

Lid Clamped On Spy Case

Analyst Says Orders From 'Higher Up' Protected Reds

By Constantine Brown

The present investigation by the House Committee on Un-American Activities into Communist infiltration of key positions in the United States Government, and into Red espionage activities on behalf of Russia, may have surprised many people, but it is old news to top-ranking Government officials and to many members of Congress and newspapermen in Washington.

The spectacular hearings are the offshoot of a Federal grand jury investigation in New York, in which some 136 persons appeared as witnesses. More than half of them would have been indicted if American espionage laws were stronger than they are today.

Compilation of all the evidence and testimony presented under oath to the grand jury, in a report like that issued by the Royal Commission in Canada, would have bared the whole story of Soviet activities in the United States since 1933 and would have obliterated the hearings which are now being held by the House committee. Unfortunately, however, this was not possible, since the Justice Department is reported to have decided against it.

Agencies Had Files

The FBI and the intelligence services of the Army and Navy have not let the country down. All those agencies have voluminous files containing names of thousands of Americans and foreigners and substantiated evidence of their plotting, not only for the forcible overthrow of the Government, but also for the betrayal of top secrets of our armed forces to the Red Army.

The excuse put forth by Henry A. Wallace that these were not treasonable acts, since Russia was our Ally, holds no water. The chiefs of staff of our armed forces were fully aware of that and gave the Russian general staff officially all the information they believed necessary to assure perfect co-operation between the Allied forces.

There were, however, many plans—particularly in the technical developments of American weapons—which had to be kept secret from every other nation. The Russians were aware of this and used their minions, who had been placed in high position by the Kremlin, to obtain them.

Soviet War Planned

There is evidence that the U. S. S. R. was thinking in terms of a war against the western powers soon after the west rushed to her rescue when she was attacked by Adolf Hitler. For instance, when the Soviet government was allowed to open a consulate in Vancouver, Moscow ordered only two professional consuls to that city, according to documents produced by the former Soviet official, Igor Gouzenko. The rest of the staff was packed with NKVD agents and with professional spies instructed to do exclusively espionage work.

The administration in Washington was fully aware of the activities of our so-called Allies. The FBI and service intelligence units presented important information which should have thrown at least some suspicion on the work which was being done by agents of Russia.

In 1940, when the U. S. S. R. was still an ally of Germany, the Soviet government tried to buy important industrial products in this country to be used in the manufacture of war material. The chief of the Eastern European Division in the State Department—which included Russia—wrote a top-secret memorandum opposing such sale.

Secret Report Bared

A short time later he was asked by Constantine Oumansky, then Soviet Ambassador here, to visit him. After the usual exchange about the Washington weather, the Soviet Ambassador, to the amazement of his visitor, mentioned that he knew about the adverse top secret report. Mr. Oumansky showed his gold-filled teeth in what may be described as a smile and added, in essence:

"Why don't you work with us? If you realized how important it is to help the U. S. S. R., you could be an ambassador yourself in a short time. But if you continue with your present attitude, who knows what your career may be."

This conversation was reported immediately to the proper officials in the State Department. Some 18 months later, after we got into the war, the new Soviet Ambassador, Maxim Litvinoff, told "friends" in the White House that so long as this "anti-Soviet" official was at the head of the Eastern European Division, real diplomatic co-operation between the U. S. S. R. and the United States would be difficult. The official was promptly transferred.

Tools in the Pentagon

Soviet agents took advantage of the great influx of Reserve officers into the armed forces soon after we entered the world conflict. A considerable number of such agents were commissioned in the Army and the Air Force.

There was no trouble placing them in the Pentagon, where they became highly useful tools. But the intelligence sections in the Pentagon balked at taking them into sensitive posts such as cryptography, radar and other branches where highly confidential data existed.

This intelligence objection was overcome by a registered confidential order to the War Department and to Army commanders at home and

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(Continued From Page C-1.)

abroad that there should be no discrimination against such persons. This order reached the House Military Affairs Committee and a subcommittee was appointed to investigate the matter. One of the assistant secretaries testifying before this subcommittee declared that so long as a man is 51 per cent American and only 49 per cent Communist, he should be qualified for any job in the armed forces.

When questioned as to why notorious Communists were taken into the Office of Strategic Services, the wartime cloak-and-dagger outfit, a spokesman for OSS, which was an important intelligence organization headed by Maj. Gen. William Donovan, stated that "it takes a Communist to catch a Communist."

