



1-1967

United States Civil Service Commission Report of Investigation

Bern Porter

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.colby.edu/porter_security_files



Part of the [National Security Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Porter, Bern, "United States Civil Service Commission Report of Investigation" (1967). *Security Files*. 11.
https://digitalcommons.colby.edu/porter_security_files/11

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Bern Porter Collection of Contemporary Letters at Digital Commons @ Colby. It has been accepted for inclusion in Security Files by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Colby.

FOR UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT USE ONLY
UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

NAME BERNARD HARDEN PORTER AKA: Bern Porter	ADDRESS 2001 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 Pasadena and El Monte, California	PLACE(S) OF RECORD SEARCH
DATE(S) OF INVESTIGATION January 18, 19, 20, 23 and 26, 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 1958 and 1959. No derogatory information was developed. Local police department has no record and credit bureau reports no record. Date and place of birth were not corroborated.

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

[REDACTED]

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE: The subject lists residence from October 13, 1957 to January 27, 1958 and from September 13, 1958 until August 11, 1959 at 677 East Colorado Street in Pasadena, California. This address is the Crown Hotel and Apartments. The manager, [REDACTED], stated that they do not have any records dating back to 1959 and the manager at that time has since passed away. He knew of no one who might recall the subject.

FOR UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT USE ONLY

Witness thought subject may have done some work or been known at the Pasadena Art Museum at 46 North Los Robles. Investigation at this art museum was unsuccessful in finding anyone who recalled the subject.

[REDACTED] 677 East Colorado.

I recall Bernard Porter and his wife residing upstairs somewhere between 1957 and 1959 or 1960. I believe that they were here two different times during that period. I am not aware of whether he was working or not. He kept to himself and my only contact was to say hello and talk to him once in awhile out in the hall. He impressed me as being a nice, respectable fellow. I believe that he was responsible, his conduct appeared to be good and he looked to be a healthy, stable person. I am not aware of any organizations to which he may belong. I know of nothing that would cause any problems if he were sent overseas. From what I saw of him, I found no reason to question his loyalty or his ability in a responsible position working for the Federal Government.

[REDACTED]
PASADENA POLICE DEPARTMENT. Files checked by [REDACTED]

No record.

PASADENA CREDIT BUREAU, 1175 East Green. Files checked by [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

No record.

EL MONTE, CALIFORNIA
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I met Bernard Porter or Bernie and his wife, Margaret or Meg, in 1958 or 1959. He was, at that time, residing in the Crown Hotel and Apartments on Colorado Street in Pasadena. I knew him there for about six months to a year. They did not have any children, but I understood she has children by a previous marriage, who are grown and married. I understand that Bernie was also married before.

In Pasadena, Bernie was looking for work and filling out forms to go to Australia. I believe he was waiting for permission. I last saw him in Pasadena when he was getting ready to sail for Australia. He was also doing some work on catching up on some new things in his field of chemistry and physics. He, I believe, was doing some research.

I later got a letter from Bernie stating that he had a job in Tasmania, working for a newspaper or some such. I have corresponded with Bernie since I met him on and off. In fact, I visited him a couple of times back east while I was on vacation. I believe that he was living in Waldwick, New Jersey and was working in New York for ITT or Federal Electric. I believe I had also visited him once prior in Calais, Maine. At that time, I don't believe he was working, but was planning to open a school. This did not work out. I understand that at the present time he is now in Huntsville, Alabama.

When you first meet Bern, you are not too impressed with him, but as time goes on, you find out his intelligence borders on genius. He has written books and pamphlets. I admired him because of his ability in more than one field. He is not, however, too talkative. He has somewhat of a sarcastic sense of humor.

He has been a combination of an artist and a scientist. I believe that he has his Doctoral degree from Princeton University. At least, he used their art gallery there for some of his art-science displays. In art, he was trying to extract art from science. One of his examples was art patterned after ex-rays of metal. He also had an art studio in Sausalito, California prior to my meeting him. This may have been classed as his beatnik period, but I believe he was a beatnik before the term was ever thought up. He is, however, not interested in politics and takes no political sides or has any strong political theories. He does have a strong interest in city planning.

We have never discussed politics or political ideas. I believe that he graduated from Brown University in about the 1930's and went to Princeton in the 1940's.

If I were to describe Bern's feelings, I would describe him as a Utopian. This is because he feels that science has not made the transition in the advances they have to use in building cities. Bern felt that through the use of scientific advances we could build much better cities. In fact, I feel Bern is far ahead of his time.

While living in Pasadena, Bern lived on the money he had previously made and he seemed to have enough money to get by. I believe that he had just come from Venezuela or Australia. I know in Venezuela he mentioned that he had worked for Collins Radio.

I found Bern to be a very honest, trustworthy person of clean habits and high morals. He is healthy and emotionally stable. Bern was somewhat moody, but not in a bad sense, he was more quiet. He is more of an introvert type and does not really want to mix socially with too many people.

I am not aware of any organizations to which he may belong, unless it might be a scientific society.

In my talking with Bern, I understand he went to Venezuela and Australia in the 1950's, was in Guam in the 1940's, Japan in the early 1950's and vacationed through Europe and the Scandinavian countries in 1960, ending his trip in Russia. This, I believe, was in 1961 or 1962. He enjoys traveling and working in different places. He was not in the military service during World War II, because he was on a secret project. I was lead to believe this was something to do with the Atomic Bomb.

Bern is financially responsible, to my knowledge, he has never had any trouble with the authorities. I am sure he would do a fine job overseas, he enjoys foreign travel and is interested in the culture of the country that he is in. He has no mannerisms or ways about him that would offend people in a foreign country, other than he is not the most sociable person in the world. However, he is not offensive. His wife is very outgoing, lively and talkative.

Bern mentioned to me that while he was in Russia, he tried to do some research in the library in Leningrad or Moscow. They actually allowed him to use the library. I am not sure as to what extent he got around in Russia, because his letters telling me about it were very brief.

I feel that Bern is loyal to the United States. I would describe him as an independent Maine Yankee. I recommend him for a position representing this country or working for the Federal Government, because I believe we should use all of the advances of science we have.

DE: 1-30-67