



5-1959

FBI File

Bern Porter

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of:

Office: LOS ANGELES

Date:

5/26/59

File Number:

LA 140-3558

Title:

BERNARD HARDEN PORTER
Physicist - Applicant
Long Beach Naval Shipyard
Department of the Navy
Long Beach, California

Character:

SECURITY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Synopsis:

Applicant born 2/14/11, Houlton, Maine. Personal history set forth. Pertinent information in applicant's personnel file at Long Beach Naval Shipyard set forth. advised that had become better acquainted with the applicant since interviewed by representative of another government agency and states applicant very desirable and unemployed except writing a book and does not question his loyalty.

Applicant unknown to confidential informant generally familiar with Communist Party activities in area of applicant's residence.

- RUC -

This report does not represent the results of a full-field investigation and should not be construed as such in connection with the provisions of Executive Order 10450.

PERSONAL HISTORY

The following personal history concerning the applicant was obtained from information appearing in the applicant's personnel file located at Long Beach Naval Shipyard, Long Beach, California:

The applicant was born February 14, 1911, at Houlton, Maine. On August 27, 1955, at Las Vegas, Nevada, he was married to MARGARET AIMSLEY PRESTON, who was born July 5, 1905 at Rio Vista, California. On August, 1946, at Boise, Idaho, he divorced HELEN ELAINE HENDRON, who had been born in June, 1918, at Boise, Idaho, having married her in August, 1945, at Berkeley, California.

Since September, 1948, he has been self-employed at his current residence, 677 East Colorado Street, Pasadena, California. From March, 1958, to August, 1958, he was employed by the Civil Aeronautics Administration, Anchorage, Alaska, and again employed by this same agency from August 27, 1958, to September 8, 1958. From March 19, 1951 to April 26, 1952, he was employed by the Economics Stabilization Agency at Agana, Guam. He was employed by Collins Radio Company, Dallas, Texas, from April, 1957, to November, 1957, and by Convair Astronautics, San Diego, California, from May, 1956, to August, 1956. He was also employed by the Manhattan District Engineers, New York, New York, from 1940 to 1945, and by the Acheson Colloids Corporation at Newark, New Jersey, from November, 1935 to November, 1940. He indicated having been self-employed from November, 1957 to March, 1958, at Pasadena, California; August, 1956 to April, 1957 at San Francisco, California; April, 1955, to May, 1956, at San Francisco, California; November, 1954 to April, 1955, San Francisco, California; June, 1954, to November, 1954, at Sausalito, California; May, 1952 to June, 1954, Agana, Guam; November, 1947 to December, 1950, Sausalito, California; and November, 1945 to November, 1947, Berkeley, California.

Applicant indicated that he has resided at 677 East Colorado Street, Pasadena, California, since September, 1958, having previously resided at this address from April to November, 1957. Applicant has also resided in Anchorage, Alaska; Dallas, Texas; San Francisco, San Diego and Sausalito, California; Agana, Guam; Newark, New Jersey; and New York City, New York.

The applicant received a B.S. Degree from Colby College in 1932 and a Master of Science Degree from Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, in 1933.

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

EMPLOYMENT

Long Beach Naval Shipyard
Department of the Navy
Long Beach, California

On May 22, 1959,

Long Beach Naval Shipyard, advised that BERNARD HARDEN PORTER is still in an applicant status so far as employment here is concerned and he will not be hired until his clearance is received from the Civil Service Commission.

made available the applicant's personnel file, a review of which reflects the following information concerning the applicant's previous federal employments:

He was employed from March 19, 1951 to April 26, 1952, by the Economics Stabilization Agency as an Information Officer at Agana, Guam, and resigned this position of his own volition.

He was employed from March 1, 1958, to August 2, 1958, as an electronics engineer by the Civil Aeronautics Administration, Air Navigation Facilities Division, Electronics Establishment Branch, Anchorage, Alaska, and resigned this position to "return to private practice in California." He was reinstated on August 27, 1958, in the same capacity and worked until the close of business on September 3, 1958, at which time he resigned, giving as his reason, "My physician advises it." His physician was named as R. J. LEONG, M.D., 140 East Fifth Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska.

The applicant also indicated that he had been employed by the Manhattan District Engineers, New York, New York, from 1940 to 1945 and that this employment included work at Oakridge, Tennessee; Princeton, New Jersey; and Berkeley, California, but dates of these specific assignments were not indicated. His employment was as a research physicist and his supervisor was named as being
Director.

Applicant also indicated having been previously employed from April, 1955, to August, 1955, at 1480 Larkin Street, San Francisco, California, and from August, 1957, to October, 1957, at 106 High Street, Belfast, Maine, and stated he was self-employed in 1945 at 6621 California Street, San Francisco, California.

The applicant indicated having previously resided at 2303 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, California, from November 18, 1941, to September 10, 1947; at 106 Pine Hall, Princeton, New Jersey, from November 10, 1940 to November 18, 1941; at 36 Ingraham Place, Newark, New Jersey, from August 10, 1938 to November 10, 1940; at Port Huron, Michigan, address "uncertain" from August, 1937 to August, 1938; and at 41 or 51 East 52nd Street, New York City, New York, from July 10, 1935 to August 10, 1937.

These records contain no information indicating that the applicant is other than loyal.

677 East Colorado Street
Pasadena, California

On May 25, 1959,

advised that

California,

said that the applicant and his wife had resided there from November 14, 1957 to March 26, 1958. said that the applicant and the applicant's wife returned to reside at the in September, 1958, and were still residing there when left.

said that recalled being interviewed by a representative of another government agency relative to the applicant in early 1958, but said that since that time has become better acquainted with the applicant and now feels that could recommend the applicant for a position of trust and confidence.

said that during the period of the applicant's residence at the he was unemployed with the exception of writing a book. described the applicant as a very quiet man who did not associate with the other but who is, in opinion, honest, sober, of good personal habits, and very good character and reputation. said that had never had any political discussions with the applicant, but based on conversations with him, has had no reason whatsoever to question his loyalty.

advised on May 25, 1959, that

said that when the applicant and his wife were residing here and are present said that the applicant is a very retiring and quiet man, and has no associates in the said the applicant is a very desirable and is unemployed with the exception of his writing a book.

said that all comments that could furnish concerning the applicant would be very favorable as pertaining to his moral character and reputation and added that had no reason to question the applicant's loyalty.

MISCELLANEOUS

On September 29, 1958, BERNARD H. PORTER, who stated he was an itinerant and would give no residence address, personally appeared at the Los Angeles Office of the FBI and stated that he was formerly employed as an electronics engineer by the Civil Aeronautics Administration at Anchorage, Alaska, until September, 1958. He stated that he had been removed from this position and inexperienced men had been placed in his position and were assigned the task of setting up a communications line. He said that this line did not function satisfactorily after these men were placed on the job and he considered the action of placing inexperienced men on the job "internal sabotage" and also contended that his removal from the job was "sabotage".

a confidential informant who is generally familiar with Communist Party and related activities in the vicinity of the applicant's current residence in Pasadena, California, was contacted on May 22, 1959, and advised that is not personally acquainted with the applicant and could furnish no information concerning him.

Investigation at Long Beach, California, was conducted
by at Pasadena and South Pasadena, California,
by The records of the Municipal Court,
Los Angeles Judicial District, Traffic Violations Bureau, were
caused to be checked by

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LA 140-3558

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Long Beach, California

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[redacted] said that all comments that [redacted] could furnish concerning the applicant would be very favorable as pertaining to his moral character and reputation and [redacted] added that [redacted] had no reason to question the applicant's loyalty.

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