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United States Civil Service Commission Report of Investigation

Bern Porter

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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. A-24,67,638
PLACE(S) OF INVESTIGATION Waldwick, New Jersey Paramus, New Jersey	PLACE(S) OF RECORD SEARCH Clifton, New Jersey
DATE(S) OF INVESTIGATION January 21, 23, 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 June, 1962 to the summer of 1964. Subject was described as being odd and his professional competence was not rated good by his associates. A landlord and a neighbor said he left owing both of them money. Local police files, no record. Credit bureau records, clear. Date and place of birth corroborated.

WALDWICK, NEW JERSEY

[REDACTED] 25 Walter Hammond Place.

I remember Bernard Porter very well. However, even though he was here

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for approximately two years, commencing in 1962 and extending approximately to the summer of 1964, I never got to know him really well. He and his wife lived in an apartment upstairs, tended strictly to their own business and mingled with none of the neighbors. In this respect I thought he was quite odd, to say the least.

When Porter and his wife arrived they had no furniture at all. In fact, in the beginning they slept on the floor of the apartment, in sleeping bags. They never made any attempt to get furniture. They would not even have had any [REDACTED] had not picked up some used furniture from my friends and given it to them. Another funny thing about them, to my mind, was that in this day and age they did not have a car. Porter took the bus to work. I do not know exactly what he did, but I have a hunch that he was some kind of a teacher in an industrial organization in this area.

I have a slight beef against him in that when he left I consider that he owed me \$40. This came about this way: We were supposed to share jointly the cost of heating the house. When Porter and his wife left, without any notice to anyone and without telling anyone where they were going, they neglected to pay their share of the previous month's heating bill. They may have been in rather straitened circumstance at the time, for his wife had recently had a cancer operation at New York Hospital, in New York City. Even in connection with this, Porter acted a little peculiarly. Contrary to what one might expect, he told no one of his wife's illness. Even though he was obviously not in affluent circumstances, I cannot say in all honesty that he ever appeared to be bothered by bill collectors. I am reasonably sure that towards the end of his stay here, for at least a couple of months, he was unemployed. I never heard of the Institute of Advanced Thinking and I know for a fact that no mail ever addressed to such an institution arrived here.

Outside of the fact that he was introverted, disliked mingling with people, and was not too meticulous about paying his bills, I cannot say that there was anything in connection with Porter that would appear to disqualify him insofar as fitness for appointment to a position concerned with the welfare or security of the United States. He did not drink excessively; he was not immoral; he seemed to be in good health and emotionally stable; and I have no reason to question his loyalty to the United States. However, I feel that I did not know him well enough to go on record as recommending him for a position requiring a security clearance.

I do not have records now available, so I will have to rely on my memory with respect to the time that Bernard Porter and his wife occupied the upstairs apartment in the house which I own at 25 Walter

Hammond Place. I am reasonably certain that they came in 1962 and left sometime around the middle of 1964. When they left, they owed me one month's rent, in my estimation. That is to say, they moved suddenly at the end of one month, giving me no chance to rent the apartment for the succeeding month, consequently I regarded them as being liable for the next month's rent. When he left, he was paying \$100 per month.

While he was here, he was a reasonably good tenant. He paid his rent on time, conducted himself like a gentleman, and gave me no cause for complaint. I do not know where he worked, nor do I know what he did for a living. He was the kind of person who did not talk at all about himself. He and his wife kept strictly to themselves, conversed little if at all with the neighbors, and seemed to keep to themselves most of the time. When he and his wife arrived they did not have any furniture. I think that [REDACTED] got some furniture for them.

I have no reason to question his morals, his habits or his emotional maturity. Additionally, there was no cause to believe that he might be disloyal to the United States. I would not know about recommending him for a position considered sensitive from the standpoint of the United States, for I did not know him all that well.

