

**The Lusk Committee: A Guide to the Records of the Joint  
Legislative Committee to Investigate Seditious Activities: A  
Guide to the Records Held in the New York State Archives**

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## Introduction

From 1919 to 1920, the Joint Legislative Committee to Investigate Seditious Activities (commonly referred to as the Lusk Committee) sought to expose those organizations and individuals who allegedly posed a threat to American democracy and capitalism. Throughout New York State, socialist, labor, and ethnic organizations were investigated or called before the committee to account for their activities. The Lusk Committee gathered an enormous amount of information on these groups. These records should prove extremely useful to those interested in race, labor, immigration, ethnicity, civil rights, and social issues during post-World War I America.

The records of the Lusk Committee are part of the holdings of the New York State Archives . The committee's records consist of 16 series totalling almost 50 cubic feet. These records have been microfilmed, and the film contains detailed container or folder lists. Microfilm copies are available on inter-library loan and are available for purchase at the cost of duplication. Microfilming of these records and preparation of this guide was supported, in part, by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. This finding aid provides a general history of the Lusk Committee and descriptions of each series. It also contains an index of names, organizations, and subjects found within the records.

The State Archives, part of the Office of Cultural Education of the State Education Department, is mandated to acquire, preserve, and make available for research use State government records of enduring value. Since the opening of the Archives storage and research facility in the Cultural Education Center in 1978, over 52,000 cubic feet of records have been transferred from State agencies, and additional records are accessioned continually.

The records of the Lusk Committee are available to researchers at the State Archives research facility weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Further information about the content or use of these or other State Archives holdings is available from:

Research Services Unit  
New York State Archives  
Cultural Education Center, Room 11A42  
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This guide was prepared by Senior Archivist Daniel J. Linke. Senior Archivist Richard Andress helped prepare the history of the Lusk Committee and all but one of the series descriptions. Archivist Christine Karpiak described the maps found in Series L0041.

## **History and Background Information**

In 1919, the New York State Legislature established the Joint Legislative Committee to Investigate Seditious Activities (Concurrent Resolution, March 26, 1919). This committee was given broad authority to investigate individuals and organizations in the State who were suspected of promoting the overthrow of the American government in violation of the criminal anarchy articles of the State's Penal Code. With the exception of a minor case, this was the first time that these statutes had been implemented since their enactment in 1902 following the assassination of President McKinley by an anarchist in Buffalo.

For more than a year, the committee gathered an enormous body of information on suspected radical groups by raiding organization offices and examining documents, infiltrating meetings, assisting law enforcement agents in the arrest of thousands, and subpoenaing witnesses for the committee's hearings. The investigation generated nationwide publicity and the repressive attitude which resulted throughout the State contributed to the expulsion of five Socialist members from the New York State Assembly and the prosecution of a number of individuals on criminal anarchy charges. The committee's investigation officially ended when it submitted its final report with recommendations to the legislature in April 1920.

### ***The "Red Scare"***

The committee's investigation responded to (and contributed to) the "Red Scare" which occurred throughout the United States following the First World War. The ideas of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia had spread throughout Europe, and some perceived these ideas as a threat to this country as well, especially as economic conditions quickly deteriorated after the war's end in November 1918. Increasing inflation, high unemployment, widespread labor strife, and a severe housing shortage, combined with nationalistic feelings stirred during and after the war, led to a strong distrust of pacifists, political radicals, liberals, and foreigners who did not support the war or traditional American economic and political values. The recent influx of immigrants from southern and eastern Europe, as well as the movement of blacks to northern cities, also were seen by many people as a growing economic threat. Labor strikes, bombings of government officials' homes and offices by suspected radicals, and other events occurring throughout the country in 1919 led many New Yorkers to support the legislature in its investigation of the activities of socialists, communists, anarchists, left-wing labor groups, and others suspected of undermining the American way of life.

### ***Committee Activities***

The Joint Legislative Committee to Investigate Seditious Activities consisted of four senators and five assemblymen. Headed by Senator Clayton R. Lusk of Cortland County, it was known popularly as the "Lusk Committee." While most of its investigation centered on New York City, the committee also undertook investigations in Buffalo, Rochester, and Utica. Private detectives and legislative staff members assisted in the investigations, and the State Attorney General acted

as the committee's general counsel. Additionally, the committee cooperated closely with local police and district attorneys and officials from the United States Immigration Bureau and Department of Justice.

