Communist Party Convention: Day 2 — Sept. 2, 1919.

by Jacob Spolansky

Document in DoJ/BoI Investigative Files, NARA M-1085, reel 931, file 313846.

Report Made by: J. Spolansky Place Where Made: Chicago, Ill. Date When Made: Sept. 4, 1919. Period for Which Made: Sept. 2, 1919.

Title of Case and Offense Charged or Nature of Matter Under Investigation:

In re: Communist Convention Held at 1221 Blue Island Ave. Communist Matter.

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

At Chicago.

Employee, accompanied by Agent [August] Loula of the office, attended the second session of the subject convention, in which election of committees on Organization & Constitution, Resolutions, and other matters in organizing the convention was under consideration.

For detailed report, Employee respectfully refers to reports of Agent Loula and Employee [James] Peyronnin.

Through undercover sources Employee ascertained that important business transactions in relation to the future policy of the Communist Party are being conducted secretly.

The convention is being ruled by ALEX STOKLITSKY, NICHOLAS HOURWICH, [OSCAR] TYVEROVSKY, [GEORGE] ASH-KENUZI, and [ALEX] BITTELMAN, who are

the real leading spirits in the creation of this Communist Party and have the confidence of the majority of the delegates.

The convention elected an Emergency Committee of 19. Before the election of this committee took place, Alex Stoklitsky and several other Russian radicals appealed personally to every delegate not to inquire as to the purpose of this committee. Employee ascertained that the real purpose of this committee is the creation of a RED GUARD. Employee 121 [N. Nagorowe], who is attending this convention as a delegate, informed me that the foreign speaking delegates, the majority of whom are Russian, despised the American delegates and are not trusting them a bit; that at any important caucus the American delegates are excluded and in most cases even not admitted.

DENNIS BATT, who took a leading part in organizing this convention, has no influence whatever and the delegates don't pay any attention to his suggestions or motions which he makes.

Stoklitsky is the czar and Stoklitsky is the man who gives instructions to all the delegates how to vote. They all look upon him and as soon as he raises his hand everybody follows him.

The proposed affiliation of the Communist Party, headed by Alex Stoklitsky, and the Communist Labor party, of which JOHN REED is the leader, will not take place.

John Reed is a strong supporter of LUD-WIG K. MARTENS and Alex Stoklitsky is in favor of controlling the so-called Russian Embassy

in New York by the Communist Party of America. The control of this embassy means the control of the expenditures, finances, and confirmation of the appointments by the Executive Committee of the Communist Party of America.

Ludwig K. Martens did not send any of his representatives to this convention of the Communist Party, while the Communist Labor Party is represented by John Reed.

An undercover representative of the Military Intelligence [who] is attending the Communist Labor Party convention as a delegate informed Employee that Ludwig E. Martens has advanced a considerable sum of money for the organization and propaganda work of the new Communist Labor Party.