



12-1959

## U.S. Civil Service Commission Employment Questionnaire

Bern Porter

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### Recommended Citation

Porter, Bern, "U.S. Civil Service Commission Employment Questionnaire" (1959). *Security Files*. 20.  
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# EMPLOYMENT

UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

FORM APPROVED  
BUDGET BUREAU NO. 20-7100-01

OS:tt 04616

NAVY BOARD OF US CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINERS  
FOR NAVAL OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT  
15 15th Street  
San Francisco 2, California

DEC 7 1959

Name of applicant:

BERNARD HARDEN PORTER  
Engineer (General) GS-9  
DOB: Feb 14, 1911

The person named above has applied for a position as engineer in a Federal agency and has indicated in his application that you have personal knowledge of his professional qualifications. It will be greatly appreciated if you will fill out the questionnaire beginning on the reverse of this letter and return it promptly. Your evaluation will materially assist the examining panel members, who are professional engineers, in evaluating the applicant's qualifications for the position for which he has applied.

Applicants for this examination generally are not given a written test. They are rated on the education, training, and experience which they list in their application forms and on information which we may obtain from other persons. To rate an applicant properly, we need information about his professional and personal qualifications from those who have a first-hand knowledge of his training and experience. Receipt of this kind of information is highly important because your evaluation may affect this applicant's future and the success of the government in employing the best qualified available engineering personnel for important and responsible assignments.

If you are unable to give the information requested, it will be appreciated if you will return this questionnaire with your indication to that effect. If possible, please provide the names and current addresses of others who are in a position to evaluate the applicant's qualifications.

Any information you furnish will, of course, be treated as confidential. A return addressed envelope, which requires no stamp, is enclosed for your convenience in replying.

UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

RECEIVED  
1959 DEC 28 AM 9:38  
NAVY OVERSEAS  
EMPLOYMENT OFFICE  
(PHOENIX)

1. (A) INDICATE IN WHAT CAPACITIES (by check mark in the appropriate box below) AND FOR WHAT PERIOD OF TIME YOU HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE APPLICANT BY GIVING IN THE APPROPRIATE BLANKS THE YEARS IN WHICH YOUR ASSOCIATION BEGAN AND ENDED (such as from 1942 to 1947).

☐ HIS TEACHER (FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ TO: \_\_\_\_\_) ☐ HIS FELLOW EMPLOYEE (FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ TO: \_\_\_\_\_) ☒ OTHER (specify) Friend  
☐ HIS EMPLOYER OR SUPERVISOR (FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ TO: \_\_\_\_\_) ☐ HIS SUBORDINATE (FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ TO: \_\_\_\_\_) (FROM: 1928 TO: 1959)

(B) NAME OF COMPANY OR ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION

Acheson Colloid Corp. N.Y.C. - Manhattan District and Oak Ridge, Tenn.

(C) NATURE OF ORGANIZATION

Colloid Graphite, etc.

Physicist for atomic bomb experiment electro-

(D) APPLICANT'S OFFICIAL TITLE AND/OR ORGANIZATIONAL POSITION

Chief of Section of Scientific Workers

(E) GRADE (if federal).

(F) SALARY

2. WHAT, IN BRIEF, WERE HIS DUTIES DURING THAT PERIOD? (Indicate the functions performed, i.e., planning, supervision, design, construction, sales, inspection, estimating, specifications, research, etc., and the kinds of structures, equipment or programs involved)

Acheson - he was research physicist

Oak Ridge  
University of Cal. (Radiation Laboratory) } Classified work

3. WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS, PHASES OF PROJECTS, OR PROBLEMS WAS HE INDIVIDUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR?

☒ PROJECTS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE ☐ INDIVIDUAL PROBLEMS OF A NONROUTINE NATURE  
☐ MAJOR PHASES OF PROJECTS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE ☐ ROUTINE PROBLEMS  
☐ MODERATELY DIFFICULT PHASES OF MAJOR PROJECTS OR PROJECTS OF MODERATE DIFFICULTY  
PLEASE GIVE AN EXAMPLE OF THE TYPE OF ASSIGNMENT:

Experimental work for the separation of uranium  
1940-1945

Previous experience in individual

problems on Colloid Graphite: its applications and properties

4. WHAT LEVEL OF THE BASIC PHYSICAL AND ENGINEERING SCIENCES WAS HE REQUIRED TO MAKE USE OF? (For example, what level of mathematics and physics did his work require?)

High level

5. WHAT WERE THE APPLICANT'S SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES?

☐ NONE  
☐ INDIVIDUAL WORKER WITH OCCASIONAL SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES  
☒ REGULAR SUPERVISOR OF A SMALL GROUP  
☐ SUPERVISOR OF THE WORK OF SEVERAL GROUPS  
☐ TECHNICAL ADMINISTRATOR OF A LARGE ENGINEERING FORCE  
☐ DIRECTOR OF THE ORGANIZATION'S ENGINEERING PROGRAM

## 6. WHAT TYPES OF PERSONNEL DID HE SUPER

HOW MANY?

