
Department of Justice Surveillance Report of the Activities of Edward Lindgren, April 23-28, 1921. †

by Clarence D. McKean

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Case number 202600-1775-25.

Report made at: Pittsburgh, Pa.

Date When Made: May 6, 1921.

Period for Which Made: Apr. 23-28.

Report Made By: Clarence D. McKean

Title and Character of Case: EDWARD J. LINDGREN, alias JOHN E. SIEBERT, alias JOHN LANDY, alias FLYNN. National Organizer, United Communist Party.

Facts Developed:

AT PITTSBURGH, PA.

The following report constitutes a brief summary of the recent activities in Pittsburgh of EDWARD J. LINDGREN, who was taken into custody in New York City about midnight, April 29th, 1921, by the New York police and agents of this Bureau, attached to the New York Office. Subject, LINDGREN, has been known to use the following aliases: JOHN E. SIEBERT, JOHN LANDY, and FLYNN. LINDGREN is a National Organizer of the United Communist Party and a member of the Central Executive Committee.

As far as this office was able to learn, subject arrived in Pittsburgh Saturday morning, April 23rd, 1921, and registered at Hotel Henry under the name of JOHN LANDY, New York City. He was assigned to room 414. Efforts to definitely ascertain the city from which LINDGREN came when he arrived here were unsuccessful. He claimed to have just come in from Chicago where he said he had recently attended a meeting of the Central Executive Committee of the

United Communist Party. Our informant, however, is of the opinion that he came from Cleveland.

From investigation made by agents of the radical squad, it appears that subject spent April 23rd getting acquainted with the various leaders in Sub-District #10 [*sic.*], which comprises Pittsburgh and its environs; was also engaged making arrangements for an important conference to be held the following day, Sunday, April 24th.

The conference or meeting, arrangements for the holding of which had been worked out the day before, was held Sunday evening in a new brick house, situated in the rear of Workman's Hall, East Pittsburgh, Pa. Present at this meeting were 24 of the faithful. The business of the meeting was confined to the election or appointing of various ones to important committees and assignments, discussing finances, and the distribution of radical May Day literature, also to a general discussion of ways and means of building up the organization in this district. The meeting was addressed at great length by LINDGREN relative to the methods to be used in putting new life into the organization. He advised more English groups being organized and suggested that each one present approach members of the IWW, the Communist Party of America, and also workers in other kindred organizations with the view of interesting them in the United Communist Party movement and eventually winning them over as members in his Party.

Monday evening, April 25th, subject was present at a select gathering of 4 or 5 of the most trusted mem-

†- This report was transmitted to Lewis J. Baley, Chief of the Bureau of Investigation, US Department of Justice, in Washington, DC on May 6th.

bers and officers of the organization, which meeting was held at the home of FRANK RANDA, 702 East Street, Pittsburgh. The meeting was largely devoted to enumerating the duties of the newly elected Sub-District Organizer and the manner in which he should render his financial reports.

Tuesday, April 26th, LINDGREN, accompanied by the Sub-District Organizer, left the home of the above referred to RANDA about 5 pm and proceeded by automobile to the East McKeesport Baking company, Prop. S.M. KLUKOS, where 7 large bundles of May Day leaflets were received and taken to 1451 Electric Ave., East Pittsburgh, where the literature was temporarily left. From this point subject proceeded to the South Slavic Hall, East Pittsburgh, where he attended a meeting of 10 of the leaders. At this meeting regular business of the organization was conducted, which included the receiving of Section Organizers' reports. Upon the conclusion of the meeting, part of the literature previously conveyed to 1451 Electric Ave., East Pittsburgh, was distributed among those present to be taken to their respective homes for distribution Friday evening, April 29th.

Division Superintendent R.B. Spencer and I obtained a spot on subject by previous arrangement and shadowed him to his hotel. LINDGREN was very secretive about disclosing the name of the hotel at which he was staying. He did not reveal it to anyone.

Wednesday, April 27th, subject was engaged during the day calling on various party leaders; in the evening he attended two conferences, one at RANDA's home, the other at McKeesport, Pa. At these conferences he gave special instructions to the members recently elected to new positions. LINDGREN had planned to leave for New York on the night of the 27th to attend a special meeting there the following day of the Central Executive Committee council of the United Communist Party, but was delayed due to the failure of the arrival from Cleveland of PAUL

HOLT [Alfred Wagenknecht], Executive Secretary. This office had made preparation to obtain subject's Pullman reservation had he gone to New York. Subject was put to bed in the hotel at 1:30 am.

Thursday, April 28th, subject paid official visits to East McKeesport and McKeesport, Pa. At 5:10 this afternoon, he met PAUL HOLT [Wagenknecht] at the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Station on the arrival of the latter from Cleveland. Together, they proceeded to the South Slavic Hall at East Pittsburgh, where a conference was had with other leaders. At this conference, which was attended by 10 persons, financial affairs and the distribution of May Day literature were discussed. Orders were issued to all organizers forbidding the storing of literature in meeting places "as a raid could be expected at this time." The holding of all meetings was also forbidden until after Tuesday, May 3rd. It was decided to distribute the May Day leaflets at the discretion of the distributors, with the limitation that the literature must be put out some time after dark Friday night [April 29] and before daylight the following morning. Subject took a prominent part in this discussion.

LINDGREN left Pittsburgh at 11:10 pm, April 28th, for New York, on the Manhattan Limited, occupying berth #2, car 57, and was shadowed through by Agent Tatom of this office. This information was conveyed to New York by telephone.

The Bureau was kept informed of subject's activities during the period covered in this report by Division Superintendent R.B. Spencer.

Much of the information contained in this report was received from a confidential source; therefore, the Bureau Offices furnished with copies are respectfully requested to handle the information contained herein in such a manner as not to embarrass our informant.

I am advised that subject is under indictment in Chicago under a State Syndicalist Act.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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