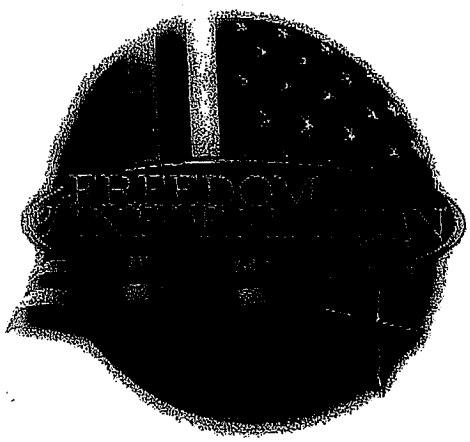
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
AND
PRIVACY ACTS

Subject: Julius Rosenberg

File Number: 65-15348

Section: Sub E (4)



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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FILE DESCRIPTION

NEW YORK FILE

SUBJECT Julius Rosenberg

FILE NO. 65-15348
Sub Sec E

VOLUME NO. 6

SERIALS 348
thru
394

ventory Worksheet
D-503 (2-18-77)

NEW YORK FILES

VOLUME Sec 6

REVIEWED BY [illegible]

le No: 65-15348 Sub E Re: Rosenberg

Date: 2/78 (month/year)

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348	6/18/53	NEWS CLIPPING FROM DAILY WORKER	1	1		
-349	6/25/53	" "	1	1		
-350	6/17/53	" "	3	3		
E-351	6/17/53	" "	1	1		
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Inventory Worksheet
D-503 (3-18-77)

NEW YORK FILES

VOLUME sec. 6

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File No: 65-15348 Sub E Re: Rosenberg

Date: 2/78 (month/year)

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E-360	6/17/53	NEWS CLIPPING FROM DAILY WORKER	1	1		
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VOLUME Sec 6

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E-372	6/18/53	NEWS CLIPPING FROM DAILY WORKER	1	1		
E-373	6/18/53	" "	1	1		
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Inventory Worksheet
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NEW YORK FILES

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E-384	8/6/53	NEWS CLIPPINGS DAILY WORKER	4	4		
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E-387	8/9/53	" "	4	4		
E-388	8/9/53	" "	1	1		
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U. S. Department of Justice

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INVESTIGATION

See also Nos. Subfiles "A" "B" "C" "D"

Section 6
Serial 348

Plea by Legislative Rabbinate

A new group of leading orthodox Rabbis has wired an urgent appeal to President Eisenhower to commute the death sentence of the Rosenbergs.

The Associated Legislative Rabbinate of America, 259 W. 34 St., told Eisenhower:

"What gives us the deepest disquiet is the fact that we are faced with the possibility that the first persons ever to be sentenced to death in peacetime for this type of crime, conspiracy to commit espionage, shall be of Jewish faith. As Rabbis of the Jewish people we cannot but be aware of the tragic consequences that might result from the fact that unprecedently harsh sentence, the most extreme available to the court, should fall on two Jewish people."

The appeal recalled that the ancient judges, the Sanhedrin, always sought to avoid being called the "death Sanhedrin" by avoiding death penalties.

The Rabbinate, which was officially invited by President Eisenhower to the inauguration, concluded that clemency would be an act of "wisdom." The appeal was signed Rabbi Dr. Abraham Lavsky, president; Rabbi Eliezer David Berl, vice-president, and Rabbi Samuel Weisberg, administrator.

65-15348-E-348

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JUL 20 1953
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CLIPPING FROM THE-

DAILY WORKER

DATED JUN 1 8 1953

Pg. 7 Col. 1

Hunts Point Memorial Meeting for Rosenbergs

HAS BEEN POSTPONED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

—BRONX ROSENBERG COMMITTEE

6/25/53

65-15348 - E-349

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DATED 6/25/53

Pg. 8 Col. 4

They March Noon and Night for Mercy and for Life

Daily Worker, New York, Wednesday, June 17, 1953 Page 3

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CLIPPING FROM THE
DAILY WORKER
DATED JUN 17 1953
Pg. 2 Col. 1

By BERNARD BURTON

WASHINGTON, June 16.—Over near the west gate of the White House there are more signs than pickets. There was only one picket the last time I looked. Another time there were two and each juggled three signs.

The signs are scurrilous. They call for death. And even in this McCarthy-ruled town the citizens look on the carriers of the death signs as lunatics or worse.

But at the main gate, men and women, Negro and white, march in dignity, and the passersby watch solemnly. They walk under Washington's scorching noon sun, and they march through the night, in their vigil for mercy and life.

They are men and women, young and old, fighting the executioner. It is a grim fight, but the marchers do not look grim. They march with truth and they have been inspired by Sunday's tremendous demonstration, one of the largest Washington has ever seen.

Headquarters for the clemency vigil is at Inspiration House, many blocks away. Morning, noon and night it is filled with bustle. Volunteers, many of them Negro women from Washington who come here after a hard day's labor, handle the arrangements, seeing that the mercy marchers are housed and fed.

They come from all parts of the country. And there are some who come from over the border in a living demonstration that the entire world stands with Ethel and Julius Rosenberg and truth.

WOMEN FROM CANADA

There are four women from Canada, three from Toronto and one from Windsor. Three were sent by the Mothers' Committee of Canada's Save the Rosenbergs Committee. One is a youth, Miss Margo Dobson, of Windsor.

Mrs. Sarah Cain, wife of a Toronto pipefitter, is a grandmother with two little grandsons. There were no tears in Mrs. Cain's eyes when she told me of her impressions of Sunday's demonstration, and especially of the moment when Julius' mother spoke. But it was difficult for this reporter to hold back the tears as Mrs. Cain described the meeting.

"I felt when Mrs. Rosenberg got up there, I felt as if I were in her place. My heart just went out to her," said Mrs. Cain. "Inside I wept as many tears as she did up there. I have two little grandsons. I felt if this goes through the same thing could happen to my son. It touched me so deep, so very, very deep.

"But it was wonderful to see so many people with so much courage."

Mrs. Vera Morris, wife of a Toronto printer, has a little boy of seven whom she left with her sister so she could come to Washington.

"First my little boy told me

(Continued on Page 8)

They March

(Continued from Page 3)

not to go," she said smiling. "But when he heard it was for the Rosenbergs, he said please go."

VISIT EMBASSY

Mrs. Morris yesterday led a delegation to the Canadian Embassy with a plea to the ambassador to intercede. The ambassador was not in but the delegation was received by another official, who said he was happy that the Canadians had come on this case. He said he was aware of the feeling across Canada that the sentence was too harsh. He said the Embassy had done all it could, and would contact the government at Ottawa to see if anything else could be done.

Mrs. Anne Sabsay, wife of a Toronto laundryman, has been in this fight from the beginning. She has collected petitions, distributed literature, picketed in cities of her native land, including Ottawa.

"I have never met a soul who didn't say the sentence was too harsh," she said.

Two of the women are going back to tell Canadians about the fight here and to arouse more support.

Mr. Morris said American consulates were being picketed in all large, and many small, Canadian cities. Montreal is the only exception. There police have been arresting mercy marchers.

The women said they did not know how many more delegates had started from the 25 Save-The-Rosenbergs committees in Canada. "It's not always easy to get across the border. Your police often turn people back," they said.

"I felt ashamed at the word 'your.'"

But the feeling did not last long as I noticed a group of young people report to a man at a little desk. This was a late shift of marchers. They had had little sleep but none looked drugged out. All were alert and none balked at the prospect of losing more sleep.

Back to the picket line. A dozen men and women relieved the marchers at the main gate.

At the west gate one frenzied death picket walked unsteadily as he tried to juggle three signs.

At the main gate there marched the representatives of the real America, of men and women who have always hated injustice and have always been ready to do something about it.

Their numbers grow each day, and they shame the McCarthyites who speak for death but whose numbers dwindle before a people that will defend their heritage.

Netherlands Women Urge Their U. S. Sisters to Join in Clemency Pleas

AMSTERDAM, June 16.—The Netherlands Women's Movement (Nederlandse Vrouwen Beweging) has called upon American women and mothers asking that they intervene with President Eisenhower to nullify the death sentence against the Rosenberg couple and the granting of a new trial.

The plea, signed by Rie Lips, president, was addressed to the Country Women's League, Philadelphia, the League of Women Voters, Washington, the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, New York, and the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, New York.

The Netherlands women's plea follows:

"Our hearts urge us to draw your attention to the matter of the two American citizens, Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, who are accused of spying.

"This couple has been sentenced to death; but several times the execution was postponed because again and again the probability was brought upon the carpet that this sentence might be based on an error. Now the date of execution has been fixed once again and it is on June 18th; now the lawyers of the Rosenberg couple say they have new proofs of their innocence.

"The case of this couple has made a profound impression on hundreds of thousands of the Dutch people. As a result of all they have heard about the process, many of them have the impression that the Rosenberg couple are innocent, and so have we.

"The death sentence has shocked us the more as the persons in question are the father and mother of two young children, and we do think that these things cannot leave you, American women and mothers, unmoved either. We think that it would be an unbearable thought also to you if two innocent people would be executed.

"This thought has made us call upon the Dutch women to raise their voices against execution of the sentence. Tens of thousands of them have signed the lists and the cards which were offered to them for this purpose. In the most varied circles of the population of our country the justice of this sentence is doubted.

"As June 18 approaches with rapid strides, Dutch women and mothers call upon you, American women and mothers, and upon your feeling for humanity and right, that you request President Eisenhower to nullify the death sentence of the Rosenberg couple and to order a new process, during which all the proofs of their innocence could be brought into the open.

"We ask you urgently to take these steps and to contribute that the young lives of the Rosenberg co[illegible] paul Moskoff, was obtained t[illegible] th[illegible] tri[illegible]

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DAILY WORKER
DATED JUN 17 1953
Pg. 8 Col. 1

ELEGY ON THE ROSENBERGS

Editor, Feature Page:

I am enclosing a poem for the martyred Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

If printed, the poem should bear my pen name, Shoehy, which is an Irish name of the original Gaels. My father fought in arms in the Dublin streets in '67, was thrown into Kilmainham Gaol and exiled by the sign manual of the usurper, Queen Victoria.

The Rosenbergs are enshrined in my pantheon with Emmet and Tone, Connolly and Pearse, all, in Heine's phrase, brave soldiers in the war for the liberation of humanity.

FRANCIS SHEEHY.

I

Bitter hatred burns my heart
For the monsters that murdered the Rosenbergs;
Murder, Incorporated, usurps the seat of power;
Sits in the Department of Justice,
Sits in the Supreme Court,
Sits in the White House,
Weaving webs to tangle and strangle
Courage, hope and youth,
Purity, peace and the people.
Those wolves I will not name in the same breath
That shapes the name of Rosenberg, Ethel and Julius,
Beloved, immaculate comrades.

II

Love beyond telling, stronger than death,
Deeper than the night and brighter than the day
Flames in my heart for the murdered friends of man,
And friends of mine, forever,
Julius and Ethel, lovers and toilers of peace,
Their name become a battle-cry and beacon
To sound and shine in tragedy and triumph.

III

Love of the Good is loathing of the Evil;
From these and these alone is molded and lifted aloft,
Stone upon stone, with patient and painful hands,
The masonery of the building of brotherhood,
The future home of Man, the noblest work of Time.
Here humbly labored the Rosenbergs,
Outfacing more than their share of the danger;
In prison and chains they labored, outfacing death.
Here will arise their vindication and here their monument.

IV

At the graveside of Ethel and Julius,
Their beautiful souls before us,
Over the still scarred earth enfolding their seared young bodies,
We swear by this sheltering earth,
By the stars of the Sabbath they never saw,
By the sun that never greeted them again,
By the hallowed and vital remembrance
Of their loyal lives and cruel deaths,
We swear they shall be avenged.

V

We swear that this land shall be redeemed
From the bloody paws and bulging maws of assassins,
That their cradle and tomb, forge of their dreams,
Of their models and forerunners, fighters and poets of progress,
Shrine of their faith, shall be cleansed of this cloud of shame,
Made worthy their sacrifice and fit for the friendship of nations.

VI

Dear, tortured, steadfast, dead yet deathless friends,
Olav hashalom, prayer of your ancient fathers,
We say for you, and say
All honor and thanks to you,
And to us the plighted struggle:
We have sworn it.

FRANCIS SHEEHY.

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Chicago Educators Pledge to Lecture on Rosenberg Case

CHICAGO.—A group of faculty members at the University of Chicago are continuing the discussion of the Rosenberg case which, said one of them, "contains the most important lesson of these times."

Four leading educators recently spoke at a public meeting on the U. of C. campus, reviewing the injustice in the case.

The speakers were: Prof. Harold Urey, scientist and Nobel Prize winner; Dr. Bernard Loomer, Dean of the Divinity School; Prof. Malcolm Sharp and Harry Kalven of the law school.

Prof. Urey presented what he called "the logic of the case," showing diagramatically how many questions and reasonable doubts were left unanswered when the Rosenbergs went to their death.

Stressing the fact that the crucial constitutional safeguards were violated in the trial, Prof. Urey declared that "the Sixth Amendment is more important than all the atomic secrets." He was referring to the section of the Bill of Rights which provides for a fair trial.

Dean Loomer declared that the execution of the couple was "a sign more of weakness than of strength" as a symbol of the U. S. before the world.

He recounted his interview with President Eisenhower when the University of Chicago educator headed a delegation which went to the White House to plead for clemency.

"President Eisenhower knew no more of the details of this case than the man in the street," said Dean Loomer, "and was probably surprised at Justice Black's statement that the Supreme Court had never actually reviewed the facts in the case."

Dean Loomer said he was struck by the fact that the President spoke as a military man, using military examples to support his thesis that the Rosenbergs must die "in order to deter the Communists."

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Aussies Ask Queen Elizabeth To Join in Plea for Clemency

Special to the Daily Worker

MELBOURNE Australia, June 18.—Melbourne is half-way around the world from Sing Sing, and yet more than 600 people in a city hall rally called for a new trial for the Rosenbergs, and this was but one expression of the public feeling here.

In a brief emergency weekend canvass, 2,400 signatures were col- and asking her to intercede with the American government for clemency for the brave couple.

Further, the Committee to Save the Rosenbergs has approached the Victorian Attorney General who gave them a sympathetic hearing and promised to place the matter before the Cabinet.

Throughout this nation Australians are raising shocked and angry voices against an act which would and the American government an enemy of justice and humanity.

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issed without trial, if the procedure adopted by the board after e McCarran committee hearing st fall is followed. The seven ood in their Constitutional rights ider the Fifth Amendment, when mmoned by Congressional committees.

They are, in addition to King, illiam Frauenglass and Harold au, who were subpoenaed before e Senate Internal Security Subommittee, formerly headed by n. Pat McCarran, now by Sen. illiam Jenner; and Robert Cohen, avid Flacks, Julius Jacobs, and s wife, Mrs. Florence Jacobs, ohen, Flacks and the Jacobses fied the recent Velde Un-American Committee hearings in New ork.

Frauenglass, to whom Prof. Albert Einstein addressed his historic document released last week, which he said "every intellectual" called before such committees

(Continued on Page 3)

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ROUND-TRIP FARE OF $5 ON MERCY TRAIN TOMORROW

Following the record-breaking clemency vigil before the White House last Sunday, there will be another train to Washington tomorrow (Thursday), the day set for the execution of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg.

The Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case announced that there will be two trains leaving from Pennsylvania Station, one at 9 a.m. and the other at 2 p.m., daylight saving time. Tickets can be bought at the Committee, 1050 Sixth Ave., LO 4-9585, or at a special booth at the station. The trains will pick up passengers at Newark and Philadelphia. There will be a special rate of $5 for the round trip. The committee is asking for contributions to help defray the difference between the special rate and the actual costs.

The committee also announced there will be food served on the trains, and that the Washington committee has made special plans to take care of children and families during the all-day vigil which seeks to save the lives of the innocent couple. The train will return at midnight to New York.

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ASYLUM TO ROSENBERGS OFFERED BY POLISH GOV'T

WASHINGTON, June 18.—Poland has offered to give asylum to Julius and Ethel Rosenberg if the U. S. will free them, it was announced today. The Polish Embassy here stated that Foreign Minister Dr. Stanislaw Skrzeszewski had handed a note yesterday to this effect to Joseph Slack, U. S. Ambassador to Warsaw.

The Polish Embassy announcement said:

"The executive board of the Polish Red Cross has directed an appeal to the Government of the Polish People's Republic requesting that, in accordance with Article 75 of the Constitution of the Polish People's Republic, it grant asylum to Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, under sentence of death in the United States.

"The Government of the Polish People's Republic, guided by humanitarian considerations, decided to meet the request of the Polish Red Cross and to grant residence in Poland to the Rosenbergs in the event that the Government of the United States would permit them to leave the territory of the United States."

65-1538-E356

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"GIVE US YOUR HAND"

By EDITH SEGAL

Tonight as you quietly draw the curtain on the day's activity
and reclining
contemplate the fertile promise of unborn time

imagine
you are Ethel or Julius Rosenberg
in the Death House at Sing Sing

The dimness is a fog your eyes defy
Sleep is a luxury long lost

after dignity—time
being most treasured
measured by the hurrying steps
of death—
even napping is a thief

Suddenly there's light
in your cell
in the prison block
in the house on Monroe Street
where you lived with your children
in the narrow streets of New York's lower East Side
your city in all the cities of the land
in the assembly halls in all the schools
your school, P. S. 88

where you stood with your hand upon your heart
as you faced the flag and said the words
that were to give your life direction:

WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

Now you stand at the bars of your cell
with your hands cupped wide at your mouth
and shout to the world at the top of your lungs:

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IF YOU SLEEP WHILE THEY KILL US
WILL THEY [illegible] YOU WHILE YOU SLEEP?