During its investigation, the committee raided the headquarters of suspected radical organizations to gather evidence that these organizations advocated the overthrow of the government. Among the organizations raided were the Russian Soviet Bureau, the Rand School of Social Science, the left wing section of the Socialist Party, the Industrial Workers of the World (all located in New York City), and 73 branches of the Communist Party. Using search warrants in the raids, the committee seized thousands of documents from these organizations, retaining the originals (or making copies) for examination and, in some cases, for inclusion in its final report. In addition, the committee seized financial records and membership lists and shared them with local district attorneys throughout the State who, drawing on the lists, indicted many individuals on criminal anarchy charges. The investigation also involved committee investigators who observed mass meetings held by suspected radical groups and reported to the committee on the makeup of the audiences and the content of speeches.

### ***The Committee's Report***

On April 24, 1920, the committee submitted its four-volume report to the State Senate. Entitled *Revolutionary Radicalism: Its History, Purpose and Tactics*, the first two volumes of the report detailed the development of radical and left wing movements in Europe and the United States and discussed how radical organizations used propaganda to spread ideology and promote seditious activity, particularly in the United States.

The last two volumes of *Revolutionary Radicalism* discussed existing constructive elements that could combat the spread of radical thought. The committee in particular stressed the role of education in the formation of traditional American political, economic, and social values among citizens. The committee recommended re-educating teachers and "the educated class"--those in colleges and universities and with advanced degrees--by reorganizing and extending the educational system. The report's principal recommendations were embodied in four legislative bills aimed at reforming the educational system. These bills would require: 1) that teachers obtain a special certificate certifying that they were persons of good character and loyal to the institutions of the State and nation; 2) that all schools not under the supervision of the State Education Department or maintained by a religious denomination obtain a license from the Board of Regents; 3) that courses in adult and immigrant education be continued and expanded; and 4) that educational facilities be expanded to factories and other places of work.

These bills were passed by the legislature but Governor Alfred E. Smith, a Democrat, vetoed them. When Republican Nathan Miller assumed the Governor's Office in 1921, the legislature passed the laws again and Miller signed them into law. When Smith took back the Governor's office two years later, his administration successfully pushed to repeal the laws.

## ***Results of the Committee's Investigation***

The effects of the committee's investigation were short-lived. While the evidence uncovered by the committee led to the prosecution of criminal anarchy cases, of the thousands who were arrested, only a few score were charged, and only a handful convicted or deported, since little incriminating material was found within the thousands of documents seized by the committee. The proposed legislation calling for teacher loyalty oaths and expanded school licensing, though enacted for a two-year period, had little effect. Clayton Lusk was caught in an embarrassing situation in which he accepted expensive silverware from law enforcement officials; he then chose not to run for re-election. And while the committee's evidence assisted in the expulsion of five Socialist members from the Assembly, the public outcry over the expulsions eventually led to denunciation of the committee's work and methods.

## Description of Records

### ***L0026. Hearing Testimony and Executive Session Transcripts, 1919-1920. 1.6 cubic feet.***

Arrangement: Organized into three subseries: Subseries 1, Committee Hearing Transcripts, 1919-1920, 0.8 cubic foot. Subseries 2, Executive Session manuscripts, 1919-1920, 0.4 cubic foot. Subseries 3, Chairman's Transcripts, 1919-1920, 0.4 cubic foot. All are arranged chronologically.

The series consists of over 3,000 pages of testimony given before the committee to gather information about activities of suspected radical organizations and to investigate the roots of communist or socialist movements worldwide, but particularly in the United States and New York.

Testimony consists of statements by New York's attorney general, members of his staff, State and local police, and those called before the committee who were members of suspected subversive organizations, including ethnic organizations. Most of the testimony relates to radical activity in the New York City area but there is information about groups active in Buffalo, Rochester, and Utica. The testimony includes verbatim transcripts of correspondence, pamphlets, newspaper articles, and other material seized by the committee during raids on suspected radical organizations. Included are transcripts of documents from the Russian Soviet Bureau, the Industrial Workers of the World, the Rand School of Social Science, and national and local branches of the Socialist Party and the Communist Party.

The Executive Session Transcripts are largely testimony from representatives of businesses engaged in various aspects of the international sugar beet industry showing why there were consistently high consumer prices for sugar. The committee had concluded that many individuals were being attracted to radical philosophies because of a belief that capitalism unnecessarily raised prices of products. The committee hoped to use this testimony to help educate people on the positive benefits of the capitalist system.

