that anyone else has seen any such report and it is Agent's opinion that the speaker intentionally made the statement in order to arouse the feeling in the audience against England.

It was announced that a meeting would be held on the Boston Common the next day, Tuesday [Nov. 12, 1918], in the afternoon.

After the meeting Agent ascertained that those who carried red banners in the parade which took place in the afternoon were *Testa*, *Schneider*, and *Tufts*, who took turns in carrying same during the progress of the parade.

This investigation will be *continued*.

***Edited by Tim Davenport.***

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