If you ever breathed too deeply
the air of brotherhood

clasped black and white hands
in your neighborhood

or give a dime
for democratic Spain

or signed your name
to nominate your choice
or voice for peace

WILL THEY KILL YOU WHILE YOU SLEEP
IF YOU SLEEP WHILE THEY KILL US?

We yearn to live and see our children grow
but if we burn then part of them
and part of you will turn to dust
and death will haunt our home, our land

GIVE US YOUR HAND!

Let us stand in the sunlight
when the wind is still
and the din of war subsides into the sea
and scales are righted
and our worth declared
to be among the living
to mold the fertile promise
of unborn time.

Hand! Tomorrow they die
Unless we make their cry a warning

Death in our land! Give us your hand!

Three Poems for Ethel and Julius Rosenberg

THEY SHALL NOT DIE!

By JOSEPH NORMAN

There are two men with us tonight.
They are in rather shabby dress,
bent with years of hard toil.

As they pass down your row,
shake their hands, give your promise
that they did not die in vain!

For they are here in our beloved America
for the first time in twenty-five years.

They handed me a note,
a note addressed to our President,
and asked that I read it tonight.

It begins: "Dear Mr. President:
You cannot kill the fight
for life and love and what is right—
You cannot destroy our America
by stealing the lives of the innocent
like a thief in the night—
For we are watching; our eyes are on you!

"They stole our lives, that you well know—
But what they stole they could not keep,
for we went down in history
as innocent of any crime,
except loving justice, freedom, our America.

"Our death threw up a roadblock
against the wave of terror then.
We are here once again to see
that the hard lesson is not forgotten.

"Let there be no more dead to mourn after,
[illegible], when it is much too late,
that it was all 'just a mistake.'

"That was our fate, remember?

"We can see the shame that today is
being put on America's conscience:
To kill two young Jews for a crime
that no one can be sure was theirs—
in a case riddled with doubt as to their guilt—
in the face of their steadfast claim
that they are innocent.

"A mother and a father convicted
on evidence that's flimsy, shaky—
the trial poisoned with the terror of our times,
Yet the death penalty, no less!

"When even confessed, proven criminals
receive no more than a few years in jail,
shall theirs be the death penalty, no less?

"It is as though we were on trial once again,
As though we, innocent of any crime, were facing
death again.
We cry out: 'NO! No, stop this crime!

"We do not speak alone, Mr. President;
We take heart in what we've seen
in the meeting halls, the home, the shops
of the plain people of America.

"We shake their hands in ours
and say with them their pledge:
'The Rosenbergs shall not die!'

That's the end of the note,
except for two names at the bottom:

SACCO AND VANZETTI

CLIPPING FROM THE

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Lawyers' Guild Meeting Tonight

The Rosenberg case will be among the Supreme Court decisions affecting civil liberties to be discussed tonight (Wednesday) by Osmond K. Fraenkel at the New York chapter meeting of the National Lawyers Guild.

The meeting, to be held at Willkie Memorial Building, 20 West 40 St., will also hear Frank Tuttl, president of the New York Chapter, on the topic, "Should Judges be eligible to non-judicial offices?"

65-15348-E358

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CLEMENCY BANNER WAVES FROM LONDON MONUMENT

As Queen Elizabeth made her first post-coronation drive through London last Friday, June 12, she saw something new streaming down from the top of the historic London Monument.

It was a banner inscribed in huge letters:

"SAVE THE ROSENBERGS."

A dramatic picture on page one of the London Daily Worker of June 13 shows Londoners looking up at the banner.

A call to the British Information Service in New York elicited the information that the Monument is 202 feet tall.

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Two Excellent Report Cards At Sing Sing . . . and Tears

By ELIHU S. HICKS

OSSINING, N.Y., June 16.—Two small boys trembled with excitement this morning as showed their end-term report cards to their parents. They had no reason to fear their parent action, for the marks on both cards were excellent. Both boys had been promoted with hon the next higher grade.

As Ethel and Julius Rosenberg examined the cards, observers said they were visibly thrilled. Their 10-year-old son Michael had been elected president of his fifth grade class. Robbie, 6, had romped through kindergarten with little effort. Now he was looking forward to unrestricted romping, for this was the first day of the summer vacation.

There was not much time for the two young parents to spend with the children, for they had to read and approve a petition prepared by their attorney, Emanuel Bloch, which they hoped would help convince President Eisenhower "not to orphan our two young children."

The boys had brought a bouquet of flowers to brighten their parents' death-house cells, but the cold prison regulations don't permit flowers, so the bouquet had to be left outside.

"Ethel and Julius don't expect to die," Bloch said later. "They can't believe that this country can be so barbaric as to kill them. They can't understand why America wants to alienate [illegible] millions of people all over the world."

Julius Rosenberg told of an experience with one of his fellow prisoners. The prisoner, after reading the published volume of Death House letters of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, had remarked, "I'm a hard-boiled guy, but I cried like a baby all through the book."

When the brief—and possibly final—visit was ended, Michael and Robbie left the prison as they had come in, tightly holding the hand of their friend "Manny" Bloch. Only now their eyes were red and tears ran down their cheeks. Bloch said the good-by embraces between the parents had been tearful.

Taunted by a heartless newspaperman who asked if Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were going to "admit" to the crime they never committed, Michael screamed, "They'll never tell a lie!"

Robbie, who doesn't yet understand all of what is being done to his mother and father, was soon skipping around on the grass, less than a mile from the prison.

Michael, however, knows what

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Children

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it's all about. He had written to the President, asking him not to let "anything happen to my mommy and daddy." He was nervous and fidgety as Bloch said good-by, explaining that he had to fly to Washington to give the petition to the President.

The boys finally rode home, Robbie taking in the beautiful Summer scenery along the Hutchinson River Parkway. Michael sat quietly, probably thinking.

And back in the Sing Sing Death House, the mother and father sat in their drab cells, probably crying.

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Clerics See Eisenhower, He Is Cool to Their Plea

WASHINGTON, June 18.—A delegation of four prominent clergymen met with President Eisenhower this afternoon, and presented him with a plea for clemency. Dr. Bernard M. Loomer, dean of the Divinity School of the University of Chicago, reported after the 15-minute conference that the President was "sympathetic" to their views but that he indicated more argument against clemency than for it.

Dr. Loomer spoke on behalf of the four, who also included Dr. Daniel Rideout, Negro minister of Baltimore and secretary of the the Baltimore Area Methodist Conference; Rev. Bruce Dahlberg, Brooklyn, and Abraham Cronbach, of Cincinnati.

Dr. Loomer said the President indicated he was very sympathetic to our views and that as a religious person shared the same conviction and considerations, but that nonetheless there were other considerations that gave him very serious pause in this business of granting clemency.

He said the President stated that "this kind of case was not new to him," and that he gave illustrations of comparable cases drawn from his military experience where public execution had the desired effect of preventing further occurrences of the same kind.

Loomer said that "when it was

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Clerics

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suggested to him that perhaps a Communist might differ from a soldier in that Communism might be considered a religion and that a Communist might not be deterred by the threat of capital punishment, the President indicated that in his view Communism was not a religion faith as he would understand a religious faith. Communism, the President was quoted as saying, was solely concerned with material improvement of the people and that it was a "materialistic outlook in the narrow sense with no regard for the worth of the individual."

FINAL IMPRESSION

The President did not say yes or no to the clemency plea, but the clergymen indicated that as of this moment the President was still against clemency. Loomer said: "My impression was that his feeling against (clemency) outweighed his feeling for.

Rabbi Cronbach said the President "adducted argumetns in favor of no, not in favor of yes," on clemency.

Three of the four clergymen—Loomer, Rideout and Cronbach—expressed the feeling that the President was against clemency. Rev. Dahlberg said he was uncertain.

Dr. Loomer said the clergymen offered the following considerations for granting clemency:

"1—The execution of the Rosenberg would lead to marytrdom which is one of the best ways of aiding communism rather than weakening it. A marytr's death is still the most meaningful way you can die.

"2—The Rosenberg case has become a symbolic event and therefore execution is the wrong

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Moments

We gathered together for your last
bitter hour
Decreed by the witchhunters now
riding our land,
A sea of faces mute with horror
Watched the clock in the tower
Hoping against hope—
At the last minute perhaps a
reprieve
That could stay the executioner
Before the hand reached the hour
of eight.

We watched the sun in the West-
ern sky
As it hung low over the Hudson
River.
O golden sun do not set—stay,
The beasts will murder before the
Sabbath
Innocent Ethel and Julius Rosen-
berg,
Mother and father
Of dear Michael and Robert
Whom you part with the day.

We wept at your agony, heroes
two,
We wept at the anguish of your
loved ones.
Whose heart is not breaking
And does not cry out in wrath
At this fiendish crime?
The foul deed was done—
But vindication will surely come,
Nothing can hide in the sun.

Heavy hearted we moved in silent
tred,
Bereaved by our martyred dead.
And when the shock that numbed
us passed
We knew you did not die.
You will live in all that is fine
In all that is pure and true
And like the heroes before you
Instill in us faith and courage anew.

The world will not long remem-
ber
The ungodly that howled for your
blood,
Nor those who nodded assent,
In every land, in every clime,
Wherever men are free,
Where is struggle for human rights
Ethel and Julius Rosenberg
You will immortal be.

S.F.

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Rabbi Warns of Era of Injustice Following Death of Rosenbergs

CHICAGO.—A leading Chicago rabbi, Dr. G. George Fox, this week expressed his fear of an aftermath of injustice which he said may follow in the wake of the killing of the Rosenbergs through "a misdirection of justice."

The head of the South Shore Temple congregation wrote in his weekly column in The Sentinel, the magazine of Chicago's Jewish community:

"The Rosenbergs are gone—but the sickness that gave them the death penalty is still among us."

Rabbi Fox was one of those who pleaded for clemency for the Rosenbergs although he is bitterly anti-Communist and believed that the Rosenbergs were guilty.

His column, however, reflected the disturbed views of those who saw the death sentence in the case as resulting from hysteria.

He wrote this week: "I only plead that hysteria should not so far endanger our liberties that our sense of justice be crippled by fear and mercilessness."

In the column, Rabbi Fox stated that Judge Kaufman, who handed down the death penalty in the case, "was the unconscious victim of furor that has seized many fellow-Americans."

"I dread the possibility that his decision may inspire less worthy men to follow his example," he wrote.

His column pictured Judge Kaufman as living today in the "shadow" of the Rosenberg penalty, and expressed the hope that Kaufman's decision "will not pursue him to a point of vitiating his health." The rabbi said he feared this would be the effect on him, were he in Kaufman's place.

Said Rabbi Fox: "I am strongly convinced that under normal circumstances, the Rosenbergs would still be living."

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Two Poems For Julius and Ethel Rosenberg

We Are Angry

We are angry! We are angry!
For the two that they have slain.
Let our anger shape tomorrow,
It will not occur again.

We are weeping! We are weeping.
For our justice led astray.
Let our tears become a torrent
That will wash these beasts away.

We are silent. We are silent
For our comrades who are gone.
And the world will hear our silence
From the movement that is born.

We'll be marching. We'll be marching
For our work is just begun.
And they will hear our marching
Till justice has been done.

We'll be building. We'll be building
Little Mike and Rob will see
A bright new world where children laugh
Where wars can never be.

We are angry. We are angry
For the two that have been slain
Let our anger shape tomorrow,
They shall not have died in vain.

II

To a Negro Mother Weeping at the Funeral

Negro mother at my side
It's not the first time that you cried
You've cried so many times before
But mother soon you'll cry no more.

You've seen your husband on the hangman's rope
You cried, you cried but lost not hope.
And I cried too, I'll have you know,
But oh my cry was all too low

The Martinsville Seven and Willie McGee
I joined you in sympathy
But sympathy can never make
A bigot tremble, a system shake.

And now I hear you cry again
I know now what I knew not then
That had I cried out long before
We'd not be crying here some-more.

And as our teardrops hit the street
See how they mingle at our feet
Now neither teardrop can ever dry
While either of us has cause to cry.

—J. M.

LET IT CRACK

If there is anything that cannot bear free thought, let it crack.

—Wendel Phillips
American anti-slavery agitator 1811-1834

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ROSENBERGS IN NEW PLEA TO PRESIDENT REAFFIRM INNOCENCE

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After spending two and a half hours—probably the shortest hours in their young lives—with their two sons Sing Sing Death House, Ethel and Julius Rosenberg yesterday afternoon dispatched a final petition for clemency to President Eisenhower, through their attorney, Emanuel Bloch. The petition was not a "legal" document so much as an u

plea to the President in the name of decency.

"We appealed to you once before," the paper said, "Our sentences, we declared there, violated truth and the instincts of civilized humanity.

"We told you the truth. We are innocent.

"We now again solemnly declare our innocence.

"The guilt in this case, if we die, will be America's. The shame, if we die, will dishonor this generation, and pervade history until future Americans recapture the heritage of truth, justice and equality before the law. Our case has made new precedents in the law of this land—evil precedents, unjust, inhuman, and with not even that concern for human life shown the protection of the rights of property."

REVIEW FACTS

The innocent couple's petition briefly reviewed the facts of their frame-up: the perjured testimony of Greenglass, the hoax of the Macy's table, and the rest of reason-defying evidence upon which their conviction was based. It appealed to the President's good offices as the last governmental agency to which they can turn.

"The Supreme Court has just denied us a stay of execution. And yet, unheard of in the annals of our law, four judges—four of the most distinguished members of that bench—had voted to let us live, at least long enough to vindicate our rights before them.

"Instead, our accusers torture us, in the face of death, with the guarantee of life for the price of a confession of guilt.

"We refuse the inquisitous bargain even as perhaps the last few days of our young lifes are slipping away. . . . We cannot besmirch our name by bearing false witness to save ourselves. Do not dishonor America, Mr. President, by considering, as a condition of our right to survive, the delivery of a confession of guilt of a crime we did not commit."

Every line of the petition revealed the serene dignity of these two young parents.

"You may not believe us," the petition continued, "but the passage of even the few short months since last we appealed to you, is confirming our prediction that, in the inexorable operation of time and conscience, the truth of our innocence would emerge."

Pointing out that all over the world the cry to "Save the Rosen-

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Rosenbergs

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bergs" is thundering, the petition concluded:

WORLD'S VOICES

"If you will not hear our voices, hear the voices of the world.

"Hear the Pope; who spoke three times in the name of Christian compassion. Hear the Cardinal in France who 'is passionately hoping' that our lives be spared in the name of 'charity and peace.' Listen to the pleas of 3,000 of our Protestant ministers beseeching in the name of God; the rabbis of France, 'in the very name of our common ideal of justice and generosity.'

"Hear the great and the humble: from Einstein, whose name is legend, to the tyros in the laboratories of Manchester; from struggling students at Grenoble to Oxford professors; from the world-famous movie directors of Rome to the bit players of London; from the dock workers at Liege to cotton spinners of India; from the peasants of Italy to the philosophers of Israel; from Mauriac, the Nobel literateur, to reporters in Mexico City; from the stenographers of Rotterdam to the transport workers of England; from the auto workers of Detroit to the auto workers of Paris; from Nexo of Denmark to Sequeros of Mexico to Seghers of Germany to Duhamel of France; from Australia to Argentina; from Uruguay to Sweden, from Cuba to Canada to New Zealand.

"Read the tons of petitions, letters, postcards, stacked high in your filing rooms, from the plain and gentle-folk of our land. They marched before your door in such numbers as never before; as have their brothers and sisters in London, Paris, Melbourne, Buenos Aires, Ottawa, Rome. They ask you not to orphan our two young boys. They ask you in the name of the conscience of the world, in the name of humanity, brotherhood and peace to spare our lives.

"Hear the great and humble for the sake of America."

"In your hearts... the dignity of humankind"

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By ALBERT MALTZ
(World Renowned Novelist)

YOU were unknown, but you were convenient. You fitted a State necessity. No government can wage unjust war upon a foreign people without needing both to intoxicate and to whip into line, its own citizenry.

That was the necessity you fitted: to make the napalm murder of Koreans acceptable to the American people; and to silence the cry for peace at home. For too many Americans were not willing to march the path to World War III. Too many saw no need for concentration camps, or for thought control, or for book burning, or for guns instead of public housing. And therefore it was the obligation of an imperialist government to teach them. You were a page in a lesson book called "The Politics of World Supremacy." You were one means to link the word "peace" with the word "traitor."

That you were innocent did not count because you were so convenient. As Dreyfus was convenient, and Mooney and Sacco and Vanzetti, and the Scottsboro boys, and Willie McGee, and a list of victims so long that only the names of a few ever will be recorded.

★

YOU WERE convenient because you were sister and brother to a thieving wretch, to a corrupted, frightened animal willing to say anything required of him. You were especially convenient because of your own decent, political past—because you had aided Spanish refugee children, and because you had asked for a second front in 1942, and because you had open minds toward the ways of Socialism. All of this, to a prejudiced jury, would be "evidence" that by nature and inclination you must be agents of a foreign power.

