

CONFIDENTIAL

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : The Director
FROM : D. M. Ladd
SUBJECT: CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY 2842 Jme/BO DATE February 11, 1947
REASON FOR EXTENSION FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2
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11-16-81

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Pennington
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-6 JJA/1-8/82 ON 5-10-82 1343

Pursuant to your conference with Mr. J. K. Mumford on February 12, 1947, in regard to a check of the confidential informants, I wish to advise that at the present time the Bureau maintains 249 regularly paid confidential informants on Communist matters. These informants report information not only on the Communist Party but on the extremely radical Socialist Workers Party, the Workers Party, and on various Communist dominated or infiltrated groups. This number of paid informants, 249, also includes Bureau Informant [redacted] who has many sources and informants working for him and furnishing information to the Bureau.

With regard to the total number of Communist informants, the last report from the field, December, 1946, lists 1017 informants, both paid and unpaid, on Communist matters. The paid informants are those individuals receiving more than \$10.00 per month on a regular basis and are closely supervised, both in the field and at the Seat of Government, to be certain that they produce information commensurate with the money which they are paid. These informants range from rank and file members to local unit secretaries, treasurers, organizers, state officers, and also individuals who because of their positions provide trash coverage on numerous Party headquarters in the country. The work of these informants is regularly evaluated and they are urged to keep advancing as much as possible within the Party to increase their value as informants. With regard to the trash coverage, it has become increasingly important due to the fact that the Party is becoming increasingly security conscious and the members are more careful than ever in talking over the telephone.

The New York Field Division which, of course, is the center of Communist activity, is completing arrangements whereby we will have trash coverage not only on the Communist Party headquarters in New York but also on the headquarters of the International Workers Order.

As stated above, the live informant coverage ranges from local units to state committees and within the past few months considerable effort was expended to place an informant close to the National Committee if not obtain an informant from the Committee itself. This entailed the use of an individual named [redacted] who was personally acquainted with [redacted] and it was believed that through him [redacted] could be reached. Due to [redacted] extreme dislike to be considered a stool pigeon and his neurotic condition, this plan was not successful. However, the New York Office and, in fact, all offices are constantly on the alert to observe any dissension, disaffection, or any indication on the part of prominent Party members which would make it possible to develop them into confidential informants. By continuing to check through technical sources, live informants, and investigations the field is always in a position to utilize any slight deviation by prominent Party members who might be developed into confidential informants.

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