Couldn't Help Themselves

Neither the Secretary of War, the Secretary of State, nor the heads of other Government departments and agencies relished the presence of Communists in their organizations. But they could not help themselves. The pressure from the top of the executive branch not to "discriminate against liberals" was so great that no executive could stay in his job unless he complied with such instructions.

When a highly efficient admiral, head of Navy communications, protested too loudly that the files of radio operators in merchant ships, where well-known Communists had gotten a hold, were refused to him by the Federal Communications Commission, he was removed from active duty and retired, although he was one of the ablest communication experts in the United States.

The few attempts to purge Communists, who were proved to have transmitted highly secret information to Russia during the war, were frustrated. Such was the case with a former Soviet citizen, one Jaffe, who with a number of others was indicted by a grand jury in Washington. Although the proof of their guilt was overwhelming, Jaffe, who was the ringleader, drew a small fine, while the others were whitewashed.

Canada Broke Case

It was not until the Canadian spy case broke in 1946, with the revelations made by Mr. Gouzenko, code clerk at the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa, that the public began to learn some facts about the activities of the Soviet government in the Western Hemisphere, facts which were fully known to the FBI and to the armed forces intelligence services and consequently should have been fully known to our own Government.

Neither the FBI nor the intelligence branches of the Army and Navy are allowed to give their information to anybody but their immediate chiefs, who, in turn, as members of the President's official family, must keep the available facts to themselves.

Naturally there was a good deal of off-the-record talk in Washington during those years about the doings of these agents of Moscow.

Congress was seriously alarmed over the information obtained through the Washington grapevine.

It was known that not a single top secret document was safe and that all information such a document contained would find its way to Moscow more speedily than to responsible American officials. In disregard of existing laws, because of the "war emergency," the Soviet government was permitted to install a powerful radio transmitter in the Pentagon itself. It sent tens of thousands of words to Moscow every day.

In 1944 War Department cryptographers had almost succeeded in breaking the Russian code. They wanted to learn what the Soviet representatives in this country were sending in such large volume to the Kremlin. They were elated over their success in breaking what was considered to be the most complicated code in existence when the head of the section working on it was called one morning by his superior officer and told to "lay off." When this officer tried to argue his case he was told curtly: "This is an order."

The testimony of the confessed Soviet spy, Elizabeth Bentley, two weeks ago, that she had caused a near panic among her Soviet contacts when she learned from her dispatches in the White House about the Russian code, explains at this late date the "order" not to tamper with Russian secret cyphers.

Other Codes Read

The unofficial explanation at that time was that it would be unethical for us to pry into the secret communications of our Allies, although it was an open secret to all that we were reading the codes of many other nations which were our associates in the war.

When this was pointed out to high officials the explanation was that this might be true, but that Russia was highly sensitive and suspicious and might take offense. It might have had serious repercussions on the war effort if we read her communications. That was correct. It would have been a serious blow to her conspiratorial plans if we had discovered what her agents or high and low levels in the government were transmitting to Moscow.

The desire not to offend Russia in any way unquestionably was behind the secrecy maintained by the highest men in the Government on the activities of Russian agents in this country. The war is over and we have been in a cold war with the Soviets for nearly 18 months.

It would seem reasonable for the Chief Executive to make available to congressional investigators the files containing the names and details of activities of those who have been working for Russia in this country. There is no reason to believe that this would not have been done at another time than an election year. Since most of the culprits gave actual or lip service to the New Deal, the revelations contained in these files might affect the result of the elections.

D-Day Tip-Off Given Reds by Spies in U.S. Jobs; Roosevelt Aide Called a Source of Information; Investigators Demand Grand Jury Be Summoned

D-Day Tip Given Reds by Spies Here, Congress Told

Aide to Roosevelt Called One Source of Information

REDS—From Page 1

ing the names of her contacts in the Government, Thomas announced, subpoena was issued for every person mentioned. They would, he said, be given complete opportunity to answer, and questions raised. Some have already been heard in executive session.

Upon testimony of Miss Bentley, supported by FBI investigation, 15 leaders of the Communist Party have been indicted by a New York grand jury for advocating overthrow of the United States Government by force.

Information from Currie, Miss Bentley said, came to her through the spy ring headed by Nathan Gregory Silvermaster, whom she described in the position of an NKVD or secret police agent.

Currie told a member of Silvermaster's ring, she testified, that the United States was about to break one of Russia's codes.

She gave a dramatic account of how Currie "rushed all out of breath" to the home of George Silvermaster, one of the Silvermaster group, and told him the code.

Silvermaster told her, she said, and she promptly told her Russian agent boss in New York. The Russians were much excited over the information, she said.

Silvermaster, she said, was in the Air Force at the time, and was himself a "propaganda" source of information.