[REDACTED]

My first recollection is that Bernard Porter and his wife lived [REDACTED] at 25 Walter Hammond Place, for about two years - from 1962 to the summer of 1964. I thought that Porter was a little odd, for he did not seem to like to get mixed up with his neighbors. He talked very little about himself and never discussed his work. I believe that he was a teacher of some kind, in industry.

I know of nothing really wrong in connection with Porter. He seemed to be healthy, well adjusted, and when one spoke to him he was courteous and polite. I have no reason to question his character, his reputation, his integrity or his trustworthiness. I could not say whether or not he was unemployed at any time during his period of residence [REDACTED]. I have no reason to think that he might be a risk to the security of the United States if he were to be appointed to a sensitive position and I can think of no reason why I should not recommend him.

I never heard of the Institute of Advanced Thinking.

[REDACTED]

I came to know Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Porter fairly well during the two years that they lived [REDACTED] at 25 Walter Hammond Place. They lived in the upstairs apartment by themselves. They had no

children. In fact, when they arrived they did not even have furniture. When they left, they notified no one and told no one where they were going. This was typical of them. While they were here, they mingled very little with the neighbors and very rarely spoke of their private business.

I do not know what Mr. Porter did for a living. I had a vague idea that he was a teacher of some kind. It seems to me that toward the end of his stay here he was unemployed for some time, but again I am not sure of this. I can say emphatically that I never heard of anything called the Institute of Advanced Thinking in connection with Mr. Porter or in connection with the address where he lives.

Mr. Porter's reserve was the only thing I considered unusual about him. Outside of that, he seemed to be quite normal insofar as conduct and behavior were concerned. Nothing ever occurred to give me the idea that he was deficient in such areas as character, habits, reputation or morals. I certainly have no reason to question his loyalty to the United States.

I can think of nothing that would cause me to consider him unfit to serve in a position where he would have access to information in dealing with the welfare of the United States. I can think of no reason why I should not recommend him.

[REDACTED]

WALDWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT.

No record.

GARDEN STATE CREDIT BUREAU, CLIFTON, NEW JERSEY. (Covers Waldwick and Paramus.)

No record.

PARAMUS, NEW JERSEY

[REDACTED]

FEDERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY, Record information furnished by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Our records indicate that Bernard Harden Porter was employed by this company, as an Engineer Specialist, from June 18, 1962 to February 28, 1964. He was laid off because of lack of work.

He lived at 106 High Street, Belfast, Maine. That is the only address shown here. He was born on February 14, 1911, in Houlton, Maine. His

Social Security Number is 083-10-2491. He was married. His salary was \$7800 per annum.

He was assigned to the Service Project, Field Service Department, as an Engineer Specialist. On June 25, 1962, he was given a inter-department transfer, to Training and Planning Development Specialist. On May 27, 1963, he was transferred to Development, Engineering and Support Services. In an evaluation, he was rated average in such areas as job knowledge, cooperation, quality of work, initiative, work analysis, reliability, and judgement. He was rated as being neat in personal appearance. There was also indicated in the evaluation that he was probably in an area of work not suited to him. His interests are in the literary area. The quality of his work was lacking, and his attitude was a matter-of-fact. On his separation notice, it was indicated that his ability was fair, his interest fair, his stability poor, attendance excellent, his adaptability fair, his dependability good. He is recommended for reemployment.

He had a Secret Security Clearance.

His Federal Electric Corporation experience was as follows: He prepared programmed instruction materials, texts and courses by analyzing requirements, preparing objectives, criterion tests, frames and other items related to the programmed instructional techniques. He assisted in the preparation of training standards, syllabuses course, course charts, course outlines, lesson plans, training manuals and other related training materials for training programs. He assisted in the preparation of specifications for training aids and devices, transparencies, or other visual aids, related items to be used as training aids for training programs. He assisted in preparing special training requirements and developing methods for solving special training problems. He assisted in the preparation of examinations and other evaluation devices for use in training programs. He assisted in conducting studies, analyses, and investigation of existing programs and in determining training needs for training. He instructed course in programmed instruction for Federal Electric Company employees.