ETHEL ROSENBERG

JULIUS ROSENBERG

Therefore, since it was so very necessary, your own government fingered you, ripped you from home and young children, confined you in cells, put you on trial, contrived false charges, false evidence, false testimony. And though you cried out, "We are innocent," an inflamed jury held you guilty, and an ignorant, prejudiced judge, seeking the admiration of anti-Semites, pronounced that nothing would fit this State necessity except your death.

★

THROUGHOUT this horror, you stood firm. In your death cells you waited and stood firm. You so easily could have bought your lives, as your wretched brother bought his prison sentence, by false accusation. But you would not. They begged you, but you denounced them. You knew the purpose of this frame-up. You were too decent,

too honest, too devoted to humanity, to become an instrument of their dirty politics.

You scorned them, but you had faith. You had faith that the people they scorned would save you. Even if not, for the odds were heavy, you knew that by what you did, you would serve those people.

You spoke to the world! You endured the days and the nights! You wrote such letters to each other, and to your lonely, bewildered children, as must make mankind marvel forever at the greatness, the tenderness, the strength, of the human heart on trial. You listened eagerly to the rising clamor, to the mounting shout from all the world. You saw truth cut this way. You saw tens of thousands extend their hands to you, then millions, then tens of millions. You saw the false evidence exposed, the perjuries against you revealed, the mask of justice pushed aside to bare the foul visage of governmental conspiracy.

ONLY TO LEARN then that a majority of the Supreme Court, judicial soldiers in the cold war, refused to hear your case, refused to hear your case, refused to weigh new evidence, refused to interfere with the demands of State necessity. Only to learn that a gentleman of the General Staff, in Presidential office, dared not admit that his Department of Justice had been caught in a political frameup. Only to learn finally that Americans in high places are so besotted with fear and greed and lust for power that murder to them is becoming a way of life.

Good, honorable, abused man and wife, your ordeal was so terrible that the earth beneath your prison must have shuddered at the moment of your death. As a multitude of hearts, in many lands, shuddered and bled. Yet even to the last your integrity not only could not be broken, it would not even bend. And so they, defeated, murdered you.

★

YOU WILL be vindicated. The truth of this conspiracy will be known—its purpose, its method, and the purity of your resistance. For a hundred generations and beyond your story will be told. There will be tears for your agony and indignation at the crime done to you. And the brotherhood you believed in, for which you suffered, which you refused to betray, will come to this earth. Not you with your children, but others with theirs, will live in peace and security. And this you knew before they executed you. Or else you could not have walked those last steps with such unyielding pride.

Farewell. You have made millions stronger. In your joined hearts beat the dignity and greatness of humankind.

Rosenberg Case Cannot End Till Full Vindication Is Won

By WILLIAM L. PATTERSON

ETHEL AND JULIUS ROSENBERG are dead. That tragic phase of the Rosenberg case has been concluded. The awful deed is done.

But the Rosenberg Case is not dead. It will only be marked "closed" when the vital issues, of which this act of terror formed an integral and significant part, are fully resolved in the interests of the people.

Two powerful social groupings clashed in the bitter battle for these two lives. The consolidated, centrally directed one, vehemently called for death. That fatal conclusion, however, was not its ultimate goal. The death of the Rosenbergs was to be but another link in a chain of events, another tactical maneuver moving toward an infinitely more momentous objective. The strategic end sought by those who murdered Ethel and Julius Rosenberg involves war and fascism as opposed to peace and democracy. This struggle imperils the lives of millions.

The other, a loose grouping, but nevertheless greater than anything America had ever seen before, pleaded for life. In composition this second grouping cuts across all class and social lines. In the course of the struggle it grew magnificently to amazing proportions. But it was never politically consolidated, even around the plea for clemency. As a result, it lost the Rosenbergs. Neither grouping won the adherence or support of the vast millions who remained passive to the end.

THOSE WHO FOUGHT for the lives of these two young people never surmounted the divisive differences of politics, race, and religions. This prevented their complete moral and political integration even in struggle. The suppositions of the various defenders of this humble couple as to why the lives of the Rosenbergs were so furiously sought by the government differed widely from be

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ginning to end. Fear within this loose grouping linked this case with the large political issues confronting the country. Yet those basic issues, war or peace, fascism or democracy, which they ignored, affected the daily lives of those who remained indifferent only because they remained confused.

If the final decision in this titanic struggle is to coincide with the democratic interests of the people, the millions who held themselves aloof from the fight to save this couple must be shown how vital that fight was to their daily lives. That victory is possible. All of the conditions needed to solve this basic ideological problem are present. The issues can be clarified and their unity clearly outlined.

The integrity of the Rosenbergs can be vindicated, Morton Sobell freed, and the struggle for peace and democracy greatly advanced and won. No insurmountable obstacles stand in the way of this program. It entails, howev, an educational struggle of tremendous proportions, — the executioners have greatly confused the issues. Those who killed the Rosenbergs are past masters of obscurantism.

The death of these two Americans have created burning questions which are the concern of every lover of democracy for they carry one far beyond the issue of guilt or innocence:

1—Why was it necessary when the charge was only conspiracy to commit espionage for the government to resort to the extreme penalty? In several cases where the graver charge of treason was made and convictions secured, no such drastic sentence was asked.

2—What did the people of our country gain, or have to gain, in terms of security and greater national solidarity by the Rosenbergs' death?

3—Did the executioners add to the prestige of the American people through this brutal murder which Europe so sharply protested?

4—To what ends could these political prisoners have been sacrificed?

THE FREEDOM-LOVING peoples of the world are everywhere asking these questions. Concern for peace, for democratic liberties, and human rights compels these people out of self interest to examine the political factors which impelled the U. S. Government to its desperate course. Protests against the executions flooded the White House from every country in the world. What is of paramount importance is that they came from millions who had experienced first-hand encounters with fascism, — and who associated these murders with fascist terror.

You cannot lightly dismiss the reasoning of such people. The peoples of Europe regard the operations of the U. S. government as reflecting fast-advancing fascist trends, as they see it in McCarthyism and its book-burnings, the congressional inquisitions, the destruction of the rights of democratic political organizations, and the Smith Act trials. They could not separate the death of the Rosenbergs from these events. Their analysis is correct. Their post-experiences with fascism taught them invaluable lessons.

ETHEL AND JULIUS ROSENBERG

The issues of the struggle transcended the Rosenbergs as individuals—heroic and magnificent though they were. The struggle for their lives gained the support of Pope Pius XII, of the Rabbinical bodies in Western Europe, of Ministers of State, because of the pressure of the understanding people. The question naturally follows—why did it not elicit the support of Cardinal Spellman, of the leaders of American-Jewish organizations, of men in the higher circles of our government, leaders of labor, and leaders of the Negro mass liberation organizations? The answer obviously it that they never felt the same pressure of the American people. And besides, most of them were committed to the war program of the executioners.

THESE FACTS should seriously agitate the minds of the American people generally and especially of the Negro people—victims of three centuries of merciless exploitation, violence, terror and persecution, in all of which the government has played a conspicuous part. Negro Americans have had innumerable cases that in many respects paralleled the vital aspects of the Rosenberg execution. If, as a people, it played no part in this life-and-death struggle, so analogous to many of its own struggles it is only because its leaders remained aloof. Yet, the liberation struggles of the Negro people must merge with those of all liberty-loving oppressed, to be successful.

The impact of the fight for the Rosenbergs was felt everywhere. Some advanced courageously to meet the challenge of the death dealers. Some deserted years of progressive action and fled before the wild hysteria which was artificially provoked through the press and other media of propaganda. The government moved into action. The great mass of people passively looked on with little or no understanding of the significance of the conflict, or the forces involved or were immobilized through fear.

The Gov't Plot in Rosenbergs Case

By WILLIAM L. PATTERSON

II

ETHEL AND JULIUS Rosenberg were political prisoners. Their trial was one of America's most open political trials. At the zero hour the judicial and the administrative branches of government dominated the scene: the first, through the Supreme Court; the second, through the Department of Justice.

At the very last moment, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, William O. Douglas, granted the condemned pair a stay of execution based on defense counsel's raising the profound question whether the trial court had a legal right to decree death. Constitutional rights of the political prisoners were involved. Due process of law was involved. Justice Douglas acted with great responsibility and explained his action by saying:

"The cold truth is that the death sentence may not be imposed for what the Rosenbergs did, unless the jury so recommends. . . . Here the trial court was without jurisdiction to impose a death sentence since the jury had not recommended it.

"Before the present argument I knew only that the question was serious and substantial, now I am sure of the answer—I know, deep in my heart, that I am right on the law. Knowing that, my duty is clear."

What a far-reaching statement: the Supreme Court, representative of one of the three "equal" branches of our government, was asked to review the right of a Federal trial judge to impose the death sentence.

It is theoretically the right of all citizens equally to receive

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every protection guaranteed them by our Bill of Rights. Justices Douglas and Hugo L. Black sought to enforce this Constitutional guarantee. But a strange phenomenon took place. The administrative branch of government refused to permit this protection to be granted to the Rosenbergs. It stepped in and demanded that the judicial branch reverse and disregard a justice who sought only to safeguard Constitutional liberties.

•

OUR THEORY of government is that all three branches are co-equal. Any branch may step in to check an abuse of constitutional rights by another. This is a responsibility to the people. Justice Douglas had acted in protection of constitutional rights. The Supreme Court, coerced by the administrative branch of government retreated before the McCarthyism hysteria. It set the stay of execution aside. The Rosenbergs were sent to their death.

The most profound question of whether the judge could impose the death sentence in this case was evaded in frantic haste.

Two salient factors should be examined:

The first is that the Attorney-General, as a representative of the President of the United States, is not supposed to be seeking conviction; he is not seeking vengeance; it is his sole duty to make sure that justice is done. In this case justice was subverted. The administrative branch of government with malice aforethought, sought the execution and obtained the conviction through the testimony of criminal elements. The administrative branch of government decreed against an exercise of Constitutional rights and justice for these two citizens.

The second fact brought out by Douglas' stay is not less sensational. Not one other Supreme Court Justice had read the trial record, yet seven times they ruled against these two people whose lives were at stake. The Acting Solicitor General who called for the reconvening of the Supreme Court had not read the trial record—yet he induced the Chief Justice to hastily convene the entire court and to have them reverse the justifiable and responsible stay granted by the one man who had read the complete case history. As the President's agent, the Acting Solicitor General secured the death of the petitioners from the pen of the six justices who had not read the trial record. Thus was this crime of government consummated.

This crime of government goes beyond the monstrous legal lynchings of Willie McGee, the Martinsville Seven, and the innumerable other framed and murdered black Americans.

The political conclusion must be that the execution of the Rosenbergs was a crime of government—the culmination of a conspiracy of government to commit murder and for far-reaching but carefully concealed purposes.

Every branch of government was involved. During the trial the legislative branch of government intensified the inquisitional terror of the Un-American Activities Committee, the Subversive Activities Control Board, and Senator McCarthy's criminal circuses. Thus was the legal lynch atmosphere recreated and perpetuated, with the most strident drums of war beating out the cry that the country was in danger from a "foreign power."

(To Be Concluded)

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Dominant Issues Remain in The Case of the Rosenbergs

By WILLIAM L. PATTERSON
(Conclusion)

THE CONSPIRACY against Ethel and Julius Rosenberg was furthered by the press, which called them "Jewish Atomic spies" even before they were tried. Although the presumption of innocence supposedly follows a defendant from the moment of arrest to the time of conviction, this Constitutional right was never granted the Rosenbergs. How reminiscent of the trials of innocent Negroes who are called "rapists" from the moment of arrest!

The Rosenbergs were Jewish So the prosecution saw to it that no Jew sat on the jury which tried them. The trial judge and the prosecutor were Jewish, but definitely respectively subservient members of the judicial and administrative branches of government which had decreed death. The prosecutor actually incited anti-Semitism of witnesses and jurors.

The prosecutor knew that the case should not have been tried under the statute he invoked, as well as Justice Douglas knew it. He helped to create the hysterical political atmosphere which even the Appellate Court acknowledged would have warranted the granting of a mistrial had a motion been made for it. A prosecutor truly interested in seeing justice done would have himself asked for that mistrial. A court seeking justice would have declared a mistrial whether it was asked for or not when conditions prevailed which really warranted it.

The verdict was a "built-in" verdict. The jury was hand-picked. The testimony of David Greenglass, an admitted criminal, provided the "evidence." Finally, the Rosenbergs were charged with responsibility for the Korean war — a fantastic accusation.

The Rosenbergs were not, nor could they ever have been, responsible for the Korean war. It is the intriguers who made the Korean war and are conspiring for another world war who have the responsibility for the murder of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. How revealing now are the machinations of Syngman Rhe.

Jean-Paul Sartre, the great French writer, under the title, "Beasts Gone Mad" says of the Rosenberg case:—

"Your President could not permit himself to grant clemency to the Rosenbergs. It was necessary to lighten ballast in order to impose his will on Korea" . . . he continued . . . "Do you believe that we are going to die for McCarthy? That we will bleed from all our arteries to offer him an European Army? Do you believe that we want to defend the culture of McCarthy? The liberty of McCarthy? The justice of McCarthy? That we would turn Europe into a battlefield to allow this bloody fool to burn all the books? To excute innocent people and imprison judges who protest? . . . Don't fool yourselves. We will never give the leadership of the Western World to the murderers of the Rosenbergs."

Few in America spoke with such eloquence, passion, and devotion to democracy and peace.

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THE TRADE union movement did not support the defense of the Rosenbergs. A victim of the government-created, employer-inspired, anti-labor Taft-Hartley Law; or Presidential loyalty oaths passed to curtail labor's rights; of injunctive judgments restricting bargaining power; it ignored the fact that its persecutors were preparing to murder the Rosenbergs in

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a tactical step in their drive toward fascism. The myth of Communist-domination befogged the minds of some; other trade union leaders played "high" politics, as some trade unionists of Germany had done in the pre-Hitler days.

The majority of the leaders of the Negro people did not support the defense of the Rosenbergs. The victims of lynch justice and legal lynching, of the genocidal policy of government, of jim-crow and segregation, could not se the Rosenbergs in their own image. Their support of the Korean War made it inexpedient for Negro leadership to embrace the cause of the Rosenbergs. Yet the murderers of Julius and Ethel were the murderers of the Martinsville Seven, and they are the burners of Walter White's book.

Most of the outstanding community leaders did not militantly espouse the cause of the Rosenbergs. The vital points around which the European leaders rallied their peoples to demand fredom for the Rosenbergs were peace and democracy. The American Community leaders were afraid to challenge the executioners. Hysteria was a road block to those seeking to rally the people in support of the defense. Fear was a powerful weapon for the executioners.

The government skillfully developed its program of political terror. The artificially incited anti-communist drive obscured the very concrete and real drive against the Constitution. Every devisive technique was fully exploited, every prejudice against race and religion increased — thus the unity of those who sought to save the Rosenbergs was never achieved.

THE CONSPIRACY of government was accomplished, yet the death of the two young parents did not end the Rosenberg case. The dominant issues remain — peace or war, democracy or fascism — despite all the confusion.

Survey the landmarks which chart the course of government leading to the Rosenberg murder: the trial of the Hollywood artists, Foley Square and the trials of Communist leaders in Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, Baltimore, St. Louis, Hawaii, Seattle; the McCarran laws; police brutality; the raids upon academic freedom; the drive against the foreign-born.

When the Rosenbergs died the legal lynching of a Negro became easier to put over;—the victimization of labor became easier.

The execution of the Rosenbergs was an act of a government driven to new forms of teror by reason of its consuming fear of the people's love of democracy and peace. The murder was a logical goal for a government seeking to entrap the people in the meshes of fascist terror. Murder was being given the status of policy—a policy of government.

But the murderers of this heroic Jewish couple sustained a moral defeat — international in proportion. America witnessed the greatest mobilibation of dem-cratic-loving forces ever activized in such a struggle. In the main, however, these forces acted individually but not as an indivisible whole — therein lay the great weakness of the defense. The fight for the vindication of the Rosenbergs will help consolidate these forces. That consolidation around a minimum program is a must! The struggle will merge with the struggle for peace and democracy and against all forms of racism and obscurantism. This unity is an inseparable part of all liberation struggles—and will make it impossible for the murderers of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg to impose fascism upon the American people.

