
Socialist Held on \$20,000 Bail Under Spy Act: State Secretary of Washington Jailed After Giving Evidence in Case [event of April 30, 1918]

Unsigned Report Published in the *New York Call*, v. 11, no. 103 (May 1, 1918), pg. 2.

EVERETT, [WA], April 30 [1918].— Emil Herman, Secretary of the Socialist Party of the state of Washington, was arrested and lodged in jail in default of \$20,000 bail.

His arrest followed the testimony given in defense of Nels Osterberg, who was arrested at Darrington and charged with a violation of the Espionage Act.

Emil Herman is charged with the same offense, to which he pleaded “not guilty.”

The state headquarters here were searched and a quantity of literature seized. Special attention was given to any literature which might be of an anti-militaristic nature.

Herman is now held in the Snohomish County Jail pending further proceedings. Charles Petrovinski, an assistant district attorney, swore out the warrant, charging Herman with having violated the Espionage Act on April 1, 1918.

No inkling was given of what the authorities intend to rely on; nor does the defendant know.

Four men laid siege to the office, and when they came across some copies of *The Right to Be*

Lazy they were shocked by the title and thought they had found something; at least they took them away for use as evidence. They also took 12 copies of the report of the industrial relations commission as evidence to prove sedition!

In all about 700 pieces of literature were lugged away, together with 7 cases full of the correspondence files, also mailing lists, duplicate receipt books, check-stub books, etc. They also took a number of copies of *Mental Dynamite*.

The thing that brought this down upon Herman was his activity during the last week in behalf of Nils Osterberg, Secretary of Local Darrington, who has been under arrest on a similar charge, and who was on this same day bound over to the federal grand jury under a bond fixed at \$20,000. If the federal authorities had any evidence that Herman had committed some act of sedition on April 1, it hardly would be necessary to search the State Office for possible evidence.

Herman was arraigned before US Commissioner F.W. Mansfield, shortly after his arrest, and pleaded not guilty.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2011. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.