NUMBER

NUMBER

- ☐ ENGINEERS  
☐ DRAFTSMEN  
☒ OTHER (Specify) Assistant and Personal Assistant
- ☐ ENGINEERING AIDES  
☐ SKILLED TRADESMEN

## 7. WHAT WAS THE MANNER OF PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTIES?

- ☐ OUTSTANDING  
☐ GOOD  
☒ EXCELLENT  
☐ FAIR  
☐ POOR

## 8. TO WHAT DEGREE WAS THE APPLICANT REQUIRED TO USE INDEPENDENT JUDGMENT?

- ☐ VERY LITTLE WITH MOST WORK UNDER CRITICAL REVIEW  
☐ WITHIN A LIMITED LATITUDE ON PROBLEMS OF A ROUTINE NATURE  
☒ WITHIN A WIDE LATITUDE ON SPECIFIC TECHNICAL PROBLEMS  
☐ EXTENSIVE LATITUDE IN ONE OR MORE FIELDS OF ENGINEERING  
☐ UNLIMITED ON TECHNICAL PROBLEMS

## 9. INDICATE BY CHECK MARK IN THE APPROPRIATE COLUMN AT THE RIGHT YOUR CAREFUL EVALUATION, BASED UPON YOUR PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE APPLICANT'S COMPETENCE IN EACH OF THE ITEMS LISTED

A. KNOWLEDGE OF BASIC SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING FUNDAMENTALS

B. TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE OF HIS SPECIALIZED FIELD

C. ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND AND ASSIMILATE TECHNICAL MATERIAL

D. ANALYTICAL OR REASONING ABILITY

E. RESOURCEFULNESS, IMAGINATION, AND ORIGINALITY

F. APPLICATION AND EFFORT ON ASSIGNMENTS

G. ABILITY TO EXPRESS HIMSELF IN WRITTEN REPORTS

H. ABILITY TO WORK IN A GROUP

I. DEMONSTRATED ABILITY TO SUPERVISE OTHER PROFESSIONALS

J. DEMONSTRATED ABILITY TO DIRECT AND COORDINATE IMPORTANT PROJECTS

POOR	AVERAGE	ABOVE AVERAGE (TOP 25%)	OUTSTANDING (TOP 10%)	DON'T KNOW
	✓	✓	✓	
		✓	✓	
		✓	✓	
		✓	✓	
		✓	✓	
		✓	✓	
		✓	✓	
		✓	✓	
		✓	✓	

## 10. FROM YOUR PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE, WOULD YOU EMPLOY THE APPLICANT IN A POSITION

- ☐ OF ROUTINE NATURE  
☐ OF MODERATE DIFFICULTY  
☒ TECHNICAL AND COMPLEX WITHIN HIS FIELD  
☐ MOST TECHNICAL AND WITH COMPLEX PHASES NOT LIMITED TO ONE FIELD OR OPTION

## 11. (A) DO YOU HAVE ANY REASON TO QUESTION THIS PERSON'S LOYALTY TO THE UNITED STATES?

☐ YES ☒ NO

(B) DO YOU HAVE ANY REASON TO BELIEVE THIS PERSON BELONGS, OR HAS BELONGED, TO ANY COMMUNIST OR FACIST ORGANIZATION, OR TO ANY ORGANIZATION WHICH ADVOCATES OVERTHROWING OR ALTERING OUR CONSTITUTIONAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT BY FORCE OR OTHER ILLEGAL MEANS?

☐ YES ☒ NO

(C) TO YOUR KNOWLEDGE DOES THIS PERSON ASSOCIATE, OR HAS HE ASSOCIATED, WITH ANY PERSON WHOSE LOYALTY TO THE UNITED STATES IS QUESTIONABLE OR WHO BELONGS TO ANY OF THE TYPES OF ORGANIZATION DESCRIBED IN (B) ABOVE?

☐ YES ☒ NO

IF YOUR ANSWER TO ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS IS "YES," PLEASE GIVE FULL DETAILS UNDER ITEM 15 BELOW.

## 12. TO YOUR KNOWLEDGE HAS HE EVER BEEN DISCHARGED OR HAS HE RESIGNED FROM ANY EMPLOYMENT AFTER BEING TOLD HIS CONDUCT OR WORK WAS NOT SATISFACTORY?

☐ YES ☒ NO

IF YOUR ANSWER IS "YES," PLEASE GIVE:

(A) NAME AND ADDRESS OF EMPLOYER:

(B) REASON FOR DISCHARGE OR RESIGNATION:

## 13. DO YOU HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF ANY BEHAVIOR, ACTIVITIES, OR ASSOCIATIONS WHICH TEND TO SHOW THAT THIS PERSON IS NOT RELIABLE, HONEST, TRUSTWORTHY, AND OF GOOD CONDUCT AND CHARACTER?

☐ YES ☒ NO

IF YOUR ANSWER IS "YES," PLEASE EXPLAIN FULLY:

14. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION INDICATING THAT THIS PERSON'S EMPLOYMENT WOULD BE AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY?

☐ YES

☒ NO

IF YOUR ANSWER IS "YES," PLEASE EXPLAIN FULLY

15. IN THE SPACE BELOW WE WOULD APPRECIATE (A) ANY ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE APPLICANT'S QUALIFICATIONS AND FITNESS; AND (B) A SUMMARY OF HIS TECHNICAL ABILITY AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS FOR POSITIONS OF THIS TYPE. (We are especially interested in learning of any important contributions he has made in his field or any accomplishments of note which were beyond what would have been expected of a person in his position.)

Mr Porter is a gentleman — a man of integrity and of worth — He is kind, Courteous, and pleasant; not given to Criticism, unless it be constructive. He is intense, yet sensitive; 'sensible et sympathique', staunch in his dealings, possessed of no vicious habits, with a good sense of humor and fun.

I believe him to be a respected person. As a teacher he always maintained a fine, happy relationship. He has always been modest concerning his own ability and proud of another's success. His personality and demeanour are such that they warrant his "getting on" with others.

Professionally Mr Porter is quite capable (witness his work in Alaska and at Oak Ridge) He has been a credit to the companies for which he has worked, his research has been acceptable, the results of which have been published. He has a very fine mind and makes use of it. In personality, adaptability, and capability I deem him a worthy individual.

PLEASE SIGN YOUR NAME BELOW

12/20/59  
(DATE)

(SIGNATURE)

(POSITION OR TITLE)