

ARIZONA COUNCIL OF DEFENSE  
PHOENIX

(COPY)

Mar. 30, 1918-

Mr. A. B. Bielaski,  
Chief of the Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Sir:-

Our State Council of Defense are receiving from time to time reports of activities on the part of various individuals throughout the state which indicate that they are pro-German or at least disloyal. These reports seem to be increasing and for your information I hand you a digest of typical cases that are brought to us, and reports of this character are now coming in in large numbers.

It has been our custom when reports of this character which seem to us serious were brought to our attention, to turn them over to your local representative, Mr. David Proctor, and for the purpose of working out some plan by which our State Council might receive a report on these cases as well as your Bureau, we have had a conference with Mr. Proctor this morning which develops the fact that as he has no assistants at present he seems to be overwhelmed with work.

There is a growing sentiment throughout the state that the time has come when there should be a definite lining up of those persons whose positive loyalty is subject to any question. They should be given a chance to line up for America and if they do not avail of such chance that proper steps should be taken to prevent any treasonable activities on their part.

I am informed through the most reliable sources that the I.W.W. movement in this state is growing with marked rapidity and men in a position to know advise me that this movement within Arizona is a hundred percent stronger now than it was a year ago. As an evidence of the strength of this, to me thoroughly disloyal organization, I visited Globe, the county seat of Gila County, last week for the purpose of organizing a county council of defense, which I am glad to state was supported vigorously by representatives not only of the merchants and mine operators but of the regular labor unions, and while there I received statements from men of the highest character, that in Miami alone the then membership in the I.W.W. was reported to be 650.

I am advised by Mr. Proctor that at present you have no representative in Gila county either in the Globe or Miami districts, and I beg to suggest that arrangements be made at an early date to supply the services of some trained man in your division for that district, and I feel that it would be of very great advantage to the State Council of Defense in developing its work for uncompromising loyalty, that if possible Mr. Proctor, in charge here at the capitol, might be given an assistant and that he also be authorized by you to furnish us copies of reports on those cases which we turn in to him for investigation.

I think if you will confer with Secretary of Labor Wilso or Mr. Felix Frankfurter, his legal counsel, that they will concur with me that the situation in Arizona is one which needs very careful watching and that the additional cooperation which I suggest would be quite thoroughly justified.

Mr. Proctor has suggested to us that in compliance with a circular letter which we received from you under date of Febr. 6th, it might be desirable to organize in Arizona a branch of the American Protective League, and we are now taking up this question with the Los Angeles representatives of this organization, but entirely separate from what we may do in this work we feel very strongly that if possible additional help should be given Mr. Proctor, and can assure you that we shall appreciate, on behalf of the Council of Defense, favorable action in this matter.

Yours very truly,

DEH-R

Chairman.