The Chairman's Transcripts, three volumes of transcripts of committee hearings and executive sessions, were possibly kept by Senator Lusk himself and may duplicate portions of Subseries 1 and 2.

Finding Aids: Folder list.

Indexes: The first folder in Subseries 1 contains an incomplete index generated by the committee to exhibits, topics, and witnesses

### ***L0027. Mass Meetings Investigation Files, 1918-1920. 1.0 cubic foot.***

Arrangement: Chronological by meeting date.

This series contains reports compiled by committee investigators attending mass meetings to gather information and evidence about suspected radical groups and individuals in New York. The reports cover meetings held between January 1918 and April 1920; most of the meetings were held in the New York City area. The majority of the meetings were sponsored by local labor organizations or by local branches of the Socialist Party. Information on meetings includes date, place, time, sponsoring organization, estimated number of people attending, ethnic and political makeup of audience, names of individual radical suspects attending, and a summary of proceedings. The reports include either summaries or verbatim transcripts of speeches, many by prominent socialist leaders.

August Claessens, Henry Jaeger, and Louis Weitz gave the greatest number of speeches at the meetings investigated. Claessens, Charles Solomon, Louis Waldman, Samuel A. DeWitt, and Samuel Orr were the five assemblymen prevented from being seated in the New York Assembly because of their Socialist Party membership, and the controversy over their plight is documented in speeches given by them and others. Generally the speeches and rallies explained socialist beliefs; denounced American militarism, politics, and foreign policy (including Woodrow Wilson and policies towards Mexico and India); and commented on topics of the day: Eugene Debs' imprisonment; the raid on the Rand School of Social Science; the "Soviet Ark" deportations (in which over 250 alleged radicals or illegal aliens were forcibly deported); and the illegal arrest and imprisonment of socialists.

Finding Aids: Folder list.

Indexes: Folder 1 contains a chronological summary of speakers and dates.

### ***L0028. Rand School Seized Files, 1913-1919. 1.4 cubic feet.***

Arrangement: Organized into five subseries:

Subseries 1, Subject Files, 1914-1919, 0.5 cubic foot, is arranged alphabetically by topic.

Subseries 2, Photostatically-copied Correspondence, 1914-1919, 0.5 cubic foot, has no apparent order.

Subseries 3, Course Inquiry File, 1913-1915, 0.1 cubic foot, is arranged roughly by date of inquiry.

Subseries 4, Correspondence Course File, 1917-1918, 0.1 cubic foot, has no apparent arrangement.

Subseries 5, Supporters Name File, ca. 1915- 1919, 0.2 cubic foot, is arranged alphabetically by individuals' last names.



The American Socialist Society operated the Rand School of Social Science in New York City. The emphasis of the school's curriculum was on economics and history along with courses on English, public speaking and other practical courses for immigrants. While the Rand School's stated philosophy was to promote the spread of socialism by peaceful means, the committee maintained that it sought the overthrow of the government.

This series consists of material confiscated by the committee in raids on the Rand School in June 1919. The seizures were an attempt to gather evidence to prove the committee's suspicions about the school's revolutionary nature. The material pertains to the school's curriculum, its financial support, and to individuals connected in various ways to the Socialist Party. The Committee attempted to use these and other documents as grounds to revoke the charter of the American Socialist Society to operate the school. The case was eventually dismissed by a New York State Supreme Court Justice due to lack of evidence.

This series contains primarily correspondence, bulletins, lists, and receipts relating to home study courses, lectures, publications, and other activities of the school. There is a small amount of material relating to political and organizational activities of the Socialist Party including minutes of meetings and lists of local organizers within New York and other states. The majority of letters were written by local Socialist Party organizers submitting articles for Rand School publications or requesting speakers for meetings. The records also include several lists of individuals active in local Socialist Party organizations and articles apparently submitted for publication by the Rand School. Some items are faded beyond legibility.

Finding Aids:Folder list.

***L0029. Suspected Radical Organizations Seized Files, 1916- 1919. 1.0 cubic foot.***

Arrangement: Organized into two subseries: Subseries 1, Original Records, 1918-1919, 0.5 cubic foot. Subseries 2, Photostatic Copies of Seized Records, 1916-1919, 0.5 cubic foot. Both are arranged alphabetically by name of organization.

