
Confidential Letter to Anthony Caminetti in Washington, DC from J. Edgar Hoover in Washington, DC, Oct. 30, 1919.

Document in DoJ/BoI Investigative Files, NARA M-1085, reel 926, file 325570.

JEH-GPO

October 30, 1919.

Strictly Confidential

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

My dear Mr. Caminetti:

You will recall that I discussed with you informally the matter of the arrest of certain persons who are members of the UNION OF RUSSIAN WORKERS. Due to the increased activities of this organization, the Bureau of Investigation has reached the conclusion that certain leaders of this organization should be taken into custody. With this in view, the local offices of the Bureau of Investigation have been instructed to immediately make a thorough investigation of the activities of this organization in their localities and to submit to this office not later than November 3rd [1919] affidavits setting forth the names of the secretaries, delegates, and organizers of each local. These affidavits will contain the statement that the person is a member of the Union of Russian Workers

and is actively engaged upon the propaganda work of this organization. This department is desirous of obtaining the cooperation of your office in rounding up these undesirable aliens. The plan that comes to my mind is that this office should submit to you the individual cases of these persons and if the evidence of the case satisfies you as to their undesirability warrants could then be issued upon the entire lot and at a specified time, the subjects could be located by the officers of the Bureau of Investigation and their cases turned over to the immigration inspectors for final disposition.

I would appreciate it if you would advise me whether or not this plan meets with your approval. I would be very glad, if you so desire, to discuss this matter with you personally in order that we may reach a working agreement.

It is needless to say that this matter is to be treated in a strictly confidential manner, as it is not desired that the proposed round-up become public until after the same has been completed.

Very truly yours,

[J. Edgar Hoover]
Special Assistant to the Attorney General.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2011. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.