

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

IMMIGRATION SERVICE

DISTRICT No. 5

Supervisor Border Patrol

~~OFFICE OF INSPECTOR IN CHARGE~~

SUBOFFICE: BUFFALO, N. Y.

STATION B

February 11, 1928

IN ANSWERING REFER TO

No. 006-S5

From: Supervisor Border Patrol.

MAR 2 1928

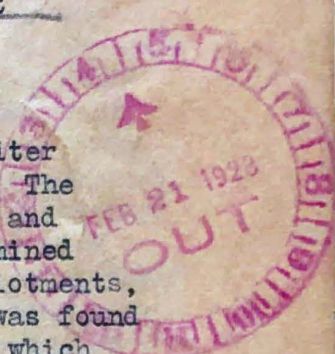
To: Commissioner General of Immigration.

MAY 10 1928

Subject: Report of Border Patrol conditions in District
No. 5, Headquarters, Buffalo, New York.

1. In compliance with Bureau instructions the writer arrived in Buffalo, N.Y., Sunday, February 5th, at 3.00 P.M. The following morning called at the office of District Director, and conferred at length on the patrol situation in general. Examined necessary files, paying special attention to the district allotments, so far as the Border Patrol was concerned. This allotment was found in excellent shape, the original allotment being \$10,000, of which sum \$2,120.00 had been expended at the close of January, leaving \$7,880.00 available, the balance of the current fiscal year. In the afternoon, this same day, the writer proceeded to the Immigration Station at Black Rock, wherein is located the headquarters of the Border Patrol for subdistrict No. 2. Files and records were examined and a lengthy conference was held with Chief Patrol Inspector O'Rourke, after which a motor trip was taken along the river road to Tonawanda. It was noticeable that the river was practically impassible at this time, due to the shore ice having piled up for several hundred yards off shore. It was noted that loaded steamers were ice bound and several tugs were endeavoring to break away the surrounding ice field. The weather was mild and there were signs of a breaking up of the ice fields in the near future. No small boats were running. The following day, Tuesday, in company with Chief Patrol Inspector Haney of subdistrict No. 1, of Niagara Falls, the writer proceeded to Niagara Falls, N.Y., where an examination was also made of necessary files and records and a motor trip was taken in order that first hand information might be gained of river conditions. Contrary to the conditions existing in the Buffalo sector and due, principally, to the faster current. The river was entirely open, not only below the Falls in the vicinity of Youngstown and Lewiston. However, the considerable amount of ice drifting made the navigation of small water craft extremely hazardous, and it was really a dangerous matter to attempt a crossing by small boats.

2. Returning to Buffalo, the same day, the writer in



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company with the Chief Patrol Inspector at Buffalo, visited Patrol Officers during their tour of duty along the water front and it was seen that at this particular time, Mother Nature was the greatest aid to our service.

3. By pre-arrangement Patrol Inspectors in subdistrict No. 2, Buffalo, were called to the Main Office at 3.00 P.M. Wednesday afternoon, at which time the writer accompanied by District Director Karnuth, met with them. The writer took occasion to express to this gathering the feeling of pride existing in the Bureau and Department toward the individual officer, and the service in general; also the necessity of strict adherence to existing instructions was emphasized. Also several ideas for the improvement of the service were offered by the writer as having been practiced in other districts with excellent results. The need of each individual officer giving his best efforts to the support of the superior officers was emphasized; also the necessity of eliminating personalities while acting in their official capacity. During the group gathering the writer noted that certain uniforms, recently purchased through local dealers, have been finished with pleated pockets, which does not conform with the original uniform regulations, also it was noted that certain overcoats have been finished with the braid design on the cuff, entirely different from that intended. The writer took occasion to suggest that the regulations governing the uniforms to be worn be strictly adhered to and that suggestions for necessary alterations in style would be forthcoming, at the proper time.

