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United States Civil Service Commission Report of Investigation

Bern Porter

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UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

NAME BERNARD HARDEN PORTER	ADDRESS 2009 Lee High Drive Huntsville, Alabama
DATE OF BIRTH February 14, 1911	PLACE OF BIRTH Houlton, Maine
POSITION Not Shown	AGENCY UNESCO
TYPE OF CASE Full Field	CSC CASE SERIAL NO. 4.24.67.638
PLACE(S) OF INVESTIGATION [REDACTED]	PLACE(S) OF RECORD SEARCH
DATE(S) OF INVESTIGATION January 18 and 25, 1967	NAME OF INVESTIGATOR [REDACTED]

Information in this report has been obtained under a pledge of confidence. The sources of information must not be disclosed to the person investigated. The information must not be discussed with him in a manner which would reveal or permit him to deduce its source. However, these restrictions do not apply to (1) information of public record; (2) information from law enforcement records; and (3) information from Federal personnel records which could be obtained on request by the employee.

This report is the property of the United States Civil Service Commission and may be recalled at any time. Transfer of this report to another agency is not permitted without prior consent of the Commission. The report and its contents must be safeguarded in a manner to prohibit unauthorized disclosure. Access is to be limited to those persons whose official duties require it.

The testimony of all witnesses is given in substance unless indicated by quotation marks.

SYNOPSIS

Period covered: Approximately [REDACTED] intermittently to the present. No derogatory information developed. Local police files contain no record. Date of birth was not corroborated.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I have known Bernard Porter for [REDACTED] years or longer as a guess. I know him fairly well, although I do not consider myself a close associate of his. He is an Atomic Physicist and quite an intellectual person.

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He is also an artist and a publisher. I think he is a graduate of Dartmouth University, but I am not sure which one it is. [REDACTED] ten years ago, he lived in San Francisco and part of that time lived in Sausalito, where he ran a contemporary art gallery. As I recall, this was in the early 1940's although I am not sure of the date.

I haven't seen Bernie for quite some time, although I do communicate with him a great deal by mail.

Bernie Porter is also a fine artist. He is a good judge of literature and a publisher. He has published quite a number of things and he has published [REDACTED]. He brought out a book on poets and he had a very distinctive bookstore. My association with him started through the arts and continued as a [REDACTED]. He doesn't publish things to make money, but he rather publishes things of a very intellectual nature, which has a very limited distribution. He does however, feel there are many things written, if they were published only to make money, they would never be published.

He is a man of very good judgment, and he carries things to completion. He can be absolutely depended upon to keep his word. He is completely honest in every respect.

I certainly consider him to be of good moral character. I do not know his marital status, although I think he may be married. I know that he doesn't drink at all. He seems in good health physically and certainly consider him to be sound mentally. He definitely is emotionally stable. He doesn't jump in and out of things, but carries things to completion.

I have heard of the Institute of Advanced Thinking, which he has attempted to set up and there is no definite name that can be put to it. He started this Institute of Advanced Thinking because since he turns out intellectual books with no market for them, and no money coming in, he had to have some names of professional people as backers. Since he was not a promoter, he needed this promotion, and he has been trying to assemble a group of creative people in the arts to give this intellectual backing to his publishing effort. He has called this group, the Institute of Advanced Thinking.

Bernie has the ability to inspire confidence in the artist crowd and he has their respect. He has the ability to recognize talent and I personally think highly enough of him to ask him to publish some of my things.

Bernie is a tremendous organizer and he does have vision and the ability to see what is needed. He is a very patriotic and dedicated man to his country and 100 per cent American. He doesn't seem to be extreme either to the left or to the right. I never ever heard of his cheating anyone and I would bank on anything he said. I know that he has been working back East and in the Middle West, but I do not know exactly where or for whom.

He does take time out between jobs to write letters, organize and publish. Since I have not seen him for the past five years, although we have corresponded, I really do not know exactly what he has been doing since all of our correspondence is concerned with publishing.

I do not know any of his associates other than fellow artists for whom he publishes.

I have no reason to question his loyalty whatever, since I have said that he is a dedicated American citizen. I do highly recommend him for employment which could affect the security of the United States.

I remember Bernard Porter quite well. I haven't seen him in many years, but I have corresponded with him off and on over the years. My association with him began in [redacted] when he [redacted]

Bernard Porter is absolutely reliable as far as I am concerned. I know of nothing which reflects adversely against him in any respect. The only associates of his whom I have met are writers and painters and people who need to have their works published by him. [redacted] he was living in Sausalito in the late 1940's and early 1950's and have corresponded with him a number of times up to quite recently.

I believe that he is married, although I am not sure. He seems to be of good moral character, was very moderate in his personal habits.

He is a very good artist, in fact, good enough so that a whole collection of his work is in the Library at the University of California at Los Angeles. He has been occupied over the years in trying to set up an institute to bring artists and scientists together, since he is also a scientist in his own right.

I do not know specifically what he has been doing in the past few years because our correspondence has been limited to things pertaining to the arts.

I have no reason whatever to question his loyalty to the United States. I highly recommend him for employment which could be considered sensitive from the standpoint of national security.

DE [redacted]:1/27/67