The series consists of original and photostatic copies of records from approximately a dozen organizations suspected of radical activities. The records were seized by the committee during raids on the organizations' headquarters in New York City in order to gather information and evidence about suspected radical groups and individuals. The records include correspondence, meeting minutes, pamphlets, articles, organization and membership lists, and other materials. The records pertain to the various groups' organization, philosophy, membership, meetings, educational programs, and publications. There is information both on national organizations and their local branches, such as the Communist Party, the Socialist Party, the Union of Russian Workers, and the Workers Defense Union. Some non-English language materials are found in this series.

Subseries 1, Original Records, pertains to activity of nine suspected radical organizations. The majority of records relate to the Communist Party and to the left wing section of the Socialist Party.

Subseries 2, Photostatic Copies of Seized Records, pertains to a number of suspected radical organizations. This subseries contains a number of articles appearing in various radical publications and approximately 50 letters, articles, and reports in Russian without translations. Some organizations represented in this subseries are also found in Subseries 1, and while some of these copies duplicate original documents in Subseries 1, most do not.

Finding Aids: Folder list.

### ***L0030. Industrial Workers of the World Seized Files, 1918- 1919. 1.2 cubic feet.***

Arrangement: Alphabetical by subject.

The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) was an obvious target for the committee and for other bodies investigating suspected radical activity during the "Red Scare" period. Founded in 1905 by trade unions and leading American socialists, the IWW sought the elimination of the wage system and the overthrow of the entire capitalist system. The philosophies of the IWW appealed directly to unskilled, migrant, and immigrant workers who had little control over or influence in government or other avenues of power in society. As the chief advocate of revolutionary industrial unionism, the IWW came under close scrutiny by the committee.

This series consists of files seized by the committee during a raid on the IWW New York City headquarters on June 21, 1919 as part of its efforts to gather information and evidence about radical groups and individuals. The records relate to organizational, recruitment, and fund raising activities of the IWW throughout New York City, the State, and the nation. Records include correspondence, articles, texts of articles and speeches, circulars, lists of meetings, bulletins, financial reports, applications for membership (with date, membership card number, name, address, and occupation of applicant, though many are incomplete), minutes of meetings (including the minutes of the May 1919 national IWW meeting), lists of individuals and organizations (mostly unions) affiliated with the IWW, and lists of names and addresses of IWW contributors. Anti-IWW material is also found.

The records include correspondence, articles, and receipts pertaining to IWW publications The Labor Defender and The Rebel Worker. The series also includes reports, minutes, and other records relating to activity of the Construction Workers Union, the Marine Transport Workers Union, and the Metal and Machinery Workers Union.

Finding Aids: Folder list.

***L0031. National Civil Liberties Bureau Subpoenaed Files, 1917- 1919.  
5.25 cubic feet.***

Arrangement: Organized into two subseries: Subseries 1, Legal Defense Correspondence, 1917-1919, 3 cubic feet, is arranged alphabetically by topic or by state. Subseries 2, Conscientious Objection Correspondence, 1917-1919, 2.25 cubic feet, is arranged by topic, state, or Army camp.

During its investigation, the committee charged that the National Civil Liberties Bureau (NCLB) was engaged in a number of seditious activities, particularly undermining the nation's efforts during World War I. The NCLB was formed in 1917 as an outgrowth of the American Union Against Militarism, which was formed to work against American intervention in the war. The stated objectives of the NCLB were to protect free speech and civil liberties of citizens and to assist the defense of conscientious objectors during the war. The NCLB also served as a type of national clearinghouse for information relating to the legal defense of conscientious objectors and other individuals charged by the government with various types of seditious activity. In 1920, the NCLB changed its name to the American Civil Liberties Union.

During the hearings, the committee accused the NCLB of many radical activities including:

- encouraging individuals to register as conscientious objectors to escape military duty
- assisting radical groups in obstructing the war effort
- issuing propaganda for radical organizations
- furnishing attorneys for those objecting to military service and for those being prosecuted for violating the Federal Espionage Act

The committee felt strongly that socialist revolutionaries played upon pacifist sentiments of a large number of well-intentioned individuals in order to spread radical propaganda and to influence foreign policy decisions of the United States toward Soviet Russia. The committee charged that the NCLB was in the forefront of this pacifist movement and it closely investigated the bureau's activity.

This series consists of photostatic copies of records subpoenaed from the national headquarters of the National Civil Liberties Bureau in New York City by the committee as part of its efforts to gather information and evidence about suspected radical groups and individuals. The records primarily consist of correspondence between the NCLB and individuals and organizations throughout the country relating to the legal defense of accused radicals and conscientious objectors. The records are divided into two subseries.

