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UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

TWELFTH REGION INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

NAME BERNARD HARDEH PORTER AKA: Porter, Bern	ADDRESS c/o CAA Anchorage, Alaska.
DATE OF BIRTH February 14, 1911	PLACE OF BIRTH Houlton, Maine
POSITION Electronic Engr.	AGENCY Dept. of Commerce (CAA) Washington, D. C.
TYPE OF CASE Limited Suitability	CSC CASE SERIAL NO. 11-58-7913
PLACE(S) OF INVESTIGATION San Francisco, Sausalito, Palo Alto and Berkeley, California	PLACE(S) OF RECORD SEARCH
DATE(S) OF INVESTIGATION July 3, 7, 8, 10, 16, 20, 22 and 24, 1958	NAME OF INVESTIGATOR [REDACTED]

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The testimony of all witnesses is given in substance unless indicated by quotation marks.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS

This investigation was initiated to determine suitability for federal employment because of a forced resignation from Convair Corporation because of unprofessional attitude and because of possible connections with the Federation of Architects, Chemists and Technicians. This report covers self employment as a publisher and residence in the San Francisco

bay area for various periods of time since 1947. One former neighbor stated that subject was a homosexual. Others contacted did not question subject's moral character but described him as being different, peculiar and Bohemian. One witness stated subject was in Sausalito identified with an unorganized group of artists and bohemians reputed to contain many extreme leftwingers and communist sympathizers. A confidential source revealed that in October 1948 subject was a member of the Marin Committee of 100 for Harold Sawyer, who was identified as a Communist Party member and former IPP Candidate for State Senator. Confidential sources indicate that a person with the same name as subject's reference was in October 1954 a People's World subscriber. The question of identity was not resolved. Several witnesses mentioned employment in Venezuela in 1955, 1956 or 1957 which was not shown on case papers. Other discrepancies or omissions were noted regarding employment and residence history.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] California Street:

I have a very definite recollection of a Mr. Bern Porter formerly residing at 6621 California Street, another unit in this building. He was here for quite a while, may be a year. This was several years ago and I couldn't tell you the exact dates of his residence. He lived there with his wife. I never got to know him real well but occasionally I did talk with his wife.

I was very glad to see Mr. Porter leave here because I thought of him as being a terrible nuisance. He didn't create any disturbance. I felt that he was a nuisance because he was a queer and I don't like that type of person to be around here. My brother was a queer and after years of trying to help him out I got so that I could tell a queer a mile away and I am sure that Mr. Porter was one. He didn't have any effeminate characteristics but I know that he was the male partner. I only saw him once with another man who was effeminate. I don't know who this man was

and I only saw him with Porter on one occasion. I didn't observe anything between the two of them that would show that they actually were homosexual.

Mr. Porter didn't appear to have any regular employment. He was always around the house. He was a real intellectual and claimed to be a poet. He also was suppose to have been doing some kind of work for a church. He had few visitors. I couldn't tell you what kind of hours he kept.

Mrs. Porter worked and I guess that is how they supported themselves.

I never had any occasion to question Mr. Porter's drinking habits. I couldn't say anything at all about his honesty or integrity. I know that he is a queer and because of this I certainly wouldn't want to see him in any federal position. I don't know when I first came to regard him as a queer but it was before I saw him with his effeminate male friend. Seeing them together just confirmed my suspicions.

I am sure that Mr. Porter wasn't a communist or engaged in any un-American activities. I can smell a communist or a queer a mile away and though I know he was a queer I am sure he wasn't a communist.

Porter left here supposedly to take a job in South America. I couldn't tell you for whom he was going to work or what he was going to do there.

[REDACTED] California Street:

6621 California Street is right around the corner from [REDACTED] and I recall that Mr. Bernard Porter and his wife lived in the building at 6621 in an upstairs flat. They were there for perhaps two years. They left here a year or so ago when according to his wife he got some job out of town. Mrs. Porter used to come in here occasionally but I very seldom had any association with Mr. Porter. I don't think I exchanged any words with him.

He was a peculiar person and we used to joke about him occasionally. I don't think he did any kind of work though he professed to be a writer. His wife when referring to Porter used to infer that he was engaged in some work that was highly secret and very important. Every time she talked about him she told us something different. He was going to take a trip to Arizona on one occasion and then he was engaged in some important research. It all sounded pretty fantastic and none of us took it very seriously. He was an odd looking character who seemed to be a little detached from everything around here. I don't think he had any visitors and I never saw him with anyone except his wife. He is a person of small stature with bushy hair.