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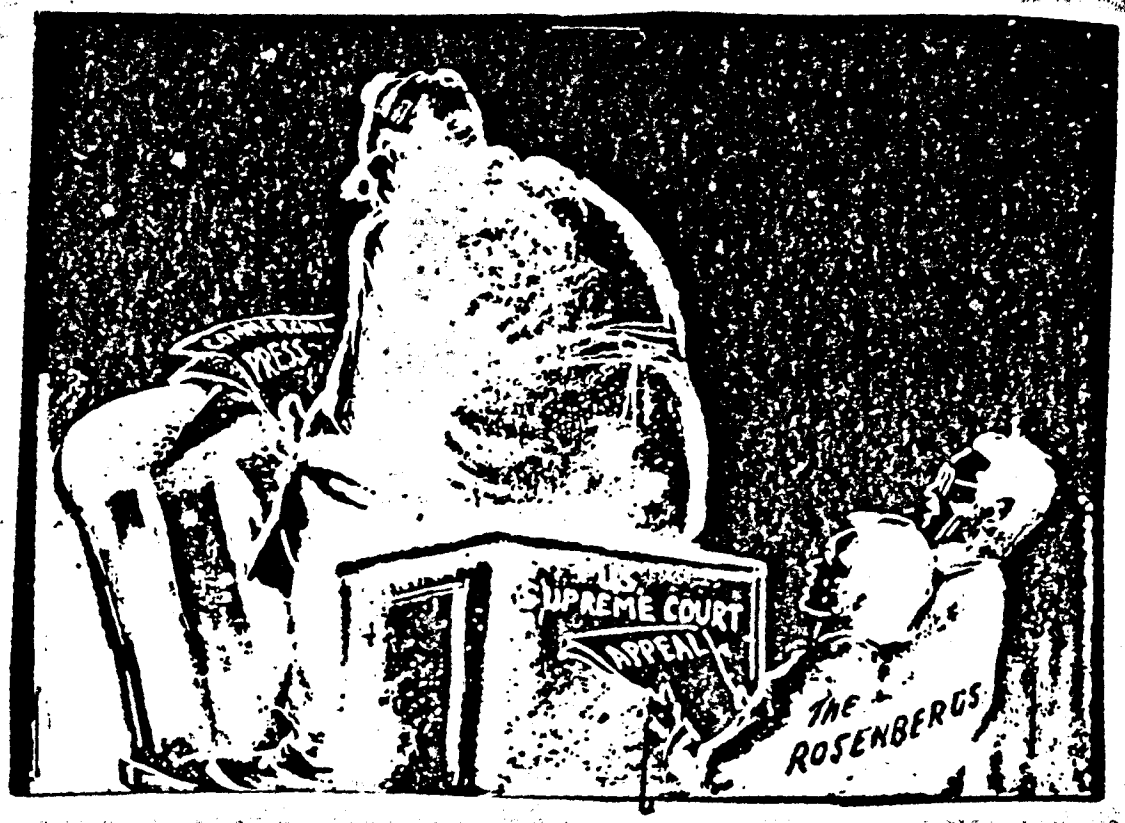

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THOUSANDS IN LONDON PICKET U. S. EMBASSY

LONDON, June 17.—Thousands of Londoners took possession of Grosvenor Square Sunday afternoon to let the tenants of No. 1—the American Embassy—know their demand for justice for Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. Streaming in from a great meeting in Hyde Park, the column grew till it stretched along three sides of Grosvenor Square.

Canadian student D. H. Hall assistant secretary of the National Rosenberg Defence Committee, led a deputation which handed in a resolution. He was told it would be passed to the Ambassador.

The great column marched round and round the square, chanting: "Stop McCarthy—the Rosenbergs shall not die."

"Who says save the Rosenbergs? The railwaymen!" they shouted. "Who says save the Rosenbergs? The Pope! Who says save the Rosenbergs? The Transport and General Workers Union!"—and so on through the long list of people and organizations who have demanded clemency.

The demonstrators laid a wreath on the Roosevelt monument with the inscription:

"That Roosevelt's ideals shall live—the Rosenbergs must not die. 'We look forward to a world founded on four essential freedoms—freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, freedom from fear.'—Franklin D. Roosevelt."

A policeman watching the demonstration voiced everyone's opinion when he said: "This is the biggest thing I've ever seen here."

The Rev. Stanley Evans told the meeting in the park: "If everyone in the next three days were determined not only to act himself but to make his friends, colleagues and workmates act too, then I tell you we can save the Rosenbergs."

Miss Monica Whately, the well-known Catholic, said that the American government had not only released bloodstained war criminals guilty of the death of six million people in concentration camps, but had also given them back huge sums of money and important positions.

"I refuse to believe that the Rosenbergs deserve a more terrible fate than these," she said amid cheers.

After the demonstration police arrested four people, including a boy of 16, accusing two of them of obstruction and two of insulting behavior.

Appeals from all over Britain to save the intended judicial murder of the Rosenbergs mounted during the weekend.

Telegrams, letters and petitions went both to the U. S. Embassy in London and direct to President Eisenhower.

The National Executive of the Association of Engineering and Shipbuilding Draughtsmen has unanimously passed a resolution urging clemency.

A 50-strong deputation went to the U. S. Embassy from a London conference of 250 shop stewards held under the auspices of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, London District.

Their plea for clemency pointed out that each delegate held credentials of one of the 37 unions affiliated to the Confederation and that between them they spoke for 250,000 workers.

Brentford and Chiswick Trades Council has sent a telegram of protest to the American Ambassador in London. So has Cannock and District Trades Council.

Protests from Amalgamated Engineering Union branches included Welling No. 2, Finchley No. 2, Southall No. 6, Hammersmith and Paddington. Over 100 Kingston District AEU shop stewards at their quarterly meeting made an unanimous appeal for clemency.

Gladstone Park No. 2 AEU branch wired President Eisenhower.

The Electrical Trades Union branches in Bethnal Green and Cambridge, and the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers in Raynes Park and in Cambridge joined the protests.

Firth Brown, Sheffield, shop stewards' committee sent a resolution to the American Embassy calling for clemency.

CONGREGATION ACTS

After the morning service at Thaxted, Essex, the congregation queued to sign a petition to President Eisenhower.

Two rabbis and a Catholic priest are among the latest Londoners to sign petitions for clemency.

They are Rabbi I. Zwebner, of London, W.9; Rabbi I. Levy, of Hampstead, and the Rt. Rev. Mgr. William O'Grady, of the Church of St. George and Our Lady, Walthamstow.

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'YANKEE, GO HOME'

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

ONE OF THE most striking developments of the "cold war," and one highly embarrassing to arrogant Wall Street imperialists, has been wide mass use of the sharp slogan, "Yankee Go Home," in various forms. This cry is heard in all the continents of the earth: in Europe and Australia hardly less than in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Everywhere the representatives of Wall Street imperialism are being unceremoniously invited by masses of the peoples to get out and to stay out.

Never was there such a wide mass ideological campaign as this. The slogan "Yankee Go Home" has run like wildfire among the many peoples who are having their democratic rights and independence trampled upon by the Wall Street would-be conquerors. It is directed against the billionaire rulers of America, not the masses of the American people.

The universality of the slogan's application is to be explained because it hits the bull's eye of what's the matter with the world—American imperialist aggression—and it also prescribes the needed basic remedy, namely, that the U.S. invaders of their countries should go back home where they belong.

Wendell Willkie remarked after his trip around the world several years ago that everywhere he went he found the peoples friendly to the United States. This feeling was largely a reflection of the liberal Roosevelt policies, which evoked a democratic response on a world scale. But now the situation is vastly changed: Willkie's "reservoir of good feeling for America" has almost completely evaporated, and in its place, as even bourgeois observers have to admit, has grown up a wide and bitter anti-Americanism (i.e., anti-Wall Street), feeling. This finds its most dramatic expression in the slogan, "Yankee Go Home."

THE DEEP WAVE of hostility towards our country now to be found all over the world in capitalist as well as Socialist countries, is the natural result of the Truman Doctrine, Marshall plan, NATO, Japanese treaty, atombomb diplomacy, building of air bases all over the world, and the fact that the U.S. now has its troops located in 47 countries. McCarthyism has also done its share to create mass fear and hatred of American imperialism, and so has the present attempt legally to lynch the Rosenbergs. If this innocent couple are electrocuted, the world wave of anti-U.S. sentiment will rise swiftly to new heights.

The "Yankee Go Home" movement exists not only in those countries, as in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, where the U.S. has long practiced the grossest imperialist exploitation and oppression; but also in those lands supposed to be military allies of this country. Britain is dripping with it; so are France, Italy, Western Germany, and other capitalist countries of Western Europe. This is because the peoples of those countries, in great masses, see their peace, freedom and welfare threatened by the aggressiveness of American imperialism.

To them the U.S. presents a dangerous threat of war and fascism. These peoples are demonstrating that they are not to be bought by Washington subsidies—the 40 billion American dollars put into post-war Europe has been poured down a rathole.

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EVERYWHERE U.S. big officials, who are arrogantly clattering up countries where they are unwelcome, are insulted by the "Yankee Go Home" slogan, in its many open and subtle forms. One of their worst shocks came in South Korea during the anti-armistice demonstrations of the past week. These were cooked up by the puppet President Rhee, who expects therewith to wangle some blackmail from the United States; but deep down in these masses was a strong anti-American imperialism sentiment, and for the usual reasons. Hence, "Yankee Go Home" was

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to be heard on all sides in South Korea, until Rhee's police put a clamp on it.

An important phase of the "Yankee Go Home" slogan is that it not only expresses the sentiments of peoples abroad, but it also dovetails with those of the American people. The workers and other democratic masses of the American people want their sons to remain in their own country and resent their being abroad as soldiers, whether to Korea or elsewhere. This, too, is the general sentiment of American soldiers who are now spread out in foreign countries in the four quarters of the earth—they want to come home.

The wide extension of the "Yankee Go Home" agitation is a clear warning to Wall Street imperialists that their program of world conquest is foredoomed to failure. The peoples of the world are on the march to peace, democracy and Socialism, and they will never put on the yoke of Wall Street. Let those elements beware who dare to violate the democratic will of the world's masses now being expressed by the historically significant slogan, "Yankee Go Home."

French Government Makes Clemency Plea

PARIS, June 17.—The French Government has informed the U.S. of France's concern over the effect the execution of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg would have on public opinion here, reliable sources said today. The sources said French foreign minister Georges Bidault acted on instructions of President Vincent Auriol. A U. S. Embassy spokesman confirmed the message was sent on to Washington.

American Ambassador C. Douglas Dillon was called to Bidault's office yesterday and shown a letter by Auriol which expressed concern over the Rosenbergs, the U. S. Embassy spokesman said.

"We reported our best estimates—that is that it will have serious repercussions on America in France," the spokesman added. "The French will take a very dim view of it."

An estimated 500,000 signatures on "Save the Rosenbergs" petitions from people of every shade of political belief have been received by the Embassy. An official said U. S. consulates throughout France have been the targets of pickets and petitions.

The General Confederaton of Labor has called for demonstrations by workers in factories throughout France, urging them to stop their machines for "moments of silence."

Thirteen mass meetings were scheduled today in Austria, and similar meetings were to be held in Finland and Sweden.

Radio Moscow today broadcast a Tass report describing the Rosenbergs as "victims of war hysteria."

In Paris, the entire management and editorial staffs of the conservative newspaper L'Aurore and the right-wing Figaro and the Socialist Le Populaire added their signatures to a memorandum prepared by a group of lawyers casting doubts on the Rosenbergs's guilt.

Sponsors of the memorandum said their proved friendship for the United States authorized them to speak. They submitted it last night to Ambassador Dillon.

In Britain, the liberal Manchester Guardian urged clem

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Urge Fight on Brownell's New Death Move

The American people people were urged yesterday by the Rosenberg defense committees to "urgently oppose" Attorney General Brownell's "last ditch efforts to keep the courts from learning the facts in the Rosenberg case."

The Department of Justice's frantic activity to proceed with the Rosenberg execution "continues the department's long and bitter fight to keep the courts from acting on the mass of new and substantial evidence which casts serious doubts on the Government's case," the Committee said yesterday.

Regarding the planned Clemency Train, scheduled for today, the committee said it was being held in readiness pending developments regarding the effort to reconvene the Court to overturn Douglas' ruling. The committee urged all fighters for clemency to listen to their radios today for announcements concerning the Clemency Train. Plans for such announcements have been made.

The Committee issued an urgent appeal to all believers in justice to:

1. Flood the Department of Justice in the person of U.S. Attorney General Brownell, with requests that Douglas' decision not be opposed, in order to let the courts study the new elements in the case.

2. Redouble pleas to President Eisenhower for clemency, and to all Congressmen and Senators to back up the clemency plea.

The committee expected that thousands of Americans would wire congratulations to Judge Douglas for his action.

The text of their statement follows:

"Justice Douglas' decision to grant a stay of execution to Ethel and Julius Rosenberg moves the Rosenberg Case to an ultimate decision based on fact and law rather than on passion and prejudice.

"But Attorney General Herbert Brownell's request for an immediate special session of the Supreme Court to overturn Justice Douglas' stay is the antithesis of this process which is the very basis of American legal procedure, and continues the Justice Department's long and bitter fight to keep the courts from acting upon the mass of new and substantial evidence which casts serious doubt on the government's case.

"Mr. Brownell's last-ditch efforts to keep the courts from learning the facts in the Rosenberg Case must be urgently opposed.

"The fight goes on, with undiminished effort, for the final determination of the case, which will result, we are confident, in the righting of a great wrong."

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Rosenbergs Hear News 'Happily'

Prison attendants at Sing Sing prison said that the Rosenbergs received the news of the stay of execution happily, but, according to the press services, made no other comment. Early yesterday, Julius and Ethel were visited by Julius' mother, Mrs. Sophie Rosenberg, his brother David and his sister.

Sing Sing warden Wilfred H. Denno yesterday received formal notification of the stay from the Department of Justice.

Rosenberg's mother, Sophie and his sister, Mrs. Ethel Goldberg, were visiting Ethel Rosenberg when the news came. The elder Mrs. Rosenberg, who has a weak heart, collapsed at the news and the prison doctor gave her medical treatment.

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Text of Petition by Rosenbergs to President Reaffirming Their Innocence

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Following is the text of the petition for clemency addressed to President Eisenhower from the Sing Sing death house on Tuesday by Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, through their attorney, Emanuel Bloch:

• • • •

Death House
Sing Sing Prison
Ossining, N. Y.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES:

We, JULIUS ROSENBERG and ETHEL ROSENBERG, husband and wife, are now confined in the Death House in Sing Sing P[illegible] [illegible]ing [illegible] [illegible]-

[illegible] the next year's perspectives. [illegible] his [illegible] your supreme power to prevent—a crime worse than murder—our unjust deaths.

We appealed to you once before. Our sentences, we declared then, violated truth and the instincts of civilized mankind.

We told you the truth: we are innocent.

The truth does not change.

We now again solemnly declare our innocence.

The guilt in this case, if we die, will be America's. The shame, if we die, will dishonor this generation, and pervade history until future Americans recapture the heritage of truth, justice and equality before the law. Our case has made new precedents in the law of this land—evil precedents, unjust, inhuman and with not even that concern for human life shown the protection of the rights of property.

The highest court of the United States—its Supreme Court, enshrined in pure white marble halls—has just denied us a stay of our execution, although with death so close, it closed its doors to us to seek its review of weighty questions going to the heart of the justice of our convictions and sentences. And yet, unheard of in the annals of our law, four judges—four of the most distinguished members of that bench—had voted to let us live, at least long enough to vindicate our rights before them. Thus, the opportunity we struggled to achieve is now denied.

Instead, our accusers torture us, in the face of death, with the guarantee of life for the price of a confession of guilt. Close upon the execution date—as though to draw upon the last full measure of dread of death and love of life—their high negotiator came bearing this tainted proffer of life. We re-

[illegible]use the iniquitous bargain, even as [illegible]erhaps the last few days of our young [illegible]ives are slipping away.

We cannot besmirch our names by [illegible]earing false witness to save ourselves. Do not dishonor America, Mr. President, by considering as a condition of our right to survive, the delivery of a confession of guilt of a crime we did not commit.

•

YOU MAY NOT believe us, but the shamefulness of our convictions has already bitten deeply into the consciences of reasoning men. Justices Black and Douglas (and perhaps Frankfurter as well) of the United States Supreme Court, have noted their unwillingness to leave history to ponder the justice of death sentences responsive to a verdict, procured by prosecution conduct which a reviewing court held could not be "too severely condemned," to

"wholly reprehensible" and productive of prejudice to us so beyond recall that "a new trial . . . should have been granted."

You may not believe us, because there is in the court record an undisturbed verdict of guilt. But we defended our innocence on that very record. Printed unabridged in the tens of thousands, the record itself, according to the government the strength of its case, has convinced untold numbers of our innocence and instilled, in more, grave doubts of the correctness of the verdict.

The world-wide sense of disbelief in our guilt is epitomized by the considered conclusion, from the record, of Dr. Harold C. Urey, our foremost nuclear physicist whose scientific labors represent a major contribution to the defense of our country.

"The case against the ROSENBERGS," he declared, "outrages logic and justice . . . it depends on patently perjured testimony."

You may not believe us, but the passage of even the few short months, since last we appealed to you, is confirming our prediction that, in the inexorable operation of time and conscience, the truth of our innocence would emerge.

EVIDENCE recently discovered reveals proof positive, short of confessions by the Greenglasses, the prosecution witnesses-in-chief—the one, imprisoned, under the aegis of the government; the other, free, under the constant threat of possible indictment for her admitted capital crime—that a case was constructed against us on a pyramid of lies. This new evidence should, at the very least, persuade you that doubt of our guilt is now so aggravated that good conscience demands that we live.

We submitted proof to the courts that Greenglass was said by his own wife, to have a "tendency to hysteria" and, from her knowledge of him since he was 10 years old, to "say things were so even if they were not."

We submitted documentary evidence to show that David Greenglass, trapped by his own misdeeds, hysterical with fear for his own life and that of Ruth, his wife, fell back on his life-long habit of lying, exploited by his shrewd-minded and equally guilty wife, to fabricate, bit by bit, a monstrous tale that has sent us, his own flesh and blood, down a long and terrible path toward death.

We submitted proof to show that David Greenglass stole uranium from Los Alamos, in a venture concededly unconnected with us. This fact both he and Ruth concealed at the trial, to avoid destruction of their claim that they were pawns in our hands and to cloak their independent motivation to bargain with the government for the "cooperation" which inculpated us and saved them.