4. The transportation in subdistrict No. 2, with the exception of a Chevrolet sedan used by the Chief Patrol Inspector is in very poor condition, at the present time. There is available in Buffalo for patrol purposes, one Ford touring car. This touring car shows approximately mileage of 100,000 miles and although repairs are needed the conditions of the cars will hardly justify the expenditure of any amount of money. The Tonawanda Patrol Unit has available one Ford touring car, 1926 model, which has travelled approximately 85,000 miles, and this car, although still in service, is badly in need of overhauling. However, the regulations will not permit the expenditure of more money on the necessary repairs. The Silver Creek Patrol Unit has absolutely no transportation available. There was assigned to that station a 1924 Ford touring car, which shows travel aggregating 130,000 miles. This car is entirely out of commission and in such shape that the expenditure for repairs cannot be justified. A garage rent of \$5.00 a month is being paid for the storage of this car, although it is out of commission.

5. The personnel of the Border Patrol in the Buffalo subdistrict is distributed as follows: At Buffalo, one chief Patrol Inspector, three senior Patrol Inspectors, and eighteen Patrol Inspectors and one motor mechanic. There is one vacancy existing at this time, which I am advised is taken care of by nomination. In the Tonawanda

station there is one Senior Patrol Inspector and two Patrol Inspectors. At Silver Creek, there is one Senior Patrol Inspector and two Patrol Inspectors, making in all one Chief Patrol Inspector, five Senior Patrol Inspectors, twenty-two Patrol Inspectors, and one motor mechanic, making a grand total of 29. It can readily be seen that with a force of twenty-three men operating in Buffalo proper more transportation is absolutely necessary, there being but one automobile available at the present time for patrol purposes. Recommendations with regard to the above, will be found at the close of this report.

6. The matter of proper housing for the patrol unit in Buffalo deserves serious consideration. At the present time the Patrol Headquarters are situated in the Grand Trunk Railroad Station at Black Rock, and consists of two small rooms. The garage space of automobile storage, situated some distance away, consists of space for two cars, for which a monthly rental of \$6.00 is paid. No facilities for repair work is available. As a matter of fact the arrangement does not conform to the Bureau's ideas, no sleeping quarters are available and it is the writer's opinion that a much more desirable location can be secured by the beginning of the next fiscal year. Suggestions along this line have been offered by the writer looking toward proposals.

7. It is pleasing to note the decided change in the appearance and attitude of officers in our service since the writers last visit. During the group meeting above mentioned numerous intelligent questions were asked the writer regarding the methods of operation and interpretation of certain existing orders that were not entirely clear to the rank and file. This shows an interest in their work and a desire to improve thereon.

8. In discussing the situation with the District Director, the Chief Patrol Inspectors, and the Senior Patrol Inspectors, the necessity for closer relationship was emphasized. A feeling of mutual interest in the service is necessary in the writers opinion to gain the best results.

9. I desire to mention at this time the excellent cooperation existing between the Inspector in Charge, Black Rock, and the Chief Patrol Inspector at that station. I might add that this cooperation seems to exist throughout the entire service at this point.

10. I am advised that the District Judge in this section is inclined to be rather lenient in penalizing violators of the Immigration law, and it is the writer's opinion that a closer relationship between the District Director's Office ~~and~~ the District Attorney, ~~and~~ the Federal Judge would be of material benefit.

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11. For the past seven months ending January 30, 1928, Patrol Officers operating in subdistrict No. 2 have been responsible for the apprehension of alien smugglers, 2, aliens, thirty-four, automobiles, twenty-three, boats fourteen, contraband liquor valued at \$7,534.20. The estimated value of automobiles was \$28,850.00, and the estimated value of boats was \$2,900. A total estimated value of seizures, \$39,284.20.