I couldn't comment about his honesty, integrity, moral character,

drinking habits, affiliations or loyalty to the United States because I honestly don't know anything about him. There wasn't anything objectionable about his conduct here and there wouldn't have been any reason for me or anyone else to question his personal character or habits. I couldn't recommend him for a federal position because I just don't know much about him.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] the apartment house at 6621 California Street and [REDACTED] Mr. Bern Porter moved there in April 1955 and moved out in April 1957. He and his wife came there together. He left a little before his wife. She said that he was going to South America on some type of job and she was going to follow him. We could never tell what he did for a living. She worked all of the time that they lived there and according to her he never gave her a nickel. He was suppose to be a writer and I know that he said poetry.

It is my impression that he was not a very stable person, but I really couldn't say anything against him. He never caused any disturbance in the apartment house and never caused anyone any trouble that I know of. I don't think he was a drinking man and I would have no reason at all to question his morals. I would have no reason to question his affiliations or loyalty to the country. I regard him as unstable because he was so different. He didn't seem to work and he had nothing to do with anyone. I don't think there is anyone around the neighborhood who did get to know him. I just couldn't recommend a man like this for a federal job.

[REDACTED] 1480 Larkin Street:

Our rental records are not available but from memory it would be our best guess that Mr. Bernard Porter lived in units number 5 in this apartment for a period of not over three months over three years ago.

Mrs. Porter picked out the apartments and then he moved in. They did not get along too well and she moved out and got an apartment somewhere else. He lived here by himself for a while and then he too moved out. I guess he was by himself for over a month. When he left he took every light bulb in the apartment. He didn't leave a forwarding address so we contacted his wife where she was employed and she paid for the light bulbs. His wife was the one who always paid for the rent too.

Porter was a very mysterious person who kept close to himself. He had no personality and was quite different than the average person. He acted

secretive and when passing him in the hall he wouldn't even exchange hellos. He had a different appearance about him that I find hard to describe. He wasn't effeminate but he was "bohemian" and I would bracket him with the artistic type.

Mr. Porter was suppose to be a writer. He stayed pretty much to the apartment. I never knew him to have any kind of a job. He was suppose to be engaged in some mail order business while he was here. He had much more mail than anyone else.

From what we saw and heard of Mr. Porter there would be no reason for us to question his loyalty to the country. It didn't seem to us as if he had any visitors, close friends or associates.

We didn't know enough about him to make any recommendation as to his suitability for federal employment.

Miscellaneous

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE: There is no listings for subject in San Francisco telephone directories for the years 1955, 1956 and 1957. The 1957 San Francisco City Directory has no listing for subject. The city directories for the years 1955-56 list subject as residing at 1480 Larking Street, No. 5. No occupation is shown.

CALIFORNIA STATE BUREAU OF CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION AND INVESTIGATION, Sacramento, California; record searched by [REDACTED]
Record Searcher: No record.

CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE NO. 9:

The files indicate that Bern Porter, Sausalito was shown in the October 8, 1948 issue of the Marin Journal as a member of the Marin Committee of 100 for Harold Sawyer. Harold Sawyer was identified as a candidate for State Senator on the IPP ticket. Harold Sawyer has been very active in leftwing activities and was mentioned prominently in the People's World from 1941 until he died in 1951. The April 29, 1946 issue of the People's World identifies Harold Sawyer as a member of the Haymarket Branch of the Communist Party who was active in the Communist Party drive for

Peoples World subscribers.

These files indicate that [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] were in October 1950 subscribers to the Peoples World.

The files indicate that [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] was in January 1951 listed in correspondence file of the Independent Progressive Party, the Civil Rights Congress and the Labor Youth League.

CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE A-1:

Police files indicate that [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] was receiving the Peoples World for six months. The expiration date of the subscription was November 3, 1950. It is not known if this [REDACTED] is identical with [REDACTED] listed as subject's reference.

CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE NO. 11:

No record of Bernard H. Porter or Bern Porter.

[REDACTED] of [REDACTED] was shown listed in a correspondence file of the IPP, Civil Rights Congress and Labor Youth League. This correspondence file was left behind when the above organizations were evicted January 1951 from 1740 University Avenue, Berkeley.

[REDACTED] is shown in a group photo as a participant in New Group Production "Golden Boy" 1948 curriculum, California Labor School. It is not known if this [REDACTED] is identical with a [REDACTED] mentioned as author of [REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE NO. 13:

No record of subject. The same reference to [REDACTED] is found in these files as shown in the above testimony.

RETAIL CREDIT OF SAN FRANCISCO; records searched by [REDACTED]

The only information in these files is a card dated July 27, 1955 identifying Bern Porter of 6621 California Street, San Francisco, as a Consulting Physicist and Publisher Bern Porter Books. The card contains this notation, "This person called at RCA July 25, 1955 regarding possible

membership and membership requirements. Indicated interest because of large volume of outstanding delinquent accounts receivable from book dealers, etc. Suggest that if any inquiry is made or if he desires to subscribe to RCA that we establish his background."

PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 340 Melville Avenue:

I have known Bern Porter since 1949. I met him while he was living in Sausalito and there operating an art gallery. We became good friends and saw quite a lot of each other.

[REDACTED] During [REDACTED] I had no contacts with Porter. From the time [REDACTED] until Bern left the country about a year later I saw him quite a bit. Bern was out of the country for about eight or nine months. He was I believe in Venezuela doing research work for some radio corporation. It was in 1955 or 1956 that he went to Venezuela. Since his return from South America [REDACTED]

When I first met Bern he was single though he had previously been married. He had remarried by the time [REDACTED] I am not well acquainted with his wife. After 1954 we usually got together [REDACTED]. He would come and visit [REDACTED]

The only residence address that Bern had in San Francisco that I know about was on California Street.

Bern's employment history [REDACTED] that was prepared for some work [REDACTED] Bern is a research physicist but with this he has a very active interest in art, painting, poetry and writing. He has done a lot of work relating physics to these art forms. He has worked as a physicist until he has gotten enough money saved to pursue these other interests. To further these interests Bern has been in the publishing business. This business has never been a money maker. He publishes a number of small works in limited numbers that are collectors items. They are all hand finished works. His publishing address has been listed at various times in Sausalito then in San Francisco and also in Berkeley. From what I understand he has had these publications sent overseas to be printed there to cut down on the costs. I don't know just where overseas he sends them.

Bern is a withdrawn fellow and I would say he hasn't had much social life. He doesn't smoke or drink and I am sure that his morals are all right.

Bern is an intellectually honest person. He is a non-conformist but there wouldn't be any reason to question his loyalty to the country. He is not the type to affiliate himself to any group or organization that would attempt to dictate his beliefs.

I don't ^{know} many people who would be considered friends of Bern or even close acquaintances. One of those with whom he has been friendly is James Schevill.

I know of nothing in Bern's character, personal habits, associations or affiliations that would make me hesitate in recommending him for a security clearance.

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE: From available directory it could not be established that the above witness resided at [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. The reference residence during that year was not established. Below is listed a summary of subject's past as shown on a mimeographed sheet furnished by the above witness: Bern Porter (Bernard Harden Porter)

Instructor in Physics, Colby College,
Waterville, Maine, 1930-1932
B.S. degree in physics, Colby, 1932
Research Fellow in Physics, Brown University,
Providence, R. I., 1932-1933
Sc.M/degree in physics, Brown, 1933
Physicist, Acheson Colloids Corporation,
1935-1940
Research Physicist, Manhattan Project (A-Bomb)
1940-1945
Consulting Physicist, private practice,
1945-1955
Member Sigma Xi, Phi Beta Kappa, American
Physical Society, Institute of Radio Engineers;
biography cited American Men of Science, 8th
Edition, 1950
Major Science Publications: Map of Physics,
Chicago, 1938; Map of Chemistry, Philadelphia,
1939; Colloidal Graphite: Its properties and
Applications, Port Huron, Michigan, 1938; The
Union of Science and Art, Sausalito, 1948.

numerous technical articles and monographs in this country and abroad on radioactivity, electrophysics, colloidal lubrication, 1935-1940 in Journal of Applied Physics, Radio Engineering, Science, Physical Review, Electronics, etc., etc., (see Wilson Indexs, 1935-1940).

Miscellaneous Notes:

1937. Scientific delegate to the International Exposition, Paris; Commercial project physicist, London.

1940-1941- Assigned to Department of Physics, Princeton University to work on processes for the separation of uranium, conferring with Einstein, Smyth and Wilson on many problems. Exhibited in a Princeton Art Dept show sculptured forms taken directly and unaltered from the physics laboratory.

1942-1945- Assigned to Radiation Laboratory, University of California to work electromagnetic separation of uranium, commuting twice to Oakridge, first time as head of a group to test electromagnites used in separating uranium and second time to instruct non-technical people to operate equipment.

1939-1948- carried on private researches evolving the theories of Sciart with examples reproduced in Circle Magazine and book Art Techniques.

1947. Designed the "Church of Light", Sausalito, 1947

1953-1954- Wrote and lectured widely throughout Japan on Science and Art. Designed the Hiroshima House of Air in Hiroshima, December 1953.

1955- Described House of Air and Church of Light at International Institute of Design, Aspen, Colorado in June.

Described Solar Plant for Electrical Generation at World Symposium on Solar Energy, Tucson, October.

Continued private researches on Scilit, Sciarch, Scimus, Scipoe theories combining physics with architecture, literature, poetry, etc., as begun in 1949.

Book manuscript, The Roaring Market and the Silent Tomb, the biography of Porter completed