

---

# In Re: Communist Meeting at West Side Auditorium, Chicago, Sept. 21, 1919

Reports by Peter P. Mindak and Jacob Spolansky

Documents in DoJ/BoI Investigative Files, NARA M-1085, reel 931, doc. 313848 & 313846.

*Report Made by:* Peter P. Mindak  
*Place Where Made:* Chicago, Ill.  
*Date When Made:* Sept. 26, 1919.  
*Period for Which Made:* Sept. 21, 1919.

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

## In Re Communist Meeting Meeting at West Side Auditorium

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

### *At Chicago, Ill.*

Employee together with Agents [August] Loula and [Jacob] Spolansky attended a meeting held at the West Side Auditorium, at 2 pm. [Sunday, Sept. 21, 1919]. The meeting was attended by 800 or 900 people, most of whom appeared to be Russians. The meeting was held under the direction of the Communist Party of America, as protest against the alleged murdering of strikers at Hammond, Ind.

The meeting was presided over by one [H.M.] **Wicks**. The speaker made a lengthy address in which he reviewed the various labor troubles in this country in the last 10 years in which strikers were killed by police during riots.

This speaker assailed the President in most violent terms, and his entire speech, it can be safely said, was the most revolutionary and fiery talk that employee has yet heard. He called all the police and other peace

officers as being all thugs cutthroats, and pimps. He could not find words powerful enough to portray his contempt and animosity. He advocated the organization of the workers in the various shops, to prepare themselves for the time, which he stated was at hand, when the workers will take the plants in their own hands as they did in Russia. He frequently mentioned the phrase "Proletarian Dictatorship," and each time it was mentioned it brought forth a burst of long applause. The gathering was a typical Bolshevik type.

The other English speaker was **C. Ruthenberg**, Secretary of the Communist Party. His speech was more of the old time Socialistic anti-Capitalistic talk and was tame in comparison with the talk of Wicks. There was one speaker who spoke in the Polish language; his name is **J. Kaminski**. He spoke about 5 minutes only and confined his talk to the principles of the Communist Party, and urged those present to work hard for the increase of membership of the party. He also urged those present to contribute all they can to a collection that would be taken up at the meeting.

The last speaker was **Alex Stoklitsky**. He spoke in the Russian language. He was applauded as he stepped up to the front of the stage. He frequently was



interrupted by bursts of applause from the gathering. He seemed to be the most effective of the speakers, undoubtedly because he spoke in the Russian language.

For details of his speech reference is made to report of Agent Spolansky, as employee did not understand all the expressions.

In the hall there was on sale a large assortment of Communist literature in various languages, which was bought up eagerly by many.

A collection was taken up for the benefit of the Communist Party, at the suggestion of Mr. Ruthenberg. The collection amounted to about \$98.00.

The gathering was surely a very revolutionary one, judging the applause that would burst forth when the word "Revolution" and the words "Proletarian Dictatorship" were mentioned.

Employee discontinued about 5:30 pm.

• • • • •

*Report Made by:* J. Spolansky

*Place Where Made:* Chicago, Ill.

*Date When Made:* Sept. 22, 1919.

*Period for Which Made:* Sept. 21, 1919.

*Title of Case and Offense Charged*

*or Nature of Matter Under Investigation:*

**In Re: Communist Mass Meeting  
at West Side Auditorium  
September 21 [1919], 4:00 pm.**

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

***At Chicago: SUNDAY***

Accompanied by Agents Loula and Mindak of this office, employee covered a mass meeting held at the West Side Auditorium, the purpose of which was to protest against the Hammond, Indiana atrocities. The chairman of the meeting was one **G. Vika**. The Speakers were **C. Ruthenberg, Kaminski, and Alexander Stoklitsky**.

Alexander Stoklitsky spoke in Russian, and worded his speech to the coming strike. He stated that the steel strike, which is going to start on September 22nd [1919] will become a general revolution, and that the Communist Party, whose aim is to bring about this revolution in this country should make every possible effort to explain to the steel strikers that proclaiming getting more wages for shorter hours is not the thing to fight for. He stated that they must fight for the establishment of communism through the proletarian dictatorship.

The speeches of Ruthenberg and Kaminski, employee refers to reports of Agents Loula and Mindak of this date.

***Edited by Tim Davenport.***

***Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2007. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.***