12. In discussing the personnel in the Buffalo subdistrict with Chief Patrol Inspector O'Rourke, it was learned that Patrol Inspector Charles Billick, who entered the service on July 28, 1924, and has been continuously in the service to the present time, is still retained at the salary of \$1,740.00. As far as can be learned, this officer has a clear record and reports show that he is responsible for the apprehension of one hundred twenty-five aliens. His superior officer spoke of him as an earnest, conscientious officer, and I am informed that he had previously been recommended for the increase to \$1800.00, but for some reason this recommendation had been disapproved by the District Director. It seems because of the present record of this officer and his evidenced interest in the service that he is entitled to the increase of \$1800.00.

13. Mr. Karnuth, District Director, seemed quite impressed with the result of our group meeting in Buffalo and requested that a like gathering be arranged in Niagara Falls, the following day. Practically the same procedure was followed in Niagara Falls, in the afternoon of February 9th. The organization as a whole showed a real interest in the remarks made by the writer and numerous questions were asked concerning the work. I might say, however, that the discipline maintained in subdistrict No. 1, Niagara Falls, by Chief Patrol Inspector Haney, is not as effective as that in Buffalo. A somewhat careless attitude seems to prevail and the writer took occasion to suggest that by correcting this condition, no doubt, a better working organization would result.

14. The transportation problem in the Niagara Falls section is about parallel with that in Buffalo. There is available four Ford touring cars and one Chevrolet sedan, which is at the disposal of the Chief Patrol Inspector. Of the four touring cars available for patrol duty, one is entirely out of service and the others require constant repairs and tinkering to keep them in commission. While it is not thought that additional transportation is necessary in this subdistrict, it will be necessary, no doubt, to turn in at least two of the Ford touring cars on the purchase of two additional vehicles for patrol use. Recommendations to this end will be found at the close of this report.

15. As is the case in Buffalo, Patrol Headquarters are maintained in a railroad building and space for garage storage is maintained a considerable distance away, an arrangement that in the writer's opinion, is entirely unsatisfactory. I believe that the organization would function much more efficiently were other quarters provided more in line with the Bureau's ideas not later than July 1st.

16. As mentioned in prior reports the feeling between the Inspector in Charge and the Chief Patrol Inspector at Niagara Falls, leaves much to be desired. Some antagonism seems to prevail and the writer is inclined to believe that each is responsible to a certain degree. The writer has suggested that every endeavor be made to eliminate this feeling but it seems rather deep rooted. The matter has been discussed with the District Director and it is to be hoped that proper steps will be taken to correct this unhappy situation.

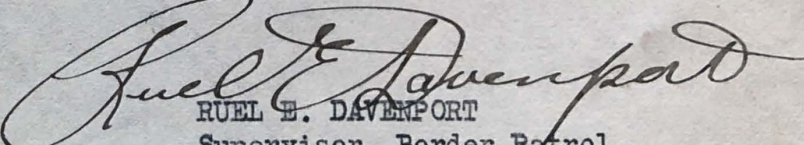
17. While for the greater part the entire water boundary is, with the exception of a few points, practically impassible. The experience has proven that a few warm days would radically change conditions. It is necessary that a constant watch be kept at the few points where open water runs to the shore. The writer has made frequent trips up and down the shore line, has had daily discussions with the officers in charge, and it is his intention to continue a close observation of conditions during the remainder of his stay in this district, which will continue until probably, Monday, February 12th, unless otherwise instructed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

After a personal survey of conditions, examination of records and conferences with District officers, the following recommendations have occurred to the writer for the improvement of the service, and are herewith respectfully submitted for your consideration.

- (a) Authorize replacement of four worn-out Ford touring cars with sedans.
- (b) Authorize purchase two additional automobiles, sedan type. One of which to be assigned to the Buffalo unit, and the other to be used as an emergency car.
- (c) Recommend satisfactory office quarters be provided in Buffalo and Niagara Falls, more in line with Bureau ideas. These to provide automobile storage space, if possible.
- (d) Recommend consideration be given Patrol Inspector Charles Billick in the matter of increase in salary to \$1800.00, per year, he having been in this service since July 28, 1924.

Respectfully submitted.


RUEL E. DAVENPORT
Supervisor, Border Patrol