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U.S. Government Office Memorandum

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : [REDACTED]

DATE: 12-31-58

FROM : [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: PORTER, BERNARD HARDEN.....Serial No. 11-58-7913

CASE:

Porter was appointed Electronic Engineer March 1, 1958, by the Department of Commerce, his duty station being Anchorage, Alaska.

Limited Security investigation was completed at Anchorage, Alaska, Belfast, Maine, San Francisco, Sausalito, Palo Alto, San Diego, Pasadena, California, Dallas, Texas, and Chandler, Arizona on December 16, 1958.

STATEMENT OF FACTS:

In 1956 the U. S. Naval Ordnance Test Station at China Lake, California was considering Porter for the position of Editor (Engineering and Physical Scientist) GS-9. An Advance report of NAC for a non-critical position was requested. The Case (12th Region) was submitted on CSC form 257 for consideration by the FBI. "The Sixth Report of Un-American Activities in California, 1951, page 229 lists one Bernard Porter (not otherwise identified) among other "certain important contacts that were to be made among the scientific personnel engaged in atomic research and other critical work." The list was taken from the actual minutes of a meeting held by the Executive Board of Chapter 25, Federation of Architects, Chemists, Engineers and Technicians (FAECT) on July 13, 1943 in the home of [REDACTED]. Subject's application shows "Sc.M" in Physics and employment at San Francisco, Princeton, Berkeley, and Oakridge during the period January 1940 to the present. His home address is given as 2303 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, California from August 1940 to November 1947. His application shows employment by Manhattan Project, New York, from Feb. 1940 to Feb. 1945 and states "While on the Atomic Bomb project during the war years." COID returned the case stating "Your conversion was based on the fact that one Bernard Porter, who appears to be identical with the subject, was listed by the Executive Board, Federation of Architects, Chemists, Engineers and Technicians among other "certain important contacts that were to be made among the scientific personnel engaged in atomic research and other critical work". Although the employee may have been listed as a contact to be made due to his occupation, there is no indication in the file that he was a member or otherwise connected with the organization in question; therefore the information does not warrant referral to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for full field investigation." As a result the results of investigation were closed to the Agency February 28, 1957.

In his application Porter denied discharges or forced resignations. Investigation at San Diego, California, Astronautics indicates Porter was hired by Convair May 1, 1956 as an Engineering writer at \$600 per month.

The personnel record indicates he terminated: "quit, personal affair," on October 12, 1956. He was given the opportunity to resign or be fired, whereupon he tendered his resignation. Porter got into trouble over what was considered to be unethical and unprofessional conduct. He was accused of releasing company information to a friend working for a radio station. The company had prepared pamphlets for general plant distribution on the accomplishments of an employee. The release of the information to the public ahead of time caused wasted effort, Porters' conduct considered unprofessional, and his resignation requested. He was described as somewhat childish by one supervisor and even mentally ill by another. This was based on Porter refusing to let anyone tell him how to fill out a time card. After Porter left, a Master Index, (a technical dictionary) being prepared by the department was missing.

The 12th Region Memo dated April 27, 1956 reflected that an apparent advertisement was run by Porter in "Coastlines", a publication believed to have a close association of Communism and homosexuality. Neighborhood investigation at Belfast, Maine, Pasadena, California, Anchorage, Alaska, and Dallas, Texas developed no derogatory information. The above neighborhoods go back to February 1957. Porter worked for the Collins Radio Company, of Dallas, Texas from February 25, 1957 to October 11, 1957 as a Field Service Engineer at a salary of \$750.00 per month. He was terminated by RIF, his work considered good and is eligible for rehire. He went to Venezuela for about 3 months. A fellow worker abroad considered Porter to be competent and of good character and habits. Porter was described as quiet and conservative. Porter and his wife are described as people keeping to themselves.

Investigation at San Francisco, revealed Porter was self-employed, writing, or unemployed living at 6621 California from April 1955 to April 1957. Porter was described as peculiar and unstable because he kept to himself and was unemployed. One woman described him as being a queer. This witness states she can smell a queer or a communist a mile away, and although she knows Porter to be a queer she is sure he is not a communist. She had no basis for her conclusion other than seeing him once with an effeminate male friend.

Porter ran an art gallery from approximately 1949 to 1953 in Sausalito, California. His associates were described as "off beat" and members of the "beer and beards set."

Records of a confidential source [redacted] of San Francisco, California, indicate that one Bern Porter of Sausalito (not further identified) was shown in the October 8, 1948 issue of the Marin Journal as a member of the Marin Committee of 100 for Harold Sawyer (deceased former Communist). The same source indicates that a [redacted] received the Peoples World in 1950. The investigation did not establish that party to be the same as the [redacted] reference presently living at [redacted]

A witness, [redacted] (page [redacted] of [redacted] of Berkeley, California report), a close associate of [redacted] Porter is listed by the Confidential Source mentioned above as in the Correspondence file of the Independent Progressive Party and the Labor Youth League (A Subversive organization).

CONCLUSION:

A reasonable doubt exists regarding Porter's loyalty to the Government. There is not sufficient evidence of unsuitability to instruct removal.

RECOMMENDATION:

Submit the file with CSC 257 for consideration by the FBI under E.O. 10450.

Concur - OLM - 12/31/58