In fact, who knows the real crime of the Greenglasses that moved David to the dreadful penance of sending his own sister to her death. For, on his apprehension, we showed, he admitted he lied to the authorities about the "espionage" material he gave to Gold.

But that his trial testimony against us resulted from the later fabrications of his animal desire to preserve himself and his wife, the mother of his children, is evident from our new proof

that at first, he incriminated neither of us, nor mentioned that the crime committed was "the crime worse than murder": the theft of the "secret" of the atombomb.

We submitted actual physical evidence (the missing console table), never produced in court against us, to show the Greenglasses and the government collaborated to bring into the trial false testimony that we had in our home an expensive console table, given to us by the "Russians," and equipped for microfilming purposes. The table itself belies the Greenglass testimony. It is not a specially constructed table, but one bought by us at R. H. Macy's for about $21, as we testified at our trial.

We submitted documentary evidence to show the unconscionable quid pro quo, for the Greenglasses' testimony implicating us. Here, where we face death, the government offered first that neither of the Greenglasses should even be charged with crime. The brazenness of the "deal" was transparent. The proposal changed in form but not in substance. Ruth, the wife, would go free and David, although to be named as a defendant, would receive no penalty.

Finally, only after the suspicions of our attorney that this filthy bargain was in the making were revealed in open court, did the government, to save face, first propose that David Greenglass might be required to serve some prison term. The sordid "deal," all know, has been fulfilled: Ruth is free; David may soon be; we are in the Death House.

WE ASKED the courts to overturn the scandalous convictions, conceived in fraud and consummated in perjury. But the disposition we received was summary. Our right to an open trial of our proof was frustrated. We were foreclosed from the opportunity to expose the fraud and perjury. We were prevented from exhausting our appellate remedies. We were accorded only the trappings but not the substance of justice.

Can our deaths, hastened by the assumed blindness of those who refuse to see the travesty, exonerate American justice where history will resurrect the unburied doubts?

The present mirrors the future. Never before have more people, in all lands and in all walks of life, been so shaken as by our imminent fate. Our inhuman sentences of death have already produced a traumatic shock to the moral senses of the world.

WORLD'S VOICES

If you will not hear our voices, hear the voices of the world.

Hear the Pope: who spoke three times in the name of Christian compassion. Hear his Cardinal in France who 'is passionately hoping' that our lives be spared in the name of 'charity and peace.' Listen to the pleas of 3,000 of our Protestant ministers beseeching in the name of God; the Rabbis of France, 'in the very name of our common ideal of justice and generosity.'

Hear the great and the humble: from Einstein, whose name is legend, to the tyros in the laboratories of Manchester; from struggling students at Grenoble to Oxford professors; from the world-famous movie directors of Rome to the bit players of London; from the dock workers at Liege to the cotton spinners of India; from the peasants of Italy to

the philosophers of Israel; from Mauriac, the Nobel literateur, to reporters in Mexico City; from the stenographers of Rotterdam to the transport workers of England; from the auto workers of Detroit to the auto workers of Paris; from Nexo of Denmark to Sequieros of Mexico to Seghers of Germany to Duhamel of France; from Australia to Argentina; from Uruguay to Swened; from Cuba to Canada to New Zealand.

Read the tons of petitions, letters, postcards, stacked high in your filing rooms, from the plain and gentle-folk of our land. They marched before your door in such numbers as never before, as have their brothers and sisters in London, Paris, Melbourne, Buenos Aires, Ottawa, Rome. They ask you not to orphan our two young boys. They ask you in the name of the conscience of the world, in the name of humanity, brotherhood and peace to spare our lives.

Hear the great and humble for the sake of America.

DO NOT hear only our accusers in the Department of Justice whom the law makes advisers to you on our right to clemency. Does not their self-interest to secure the challenged verdict, by our deaths, tarnish their advice? Does not their conceded concealment from you of most persuasive pleas on our behalf impair the integrity of their counsel?

Let us recall John de Stogumbur, the English chaplain of Shaw's "St. Joan," who had been one of the most bloodthirsty advocates of Joan's proposed burning, as he came rushing in from this "glorious" spectacle, overcome with remorse and sobbing like one demented:

"You do not know; you haven't seen; it is so easy to talk when you don't know. You madden yourself with words; you damn youself because it feels grand to throw oil on the flaming hell of your own temper. But when it is brought home to you; when you see the thing you have done; when it's blinding your eyes, stifling your nostrils, tearing your heart—then, then—Oh, God, take away this sight from me—Oh, Christ! deliver me from this fire that is consuming me—she cried to thee in the midst of it: Jesus! Jesus! Jesus! She is in thy bosom; and I am in hell for evermore."

We ask you, Mr. President, the civilized head of a civilized nation, to judge our plea with reason and humanity. And remember, we are a father and a mother.

THE FOREGOING was prepared by Emanuel H. Bloch, Esq., our attorney of 401 Broadway, New York City 13, New York.

We have read the same carefully and the statements made are true to the best of our knowledge and belief.

We request a commutation of our sentences or pardon.

We request that a hearing be granted before the President to present the issues for determination, and, in the event the present execution date does not permit time for full consideration of the issues, that a stay of execution be granted.

ETHEL ROSENBERG,
JULIUS ROSENBERG.

U. S. of 1953 on Trial Before World, As Was France During Dreyfus Case

Editor, Feature Section:

The other night CBS-TV carried as one of its "You Were There" drama series, the story of the Dreyfus case, half a century ago.

The parallel of this celebrated trial of an innocent man was striking. As CBS dramatized the story, arraigned against this Jewish officer of the French army were all the enemies of truth and progress—the general staff, the government, powerful newspapers.

Fighting valiantly for him, despite overwhelming odds, were a brave handful—Zola, Clemenceau, a few lawyers, a handful of French democrats, sustained in their struggle by world public opinion.

Zola is tried and sentenced for his letter, "J'Accuse," in defense of Dreyfus—shades of Cedric Belfrage of The National Guardian, jailed for deportation for his fight for the Rosenbergs.

In one scene Zola and Clemenceau debate the Dreyfus case as Clemenceau asks Zola if the government would deliberately forge evidence to convict the innocent Dreyfus. Zola replied that the government would blot out the sun if it could.

One strong point made by Dreyfus' defenders is that not Dreyfus but France is on trial in the eyes of the world, and his conviction on such patently forged evidence would brand France forever in the eyes of the world.

Although the government succeeds in convicting Dreyfus, the struggle all over the world finally defeats the enemies of truth and he is liberated. And it is in this that there lies the lesson for all of us: No matter how discouraged we might become, we cannot stop, not only for the sake of the Rosenbergs but our very souls. Continue the fight for the Rosenbergs—let the Zolas be our inspiration!

A READER.

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LAST MINUTE PLEA
(For my country's weal)

If war were not a cloud that cursed our sky
Then Julius, Ethel now would not be doomed,
Their precious life would not now be entombed
In prison, sentenced by brute law to die.
To let them go, would cause Peace's dove to fly
O'er gardens that sweet progress had perfumed
Within a world where hope once more resumed
Its rightful place among the peaks most high.

But only because their lives are linked to peace
Which is the dearest wish of all good men,
They must be spared; their death must not take place.
Else shall we travel darkest destinies.
Our name will never shine so bright again.
And something fair will perish from our grace.

—A. STRONG.

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WIN STAY; COURT MEETS AS D. OF J. DEMANDS DEATH

BULLETIN — Supreme Court Chief Justice, on request of U. S. Attorney General Herbert Brownell, rushed yesterday to reconvene the court at noon today to review the stay of execution handed down by Justice William

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By BERNARD BURTON

WASHINGTON, June 17 — World public opinion today stayed the hand of the executioner 36 hours before Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were scheduled for electrocution at Sing Sing. In a dramatic action, Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas at 11:10 a.m. today ordered a stay of execution, after the entire court on Monday, in a 5 to 4 decision, had refused a postponement.

Douglas' ruling, which he had been considering since 10 a.m. yesterday, returned the issue to lower courts for consideration of new legal aspects raised by attorneys. The essence of Douglas' eight-page decision was that the death penalty handed down by Judge Irving Kaufman was illegal since the alleged crime was covered by the Atomic Energy Act of 1946 and not by the 1917 Espionage Act. The 1946 law says there can be no death penalty unless the jury so orders after it has been convinced that there was intent to injure the United States.

Scarcely had Douglas' decision been announced than it met with a furious response from reactionary Congressmen and Attorney General Herbert Brownell, Jr. Brownell, angered by failure to get the charred bodies of the two young parents immediately, announced he would petition Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson to reconvene the entire court at once to overrule Douglas.

Brownell, terming Douglas' decision an "unprecedented action," said he would ask Vinson to take what veteran court observers considered an unprecedented action—reconvening all nine Supreme

(Continued on Page 6)

DOUGLAS

Douglas

(Continued from P[illegible])

Court Justices, when [illegible] have already recessed for the summer, to act on the action of a fellow justice.

Late today the Justice Department filed papers with the clerk's office in the Supreme Court calling on Vinson to convene a special term of the Supreme Court. The court went into summer recess Monday. It was not expected there would be any action on the Justice Department's petition before tomorrow.

Court aides said it was customary for the Chief Justice to consult the other justices before calling a special term. Five justices were reported to be in town and available—Vinson, Jackson, Clark, Burton and Black. The offices of Justices Frankfurter and Reed said they had left but can return soon.

Douglas has already left for the Pacific northwest, and Justice Minton is also away. Only six justices, however, are required for a court quorum.

In Congress, there were denunciations of Douglas from reactionary Republicans and Dixiecrats. One Dixiecrat, Rep. W. M. Wheeler, of Georgia, introduced a resolution to impeach Douglas. He was applauded from the Republican side of the House and by some Democrats.

Rep. Emanuel Celler, ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, said Wheeler's resolution was "undue and unwarranted interference with the procedure of the courts."

"Disappointment" at the stay was also expressed by the head of the House Un-American Committee, Harold B. Velde (R-Ill).

Velde said he would also urge Vinson to reconvene the court to overrule Douglas.

There was jubilation among the clemency marchers who have been walking before the White House since Sunday, 24 hours a day.

Later Wheeler introduced a companion resolution calling upon the Judiciary Committee to investigate whether Douglas has been guilty of any high crimes or misdemeanor.

Some members of the House Judiciary Committee, which would have to consider such a resolution, expressed doubts as to its propriety. They said Douglas' action may be unprecedented but it was perfectly legal. Others, however, indicated they would like to find a way to support impeachment proceedings.

Cries of frustration were also uttered on the Senate side. Sen. Willis Smith, Dixiecrat of North Carolina, a member of the Jenner was "very disappointed." Sen. John Bricker (R-O) said it was "incredible."

Douglas' decision was not based on the petition of the Rosenbergs' attorneys, Emanuel H. Bloch, John K. Finerty and Prof. Malcolm Sharp. It was based on the petition of attorneys Fyke Farmer, of Nashville, Tenn., and Daniel Marshall, of Los Angeles. This latter petition, introduced in behalf of Edelman, a private citizen of Los Angeles, contended the death sentence was illegal under the Atomic Energy Act of 1946.

In his order, Douglas said Bloch's application for a stay "does not present points substantially diferent from those which the court has already considered.... While I differed with the court and thought the case should have been reviewed, the court has spoken and I bow to its decision. Although I have the power to grant a stay, I could not do so responsibly on grounds the court has already rejected."

NEW GROUNDS

The new grounds submitted by Farmer and Marshall, however, present another situation, Douglas said. "I cannot agree that it is a frivolous point or without substance," he stated.

"It is also important," he added, "that before we allow human lives to be snuffed out, we be sure—emphatically sure—that we act within the law. If we are not sure, there will be lingering doubts to plague the conscience after the event."

Douglas pointed out that the jury in the Rosenberg trial made no recommendation for the death penalty, as required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1946, nor was it brought out that there was any "intent to injure the United States."

If no death penalty is recommended by the jury, then the maximum penalty is a $20,000 fine and 20 years in prison. If there was only "reason to believe" that alleged action would hurt the U.S., then the maximum is $10,000 fine and 10 years.

"If the Atomic Energy Act of 1946 is applicable to the prosecution of the Rosenbergs," the Justice stated, "the district court unlawfully imposed the death sentence."

Douglas said this legal issue of whether the Atomic Energy Act is applicable "presents a considerable question" for the courts to decide. To the government's contention that the "overt acts alleged" took place before 1946, Douglas pointed out that the petitioner contended the "conspiracy alleged" started before passage of the act but continued after passage and therefore, "the lighter penalties of the new act apply."

that p[illegible]n of the case against the Rose[illegible]s related to acts in pursu[illegible] of the conspiracy which o[illegible]d after Aug. 1, 1946."

SERIOUS DOUBTS

"I have serious doubts," Douglas said, "whether this death sentence may be imposed for this offense except and unless a jury recommends it. The Rosenbergs should have an opportunity to litigate that issue."

He then ordered a stay of execution until the question of the applicability of the Atomic Energy Act can be determined in the district court and the Court of Appeals. If a further stay is needed after the issues are determined in the lower courts, he said, new application can be made to the Court of Appeals or to a member of the Supreme Court.

Bloch, said the next step under Douglas' order would be to take the case to the New York Federal District Court. He said it could take a year for final decision.

Bloch's associate, Finerty, who was also a counsel in the Sacco and Vanzetti case, said the issue of the death penalty had been raised in the lower courts but counsel had not been able to get it before the Supreme Court.

HAIL DECISION

The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case, which had been conducting the two-year fight to save the parents of two small children, greeted Douglas' decision as an action "in accordance with the highest tradition of American justice and patriotism. It comes as a result of two years of undaunted efforts by those who have labored to secure justice in the Rosenberg case."

Calif. Trust Fund For Rosenberg Children Set Up

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 6.—Formation of a Southern California Trust Fund Committee for support of the Rosenberg children was announced today.

"Los Angeles, like other large areas throughout the country, has set up a Trust Fund Committee to handle the funds being contributed voluntarily for the support of the Rosenberg children, Michael, 10, and Robbie, 6," said the committee.

"Al the money contributed to this fund will be deposited locally in a special account opened for this purpose. There will be regular audits and reports by the trustees. Withdrawals will be made only on request from the National Fund Committee and only for the welfare of the children.

"Contributions should be made to the Southern California Trust Fund Committee, P. O. Box No. 12224, Edendale Station, Los Angeles 26, Calif."

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Outpouring of Peoples Poetry

By DAVID PLATT

HAS there ever been a time when poets have not spoken out against injustice?

In the year 1819 Shelley wrote his famous 'Song to the Men of England' beginning "wherefore plow for the lords who lay ye low? Wherefore weave with toil and care the rich robes your tyrants wear?" He wrote it in honor of those slain when British police attacked a workers demonstration in Manchester. In 1887 William Morris wrote his 'Death Song' in memory of the heroes who died when a socialist parade was broken up by the British military.

In our own country not one major poet stood aloof from the fight against Negro slavery. Whitman, Whittier, Bryant, Lowell, Longfellow, Thoreau, Melville, Emerson—all were imbued with the fiery moral truth that slavery was evil. They braved the McCarthyites of their day and served truth with their pens. Moreover they believed with Emerson that "the scholar or critic defending the cause of slavery, of arbitrary government, of monopoly, of the oppressor, is a traitor to his profession. He is not company for clean people."

★

EMERSON'S words were not lost on the leading poets of the 1920s who jumped into the fight to save Sacco and Vanzetti.

And what of the professional poets of the 50s — have they sung the epic of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg — the case that shook the world?

For the first time in a century —it is our sad duty to report— the major poets have not spoken out. Not a whisper of protest against that colossal miscarriage of justice has come from Carl Sandburg, Archibald MacLeish, Malcolm Cowley, Allen Tate, William Carlos Williams, T. S. Eliot, Marianne Moore, Wallace Stevens, E. E. Cummings, Karl Shapiro, Paul Engle, Robert Frost.

★

THE "BIG NAME" poets in the main were silent but the people were not. Carrying on the tradition of Shelley, Morris

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and Emerson, housewives, transport workers, shipping clerks, high school students and Smith and McCarran Act victims wrote inspired verse to the martyred Ethel and Julius. Most of this verse was published in the Daily Worker and The Worker. Very often the sender added a brief note about himself.

Francis Sheehy, author of the powerful 'Elegy on the Rosenbergs' wrote: "If printed, the poem should bear my pen name Sheehy — which is an Irish name of the original Gaels. My father fought in arms in the Dublin streets in '67, was thrown into Kilmainham Gaol and exiled by the sign manual of the usurper, Queen Victoria. The Rosenbergs are enshrined in my pantheon with Emmet and Tone, Connolly and Pearse, all in Heine's phrase, "brave soliders in the war for the liberation of humanity." Sheehy's eloquent poem swore "by this sheltering earth, by the stars of the Sabbath they never saw, by the sun that never greeted them again, by the hallowed and vital remembrance of their loyal lives and cruel deaths — we swear they shall be avenged."

★

TYPICAL of a number of letters received by the Daily Worker was this one from a working class housewife and mother of two children who wrote: "I am not a poet by profession, but as a woman who fights for peace and for the freedom of all peoples, I hope you will consider printing my poem. I am sorry I cannot sign my name but those who murdered Ethel and Julius Rosenberg do not permit me to do so."

"The Rosenbergs Must Live" was the title of a fine poem by A. Saibonmatsu, a Japanese

American, who with his family was confined to prison barrack 'relocation' camps during World War II. "The Rosenbergs must live for the April wind," he wrote, "and for spring for all the colors of life and for all that lives, for the summer night and for the supper prayers, for Michael and Robbie, they must live."

