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# “Radicals Check List” Framed to Spy upon Bourbons’ Opponents

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*In this, the third article of the series, **The Call** continues to show how the Democratic administration has misused various departments of this government as a check upon American citizens. It continues to give the names of the “suspects.”*

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***The Call*, New York: P.O. Box 624, City Hall Sta. and 444 Pearl St., NYC. Radical, very active; is careful in its language, but is promoting social revolution, and acts for the Rand School, etc.; contains articles by all leading radicals, and announcements of lectures, schools, meetings, etc.; see 137034, to various addresses in Mexico and Panama, where it announces Peter Marmer, of the Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Council of Seattle, Washington, as lecturing with M.C. Ross, paroled deportee, at Manhattan Lyceum, (see Foreign Press Service); note an example “ad” — “Teacher wanted. Teacher wanted to teach Socialism to Children; must be able to read and speak German; call (etc.) Brooklyn Labor Lyceum School Committee.” see also circular of business manager Raymond Wilcox and booklet on aims, etc. to various in Canal Zone, 137034; also an article proposing to admit Germany to League of Nations, 104975; and on returning soldiers, 104973 see Soldiers and Sailors Council. Charles Erwin, managing editor; from Haberman, 25403; printed by Workingmen’s Cooperative Publishing Assn., S. John Block, Pres.; Julius Gerber, secretary; L.A Malkiel, treasurer.**

—*From the Administration’s Check List of Radicals.*



The Post Office Department Censors recently compiled, as was stated in Monday's article [Aug. 18, 1919], a confidential mimeographed list to aid its employees in their work. The title of this publication is "Check List of Radicals." It is a document characteristic both of the purpose and the method of the administration's spy system.

From the beginning of the war one purpose of the Wilson espionage seemingly has been to secure damaging information about the opinions, the personal activity, and the private life of Socialists, labor leaders, and liberal humanitarians prominent in the struggle for industrial democracy in the United States.

That a list prepared by the Post Office censors should be a "Check List of Radicals," rather than a "Guide to Pro-Germans," is in itself an indication of this purpose.

### **List Proves Bourbons Fear Real Education of Masses of the People.**

The list proves conclusively just what fears are in the minds of our Bourbon Democrats. In many cases there is not the slightest pretense of its having anything to do with pro-Germanism, and the names of those on the list indicate that it is not violence, but education of the masses of the people that the forces of reaction fear.

Those who agitate for violent methods are the best friends of the powers of political and industrial darkness, while those who seek to spread knowledge are its enemies. The names on this list prove that our Bourbons regard as a menace to their power those engaged in educational work.

The censorship has been used to prepare a comprehensive catalog of the opinions and activities of radical leaders, not only in the United States, but in other countries as well. A large staff of confidential clerks in various post offices were busy from the day the censor's offices opened to the day they closed, opening, reading, copying, and filing letters from men and women who had not the slightest sympathy or connection with enemy activities.

The information contained in these letters is summarized in the "Check List of Radicals."

A study of this list shows conclusively what the Wilson administration agents consider worthy of government suspicion and espionage. Some of this material is ludicrous; some of it is menacing; all of it is a denial of every right of personal liberty, supposed to have been guaranteed by what some are pleased to call our “free American institutions.”

### **Beard, Ardent War Supporter, Listed by Spies as “Violent Radical.”**

**Charles A. Beard**, for instance, Director of the Bureau of Municipal Research and ardent war supporter, who has shown himself sympathetic toward labor, is considered by the postal spies as “a violent radical.” It has been “discovered” that he “writes for the *New Republic*.” Horrors!

*The Call*, for example, is, they say, “very active,” and “is promoting social revolution, and acts for the Rand School.”

*The Dial* is suspect because of the heinous offense of being “often mentioned by radicals.”

*The Birth Control Review* for some reason is dangerous enough to be on the “Radical Check List.”

**Herman Cahn**, the noted economist, is on the list because he “wrote Capital Today: Radical.”

**The Cooperative League of America** is on the list — “J.P. Warbasse, president; Scott Perk, secretary; Socialist.” Apparently its chief offense was “suggesting an International Socialist Congress against ‘the trading class.’”

### **Opposition to Trading Class Riles Bourbon Rulers of Country.**

Being against “the trading class” would certainly rile the Bourbons. One of the crimes that cost *The Call* its second-class mailing privileges was an editorial on “Capitalism.”

**Robert Haberman**, late of New York and now of Yucatan, receives a great deal of attention. “There is only one thing against him,” complains the author at the start of his biography, and cites “CCDR, 108610, stating that he was involved in a plot to ship arms to India.” Apparently, however, there is a dispute among the administration agents on that point, for it is stated that “MID (Military Intelligence

Division) note 111993, 29128, states that files do not concur with CCDDR accusations.”

In spite of this, a long list of suspicious acts is given. For instance: “Asked his wife to get money from Louis Lochner for article he had sent Rand School.” The author of the list sizes Haberman up as follows: “This man seems of greatest importance in Yucatan, for good or for evil.... It remains to be seen what influence his connection with the notorious Rand School would have on his activities in Yucatan.”

