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# **Albert Bailin (Alias Balanow):**

## **Resume of Department and Bureau Files,**

### **February 16, 1921**

Document in BoI/DoJ Investigative Files, NARA M-1085, reel 925, file 202600-96

February 16, 1921.

Resume of Department  
and Bureau Files

#### **ALBERT BAILIN**

#### **(ALIAS BALANOW)**

Born in Russia.

27 years of age.

Came to United States in 1910.

Has first citizenship papers.

Married and has three children.

Cigar-maker by trade.

Claims membership in IWW#1000 and in the Communist Party.

April 1917 — Arrested on charge of malicious mischief in connection with Cigar Makers International Union. Case not pushed.

May 1917 — Arrested by Department of Justice operatives, charged with distributing anarchist literature against draft law. Released without trial.

May 1917 — Again arrested in connection with Cigar Makers International Union.

June 1917 — Arrested on charge of conspiracy. Released on \$1500 bond. Disappeared before trial.

1917 — Employed by Department of Justice in Rockford, Ill.

Feb. 22, 1918 — Employed as Special Employee of Department of Justice in Chicago under Mr. Hinton G. Clabaugh.

- March 1918 — Employed by Department of Justice in Battle Creek, Mich.
- Sept. 1918 — Applied for position as Special Agent of Dept. of Justice.
- 1919-1920 — Employed by *Thiel Detective Agency* in Chicago, known as operative K-54.
- Oct. 1920 — Commenced work with *Burns Detective Agency* in NY.
- Oct. 19, 1920 — Addressed letter to Director Flynn, offering to work for him.
- Oct. 19, 1920 — Letter, which Bailin is suspected of having written, was sent to the Postmaster in New York City, threatening to blow up the Woolworth Bldg. and signed “the Knights of the Red Star.”
- Nov. 1920 — Sent by Mr. Allen Meyers, Ass’t. Manager of Burns Agency, to investigate source of above threatening letter.
- Jan. 10, 1921 — Mr. Meyers of Burns Agency, informed Agent In Charge in NY City that Bailin had admitted having written letter to the Postmaster at the instigation of Mr. Cooney, Ass’t. superintendent of the Thiel Detective Agency in Chicago.

Sometime in January 1921, Bailin wrote a lengthy confession, in which he stated that:

All labor organizations, especially radical unions, are full of spies.

The detectives have only one thing on their minds, and that is to show people that there are plots everywhere, in order to squeeze money out of the rich capitalists and the government. If a spy reported that he did not find any plots, he was fired. Every spy in his reports had to invent all kinds of fictitious stories, in order to keep his job.

The spies were at the meetings of the Communists and they were the ones who demanded to form illegal organizations and to do revolutionary work.

A manager of the Thiel Agency said, “If I should take away from the Communist Party all my spies, nobody would remain there.”

*All letters with threats, which were received by various officials during the last couple of years, were written by detectives. The bombs that*

*were sent in 1919 through the mails, and the explosion on Wall Street, were the work of detective agencies.*

They do not care whether it is true or not, as long as a story frightens the public.

In connection with the Communist trial in Chicago, the detectives boasted that they “fixed” the jury, by sending letters to them threatening them with death — all this being done in the name of the Communist Party.

*Edited by Tim Davenport*

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