Subseries 1, Legal Defense Correspondence, 1917-1919 principally consists of correspondence pertaining to the legal defense of individuals arrested for various types of radical activity whom the NCLB assisted as part of its efforts to protect civil liberties. There is correspondence relating to cases in 45 states and Puerto Rico. Numerous cases relate to conspiracy charges under the newly-enacted Federal Espionage Act and Sedition Act, and many of the writers asked the NCLB for help in obtaining legal counsel or for advice on cases. There is a large amount of correspondence between the NCLB and attorneys regarding the handling of individual cases,

with a number of letters dealing with the legal defense of Industrial Workers of the World members. Many letters are from the NCLB to individuals and organizations seeking financial contributions to help pay for accused radicals' legal fees. The records also include letters written by the NCLB to various government officials seeking additional protection of freedom of speech and civil liberties.

Subseries 2, Conscientious Objection Correspondence, 1917- 1919, consists principally of correspondence between the NCLB and conscientious objectors from 32 states and 12 Army camps. Because of its pacifist roots, the NCLB advised conscientious objectors on the procedures to declare their status and their rights once they did so, and the majority of the letters reflect this work. Correspondence from the NCLB provides general information on procedures for reclassifying as a conscientious objector and in some cases offers specific information on legal help. Included are letters from the NCLB to the United States War Department on behalf of individuals applying for conscientious objector status. The records also include correspondence between the NCLB and organizations active in the pacifist movement such as the American Friends Service Committee, the American Liberty Defense League, the League for Democratic Control, and the People's Defense Council.

Finding Aids: Folder list.

### ***L0032. Russian Soviet Bureau Seized Files, 1918-1919. 1.2 cubic feet.***

Arrangement: Organized into two subseries: Subseries 1, Original Seized Records, 1918- 1919, 0.7 cubic foot. Subseries 2, Photostatic Copies of Seized Records, 1918-1919, 0.5 cubic foot. Both are arranged alphabetically by topic.

The committee utilized search warrants to raid a number of organizations suspected of radical activities. During the raids, huge quantities of documents were seized and many individuals were arrested. The Russian Soviet Bureau in New York City was the target of the first committee raid, on June 12, 1919. The new Bolshevik government had set up the bureau as its official mission in an attempt to secure diplomatic recognition by the United States and encourage trade with American companies. The committee accused the bureau of being a radical revolutionary organization spreading Bolshevik propaganda. The committee used the documents during hearings and in its report to show ongoing seditious activity and connections between the bureau and other suspected radical organizations.

The series contains original and photostatic copies of records seized during the committee's raid on the Russian Soviet Bureau. A large portion of the series consists of correspondence between Bureau Director Ludwig C.A.K. Martens and individuals and organizations contacted by the bureau in order to promote better relations between the United States and Russia's Communist government. The committee suspected the bureau of promoting communist ideology and seized the records in order to gather information about seditious activities.

The records include correspondence and memoranda from the commercial, diplomatic, legal, and other departments within the Russian Soviet Bureau. There are also mailing lists of individuals

and organizations, copies of speeches and articles, and lists of companies interested in doing business with the Bolshevik government. The records also contain reports of events occurring in Russia during the period.

Some documents are in Russian, with translations sometimes available. Only a few of the photostatic copies duplicate the original records.

Finding Aids: Folder List.

***L0033. Finnish Information Bureau Seized Files, 1918-1919. 1.7 cubic feet.***

Arrangement: Organized into two subseries: Subseries 1, Original Seized Records, 1918- 1919, 1 cubic foot. Subseries 2, Photostatic Copies of Seized Records, 1918-1919, 0.7 cubic foot. Both are arranged alphabetically by topic.

Finding Aids: Folder list.

While civil war and revolution were occurring in Russia, Finland, long under Russian dominion, revolted and declared independence. In January 1918, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the People's Republic of Finland came to power as a declared socialist government. Though short-lived, it established the Finnish Information Bureau in New York City as its official, though unrecognized, mission in the United States. The mission solicited support for this Finnish government and also promoted the interests of the Russian Soviet regime to which it was closely tied. The committee asserted that the Finnish Information Bureau went beyond seeking support for the Finnish government and that it really was promoting revolutionary doctrine in this country. The committee subsequently raided the bureau and seized a number of files in order to gather evidence about the bureau's suspected subversive activities.

