

REPORT MADE BY:

American Pro. League

[*editor: The American Protective League was an American organization of private citizens that worked with Federal law enforcement agencies during the World War I era to identify suspected German sympathizers and to counteract the activities of radicals, anarchists, anti-war activists, and left-wing labor and political organizations.*]

PLACE WHERE MADE:

Chicago, Ill.

DATE WHEN MADE:

9/26/18

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE:

9/23/18

TITLE OF CASE AND OFFENSE CHARGED OR NATURE OF MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION:

In Re: Harry Harné[sic], 1255 N. Dearborn St.

NEUTRALITY

STATEMENT OF OPERATION. EVIDENCE COLLECTED. NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED, PLACES VISITED, ETC.

IN REPORTING PLEASE REFER TO CASE #27756 A.P.L. CHICAGO

At Chicago

Special Agent George reports:

Subject appeared at the office of the Bureau on the invitation of operatives of the League and was interrogated by Agent. He stated that since March of this year he has been living at 1214 N. State St. He was born in Fairabault [sic], Minnesota, forty-four years ago. Is registered for the draft at Local Board #46. Has been a member of the Socialist party for eight years and once a week delivers to subscribers The Chicago Socialist, a newspaper published in this City. He states that he is a millwright by trade and at the present time is working for the Washburn Crosby Co. at Deering, where he is superintending the installing of milling machinery at this plant. He is unmarried and has been living in Chicago for the past six years. He stated that he has not purchased any Liberty Bonds, but has about \$300.00 on deposit in the Postal Savings Bank and his reason for not using any of this money for the purchase of Bonds is that he had a severe illness about three years ago, which cost him about \$1200.00 and he wanted to have some ready money always on hand, as this illness cost him about \$1200.00. In addition he claims to be supporting a nephew. He denied that he was opposed to the war or had any criticism of the Government, although he did state that as a Socialist, he was opposed to war in general. He further admitted that he was quite active in the Socialist party.

REPORT MADE BY:  
W.H. KERRICK

PLACE WHERE MADE:  
BLOOMINGTON, ILL.

DATE WHEN MADE:  
DECEMBER 16, 1919

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE:  
Dec 14.

TITLE OF CASE AND OFFENSE CHARGED OR NATURE OF MATTER UNDER  
INVESTIGATION:

HARRY HARN – I.W.W. – ARCOLA ILLINOIS

*[editor: I.W.W. refers to Industrial Workers of the World, an international industrial union that was formed in 1905. The IWW's goal was to promote worker solidarity in the revolutionary struggle to overthrow the employing class.]*

STATEMENT OF OPERATION. EVIDENCE COLLECTED. NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF  
PERSONS INTERVIEWED, PLACES VISITED, ETC.

*[editor: Multiple ink stamps, 'File M.J.D.', 'Noted F.D.W.' and 'RADICAL DEC 1919']*

Communication by E.H. Peiffer

Arcola dated November 15, to the Department of Justice at Danville Illinois forwarded to Julius Rosin by U.S. Attorney Burnside, requesting investigation of this matter was sent to me by Special Agent Rosin of Springfield.

I received also a communication directed to me presumably from Mr. Peiffer, dated November 27<sup>th</sup>, regarding this same matter.

Having made investigations at Urbana and Champaign December 13<sup>th</sup> I went to Arcola from Champaign arriving at 1 A.M. Sunday morning.

I immediately conferred with Mr. Peiffer early the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup>. Also with Mr. Lyons, attorney at Arcola and Mr. Quirk, banker.

During my conference with Mr. Quirk at the bank near the Hotel where HARN rooms, attorney Lyons came to the Bank and informed me that "HARN is already going" meaning that he was in an argument at the hotel with hotel guests and others at the hotel.

This was 10 A.M. Going to the Hotel I listened to arguments between HARN and others continuously until 2 P.M. No stop for dinner.

I then conferred with Mr. Peiffer and Mr. Quirk the banker and we concluded that HARN had not said enough at this time or perhaps at other times to convict him of any seditious utterances or other violations of law.

The citizens of Arcola, Attorney Lyons, and others insisted that something be done to quiet HARN or get him out of Arcola as it has been already rumored that he would be tarred and feathered or some violence used against him if he remained longer.

I conferred with Dr. Moser, Mayor of Arcola, and also with City Marshal G. M. Smith the latter having a son in the service in France, at this time, also a nephew still in the service and one nephew killed in the service.

I arranged with the Mayor and the Police Officer to have HARN taken into the city hall where I might interview him in the presence of some of the city officials.

I also conferred with his employer, J.N. Ernest who requested that if I do so to see that HARN left Arcola before anything serious occurred.