At another point there is this gem: “Political control can come only from the educated and financially backed, not from uneducated labor. The influence of German-Russian Socialists and the Internationale (Berne Socialist Congress) is easily seen in all the Socialist and even IWW and anarchist periodicals. In the United States this party is confused with many organizations which have arisen through the war, of which the Rand School seems to be the center.”

### **People’s Council is Condemned for Cooperating with Radicals.**

**The People’s Council** is damned in these terms: “Cooperates with the Socialists, the Civil Liberties Bureau, the League for Amnesty of Political Prisoners, the Irish Progressive League, etc.; it advocates civil and political liberties, freedom of IWW prisoners, self-determination, non-intervention in Russia, disarmament, no military conscription, etc.”; and finally this climax: “This organization is evidently controlled by the Rand School.”

The Rand School, judged from the conclusions of the administration spies, is the root of all evil. Every trail leads, it seems, if they follow it long enough, to the Rand School. The Rand School is, apparently, a holding corporation that has a monopoly control over at least 90 percent of the business of radicalism.

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The following are verbatim extracts from this “Check List of Radicals” which give a fair sample of its contents. The numbers refer to the post office file numbers attached to the letters from which the information is taken.

**Beard, Charles A.**; violent radical, of Rand School, 133346; writes in New Republic.

*Prof. Charles A. Beard delivered a course of lectures in 1914 at Rand School. He is such a "violent radical" that he served on a delegation sent to Washington to urge a declaration of war by Congress in April 1917.*

*But Beard has told the truth in his many volumes dealing with the history of this country, and these truths are not complimentary to the Bourbons in politics and industry. It is probably this that cased him to be put down as a "violent radical."*

**Bureau of Information on Soviet Russia**, 229 Broadway, New York City, room 1812; news bulletin to La Protesta of Buenos Aires, 3-12-19, 138378; S. Nuorteva, director; part of Rand School, qv.; see note to J.L. Magnes. John Reed probably established this bureau.

*How well misinformed the Bourbons are. It was **not** "part of the Rand School" and John Reed did **not** establish it.<sup>1</sup>*

**Louise Bryant (Mrs. John Reed)**; see Seattle 12794; wrote *Six Red Months in Russia*, testified before Senate;<sup>2</sup> very active Bolshevik; connected with the Rand School, etc.

*Louise Bryant is not and never was connected with the Rand School in any capacity.*

**"Socialist Books."**

*No names. Evidently everything on Socialism looks alike to the Bourbons.*

**Nora Connolly**; daughter of Mrs. Skeffington; father was executed in recent Irish rebellion; is an Irish agitator and pro-German; see 62841 (lists names) and 95853; in New York's *Freeman's Journal*.

*What idiocy! Nora Connolly, daughter of the lamented and beloved James Connolly, murdered by the British Junkers, put down as a daughter of Mrs. Skeffington, whose husband was also folly murdered by the British tyrants. And it is agents such as these whose testimony has put noble men and women in this country in jail.*

**Victor L. Berger**; convicted with A. Germer and others under Espionage Act; was at conference with Trotsky, Lenin, etc. at the "Maison Peuple" in 1914; see 129454; etc.

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<sup>1</sup> There is actually a tiny kernel of truth here, John Reed does seem to have been dispatched to the USA early in 1919 to take a position as Consul in New York on behalf of the Soviet Russia, with one rare pamphlet published in England by Sylvia Pankhurst's Workers' Socialist Federation listing him on its cover as holding that very position. The Russian Soviet Government Bureau headed by Ludwig Martens was established independently of Reed, however, and Reed never actually performed any consular duties on behalf of Soviet Russia.

<sup>2</sup> Bryant testified before the Overman Committee of the US Senate in February 1919 during the committee's investigation of Bolshevism in Russia.

*The fact that neither Trotsky nor Lenin were at the 1914 conference made no difference to the agent who made this report. It was desirable to connect Berger with the two Russians, and down it went on the list. We have no doubt, however, that Berger would be glad to meet them there.*

**E.D. Nolan;** Secretary, pro-Tom Mooney circulars, C.Z. 30998, to Miller, Canal Zone, 1-20-19; to Brotherhood of Railway Carmen, Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, etc., of Panama, a call for Labor Congress on the Mooney case, for January 1919, in Chicago, No. 28889.

*To be "pro-Tom Mooney" is to be put on the "Radical Check List." After this, can there be any doubt as to why the Espionage system exists?*

**Alice S. Eddy;** 1217 East Adams Street, Phoenix, Arizona; No. 29602, to Woolever, states that Socialist Party is in weak state from loss of members through strikes, deportations, and the draft, and a real change of opinion (?); speaks of Berger, Germer, etc., on trial; rational, pro-LaFollette; encloses pamphlet of Socialist Party advocating Federal ownership, abolition penal code, pro-Negro equality; was apparently secretary of Socialist Party; will be succeeded by Mrs. George D. Smith of 435 North 4th Avenue, Phoenix, 12-27-18. See Partido Social.

*How illuminating! In "free America," under a "liberal" President, the legitimate activities of a citizen are set down as they would have been by the Third Section [Secret Police] under the Tsar.*

*Edited with footnotes by Tim Davenport*

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