From Currie's office, she told the committee, came secret information on the United States' attitude toward China.

Old College Friends
Silvermaster and Currie, Miss Bentley said, were old college friends. She said that both Silvermaster and Silverman were members of the Communist Party, and that Silvermaster was her superior, even though Communists are deliberately taught to lie, to outdo other people.

"It was Currie's influence that kept Silvermaster, the spy ring leader, in his job when he was about to be ousted from the Government service," she said.

"It was definitely from my own Party in the United States," knowledge—due to Mr. Currie's influence that Mr. Silvermaster was not ousted from his job in the State Department, apparently through fear of BEW but permitted to return to the State Department, apparently without any stigma on him," she said.

Chief Investigator Robert E. Stripling then read from the Civil Service file on Silvermaster which states that after hearing Mr. Silvermaster they were returned to Lauchlin Currie to get the facts on Silvermaster," Stripling said.

After conferring with Lauchlin Currie, Silvermaster remained in the Government. That is according to the Civil Service file.

Currie from his home in Bethesda, Md., last night issued a prompt denial of Miss Bentley's charges. He never had any contact with Currie, he said, and had no knowledge of the spy ring which was established in 1939.

Born in Nova Scotia, Currie was naturalized in 1939. He was a member of the Communist Party in 1939, she said.

White, Assistant Secretary to the Treasury under Secretary Morgenthau, is the author of the Morgenthau Plan for Germany.

Miss Bentley said she did not know what Currie's motives were for supplying the spy ring with information. Of White, she declared: "I don't know whether Mr. White was a card-carrying Communist or not."

It was in 1941, Miss Bentley said, that she first began her contacts with Government employees to get information to turn over to Jacob Golos, Russian-born citizen, who at one time was chairman of the central control committee of the Communist Party. It was her love for Golos, she said, which entrapped her in the spy business.

Her first contact in Washington was Silvermaster, she said. As time went on, she said, she got more and more military information out of the Pentagon.



LAUCHLIN CURRIE



HARRY DEXTER WHITE



JOHN ABT

Then she added that through these two contacts she got "quite a lot of information about General Halperin's activities," a matter of ordinary interest.

From April, 1943, to 1944, Mr. Gen. John H. Halperin was director of civil affairs for the War Department, a job which entailed setting policies for countries which this country expected to occupy and in fact did occupy. The occupation of Germany, which has now resulted in the Berlin crisis, was within his jurisdiction.

From Currie's office, she told the committee, came secret information on the United States' attitude toward China.

She described how Halperin, without a contact, he was a great friend of Willard Z. Park, a former editor of the Washington Post, a former editor of the New Masses, and through Park, she testified, she got into contact with the spy ring.

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described "Katherine" as a tall, blond girl, with blond curly hair, dark eyes, and a high forehead. She had light eyes, light hair, light eyes.

For days a dispute has been waged about whether or not Miss Bentley's own appearance, some persist in describing her as blonde, brown, or dark brown hair, blue eyes and a moderately fair skin. Asked yesterday whether she considered herself blonde or brunette, she said, "I'm between."

Representative F. Edward Hebert, La. pressed Miss Bentley as to why she had joined in the Russian espionage net.

He asked her if she had not considered it betraying her own country in time of war.

"It is not. It is almost a religion, and it gets you so strongly that you believe it blindly."

"That accounts for the fact that no real Communist is religious or has any religion."

"Communists have the necessary mentality to arrive at better conclusions, she said, but that mentality has been dulled by this emotional process."

"You spurred this emotionalization in you, 'this man Golos' pressed Hebert."

"Yes," Miss Bentley replied. "So then it was an individual case of personal devotion that I was swayed by."

"Yes, it was."

"And blinded you to your traitorous acts against your own country."

"That is right."

Miss Bentley made it clear that some members of the espionage ring had no idea the information was being transmitted to Soviet agents, first to Catherine, and then a Russian named Bill and then one named Jack.

Just Plain "Suckers"

These thought that the information was going only to Broderick and Duncan Lee, former legal adviser to the Office of Strategic Services.

Currie, White Deny Aiding Red Spy Ring

Duncan Lee Also Offers Denial of Miss Bentley's Charges

Quick denials were voiced last night by the persons accused by Elizabeth Bentley of giving secret information to a Communist spy ring here.

They are Lauchlin Currie, aide to the late President Roosevelt; Harry Dexter White, former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury; and Duncan Lee, former legal adviser to the Office of Strategic Services.

