

## Four "Reds" Arrested in Manchester

Note: The First Red Scare was at its height in 1919-1920 America, with a widespread fear of Communism, Bolshevism and anarchism. More background at the end of the article.

Article in *The Hartford Courant*, January 3, 1920.

### ARREST 4 REDS ON 3 WARRANTS IN MANCHESTER

(Special to The Courant)

Manchester, Jan. 2.

The membership of the local branch of the Russian Workmen and Peasant Union was reduced by three as a result of an unexpected visit by federal, state and local police officers tonight.

Three local men, and a man who was visiting at one of the homes, claiming to be a barber with Paterson, N.J., as his home address, were taken away and at once hustled to the police station in Hartford, where they are being held until they can be given a hearing as to why they should not be deported.

The visit to town came as a surprise to local Reds, as it was just two months ago that the last visit was made, at which time Mark Kulish, he of the machine guns, was arrested and was among those deported. An automobile carrying United States Emigration Commissioner Clark and State Policemen Rudd and Pinelli arrived in town at 8:15, called at the home of Chief Gordon of the Manchester department, and after making known their mission started out to collect their men. They held warrants for the arrest of three men, all warrants having been signed in Washington, and being part of the general round-up that started tonight in all parts of the country where there is known to be activities by Reds.

#### Arrest Near Headquarters.

The first warrant served was on John Stanik [somewhat illegible], who lived at No. 17 Bissell street. This is in the same building where the Russian Workmen and Peasant Union holds meeting[s], and where the members often gather. He was loaded into the automobile, and the party went to Spruce street where at No. 100 they picked up Tony Pireto [somewhat illegible] and Adam Mankelevich, the latter being a visitor. He did not answer questions asked by the federal authorities in a manner that seemed satisfactory to them and he, too, was taken along although there was no Washington warrant held for him. From Spruce street the visiting police was directed by Chief Gordon to the home of Jose Krarcatess of Florence street. And he being one of the men for whom warrants were held, and he was taken along [sic].

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The party drove to the local police station where the names of the men arrested were taken and then left for Hartford.

### **Manchester a Hot Bed.**

Although the statement has been made that Manchester was not a hot bed for the Reds and that there was only one, Kulish, who was in the class that was likely to be deported, those who were on the inside and in touch with affairs, knew different.

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*Thanks to volunteer Maureen Hevey for transcribing this article.*

*Background on the “Communist Threat,” from Wikipedia, abridged by Susan Barlow: “The First Red Scare, at its height in 1919-1920 America, marked a widespread fear of Bolshevism and anarchism, due to violent events – the Russian Revolution and anarchist bombings directed at political and business leaders. Spurred on by United States Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer's attempt to suppress radical organizations, the Scare was characterized by exaggerated rhetoric, illegal search and seizures, arrests and detentions, and the deportation of several hundred suspected radicals and anarchists. A growing anti-immigration (“nativism”) movement viewed increasing immigration from Southern and Eastern Europe as a threat to political and social stability, predicting a Communist-inspired revolution in the U.S. This led to challenges to the social order, including seemingly unrelated incidents of interracial violence and suppression of freedom of expression in the display of certain flags and banners. The First Red Scare effectively ended in mid-1920, after Attorney General Palmer forecast a massive radical uprising on May Day and the day passed without incident. The next Red Scare was in the late 1940s and early 1950s, as the Cold War between the Soviet Union and the United States intensified, leading to the Joseph McCarthy era, suppression of free speech, and black-listing.” The Ku Klux Klan was active in Connecticut at this time, targeting immigrants, especially Catholics.*