This series contains original and photostatic copies of these files. The majority of the records consist of correspondence between Bureau Director Santeri Nuorteva and supporters or prospective supporters of the Finnish or Soviet causes. A large portion of the correspondence consists of letters from Nuorteva to United States officials describing conditions in Finland and Russia and appealing for their political support. There is also correspondence regarding the many requests for Nuorteva to speak at local Socialist Party meetings throughout the country. In addition to the correspondence, the records contain texts of speeches, articles, reports, and press releases pertaining to conditions in Finland and Russia.

Some documents are in Finnish. Only a small portion of the photostatic copies duplicate the original records.

***L0034. Draft Report File, 1919-1920. 2.4 cubic feet.***

Arrangement: Chronological by date of draft.

The series consists of two typed drafts of the committee's report that was submitted to the State Senate on April 14, 1920. The first draft is a partial copy of the report that contains occasional pencilled additions. The second draft is a near complete typed copy of the report signed by members of the committee. The drafts do not include the table of contents, index, or illustrative material contained in the published report.

The four-volume published report was entitled "Revolutionary Radicalism: Its History, Purpose and Tactics" (Albany: 1920) and was issued to recount the committee's investigation into and conclusions regarding radical activities. The report was compiled largely from secondary sources, but also from the committee's investigations, hearing testimony, and from analyzing a few of the large number of documents seized in raids by the committee. The general introduction to the report summarizes the activities of what the committee saw as the radical movement, outlines the committee's investigation, and reprints remedial legislation proposed by the committee.

Finding Aids: Folder List.

Indexes: The published volumes contain indexes.

### ***L0035. Newspaper Clippings Files, 1919. 14 cubic feet.***

Arrangement: By topic.

During its investigation, the committee gathered information on a broad spectrum of individuals, organizations, and events associated with radical activities during the "Red Scare" years. As part of this information gathering, the committee examined articles from newspapers reporting on these activities and their causes in the United States and throughout the world. The committee examined the newspapers not only for information about these activities but also to determine attitudes of the press and public toward radical movements.

This series consists of over 20,000 newspaper articles from June through October 1919. Nearly all the stories were taken from seven New York City newspapers (New York American, New York Globe, New York Herald, New York Post, New York Times, New York Tribune, and New York World) and the Baltimore Sun. The clippings were glued to sheets and fastened into binders by topic. Over 80 percent of the articles are merely one or two paragraph descriptions of an event. The remainder are longer articles ranging from several paragraphs to several pages. While some editorials or longer in-depth reports are included, the majority are straight news stories.

The topics covered by the clippings include several thousand events and activities of individuals and organizations suspected of radical activity in New York State, the United States, and the world. The clippings are grouped under several major topics, the most significant being:

- labor: articles focus on union activities of a large number of trades and on strikes, particularly the 1919 Steel Strike
- foreign countries: events in Europe and Russia are emphasized but articles cover many countries elsewhere
- radical organizations in the United States: clippings center on organization, propaganda, and radical activity
- unrest in the United States: articles focus in particular on unrest due to high food prices and housing shortages
- United States involvement with the war in Europe
- immigration, naturalization, and deportation
- ethnic groups, particularly Negroes and Jews
- activities of the committee: several hundred articles document the work of the committee during the period

Finding Aids: Folder list and an alphabetical listing by major subject heading.

***L0036. Suspected Radical Propaganda File, ca. 1890-1919. 10.9 cubic feet.***

Arrangement: Organized into eleven sections by format of material or language.

Section 1, English Language Pamphlets, ca. 1890-1919, 2 cubic feet, is arranged alphabetically by topic or name of writer.

Section 2, Russian Language Pamphlets, ca. 1900-1919, 2 cubic feet, is arranged first by country of publication (either the United States or Russia), then alphabetically by name of writer.

Section 3, Ukrainian Language Pamphlets, ca. 1900-1919, 1 cubic foot, has no arrangement.

Section 4, Lithuanian Language Pamphlets, ca. 1900-1919, 1 cubic foot, has no arrangement.

Section 5, Yiddish and Lettish (Latvian) Language Pamphlets, ca. 1900-1919, 1 cubic foot, has no arrangement.

Section 6, Miscellaneous Foreign Language Pamphlets, ca. 1900-1919, 1 cubic foot, is arranged roughly by language.

Section 7, Translated Abstracts of Foreign Language Pamphlets, ca. 1900-1919, approximately 40 items, 0.25 cubic foot, is arranged alphabetically by topic.

Section 8, Translated Abstracts of Foreign Language Newspapers, ca. 1900-1919, 0.5 cubic foot, is arranged alphabetically by name of newspaper.

