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THEODORE HICKMAN, colored.
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one copies made

12/23/77

4. Communist Activity in Local 139

INGERSOLL STEEL AND DISC COMPANY
Chicago, Illinois

On November 1, 1945 Confidential Informant CGO 5403 reported that he had learned from JOSEPH EBERHARDT, President, Local 139, that EBERHARDT'S father was a strong Communist Party member. According to the informant EBERHARDT was chosen in the early 1930s to go to Russia to study the five-year plan, but EBERHARDT indicated that he was not sympathetic to the plan and did not go to Russia. Confidential Informant CGO 5403 stated that EBERHARDT was closely aligned with the Communists in the international offices of the UFMWA and was believed to be at least a Communist sympathizer.

On November 23, 1945 Confidential Informant T-4 reported that Local 139 had been out on strike since October 30, 1945. Confidential Informant T-4 stated that JOSEPH EBERHARDT, President, and JOSEPH SLIFOND, a member of the Grievance Committee, had expressed a willingness to compromise the dispute between the local and the company but JOSEPH VAN NORDSTRAND, International Representative of UFMWA, had refused. The main issue involved in the strike was a demand for a thirty per cent increase in wages. Confidential Informant T-4 indicated that VAN NORDSTRAND, who has been reliably reported as a Communist, was responsible for prolonging this strike. Confidential Informant T-4 was of the belief that VAN NORDSTRAND'S control over the local might be weakened since several of the officials of the local had expressed a willingness to meet with the company without the presence of VAN NORDSTRAND. It was subsequently learned from Confidential Informant T-4 that the above-mentioned strike ended on December 30, 1945.

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