He had a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physics from Colby College, Waterville, Maine. He had a Master of Science Degree in Physics from Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.

There is nothing in the file indicating that he took any special course of instruction as a Federal Electric Company employee, but it is quite possible that he did.

~~_____~~, Federal Electric Corporation.

I recall that Bernard Porter worked in my department, as a training

specialist, but my recollection of him is not very clear. I remember him as being a little odd in the sense that he kept pretty much to himself and mingled not at all with his fellow workers. Also, I did not rank him very high in professional competence. As a matter of fact, on a scale ranging from 1 to 10, with 10 naturally being the highest, I gave him a rating of only 1. An indication of the low regard in which he was held professionally was that his salary was only \$7800 per year. He did not particularly impress me.

I had no reason whatsoever to be doubtful about the quality of his character, habits, reputation or morals. Since he was considered discreet and dependable enough here to be recommended for a Security Clearance, there is no cause that I know of to think that he might be unfit now. I am sure that he is loyal to the United States, but I consider that I did not know him well enough to go on record as recommending him.

~~_____~~ Federal Electric Corporation.

I was Bernard Porter's [redacted] during the year and a half to two years that he was employed by the Federal Electric Corporation. I recall him quite well. He was an instructor, specializing in giving courses and programmed instructions to other Federal Electric employees, and in addition to this he prepared courses and texts. Generally, I would say that he was reasonably competent at his job, although not outstanding. His attendance was good, and he seemed to have no particular difficulty in getting along with members of the staff, although essentially he is a quiet and perhaps introverted to some extent kind of a guy. One reason he may have been quiet was that his wife was quite ill while he was here. No doubt this was on his mind to some extent.

It seemed to me that he was well qualified professionally. I believe that he had a doctorate in science, although I am not certain of this. Most of the time that he was here, he was concerned in programmed instruction dealing in the implementation of an Air Force contract called 465-L. In addition to being an instructor, he was also an instructee, for like many others in his particular job he was required to complete satisfactorily a course given by the company. We awarded him a diploma attesting to his successful completion of the course. In effect, in this course he learned what he in turn subsequently taught to others.

No one could accuse Porter of being the salesman type. Since he was not particularly extroverted, he was of course somewhat out of his element as an instructor. I did not know him outside of the office; I did drop him off at his home in Walldwick, occasionally, but I never went inside his house and never met his wife.

So far as I was concerned, his character, habits, reputation and morals were satisfactory. He seemed to be emotionally mature and stable. I would not question his loyalty to the United States, his organizational affiliations, or his fitness for a Security Clearance. In fact, I can think of no reason why I should not recommend him.

[REDACTED] Federal Electric Corporation.

I was Bernard Porter's [REDACTED] during the time that he was employed as an Engineer Instructor by the Federal Electric Corporation. My recollection is that he had a number of degrees, certainly including a Masters Degree in Science and possibly a PhD. He appeared to be fairly well qualified for his job, and he was laid off because there was no longer any particular need for his specialized services. His job primarily was the instruction of other engineers in the implementation procedures inherent in the completion of an Air Force contract. In this, he would prepare courses, deliver lectures, prepare texts and generally conduct a programmed instruction program and instruction classes. Even though this was not primarily an area in which computers were concerned, computer were involved in a peripheral way.

My opinion was that Porter was somewhat difficult to get along with. This could be accounted for by the fact that he appeared to be in the wrong slot as an instructor. He seemed to be more or less a loner, keeping to himself and mingling very little with the other members of the staff. I am quite doubtful about the professional qualifications he brought to his job here at Federal Electric, but I have no doubt that in another area he might quite possibly do very well. He is not cut out to deal with large masses of people; relating to individuals he would probably do much better.

I have no reason not to recommend him for a Security Clearance. Certainly, nothing occurred while he was an employee of this company to indicate that he might be immoral, intemperate, untrustworthy, unispendable or dishonest.

[REDACTED]
PARAMUS POLICE DEPARTMENT.

No record.

PH: [REDACTED] 1/24/67