Section 9, Radical Periodicals File, ca. 1900-1919, approximately 30 items, 0.2 cubic foot, has no arrangement.

Section 10, Radical BroadSides, Circulars, and Leaflets File, ca. 1900-1919, approximately 100 items, 0.25 cubic foot, is arranged roughly by topic.

Section 11, Radical Books File, ca. 1900- 1919, 35 items, 1 cubic foot, has no arrangement.

This series consists of an important collection of propaganda materials gathered by the committee during its investigation of radical individuals and organizations during the years following World War I. The series contains approximately 1,500 printed items, including 1,200 English and foreign language pamphlets. This collection is a significant resource for examining the development of socialist thought and action during the early part of the century.

The committee was very concerned with the staggering amount of supposed revolutionary propaganda being produced and distributed throughout New York and the country. Inexpensive pamphlets, newspapers, journals, broadsides, circulars, and other forms of propaganda were a main target of its investigation. The committee felt that this propaganda had great influence in generating sympathy for revolutionary philosophies among immigrant workers and other groups. Many of the materials in this series were cited in the committee's final report in order to support educational recommendations aimed at countering the alleged harmful influence of radical propaganda.

The majority of the material was produced between 1917- 1919, although some items pertaining to the early development of socialist thought date from the late 1800s. Most of the material was published in New York, Chicago or other American cities; a large number of items were also produced in Russia or in various European countries. Approximately 75 percent of the material is in a foreign language with the remainder in English. Russian language material predominates but there is also a large quantity of material in Ukrainian, Lithuanian, and other languages. Some pamphlets' titles have been translated by New York State Archives staff.

The collected propaganda covers the entire spectrum of radical topics investigated by the committee including socialism and related topics (anarchism, bolshevism, communism, Marxism, etc.), capitalism, labor, pacifism, and anti- militarism. There is a wealth of material pertaining to social, economic, and political conditions in the United States, Russia, and other countries. Included are writings of Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, Nicolai Lenin, Leon Trotsky, and lesser known leaders of socialist movements in Russia and European countries.

The records are divided into sections by language and form, with each section containing material relating to the broad topics outlined above.

Finding Aids: Container or folder lists to each section and a list of English translations of Ukrainian and Czech pamphlet titles (and their authors).

Indexes: Section 1, English Language Pamphlets, has an alphabetical author index.



***L0037. Legal Papers Relating to the Searches and Prosecutions of Suspected Radical Individuals and Organizations, 1919-1920. 1.0 cubic foot.***

Arrangement: Alphabetical by folder subject heading.

During its investigation, the committee searched New York City headquarters of suspected radical organizations, collected testimony from individuals active in these organizations, and assisted in the prosecution of many individuals charged with criminal anarchy under several sections of the State's Penal Law, as part of its charge to investigate radical activity. The State's Attorney General served as the counsel to the committee and was very active during these investigations.

This series contains primarily legal papers relating to the investigations including affidavits, briefs, court orders, court stenographers' minutes, petitions, search warrants, lists of seized property, and subpoenas. The series also includes correspondence, testimony of witnesses, trial notes, legal memoranda, and other records relating to committee searches and prosecutions.

Approximately half of the material relates to searches of the Rand School of Social Science and the subsequent attempt to revoke the charter of the school's parent organization, the American Socialist Society. Other material relates to searches and prosecutions of the Communist Party of America, the Industrial Workers of the World, the Russian Soviet Bureau, and the Socialist Party, Left Wing Section. The material provides information on the structure, staffing, meetings, publications, educational programs, and other aspects of the activities of these organizations.

Finding Aids: Folder List.

***L0038. Investigations Files, 1918-1920. 5 cubic feet.***

Arrangement: Organized into two subseries: Subseries 1, New York City Investigation File, 1918-1920, 3 cubic feet, is alphabetically arranged by topic. Subseries 2, Upstate New York Investigations File, 1919, 2 cubic feet, is alphabetical by city.

This series contains records relating to the committee's investigation of organizations suspected of spreading radical revolutionary propaganda in violation of the state's criminal anarchy statutes. To assist prosecutors in preparing criminal anarchy cases, the committee produced investigative reports, seized and examined organization records, and subpoenaed witnesses for testimony.

The records in this series were produced as part of these investigations. They include correspondence, investigative reports, minutes of meetings, summaries of documents seized from organizations, lists of individuals and organizations suspected of radical activity, transcripts of speeches and testimony, and newspaper articles, pamphlets, and other printed items. The records are divided into two subseries, the first relating to New York City investigations and the second relating to investigations in upstate New York.

