

Burlington Immigration Office May Get Role in Socialist Probe

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The Burlington office of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service probably will be brought into a probe of whether the Socialist Workers Party is a "subversive" organization.

The investigation is going on while the party's \$40 million harassment lawsuit against the United States government is being heard in federal court in New York.

The party's 1980 presidential candidate, Andrew Pulley, will explain the reasons for the suit tonight in Burlington. He will talk at 7:30 p.m. at the Fletcher Free Library's Gordon Paquette Community Room.

Silva "Vern" Jervis, an immigration spokesman in Washington, said his agency is working with the State Department to determine whether the Socialist Workers Party should be "proscribed."

The State Department already has the party on its list, Jervis said, and wants immigration to do the same.

A proscribed organization is limited in that foreign members could be deported from the United States, or not let into this country, Jervis said.

Alan Brill, chief investigator in Burlington, said proscribed groups used to be labeled "subversive."

The Burlington office probably will be called in because it is the regional headquarters with jurisdiction over New York, where the

party is based. Jervis said any investigation in New York would be handled through Burlington.

Brill said his office has not been involved with the political party since it interviewed a party member in New York in 1977 at the State Department's request.

A new probe would be conducted by the federal agency's New York office, Brill said.

"A decision will not be made in Burlington on whether to certify the party as proscribed," Jervis said.

The party filed suit against the United States government in 1973, claiming nearly 40 years of harassment.

Documents disclosed during pre-trial proceedings showed the FBI had undertaken 92 break-ins of party offices and had used 1,300 informers, the New York Times has reported.

No indictments or convictions have been obtained by the government. The suit seeks \$40 million in damages.

At the trial's opening, the government said it would not dispute facts presented by the party, claiming FBI actions were proper when taken.

Burlington Mayor Bernard Sanders, a presidential elector for Pulley in 1980, was pulled into the case when an FBI investigator checked on his election after a party official mentioned his name during the trial. Sanders is not a member of the party.