
In re: Socialist Meetings in Boston [Nov. 11, 1918]

by Albert W. Lyon

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Report Made By: Albert W. Lyon.

Place Where Made: Boston, Mass.

Date When Made: Nov. 15, '18.

Period for Which Made: Nov. 11, '18.

Title of Case and Offense Charged or Matter Under Investigation:

In re: Socialist Meetings in Boston. (War Matter)

*Statement of Operations, Evidence Collected, Names and Addresses
of Persons Interviewed, Places Visited, Etc.:*

At Boston, Mass.

Pursuant to instructions of Division Superintendent [John J.] Kelleher, and based upon a telephone call at division headquarters giving the information that the Socialists were parading the streets of Boston with red flags, and for the Agent to go and try and get in touch with them and pick out the leaders for further identification, and to get all the information possible without bothering them, Agent found the parade marching in the direction of the South End, but they disbanded at the Socialist headquarters, 885 Washington St.; also found that a general meeting was to be held at the Dudley St. Opera House, Roxbury.

Agent then attended this meeting which lasted from 8 pm until 10:30 pm. A man by the name of Comrade Louis C. Fraina spoke, and make the usual talk about founding a Socialist Republic here, and all over the world, and doing away with all capitalists. He

stated that now was the time to make an open fight for the principles of Socialism, and that the society intended to found a newspaper to the public, to be published 3 times per week, the first issue to be on next Saturday [Nov. 16, 1918]. This paper was to be called the *Revolutionary News* [*sic.*], and they desired subscriptions for the same, to the amount, at least, of \$2,000, the issues to be printed simultaneously in the different large cities of the US.

Socialistic pamphlets and red flags were sold in the hall. Fraina criticized the Allies and the US government for not taking under consideration the hopes of the Socialists, and predicted that the entire world would be educated to socialism. He also stated that one of the Allies' objects was to put down the Bolshevik Republic in Russia, and the socialistic movement in Germany, and that they would rather have a Kaiser on the German throne than a Socialist Republic.

Agent further learned that there was to be a meeting on Sunday, Nov. 17 [1918], at 3 pm, Grand Opera House, Washington St. and Dover St., to celebrate the first anniversary of the Russian Soviet Republic.

Agent further learned that the said Louis C. Fraina had classes in socialism at the socialistic headquarters, every Saturday at 4 pm, also every Wednesday at 8 pm. Subjects are "Revolutionary Socialism" and "Socialist Economics."

Case continued.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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