This series contains information relating to investigation of individuals and organizations active in New York City and Upstate New York. The records include material relating to: the Russian Soviet Bureau (reports on bureau activity, interviews with staff, and summaries of seized documents); the Rand School of Social Science (mostly content of curriculum and background of faculty); the Industrial Workers of the World (correspondence, articles for labor newspapers, and investigation reports on activities of a number of local labor unions and organizations); labor groups, socialists, and Jewish and African-American individuals and organizations. Reports from private investigators hired by the committee detailed activities at radical meetings, various speeches, and the methods of distribution of radical literature.

Finding Aids: Folder list.

### ***L0039. Investigation Subject Files, 1919-1920. 1.0 cubic foot.***

Arrangement: Alphabetical by subject.

This series contains material on various topics of concern to the committee which was collected as part of their investigation into suspected radical groups and individuals. These records include correspondence, testimony, investigative reports, copies of legislation, journal articles, pamphlets, broadsides, clippings, photographs, and other material. Topics with the most material in the records include: birth control (with significant amounts of material about Margaret Sanger); events in India and Ireland; anti-sedition legislation in other states; African-American activities; the 1919 Steel Strike and 1920 Railroad Strike; the trial of Socialist members of the New York State Assembly; and various anti-radical activities of the United States government. Photographs of many socialists are included.

Finding Aids: Folder list.

### ***L0040. Correspondence and Administrative Files, 1919-1920. 0.8 cubic foot.***

Arrangement: Alphabetical by name or topic.

This series consists principally of correspondence between committee members, staff, and investigators relating to the investigation and its management as part of the committee's objective to gather information and evidence about suspected radical groups and individuals.

The correspondence includes letters from applicants seeking employment as investigators or office help, letters from the committee certifying individuals as official committee investigators, and letters from civic groups requesting committee members to speak at meetings. There are letters both from individuals and organizations offering assistance to the committee and from individuals and organizations expressing concern about the validity of the committee's work and showing support for organizations under investigation. In particular, Samuel Untermyer (an

attorney of note who became the counsel to the Rand School after the committee raided the school's premises) and New York World publisher Joseph Pulitzer II criticized the committee's work.

The records include correspondence between the committee and detective agencies relating to general procedures and to a small number of specific investigations. A file listing indictments resulting from the committee's investigation is also found. The records also include expense accounts submitted by committee members, staff and investigators, receipts for office supplies, a bibliography of alleged radical publications, and copies of legislative resolutions establishing the committee.

Finding Aids: Folder list.

***L0041. New York City Maps Outlining Concentrations of Ethnic Groups, 1919. 0.3 cubic foot (2 maps).***

Arrangement: Geographical by city borough.

The series consists of two annotated print maps of four New York City boroughs, produced by staff of the committee in furtherance of its objective to gather information about suspected radical groups in New York State. The maps are colored to show sections where various ethnic populations were concentrated in 1919, and numbered to show locations of both suspected radical group meetings and radical newspapers published in the city. The committee concentrated its investigations on New York City. One map in the series covers the boroughs of Manhattan and the Bronx; the other covers Brooklyn and parts of Queens.

The maps are annotated copies of printed street maps published by the Ohman Map Company. Dated 1919, each is entitled "Ethnic Map" and carries a pasted on printed legend block that states the map was prepared under direction of a special deputy Attorney General by the chief clerk of the committee, together with troopers of the New York State Police and the Police Department of the City of New York. The maps are each hand colored to outline eleven groups of ethnic populations: Germans; Russian Jews; Italians; Austro- Hungarians; Irish; Chinese; Scandinavians and Finns; Syrians, Turks, Armenians, and Greeks; French; Negroes; and "Mixed."

The Manhattan/Bronx map has a street and avenue index, a scale in feet, and an inset map showing the outline of New York City. In addition to the ethnic groups it lists 63 halls and assembly rooms "where radical meetings are held" and 44 "radical and liberal" newspapers and periodicals published in New York City in August 1919. It measures 118 x 46 cm.

The Brooklyn/Queens map has the same title and block information, a scale in feet, and a directional symbol. It also shows the location of ethnic groups, and includes a separate typed index list identifying the location of 23 halls and assembly rooms in Brooklyn "where radical meetings are held." The printed base map has a 1917 copyright date. The map measures 91 x 67 cm.