Then there was Howard Fast's 'A Man and A Woman in Sing Sing Death House', a moving poem in which Fast declares he is "no good for weeping, and there are not enough tears to wash away the walls we face. I am bitter with anger, I will nourish anger, feed the flame of hot anger and sear my own memory and the memory of others. This I can do."

Above all there was the masterly poem by Dr. W. E. B. DuBois (published in Masses & Mainstream) in which the martyred Rosenbergs are welcomed by "Sacco and Vanzetti, old John Brown and Willie McGee straight up from endless depths" and also by the "mighty Dead: Buddha Mahmoud and Isaiah, Jesus, Lincoln and Toussaint, Savonarola and Joan of Arc and all the other millions, in throng on throng unending, weeping, singing."

NO RECORD of the great work done by the people's poets can be complete without special mention of Edith Segal's magnificent and stirring Rosenberg songs and poems written in the very midst of the struggle to save them from death.

Also outstanding was Midi Gordon's 'Thank You Ethel—you taught me gallantry, gave me back my voice. My early song—choked with frustration, trouble, triviality—gushed forth anew to sing your love and praise."

Dora Teitlebom's poignant 'A Train Through the Night', translated from the Yiddish by Martha Millet, spoke of the unyielding courage of the Rosenbergs whose "cause shall blaze from the lips of men and justice rise with the people's will. A night like a dark, unending sea is drowning my country's soul."

Elizabeth Russell's 'Petition to the President in the Matter of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg' bril-

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The Rosenbergs

(Continued from Page 8)

liantly dramatized the truth that "we too have committed the following crimes to wit: joined unions, signed petitions, fought jimcrow, spoke peace. (Some of us have typewriters in our homes and jello boxes. Yes, even collection cans for child refugees.")

★

THERE IS space only to mention other outstanding contributions by Bertha Stachel (wife of Jack Stachel, Communist leader imprisoned for his political ideas), Sadie Van Ween (To Die At Sunset), Saul Gross (Thou Shalt Not Kill), Ber Green (You Are Immortal), Joseph Norman (They Shall Not Die), Paul Carter (Mister President), Ettore Rella (To The Rosenbergs), Martha Millet (At Ossining), Anne Lifshutz (Journey To Ossining), Alfred Strong (Thoughts After the Executions).

Yes, the people's poets filled the gap when the professionals retreated before the executioners of this sublimely courageous couple.

We say to these silent ones what the poet Mary Carolyn Davies said to the intellectuals who did nothing to stop the murder of Sacco and Vanzetti: "Shame on folk of printed word who raise no cry that rich men plunder. You give a sword for their hands to slay all you hold dear and high some day."

They Sing of the Rosenbergs!

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The Rosenberg Song

By WALTER LOWENFELS

I

Walking alone
their last mile,
the Rosenbergs sang
"The Earth Shall Smile."
Let the singing start;
let the mourning cease;
sing as they sang—
the song of peace.

Chorus:

Mourn no more
their last mile,
the Rosenbergs sang
"The Earth Shall Smile."

II

Her mother heart
broken with pain,
she sang and sang
"That Freedom Train."
Sing "Peat Bog Soldiers,"
"Good Night Irene;"
sing as they sang—
"Wearing o' the Green."

CHO:

III

Sing Beethoven's Ninth,
and Passover songs
of the Jewish people
fighting their wrongs.
The last minutes
in the Big House rang—
"Spring Is Coming,"
the Rosenbergs sang.

CHO:

IV

They strapped them in
the electric chair,
but they couldn't kill
the singing we share.
They couldn't kill
the voice of Spring
and the song of peace
the Rosenbergs sing.

CHO:

V

American lovers,
children of Moses,
they sang of peace
and bread and roses.
Now sing as they sang
because of you
and make their final
song come true.

CHO:

Mourn no more
their last mile,
the Rosenbergs sang
"The Earth Shall Smile."

From Music They Drew Strength

By WALTER LOWENFELS

IT IS quite in keeping with the singing lives of the Rosenbergs, and the singing traditions of the people, that their murder provoked a great outburst of song. An extraordinary quantity and quality of verse has been written, not only by "professional" poets, but by unprofessional poets, working people, people like the Rosenbergs, themselves.

"My Lovely Ninghtingale," Julius wrote his wife on Feb. 1, 1953, "I caught a couple of bars of your rendition of Gonoud's Ava Maria and the Alleluiah, if only your doors were open, what a lovely concert we would have."

(Let me ask, parenthetically why can't we have such a concert, a program of music the Rosenbergs sang?)

★

ON SUNDAY, Dec. 21, 1952, (Ethel Rosenberg wrote during the Christmas season, last Jan. 19,) I sat quietly in my cell 'listening' to the songs that close to 1,000 people were singing in a heavy rain at Ossining Station (although I couldn't actually hear them), and feeling a calm and a safety and a spiritual bond that no deprivation, no loneliness, no danger could shatter!"

Of a Fourth of July in the Death House, Ethel wrote (on July 5, 1951): ". . . After a while, some of the pain gripping me eased. It needed only a radio program and 'Ballad for Americans' for the finishing touch. With Frank Sinatra's recording of 'House I Live In.' I had a tremendous upsurge of courage, confidence, and perspective!"

With Spring in the air, Julius Rosenberg wrote, April 19, 1951 . . . "For about an hour, beginning about 9 p m., I walk and sing songs, mostly folk music, workers songs, peoples songs, popular tunes, and excerpts from operas and symphonies.

"I Sing Peat Bog Soldiers,

Kevin Barry, United Nations, Tennessee Waltz, Down in the Valley, Beethoven's Choral Symphony, and as many of the childrens' records as I can remember. In all frankness, I feel good and strong when I sing."

★

NOT ONLY the Rosenbergs, but wise and heroic people throughout history have felt "good and strong" when they faced decisive moments with song.

Socrates, for instance, the Greek philosopher: In his last days in jail, before his execution for "dangerous thoughts," Socrates began for the first time in his life, to compose music and poetry. In his last talks with his friends, he wonders whether he had not erred throughout his life in avoiding poetry. At any rate, he chose to die, singing.

So did the Koje Island prisoners a few months ago, shot down in cold blood, murdered as they marched arm in arm, singing.

In the dreaded hole of the Blowmox prison, Steve Nelson has written how the prisoners, strangers, unable to see each other, started to sing together.

The Rosenbergs singing in the death house; the people singing now, writing their poems, continuing the songs the Rosenbergs sang, bear witness to the poet Neruda's words—"I came here to sing, and for you to sing with me. . . ."

★

THEY BEAR witness that poetry, song, music, is not primarily a pursuit confined to professionals, but a gift that we all possess, provided we overcome the "division of labor," temporarily imbedded in our social forms, and practice and acquire the know-how. . . ." The sweetest songs still to be sung," as Whitman was fond of saying . . . "leaving the rest to you. . . ."

Indeed, are we not heading toward a society where we will all tend to be poets?—not just in our last moments, but throughout the singing todays that lie ahead for all working men and women, tomorrow. . . .

Rosenberg Number Issued by 'Jewish Life'

The conviction that the Rosenberg case is far from over is the dominant theme of a 15-page section on "Legacy of the Rosenbergs" in the August issue of the progressive monthly Jewish Life, just out.

The special section includes a hitherto unpublished letter of Ethel Rosenberg about the visit to the Death House of James V. Bennett to offer a deal in exchange for "talking"; the last letters of the Rosenbergs; an article on the facts of the Sobell case; a political evaluation of the execution; a round-up of English-Jewish press reaction to the execution and of the international reaction; and large parts of the dissenting opinions by three Supreme Court justices.

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Executioner Of Rosenbergs Quits His Job

OSSINING, N.Y., Aug. 5.—The executioner who electrocuted Ethel and Julius Rosenberg has resigned, it was learned today.

Joseph Francel, who sent 137 persons to their death during the 14 years he served as Sing Sing Prison's official executioner, submitted his resignation to State Commissioner of Correction Edward J. Donovan.

Francel, 56, was paid $150 each time he pulled the lethal switch.

Donovan said Francel did not explain why he resigned and Francel declined to elaborate.

Prison officials said Francel, a Cairo, N.Y., electrician was understood to have executed many more persons than the ones he executed for the State of New York. They said he was also believed to have served as executioner in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

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Did the Rosenbergs Have Full Measure of Justice?

What Supreme Court Justices say reveals they did not have their day in court.

THOSE who say the Rosenbergs had their day in court are repeating a myth. But one may ask, didn't the Supreme Court consider the case so many times? The answer is, as Justice Frankfurter has stated, that refusal by the Supreme Court to review a case in no way implies approval of the decision by the lower courts. The Supreme Court never passed on the fairness of the trial or the justness of the sentence.

Even the majority opinion of the Supreme Court's rejection of the Rosenbergs' final plea, written by Mr. Justice Jackson and concurred in by Justices Vinson, Reed, Burton, Clark and Minton, said:

"Vacating this stay is not to be construed as indorsing the wisdom or appropriateness to this case of a death sentence."

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JUSTICE BLACK

★

JUSTICE BLACK wrote in his dissent:

"It is not amiss to point out that this Court has never reviewed this record and has never affirmed the fairness of the trial below. Without an affirmance of the fairness of the trial by the highest court in the land there may always be questions as to whether these executions were legally and rightfully carried out. I would still grant certiorari and let this Court approve or disapprove the fairness of the trials."

★

ALL THREE dissenting Justices critized the irregular and injudicious haste of the executions.

To quote Justice Black:

"I do not believe that Government counsel or this Court has had time or an adequate opportunity to investigate and decide the very serious question raised in asking this Court to vacate the stay granted by Mr. Justice Douglas. . . . I add my regret that the rush of this case has deprived me of any opportunity to do more at this time than hastily sketch my view on the important questions raised. . .

"Judicial haste is peculiarly out of place where the death penalty has been imposed for conduct part of which took place at a time when Congress appears to have barred the imposition of that death penalty by district judges acting without a jury's recommendation. And it seems to me that this court has not had time or opportunity for

JUSTICE DOUGLAS

JUSTICE FRANKFURTER

sufficient study to ~~give the~~ kind of informed decision on this important question it would if the case should take its regular course."

★

JUSTICE FRANKFURTER wrote:

"Neither counsel nor the Court, in the time available, were able to go below the surface of the question raised by the application for a stay which Mr. Justice Douglas granted. More time was needed than was had for adequate consideration. . . .

"The crux of all I am suggesting is that none of the obvious considerations for bringing the all too leaden-footed proceedings in this case to an end should have barred the full employment of the deliberative process necessary for reaching a firm conclusion on the issue on which the Court has now spoken, however unfortunate it may be that the issue did not emerge earlier than it did."

★

THE DOUBTS in the Rosenberg case did not die in the electric chair. They are now intensified as a result of the dissenting opinions of Justices Black, Douglas and Frankfurter, who question the legality of the death sentence. Was the execution within the law?

Justice Black declared:

"It is my view, based on the limited arguments we have heard, that after passage of the Atomic Energy Act of 1946 it was unlawful for a judge to impose the death penalty for unlawful transmittal of atomic secrets unless such a penalty was recommended by the jury trying the case."

Justice Douglas said:

"The cold truth ~~is that the~~ death sentence may not be imposed for what the Rosenbergs did unless the jury so recommends. . . . I know deep in my heart that I am right on the law. Knowing that, my duty is clear."

Justice Frankfurter wrote:

"It thus appears—although, of course, I would feel more secure in my conviction had I had the opportunity to make a thorough study of the lengthy record in this case—that the conspiracy with which the Rosenbergs were charged is one falling in part within the terms of the Atomic Energy Act, passed by Congress in 1946 and specifically dealing with classified information pertaining to the recent developments in atomic energy. There remains the question whether the sentence for such a conspiracy could be imposed under the Espionage Act."

★

WHAT IF the Rosenbergs had been tried under the Atomic Energy Act? The prosecution attorney told the Supreme Court that the government would have been laughed out of court if the indictment had been brought under the Atomic Energy Act. Justice Douglas agreed. So, with the Rosenbergs already executed, we have an admission that they would not have been convicted if tried under the law that three Supreme Court Justices believe applied to the case.

All of these opinions do not take into account the mounting evidence that the Rosenbergs were convicted on perjured testimony. What about the documents proving that David Greenglass lied, that the Rosenbergs bought the controversial console table at a department store and did not get it from the Russians as the prosecution had charged, that Greenglass

ETHEL ROSENBERG

JULIUS ROSENBERG

was incapable of stealing atomic secrets?

★

HISTORY may recognize the injustice done to them, but there can be no compensation for the Rosenbergs. No future apology will bring their parents to little Michael and Robbie, nor will it wipe out the crushing blow to American traditions of justice and mercy.

However, there is still time to halt a miscarriage of justice in the case of Morton Sobell, who was a co-defendant with Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. Sobell, convicted on the word of a man who faced a perjury indictment, was sentenced to thirty years at Alcatraz. He swears he is completely innocent.

Alcatraz is a place reserved for murderers and hardened criminals. No children are allowed to visit there. This means that Sobell cannot see his four-year-old son Mark or his daughter Sydney, who is 13.

★

THE MANY and grave doubts surrounding the entire Rosenberg case call for a new trial for Morton Sobell. He must get the day in court, the full measure of justice that the Rosenbergs never had. Meanwhile he should be removed from the inhumane conditions at Alcatraz to another prison where he can see his children while waiting for all of the facts in his case to come to light.

The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case urges justice for Morton Sobell. A new trial would be a step toward guaranteeing that the injustice suffered by the Rosenbergs will never again stain the conscience of America.

[From a pamphlet issued as a public service by The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case, 1050 Sixth Ave., New York, N.Y.]

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"President Eisenhower knew no more of the details of this (Rosenberg) case than the man in the street, and was probably surprised at Justice Black's statement that the Supreme Court had never actually reviewed the facts in the case," said Rev. Bernard D. Loomer (center), Dean of the Divinity School of the University of Chicago. He is shown at the White House with other clergymen as they pleaded with Mr. Eisenhower to commute the death sentence of the Rosenbergs. The religious leaders are (l. to r.): Rev. Daniel L. Rideout, Methodist Church, Baltimore, Md.; Rev. Loomer; Rev. Bruce Dahlberg, Baptist Church, Brooklyn, N.Y.; and Rabbi Abraham Cronbach, professor at Union Hebrew Seminary, Cincinnati, Ohio.

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Coming Exclusive

in The Worker

starting

September 20

Two Immortals:

Scenes from the lives of Ethel & Julius Rosenberg

By VIRGINIA GARDNER

the story that has never before been told

★

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FOR weeks on end Virginia Gardner of The Worker staff has been interviewing those who knew Ethel and Julius Rosenberg —in school, at home, in the days of the depression, and of the war. Out of these conversations with those who knew them as fellow unionists, schoolmates, and friends, she has recreated the lives they lived.

We are proud to present this series as a worthy tribute to America's two martyrs of the cold war.

The first of 12 weekly chapters will appear in The Worker, Sept. 20.

In order to be sure that you, your shopmates, neighbors and friends get every chapter of this absorbing story, may we suggest you get a subscription yourself, if you do not have one yet, and see that they get subs. May we suggest, too, that you order a bundle of papers each week to get to those shopmates, neighbors and friends who are not yet ready to subscribe.

Order your bundle by writing to: The Worker Circulation Department, 35 E 12th St., New York City 3, N.Y.

Dear Reader:

VIRGINIA GARDNER has written an unforgettable series of articles on Ethel and Julius Rosenberg which will doubtless be reprinted throughout the world and read by many millions. She has recreated the youth and the times of the two American martyrs. When you finish her series you feel that they are alive again, this man and woman whose names have become a banner throughout the world. They emerge full-bodied, vibrant with the joy of living and with that solicitude for mankind that endeared them to their fellow-prisoners, and, as the author shows, to anybody who knew them.

TO create their lives required a monumental job of research and interviewing. It meant finding and talking with old neighbors of the Rosenberg family, old schoolmates and shopmates who hadn't seen them for many years. But mainly it required the creative hand of the writer who is occupied with humanity.

IT is writing that can never be forgotten and our readers will doubtless share my feeling that we owe a debt of gratitude to Virginia Gardner for this brilliant work. It serves truth and justice and will help immeasurably to keep green the memory of these two American heroes.

JOSEPH NORTH.

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VIRGINIA GARDNER'S

Two Immortals:

Scenes from the lives of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg

will appear exclusively

in THE WORKER

Beginning September 20

and weekly thereafter

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Julius Rosenberg Letter, Published First Time, Describes Gov't Pressure

On June 5, two weeks before Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were killed in the Sing Sing electric chair, James V. Bennett, Federal Prison Director, in a closed interview with Julius, presented a Government deal to save the lives of the innocent couple if they would "cooperate" and back up the Government's espionage frameup. The details of the interview were related in a letter by Julius to his attorney, Emmanuel Bloch.

Today, for the first time, the Daily Worker is able to give its readers the text of the letter:

June 5, 1953

Dear Manny:

After the incident of the special visit from the emissary of the Attorney General of the U.S., I rushed off a telegram to you and I wrote up an account of what took place at the interview. But when I heard you were going to see us the next day, I preferred to give you all the details verbally.

After reading the bald lie of the Justice Department that Mr. Bennett's Federal Director of the Bureau of Prisons visit was routine and that they intimated no deal was offered, I feel it my duty to present the facts as they took place last Tuesday.

