
**Confidential Letter to Anthony Caminetti
in Washington, DC
from J. Edgar Hoover in Washington, DC,
November 19, 1919.**

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JEH-GPO

November 19, 1919.

Strictly Confidential

Honorable Anthony Caminetti,
Commissioner-General of Immigration,
Washington, DC.

My dear Sir:

My attention has been particularly called to Rule No. 22, subdivision 5, section B, page 48 of the Immigration Rules issued by you. It is noted that the following rule is set forth:

At the beginning of the hearing under the warrant of arrest, the alien shall be allowed to inspect the warrant of arrest and all of the evidence on which it was issued, and shall be apprised that he may be represented by counsel.

As the activities of aliens who are radically inclined are always most secretive in character, it quite often is next to impossible to prove actual membership with the organization alleged to be anarchistic. In most of the cases of the Union of Russian Workers which are now pending before the officers of your bureau, the agents of this department have been reliably informed by confidential informants that the individuals in custody are members of the Union of Russian Workers. You of course will appreciate the inadvisability of calling such confidential informants as witnesses in the deportation hearings, for their usefulness as such informants would immediately be curtailed. It

thereupon devolves upon the inspector conducting the hearing to make an effort to obtain from the subject a statement as to his affiliations. However, the attorneys who principally indulge in the practice of defending these anarchists before your inspectors have apparently advised them to the effect that they should under no condition make any statement concerning their affiliations or their connections or activities.

I am enclosing herewith a photostat copy of an article appearing in the IWW Finnish publication INDUSTRIALISTI written by G.F. Vanderveer, one of the attorneys for the anarchists. You will note that on page 2 of the article in the third paragraph the writer states that if his advice is followed that it will be utterly impossible in 9 cases out of 10 for immigration inspectors to secure any evidence upon which to base a warrant of deportation.

I would appreciate therefore your advising me whether or not the section of the immigration rules requiring the inspector to advise the alien that he is entitled to counsel at the beginning of the hearing is one that is imposed through the immigration service by a specific act of Congress or whether it is a rule adopted by the Department of Labor as a matter of procedure.

Very truly yours,

[J. Edgar Hoover]
Assistant Director and Chief.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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