I directed HARN to accompany me to the City Hall where upon our arrival about 3 P.M. a number of persons had assembled. The Mayor being there, three of the aldermen, a few businessmen, City Marshal Smith, and about twenty Legion boys. More than Agent desired to be present but saw no way to prevent it.

During the interview with HARN at the city hall he stated that he was forty-five years of age, Born Faribault Minnesota. Parents born in the United States. A single man. Two brothers, one a farmer in Iowa. The other in railroad service.

HARN has been employed at Arcola by the Ernest Elevator Company placing machinery in the elevator for the firm of B.F. Gump & Co. Iron Contractors of Chicago. He has been in Arcola about five weeks. His pay is \$1.25 per hour.

During the investigation he stated that he had been receiving this rate of pay \$10.00 per day during the last four years.

He had talked at every opportunity since coming to the Hotel where he had staid all of the time at Arcola, on I.W.W. doctrines, praising the Soviet Government in Russia as the working man's Government.

During the argument at the Hotel from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. where I heard him talk, he stated a number of times that he was an I.W.W also a Communist, and would like to get a passport to Russia.

During the afternoon interview he said he would like to go to Russia because he would like to live under a working man's Government and see how it worked.

Making this statement there were a number of offers made to assist him in securing such passports.

He stated further during the interview that notwithstanding the fact that he had been earning \$10.00 a day for the last four years he had not purchased a single Liberty Bond or W.S.S. [*editor: War Savings Stamps*] nor had he given one cent to any of the calls for war purposes, Red Cross [*sic*], Y.M.C.A., Knights of Columbus, Jewish Relief Fund, Salvation Army or any other matter whatever concerning the war. This admission from his brought violent protests against his remaining longer in Arcola.

This taken into consideration with all of his I.W.W. propaganda which he had been spreading since he had been there, he having distributed a considerable amount of I.W.W. literature, generally among young men as I learned from the Hotel Proprietor, caused considerable feeling against him.

I learned that the Hotel was anxious to have him leave. Hearing his admissions at the city hall, his employer Mr. Ernest requested that he leave Arcola, and immediately telephoned by long distance to Chicago directing that the company send another man to complete the installing of the elevator machinery.

During the afternoon interview Mayor Moser put a motion to those present concerning the loyalty or disloyalty of HARN as a citizen. This immediately following his admissions that he had been

receiving \$10.00 a day for four years and had done absolutely nothing to help the Government during the War period and designated him as a Traitor to his country. The vote was unanimous that he was disloyal and a traitor to the country. Continuing a little further Mayor Moser put another motion as to whether it was safe for HARN to remain longer in Arcola. The Mayor, the alderman, business men, and everyone else including about twenty Legion Boys, voted that he was not safe in Arcola and should leave on the first train.

HARN was indeed anxious to comply with this direction from the Mayor.

The mayor after the vote said "You see what the people of Arcola think of you. My suggestion is that you leave on the first train providing it is satisfactory to the Government Officer."

I knew of no reason why he should not leave as he had not said enough to warrant an arrest and conviction in the Courts.

Mayor Moser directed that City Marshall Smith take him into custody and see that no harm befell him while he secured his tools and effects at the Hotel and accompany him to the 5:30 P.M. Illinois Central Train as he said he desired to go to Chicago.

Going after his tools he begged the officer to use every effort to see that he did not get beat up before he left Town.

The Legion boys agreed to see to it that no harm befell him but gave him to understand before he left the City Hall that they would see to it that he left on the first train.

The Train was three hours late. At the station there was a large crowd probably forty Legion boys to see HARN off.

He purchased a ticket for Chicago and left Arcola at 8:30 P.M.

Agent returned from Arcola to Champaign and Urbana on the same train.

Arriving at Arcola I learned immediately that something must be done to avoid serious trouble or HARN and it would not have been proper for Agent to have left without something being done. The course followed appeared to be the best one under the circumstances as HARN in fact was driven from this town. It will have a very good influence upon others of his kind who may possibly be lurking about in other cities in that territory.

Arcola is a small city of about twenty four hundred inhabitants in Coles County Illinois.

I secured a quantity of I.W.W. literature from his room but nothing other than what I have secured from many other places and have forward to the Department, except the enclosed "The Red Dawn" "What to do" "The Proletarian."

I also secured a copy of the "Everett Massacre" which the Department no doubt has received from other sources.

Also "Soviet Russia."

*[editor: "The Everett Massacre" (also known as Bloody Sunday) was an armed confrontation between local authorities and members of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) union. It took place in Everett, Washington on Sunday, November 5, 1916.*

*"The Red Dawn" was by George Harrison in 1917-18, being the first pro-Soviet pamphlet published in the United States.]*

Twelve hours.

COPIES TO

AGENT ROSIN

SPRINGFIELD

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

DANVILLE

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