First, let me tell you that the mental torture Ethel and I went through took a very great toll and has revealed the naked, ugly brutality of police state tyranny.

On Monday, June 1, Mr. Carroll and Mr. Foley, U.S. marshalls, were up to serve us with papers setting down our executions for our 14th wedding anniversary, June 18, 11 p.m. My wife and I are to be horribly united in death on the very day of our greatest happiness, our wedding day.

They were very pleasant, but they had a job, a distasteful one at that, to do, and they pointedly asked me before they left if they could do anything for us. I said yes—bring us good news. Their visit was routine.

Tuesday, at 11 a.m., after my visit with Ethel, I was ushered into the counsel room, and there was Mr. Bennett. Mind you, this was the first time I was alone with anyone without an officer or Sing Sing official present (I believe it's against the regulations here). We were alone for about an hour while the Principal Keeper, Mr. Kelley, sat outside the room with the door closed.

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Offer of Deal

Mr. Bennett opened the conversation and said:

"Mr. Brownell, the Attorney General, sent me to see you and he wants you to know that if you want to cooperate with the government you can do so through me and I will be able to make arrangements for you to talk with any proper officials. Furthermore, if you, Julius, can convince the officials that you have fully cooperated with the government, they have a basis to recommend clemency."

You can realize how choked I was, but I didn't want to lose my temper or my self-control and I said, "In the first place, we are innocent, that is the whole truth and therefore we know nothing that would come under the meaning of the word 'cooperate'. By the way, did you tell our lawyer that you were coming to us about this matter?"

He said no, your lawyer will see you tomorrow. I told him to get in touch with you as it was the only proper thing to do. He said he would, later on.

"You mean to tell me, Mr. Bennett," I said, "that a great government like ours is coming to two insignificant people like us and saying 'cooperate or die'? It is a terrible thing to do, to barter life by 'talking.' It isn't necessary to beat me with clubs, but such a proposal is like what took place during the Middle Ages. It is equivalent to the screw and rack. You are putting a tremendous pressure on me."

He said, "Why, do you know that I didn't sleep last night when I knew I had to see you and Ethel the next day and talk to you about this matter? I was terribly worried."

"How do you think we feel, sitting here waiting for death over two years when we are innocent," I asked. "My family has gone through great suffering. My sister had a breakdown; my aged, ailing mother is tormented; our children have known much emotional and mental agony. Then you talk to us about this!

"Remember, Mr. Bennett, we love our country, it is our home, the land of my children and my family. We do not want its good name to be shamed, and in justice and common decency we should be allowed to live to prove our innocence."

He then said no—not a new trial. Only by cooperating will there be a basis to ask for commutation. "Look here, Julius," he said, "you didn't deny that you know anything about this espionage."

"I certainly did," I answered, "and furthermore, did you read the trial record, sir?"

Didn't Read Trial Record

He said he had not, but continued, saying, "You had dealings with Elizabeth Bentley."

"I never did, and if you read the record, she said on the witness stand that she did not know me and never met me."

"But you had dealings with Gold, didn't you?"

"Of course I didn't. Gold also said on the stand he never met me or knew me. You should have read the record to be familiar with the facts."

"Oh, I read the newspaper accounts of it." (It is interesting to note how they become convinced of their own lies and will not stick to the trial record of the case.)

"Listen, Julius, I was sent here, but if you agree, I will bring someone to see you who is thoroughly familiar with the case and you will try to convince him you have cooperated with the government."

"What do you want to do?" I asked. "Have him convince me I am guilty, when I am not? You want him to put ideas in my head. You will only be satisfied when I say the things you want me to say, but I will not lie about this matter."

"Look, Julius," he said. "Gordon Dean, the head of the Atomic Energy Commission, is a very good friend of mine, and if he is convinced that you have cooperated fully and told all you know about, he will see the

ETHEL ROSENBERG

JULIUS ROSENBERG

President and recommend clemency."

"I don't know anything about espionage, since I am innocent, and I think you should tell the Attorney General to recommend clemency because it is the just, humane and proper thing to do in this case. Our country has a reputation to maintain in the world and many of its friends are outraged at the barbaric sentence and the lack of justice in this case."

"I know there has been a lot of publicity in the case, but that is not germane. What is the point is that you have to convince the officials that you have cooperated. Well, Julius, why did your brother-in-law involve you?"

Lied to Save Himself

"I believe he did it to save his own skin, also to try to make himself out to be a minor, innocent dupe dominated by someone else so that he should not be held accountable for his own actions. Besides, the government had caught the Greenglasses with the goods and they had to find some way to mitigate their own punishment. With my background of being fired for alleged communism from government service, because I was a union organizer, and since he was a relative and knew me intimately and we had violent quarrels and there existed personal animosity between us, I was falsely involved.

"Also, the prosecution saw a chance to make great political capital out of 'communist-spy-atom bomb.' My wife and I became scapegoats and were straws tossed around by the political controversies that raged in the cold war. Why not go to the Greenglasses and get them to cooperate to tell the truth about this family?

"You yourself, Mr. Bennett, as head of the Prison Bureau,

know that Greenglass and Gold were together in the Tombs for nine months, discussing the case, studying notes from a big looseleaf book, rehearsing testimony, talking to FBI agents, the prosecution, and their attorney. You know this because the records of the Tombs will show this, and yet your department refused to give us an opportunity to subpoena these records to prove this.

Never Got Fair Trial

"You know that Greenglass was coached on the A-bomb sketch testimony, both verbally and from notes. You know the prosecution permitted the Greenglasses to perjure themselves. You know the prosecution caused Schneider to perjure himself. [Passport photographer who later admitted perjured testimony—Ed.]

"You know the government is preventing my wife's family from coming forth with exculpating testimony. You know that the prosecution has exculpating evidence that they are withholding from the court. In short, we did not get a fair trial and we were framed. Now you want us to admit that this big lie is the truth. That we can never do.

"Sure, Mr. Bennett, we will cooperate fully. Give us our day in court and under oath from the witness stand we will repeat the truth and at the same time, we will be able to subpoena witnesses to prove our claims. That is the way to give us justice—"

"Oh, no, Julius. No new trial—only by cooperating can you help yourself—"

"But you can have the district attorney agree to one of our motions? Then we will put up or shut up, and I am sure we will be vindicated."

"No, that is not germane. You have to cooperate with the government."

"How about the death sentence? Certainly, even if the verdict were a true one, which we vehemently deny, we never should have gotten such a severe sentence. The history of our country in freeing war criminals, Nazi and fascist, in not putting to death traitors and spies, and yet, for the first time, making the Rosenbergs the worst criminals in all our history—You know, as a reasoning man, this is not so. All the facts in the case, the trial record, and the sentence prove it was a means of coercion. The humane, just and proper action would be for our lives to be spared. We are a leading, powerful country with a great prestige in the world and we must consider what the people will think about the fact that our government says to two people, 'Cooperate or die.' Remember, it would be in the best interest of our country to commute our sentence of death."

"But Julius, I am giving you the opportunity to cooperate," he said.

Terrible Blunder

"Sure. Judge Kaufman made a terrible blunder with this outrageous sentence and he has the bull by the tail and he can't let go."

"That's right, Julius. He needs

(Continued on Page 5)

Julius Rosenberg's Letter

(Continued from Page 2)

you to help him change this sentence and you can do this by telling all you know."

"I cannot bail him out for his mistake, for we never should have received this sentence and in fact, we never should have been brought to trial."

"Julius, all the courts upheld the conviction many times and all the officials in Washington believe you guilty. Why, most everybody believes you guilty."

"You know that only one appeals court upheld the verdict of the original trial and the denial of certiorari does not pass on the merits of a case. At all other [word illegible] we didn't get a hearing, but only the right to file papers. This is the form of the law, not its spirit. Always such haste — because they are afraid we will prove our innocence. Also, people like Dr. Urey, Professor Einstein, scientists, lawyers, men of letters, have grave doubts about the case after reading the trial record. The Pope, 3,000 Christian church leaders, prominent rabbis and millions of people have asked for clemency."

"No, Julius. The Pope did not ask for clemency."

"Yes, he did. And I have the articles from L'Osservator Romano to prove it. We had the record printed—the one that records the entire proceedings of the trial and people read it and came away with grave doubts about the justness of the verdict. This record is available and will be read. The only way to cleanse this damning record is to let us live so we can prove our innocence."

"Julius, the trial not being fair, the sentence being too severe, and all the publicity are not germane to the issue. The only way is for you to cooperate and convince the officials in Washington. Then, they will have a basis to ask for clemency."

"All these three years, you say, I am not telling the truth. Then, if I say what you want me to say, that would be cooperating and then it would be the 'truth.' In good conscience, I could not lend myself to this practice and I must say, in effect, this pressure on us is cruel and unconscionable. The only decent thing to do is to tell Mr. Brownell to recommend clemency."

It was 12 o'clock when he went in to see Ethel for a half hour, and then they brought me into the women's wing and he continued to browbeat us for another half hour until the p.m. Ethel will tell you about what took place during this hour.

Warden Not Present

At the end of our session the Warden walked into the women's wing and asked what is this all about and I told him Mr. Brownell sent Mr. Bennett to tell us if we cooperated with the Government he would recommend clemency to the President. You will note the Warden was not present when the offer was made.

After I was in my cell again after 1 p.m. Mr. Bennett came over and he tried to convince me again to let him bring people who are familiar with the case and "you would submit to answer questions of what you know about this." Then I said why this would be like brain washing, Mr. Bennett. He then asked if he could come to see me again and I said yes, if he brings good news.

Ethel and I resolved not to see anyone except when you are present also. I gave you a few of the details as best I can recollect them. I also told you more

of what took place at our last consultation.

Excuse the penmanship, the rambling and the discontinuity, but these are the true facts. The interview and visit were not routine; it was well planned, cold and calculated mental torture. In an arrogant manner, in utter disregard for ethics, justice, plain common decency and humanity, we were told, in effect, cooperate or die—a dirty deal which the government needs to help hide a vicious frameup against two innocent people in order to make political capital with this case and our lives. Yes, they run the government, the courts and the press, but they are beginning to worry about the people, for they are sovereign and will not let this gross miscarriage of justice stand.

Refused to Yield Principles

This terror was visited on two defenseless people but it could not succeed because we are right and we refused to abandon our principles, our belief in democracy, freedom and the integrity of the individual. The people must be told all about what took place, for there is great danger in our land if this fascist stuff is not stopped now.

Any way you look at it as it happened last Tuesday, we saw what police methods mean and it is terrifying to behold. After all the buildup in the newspapers they weakly deny that they made a dirty deal because they were exposed. The great difficulty is that by their control of the mass media of information, they are continuously in small doses brain-washing the readers and listeners about our case and the public is misinformed. Every effort must be made to spread the truth.

We must live to defeat the plans of the Justice Department to kill us because they could not use us. I have faith that the people will learn the facts and save our lives and force the courts to stay our execution in order to see that we got justice in the time-honored tradition of our great American heritage. What will be the answer of America to all this?

We are still confident that the good name of our country will be maintained and we will live.

All my love,

JULIE.

Two Immortals

Scenes from the lives of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg

By VIRGINIA GARDNER

CHAPTER 2: HER 'HEAD "IN THE CLOUDS," HER WAGES $7 A WEEK

— Start It Today on Page 8 —

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Scenes from the Lives of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg

BY VIRGINIA GARDNER

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(PART II)

Her 'Head in the Clouds' —Wages: $7 a Week

ETHEL GREENGLASS didn't give up easily the youthful conviction that, given a break, she could enter the magic world of theater. Even as the vision of Broadway receded and the idea of college became the faintest of hopes, she put off anything more than half-hearted attempts to land factory or office job.

It was easy to do because there weren't any jobs anyway. Shortly after she was out of high school, in the summer or early fall of 1931, she had made one attempt. Reading an advertisement which actually said employes were wanted—at a factory on Bleecker street—she hurried there early the next morning.

But so had other thousands of new graduates and older unemployed. The street was jammed with people. And more were coming, from all sides. Suddenly when the jam was suffocating and the rueful factory owner still had not opened his doors, a stream of water played upon the job-hungry from a firetruck.

★

IT WAS ONE of many stories told by friends who had known Ethel not in school years but when they were members of Clark House, a settlement house which was virtually around the corner from Ethel's home.

Ethel joined the Clark Players, a dramatic group attached to the settlement house, not long after her graduation in 1931. She was then all of 16 years old. This was the beginning of a close association with the group of from 16 to 20 East Side youths and young women.

For six months, too, Ethel studied the shorthand and stenography she had refused to take in Seward Park high, where she had chosen instead a course to fit her for college. She went about it conscientiously, but some of her Clark House associates, slightly older than Ethel and already at work in factories, looked at her typing course as a way of postponing the day when she'd have to take some job far removed from the world of art.

Actually that day was not far off, as Ethel began work Feb. 24, 1932, a clerical and checking job

which was at times full-time and overtime and otherwise part-time."

★

MEANWHILE there was the make-believe world the Clark House offered, and numerous "amateur nights." Her Clark House friends, interviewed separately, recalled the flavor of the evenings in the friendly old brick settlement house on Rivington street, later taken over by the Grand Street Neighborhood Center.

Rhina lost track of her in 1936, before Ethel and Julie met, but recalled vividly her "very real dramatic talent." Gertrude used to see her up to and during the period Julie and Ethel were courting, "but everytime I went over to Ethel's he was there studying and she was typing his homework, and that wasn't my idea of a good time, so I sort of lost interest."

Now in business, Ted knew Ethel when he was with the Clark Players, and, briefly, at a later period. "She was the star," he said admiringly. "She had a passion for theater, she was a wonderful actress. There was a flame in her." He added that in the Clark House days "she wasn't even a Liberal."

★

THOSE WERE the days when the entertainment field, as all of industry, was inundated with surplus labor. Competition was enormous. Hundreds of other youngsters in New York City who would have gone to work in factories, restaurants, offices or warehouses, were there any jobs to go to, were flocking to theaters to offer their talents and hope for $2 prizes.

Thursday night was amateur night at Loew's Delancey theater, and one Thursday Ethel entered the competition. The singers who received the most applause won the prizes. That night she won, not the fabulous first prize of $5, but the second prize of $2.

This wasn't so bad, in 1931, considering that the New York Times was reporting that a committee had been formed to raise funds for idle musicians, that an actors' dinner club had opened, to feed hungry actors, that "labor" was asking for donations of pianos for jobless pianists, and that the former Intl. YMCA had been opened for 100 destitute men, with "Phi Beta Kappa men among those applying for quarters."

E. C. Rybicki's appeal to parents to "keep school children from seeking jobs unless family is in need" (June 21, 1931) was hardly a point at issue on the Lower East Side.

Ethel, encouraged by her $2 prize, began entering the amateur competitions fostered by one of the big exploiters of amateur talent, the late "Major" Bowes. In this way she won a good many $2 prizes, Rhina recalled.

★

"ONE SATURDAY I went over to her house, and when I asked where she was, her mother lamented bitterly:

"'Where is she? Where do you suppose she is? Out singing somewhere in New Jersey. I don't understand why she don't go out and get a job.'"

On one occasion, Rhina recalled, although the date was vague in her mind, Ethel toured New Je-

by towns with a group of New Yorkers who by prearrangement topped all the Major Bowes prize-money while native New Jerseyans hopefully went through the act of competing. Ethel returned jubilant because she had made all of $4 or $5 a day.

And after Ethel had started to work at 31½ cents an hour—she averaged $7 a week over the next three and a half-year period—she continued to go to Clark House on winter evenings.

★

OTHERS HAD told how when Ethel was in 9-B, in the old Annex, PS 22, at Sheriff and Stanton streets, while the fine new Seward Park high school was being completed, she played the nurse in "Good Medicine." In the Annex there was no regular auditorium, and it was a slight let-down to the actors to see before them, when the lights went on (there was no curtain), an audience strangely like their usual classmates, and seated at their usual desks. The larger room was achieved by sliding back double doors so that several rooms were rolled into one.

But in the new school, the stage was a grand affair, with a fine curtain, and the auditorium even had graduated seats, so that acting was a heady experience.

Now Rhina, mother of an almost grown son, sat recalling the next chapter in Ethel's acting experience, in late 1931 and 1932. Neither girl had begun dating boys.

"We were very immature," she said, her dark eyes alight with tender amusement. "And both of us were conscious of not having 'been out' and not having the right manners. All the Players gang went regularly to the Paramount Cafeteria on Delancey street, near Lowe's, after rehearsal."

★

"FOR A LONG time Ethel and I were afraid to go. It seemed to us quite a dazzling place. We were afraid we wouldn't know whether to use a fork or spoon. Here it was, just a cafeteria, but to us it was about like going to the Astor roof would be for my boy today, I guess."

Rhina didn't take the position that Laura had taken as to Ethel's ambition. It wasn't that Ethel wanted to escape from the poverty of the slums, or to achieve fame, but something else.

Seated in her Brooklyn apartment, she gazed out the window, then said: "It's funny, how two kids from homes like ours, and in the midst of the depression, could be like we were. If ever two girls had their heads in the clouds, it was Ethel and I.

"It was just that Ethel was in love with art, like I was. Not that we always knew art when we saw it. Most of the Clark Players' plays were a hodge-podge of mediocrity, and the training wasn't good. But we were in love with the idea of art and hardly noticed the world around us."