Currie, in New York, denied that he ever knew Miss Bentley or knowingly associated with any Communist agent. His statement follows:

"To the best of my knowledge, I have never met or associated in any way directly or indirectly with either a Communist or a Communist agent, never met Miss Bentley nor knew of her existence. If any Government employee conveyed information to Communist quarters and gave my name as a source it was most certainly not done with my knowledge."

Plans for B-29 Also Were Rushed To Russian Agents, Congress Is Told; White, Former Official of Treasury, Is Called a Contact

By Mary Spargo Post Reporter

Top United States war secrets, including advance notice of D-Day and plans for the B-29, were rushed to Russian agents from a Communist spy ring among trusted Government workers, Congress was told yesterday.

Named as a source of information for one of these rings were Lauchlin Currie, former administrative assistant to the late President Roosevelt, and Harry Dexter White, former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

This ring, headed by a Government worker described as a probable member of the NKVD, Russian secret police, had a full photographic set-up in an apartment basement for the surreptitious photographing of secret Government documents, the House Committee on Un-American Activities was told.

A sordid story of eager betrayal of this Government at the hands of those sworn to uphold it was unfolded by Miss Elizabeth T. Bentley, self-confessed former spy for the Communist Party and its guiding Russian agents.

Her unemotional recital brought a prompt demand from Chairman J. Parnell Thomas (R., N. J.) for a special blue ribbon grand jury in the District of Columbia to hear evidence against the Government workers involved. He said he would ask United States District Attorney George Morris Fay to call such a jury.

Neither a Member of Ring
Miss Bentley made it clear that neither Currie nor White was a member of the Communist Party or of either of the two spy rings with which she worked in Washington. But she said, they gave information to members of the ring, and White aided the ring in placing and keeping its members in Government jobs, she testified.

Head of one ring she named as Nathan Gregory Silvermaster, formerly of the Board of Economic Warfare, later with the Agriculture Department.

Describing him as a probable Russian secret police agent, she said she visited his home at 3515 30th st. n.w., every two weeks to pick up information, documents and photographs made for her by the basement of the Silvermaster apartment.

The head of the other ring, Miss Bentley testified, was Victor Perlo, then a War Production Board official.

In the Silvermaster ring, she said, were: HELEN SILVERMASTER, his wife; WILLIAM TAYLOR, Treasury Department; GEORGE SILVERMAN, Army Air Corps; FRANK COR, Treasury Department; WILLIAM GOLD, Treasury Department; SONIA GOLD, his wife, Foreign Economics Administration; SOLOMON ADLER, Office of International Finance of the Treasury Department; NORMAN BURSLEIGH, anti-trust division of the Justice Department; WILLIAM LUDWIG ULLMAN, Treasury Department and Air Corps.

JOHN ABT, formerly of the Congress of Industrial Organizations Political Action Committee, and now of the Wallaceite Progressive Party; SOL LESKINSKY, UNRRA; HAROLD GLASSER, Treasury; JOSEPH GREGG, Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs; RUTH GREGG, his wife.

Alleged Members Under Perlo
Accused of having been members of a spy ring headed by Perlo were: ALLAN R. ROSENBERG, private attorney and formerly with the Foreign Economics Administration; DONALD NIVEN WHEELER, Office of Strategic Services; EDWARD J. FITZGERALD, War Production Board; HARRY S. MAGDOFF, Commerce Department; CHARLES KRAMER, born Kravitsky, of the staff of a Senate Education and Labor Subcommittee under Senator Claude Pepper (D., Pa.); IRVING KAPLAN of the War Production Board worked for both spy rings, it was charged.

Government employees not in the spy rings who furnished information, according to testimony, were: EDWARD J. FITZGERALD, legal adviser in the Office of Strategic Services; MORRIS HALPERIN, research and analysis division of the Office of Strategic Services; BERNARD REDMONT, CIAA press division; ROBERT T. MILLER, head of research, Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs; MICHAEL GREENBERG, assistant to Currie at the White House.

The only person charged who is still reportedly employed by the Federal Government is Abt.

The Washington Post was informed last night that there were two men named Irving Kaplan in the War Production Board at the same time. Irving Kaplan of 5308 2nd st. n.w., said he was then employed in WPA's textile division and certainly was not the Irving Kaplan to whom Miss Bentley referred. A transcript of Miss Bentley's testimony fails to give any identification of the man to whom she did refer, except his wartime employment.

When Miss Bentley finished listing the names of those who were charged, she said: "I am not and I never have been a member of the Communist Party. I never gave Miss Bentley any classified information."

"I have met Miss Bentley socially—to my deep regret."

