

COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON

STATE COUNCILS SECTION

June 11, 1918.

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BULLETIN NO. 99

LOYALTY AND SEDITION

TO THE SEVERAL STATE COUNCILS OF DEFENSE:

The Council of National Defense is looking to the State and Local Councils of Defense to arouse and sustain the loyalty and support of all citizens in the prosecution of this war. Upon this the ultimate victory depends.

In accomplishing this task, constructive methods must be utilized - the suppression of disloyalty must be achieved primarily through arousing loyalty. Coercive methods of forcing a show of patriotism defeat their own ends.

The State Councils of Defense have already undertaken extensive work to arouse loyalty. Through their speakers and the press they are carrying the message of the war throughout the State and through their Local and Community Councils they are enlisting all citizens in the war work of the nation. But all citizens are not reached by a general appeal. Many have not yet had this war message brought home to them and many still stand apart from the fellowship of war workers. We ask the State Councils to expand this work so as to reach the unresponsive and the unsympathetic.

The suppression of sedition on the other hand rests entirely with the Department of Justice. It is a technical and delicate task



which outside agencies are likely to confuse and obstruct.

The Council of National Defense therefore calls on you

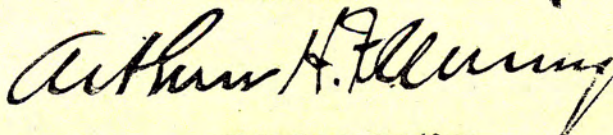
1. To conduct a vigorous and persistent campaign through publicity, through local organization and through personal contact to arouse the loyalty of each citizen and to draw him into active participation in the war work of America, paying special attention to the apathetic and apparently disloyal persons.
2. To undertake no work for the detection or repression of sedition except such as is expressly requested or authorized by the local representatives of the United States Department of Justice and done on its behalf.

We attach a program suggesting steps to be taken in this work, and request that you give it your careful consideration.

Very truly yours,



Director,



Chief of Section.

ENCLOSURE.

BULLETIN NO. 99.



PROGRAM FOR  
STATE COUNCIL WORK TO COUNTERACT  
APATHY, MISUNDERSTANDING AND DISLOYALTY.

BEAR IN MIND:-

THAT there are in your community those who are troubled and confused by ignorance and misunderstanding, by ties of foreign kinship and tradition, and by legitimate political and economic questioning. Friendliness and understanding of their perplexity and distress may result in the stimulation of loyalty and support, while hostility will turn them towards disloyalty and sedition.

THAT in dealing with the foreign born we must realize that in him may be planted the deep roots of century-old customs and traditions which make American life and customs difficult for him to understand and which often require a patient effort to make him comprehend the principles which underlie our form of government.

I. Publicity:

Focus the existing publicity machinery of the State Council of Defense upon those people who through misunderstanding, apathy, or kinship with our enemies, are subject to disloyal tendencies or who foster unpatriotic discontent. The following channels should be utilized:

- (a) The Speakers Bureau and the Four Minute Men. Conduct especially meetings of German, Austrians and other foreign groups and elements, addressed by speakers of their own race and meetings of laborers addressed by their own labor leaders.
- (b) The church, especially the German and Austrian Lutheran and Catholic churches.
- (c) County and Community Council meetings. Bring the entire community into the program and arrange direct participation by foreign born groups.
- (d) Information Services for Aliens (described in Bulletin 92) and posters and pamphlets.
- (e) The press, especially the foreign language newspapers.

II. War Work.

Draw every member of each community into some form of war



work. Active participation in the war work of the nation will weld the individual into the nation and make him enthusiastic in the prosecution of a war which he is constructively supporting with his own efforts and in fellowship with other war workers. Endeavor to enlist the foreign born, and especially Americans of German extraction in war work which will appeal to them.

### III. Personal Contact and Persuasion.

Reach by personal contact all people of doubtful loyalty or known apathy, and lay before them understandingly, yet forcefully, the justice of the war and the complications and effect of their attitude. Delegate this task not to Councils in general but only to specific members whose wisdom, tact and judgment, you know well and trust. Be especially careful to supervise work of this kind, when delegated to members of Local Councils. Unskillful personal contact tends to foment sedition - on the other hand, the value of personal contact and persuasion in arousing loyalty and in checking at the source epidemics of sedition, cannot be over-estimated.

### IV. Existing Agencies.

Mobilize for this work all available existing agencies, especially societies of the foreign born. Endeavor to so coordinate the work of all such agencies that it will be articulated and harmonious, and be conducted upon wise and constructive principles. Build up German and Austrian-American loyalty leagues, resting the initiative and leadership in the hands of prominent German - or Austrian Americans. Appeal to German speaking congregations to demonstrate their loyalty by foregoing services in German during the period of the war.

### V. Actual Sedition:

Report every seditious act or utterance that comes to your attention to the District agents of the Department of Justice. (We enclose a list of such agents for this purpose.) Care should be taken to distinguish between actual sedition on the one hand and apathy, misunderstanding or legitimate differences of opinion on political or economic subjects on the other. Without attempting a legal definition it may be said that an act or word is disloyal and seditious when the purpose back of it is to hinder the United States in the prosecution of the war.

The actual direction and suppression of sedition is entirely in the hands of the Department of Justice and no investigation or repression should be undertaken by the State or Local Council of Defense, except after consultation with the local agent of the Department of Justice and at his request.