"Two others accused refused to comment. They are Allan R. Rosenberg of 3410 Lee Blvd., Arlington, Va., and Harry S. Magdoff, former Foreign Economics Administration, and Charles Kramer, 4621 34th St., South Park Heights, Va., formerly on the staff of a Senate Labor and Education Subcommittee.

American-Born Blond Is Reported Key in Probe of Red Ring

The Evening Star
Thursday, 22 July 1948

(From Yesterday's Last Edition.)

By the Associated Press

NEW YORK, July 21.—The World-Telegram said today in a copyright article that a beautiful blond's tip to the FBI on a large Russian spy ring led to the Federal grand jury investigation culminating in indictments of 12 Communist officials.

United States Attorney John F. X. Mc Gohey, commenting on the World-Telegram story, said that no woman gave testimony before the grand jury which resulted in the indictments of the 12.

The World-Telegram reported the following:

The unnamed woman, New England-born, suffered pangs of conscience and decided she could no longer sabotage her native country. Her fantastic story, incredible to FBI agents at first, turned out to be completely true.

She told the FBI that 50 Government employes of all ranks were members of the ring. The FBI still does not have enough evidence to indict, but is remaining relentlessly on the trail of ring members. Their biggest stumbling block is that Federal courts still do not admit wire-tapping evidence.

Got Control of Ring.

The woman, graduate of a noted women's college and an official of a purported relief organization during the war, had been a minor Communist Party member for years. Gradually she was taken into Communist confidence and, in the midst of the war, when her immediate superior died, found herself in control of the spy ring.

She was given information by about 50 men and women Government employes, all Communists, ranging from clerks to one man of near cabinet authority. Nearly all, due to FBI pressure, no longer are on the Government payrolls.

Among the secrets the woman and her agents turned over to the Russians were the first plans of the B-29, still under wraps, and complete data on R-D-X, a plastic explosive. She furnished the Soviet with almost daily figures on American production of planes and other war material.

Code Was Almost Broken.

From a White House official she learned one day that American intelligence officers were about to break the Russian secret code—a break, incidentally, which might have informed American authorities of the existence of the spy ring. The Russians presumably quickly changed their code.

Working for the woman was a man high in the councils of the Office of Strategic Services who would meet the woman on a Washington street corner and turn over secret information to her.

Others working for her included a personal adviser of President Roosevelt, a high Army Air Force officer, an official of the War Production Board, members of the Office of War Information and persons informed of policy from other strategic Government agencies.

None received money for their activities. They turned over the information because they were loyal members of the Communist Party. After informing the FBI, the woman retained many of her old associates for more than a year to give the FBI a chance to check her story.

Once, with FBI agents watching, she met a high official from the Soviet Embassy in Washington. She received an envelope containing several thousand dollars from him. The official came to New York to press the money on her because he believed she was weakening.

The Washington Post
Thursday, 22 July 1948

Blonde Leader of Spy Ring Credited With Reds' Arrests

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Just a Work of Love

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THE WEATHER
Monday, June 29, 1948, High about 81
TEMPERATURES LAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS

Times Herald

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EX-SPY SAYS REDS HAD WHITE HOUSE AGENT

Top Secrets of War Stolen by Commies, Senate Probers Told

Confessed Ex-Commie Spy Tells of Russian Agent in White House

Top Secrets of War Years Stolen, Senate Probers Are Told by Woman Witness

(Continued from First Page)
"asked which code. They were very excited about it. They were very excited about it. They were very excited about it..."



One-Time Spy Takes Stand

Elizabeth Bentley, one-time director of a Russian spy ring, is pictured as she was sworn in yesterday by a Senate investigating subcommittee.

She Identifies Commerce Dept. Official As Revealing Data and Party Member

Job. He didn't know that Remington had been put through the writer by the FBI... She identified a Commerce Dept. official as revealing data and party member...

Woman Identifies Commerce Department Official as Dues-Paying Party Member

By FRANK HOLDMAN and JERRY ORKINS
A dramatic story of a Soviet spy ring which had an agent in the White House, and through 50 agents stole top secret documents from almost every department in Washington throughout the war was unfolded yesterday before a Senate investigating committee.

Rendezvous Admitted by Remington

By SIDNEY EPSTEIN
Although denying emphatically that he ever delivered secret information to the Soviet in the early days of the war, William W. Remington, Commerce department official, last night told of six to 10 rendezvous he kept in Washington with the ex-spy...

Blaisdell Testifies
The first witness was acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce Blaisdell.

Remington Denies He Revealed Data to Former Communist
Remington said that while he was in the group he had been working with...

Remington Denies He Revealed Data to Former Communist (Continued)
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