★

SHE RECALLED one play whose lines the Clark Players studied, although it wasn't produced. "It was about true artists who starved in a garret. That appealed to Ethel a lot. She said she'd rather live that kind of life than live the way her family did.

"Her own family didn't starve, but neither did they make a living, although even in the depression people must have brought their old sewing machines to be fixed, for her dad was always puttering around that shop. Of course, her family never was on relief, and that was a distinction in those years. But the only reason they weren't was because they could not have got on relief with that little shop."

In this period, Ethel and Rhina would leave the settlement house on Rivington St. after rehearsal, and stroll down Rivington. She recaptured the spring evenings when life seemed too wonderful and the enchantment of the play too great to want to end the day by going home and to bed. So, she'd walk the brief distance to Sheriff St. with Ethel, and then Ethel would walk on with her. Then she'd decide to walk Ethel back a piece way. They would walk back and forth, reciting lines from plays, particularly Shakespeare, and always once they'd quote from "Romeo and Juliet:"

"Good night, good night,
Parting is such sweet sorrow
That I shall say good night till it be morning"

★

CURIOUSLY, the line figured in a play the Clark Players did later, in which Ethel starred—

"about the only play the Clark Players did which was any good."

It was "The Valiant," a one-act play, by H. E. Porter and Robert Middlemass, later made into a movie featuring Paul Muni. "It centered about a man facing execution. Throughout the play the warden—and the audience—has doubts as to his guilt."

Ethel played the role of the young sister of the doomed man, who was allowed to visit him in the warden's office before the execution.

The brother, the prisoner, pretends not to recognize her, but then she recites their favorite Shakespeare line, "Parting is such sweet sorrow." He conceals from her his recognition. He tells her to go home, to forget him, to assure her mother he is not her son, and then comes the punch line from "Julius Caesar," he recites on his way to his death:

" 'Cowards die many times before their death; the valiant never taste of death but once.'

"So, with the doubts still intact, increased, he goes to his death. Ethel was very good as the kid sister. I often thought of it, when her role was reversed and her brother had accommodated the authorities," Rhina said.

★

ETHEL OFTEN played comedy roles. "We had no understanding," Rhina laughed. "The Players put on some anti-French Revolution comedy, 'The Black Flamingo,' without either of us thinking a thing about it. Ethel was in it.

"Neither did it occur to us that there was anything wrong in a British play, 'Green Stockings,' which made fun of a 'spinster' who wore green stockings, and contrasted the younger, more fortunate sister, who was Ethel. Another dull play produced there was 'Children of the Moon,' by Flabin. Then, also at Clark House, Ethel stole the show as the British nursemaid in 'A Pair of Sixes.' "

For most of the young people of the neighborhood, the various activities in the settlement house formed their chief social life, as they had no money for entertainment. Eventually Ethel and Rhina made the splurge and went a couple of times a week with others to the Paramount cafeteria.

"Each girl took her own check, of course. One night one of the boys offered to take me home. I thought maybe he didn't have bus fare and suggested we walk. Stiffly, he said no, we'd ride the bus. He paid my fare. At the door he made a little speech and said hereafter when a boy offered to take me home that meant he had bus fare."

★

THE PLAYERS and their friends were unusually close as a group. Rhina recalled how when summertime came after that first year, and the settlement house closed for the season, they continued to meet, to take outings, to the Palisades, or the Steeplechase in Coney Island, or, once, a moonlight sail up the Hudson. Ethel still "simply had no interest in the boys, though; she had her sights set on bigger and better things."

"We were so young, and so romantic," she smiled. "I remember Ethel's saying once, as probably all adolescent girls do at one time or another when they're dreaming high dreams of a career, that she was not going to just get married and worry about children and shopping and meals, she was going to be different."

The smile trembled, and she swiftly left the room. Before long she returned, however, carrying with both hands, carefully, a small painting.

"This wouldn't mean anything to you, or to anyone else, but—." She left the sentence unfinished, adding a little unsteadily: "See, here we are. She's the one with long hair. She always wore it that way."

★

IT WAS a rather decorative little painting, which might have illustrated a story in a woman's magazine, showing two young women, a youth between them, their heads back, arms encircled, walking along a road beside a river. The young women were in shorts and jerseys, and the three were walk-

~~ing away~~ with their backs toward the artist. "We were on a picnic organized by the Players, along the Palisades," she explained.

"I remember that day so well," Rhina mused. "We had brought our lunch, and Ethel had a whole stack of sandwiches made from home-made bread, and ate them all. 'You will get fat,' I told her.

"I wasn't afraid of her getting fat, of course. But for such an ethereal young woman she certainly could eat."

Both Rhina and Gertrude had memories of Ethel's home far less dreary than Laura's were, "possibly because mine was so much poorer," Rhina said. She was the eldest of a number of children, and had to go to work at once on leaving school. She, too, had entered amateur nights and won an occasional prize, but when she had a chance to turn professional at $40 a week, her father refused to allow it. Her mother had been an amateur actress in the Yiddish theatre, and that was admirable, but, her father declared, it wasn't respectable to act professionally. So, despite his veneration for the classics, she had to go to work for $7 a week.

★

IN CONTRAST, Ethel's family, despite Mrs. Greenglass' laments about her daughter's singing instead of getting a job, seemed more understanding. (But Rhina had forgot how short was the "breathing spell" they allowed Ethel before she landed her clerical job. It was from other sources that the date of Ethel's first job was ascertained.)

"Then there was the bread," Rhina said. "I loved to go over to Sheriff St. on Fridays, when the odor of freshly baked Chalah (baked for the Sabbath holiday) filled the flat. And I was always offered some."

The little common courtesy touched the other daughter of the Lower East Side whose life was even more bare of luxuries than Ethel's, and to this day it obviously seemed a fine and generous act for them to share their fresh Chalah with her.

• • •

(In next week's Sunday Worker Gertrude's recollections of Ethel in the '30s will be set forth).

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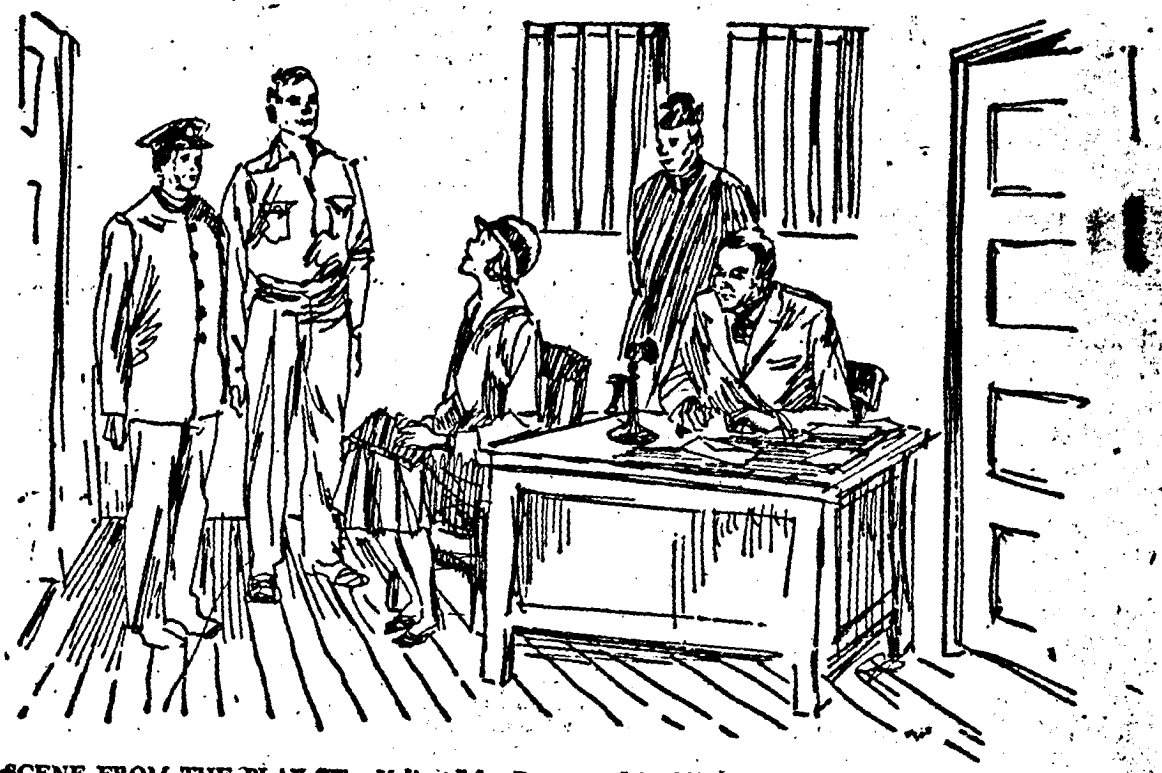
TREASURED BY Julius Rosenberg's family, this photograph of Ethel as she appeared in a play in Clark House, after her high school years, is here reproduced for the first time. It shows Ethel in a role in "The Black Flamingo," presented by the Clark Players in the Spring of 1933.



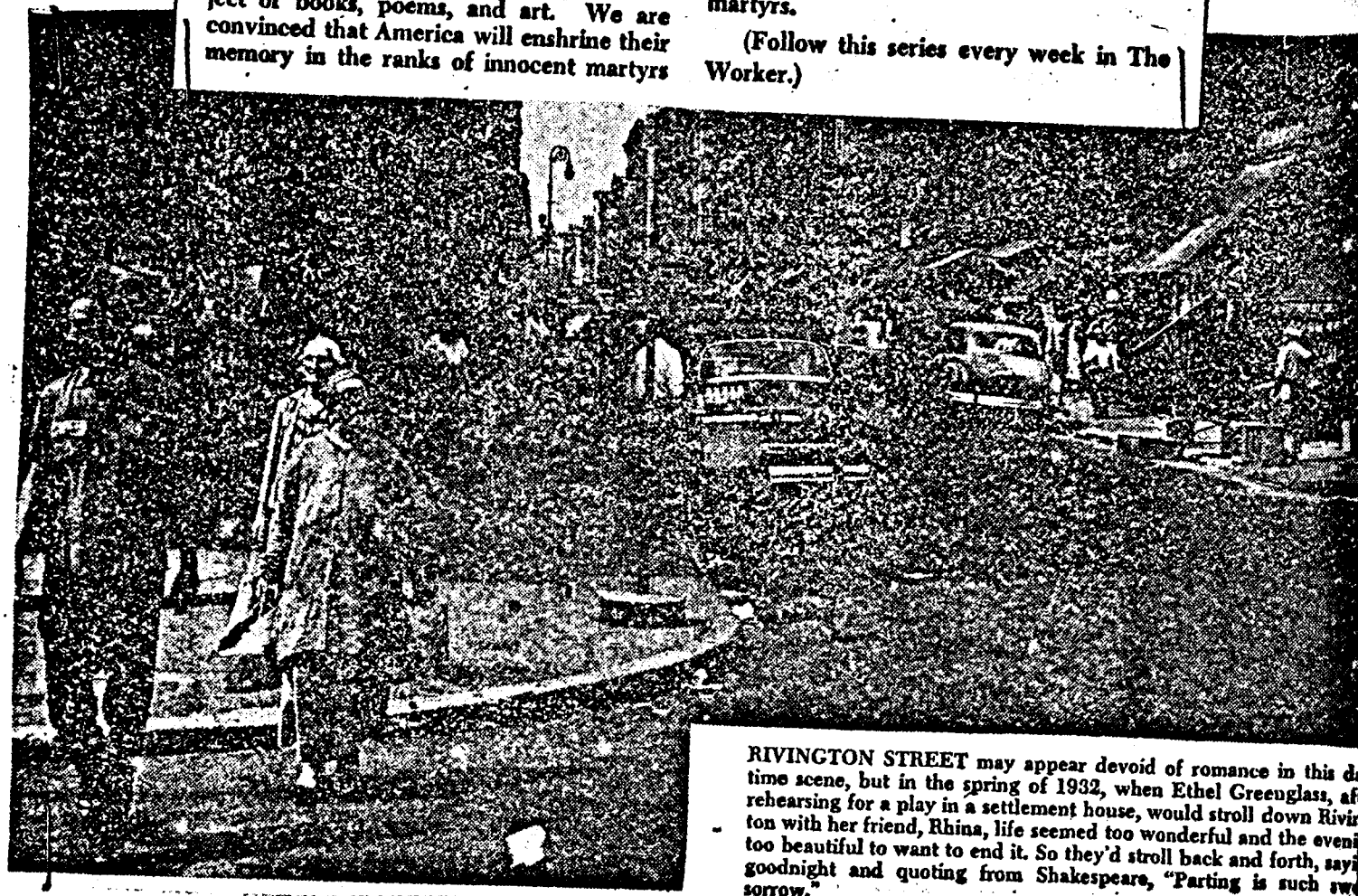
SCENE FROM THE PLAY "The Valiant," by Porter and Middlemass, in which Ethel Greenglass appeared (seated) depicts her in a prison scene as the prison official says: "Dyke, this is the young lady that's come . . . to see you."

WHERE "the gang" of teen-age boys and girls used to gather after school days at Seward Park high—when Ettie Greenglass and the others had a dime for a soda. Marchiony's was a big item in the social life of the Lower East Side youth in the class of '31.

ETHEL GREENGLASS in her high school graduation picture.

The legend of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg continues to grow. Millions cherish their memory throughout the world. The young American mother and father who went to the electric chair rather than "cooperate" with a Big Lie about "A-bomb espionage" are already becoming the subject of books, poems, and art. We are convinced that America will enshrine their memory in the ranks of innocent martyrs who died in the cause of truth. This paper proudly presents the story of their early lives, magnificently told for the first time by Virginia Gardner, noted labor journalist. The story will enthrall its readers, and help to clear the name of the framed martyrs.

(Follow this series every week in The Worker.)



RIVINGTON STREET may appear devoid of romance in this d time scene, but in the spring of 1932, when Ethel Greenglass, af rehearsing for a play in a settlement house, would stroll down Rivi ton with her friend, Rhina, life seemed too wonderful and the even too beautiful to want to end it. So they'd stroll back and forth, say goodnight and quoting from Shakespeare, "Parting is such sw sorrow."

Two Immortals

Scenes from the Lives of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg

By VIRGINIA GARDNER

Part III

ETHEL ROSENBERG

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Ethel Joins Union; Begins Voice Study

GERTRUDE came from a home without brothers and sisters, and the Greenglass home, filled with children, noise and life, was a welcome contrast. Besides, there were homes on the Lower East Side even poorer than Ethel's, according to Gertrude. Hers was one of those, and its bleakness was to her more oppressive than Ethel's crowded quarters.

"Ethel loved her father and mother very much, and as often as I was in her home I never saw her other than demonstrative and affectionate with them," recalled Ethel's friend of the '30s.

The memory of Ethel's father as "an adorable little man with high red cheeks" still was vivid with her. "Ethel was wild about him. The kids ran in and out of his shop, asking for a penny or a nickel, and although he was always working he seemed to like their chatter."

If Mrs. Tessie Greenglass was lacking in warmth, as Laura indicated earlier, and others seen later, felt, it escaped Gertrude. The way the entire family catered to little Doovey (David) was excessive, however, even to the family-starved Gertrude.

★

ETHEL WAS "crazy over Doovey," and there wasn't the ordinary squabbling that Gertrude observed with most girls who had young brothers or sisters.

She described the Greenglass home at 64 Sheriff St. in detail. From the shop in front, the visitor entered the narrow, dark, windowless bedroom where the father and mother slept. That led into the kitchen, "which is where visitors would sit, their feet in the oven, because it was so cold."

In the kitchen, as in most of the old cold water flats on the East Side, a tub stood on rather high legs, with an enamel top which could be removed by much tugging and lifting.

Behind the kitchen was the dining room, with a fake mantelpiece and a round massive dining

long there. It was too cold in the winter and too depressing in summer. A window looked out onto slum backyards and a tree that was trying to grow without ever succeeding."

Upstairs the family rented three additional rooms for sleeping. Besides Ethel and Doovey, more than six years her junior, there were two sons, Sam, the eldest, Ethel's half-brother, and Bernie, two and a half years older than Ethel. The front room, with two windows facing the street and the only really light room in the home, must have been Ethel's, she said, as she recalled that it was there Ethel placed the second-hand piano when she finally bought it.

"I can't remember anything else in the room, but they were all pretty bare of furniture."

★

ONCE SHE began working, Ethel turned over to her family all she earned except lunch money and bus or subway fares. Even Gertrude with her memory for concrete details, couldn't remember whole chapters of Ethel's early economic struggles, which were

JULIUS ROSENBERG was 17, had just entered college when

traced through other sources. She didn't recall the particulars of Ethel's transition from a young woman wage earner who like herself had no idea of political struggle, to one who was union conscious and alive on the issues of Spain, collective security and the menace of fascism.

She remembered, however, how Ethel told her she was secretly a member of a union which was organizing at her shop, and how it seemed a thing to be taken for granted. Then she told her she was taking her lunch to work and, when the weather was nice, walking over to City Hall park to eat it. "I know I was surprised, and said I should think lunch time would be a good time to talk union. She only said she had to put aside some money and knew no other way to do it."

Later on Gertrude found what the lunch money was going for. Ethel had not given up her determination to study voice. She was taking lessons at the Carnegie Hall Studios, paying someone she spoke of only as "Madame" the sum of $2 a lesson.

★

PIANOS were cheap, often available for only a cartage fee in those depression days when families were doubling up and "For Rent" signs multiplied. Ethel bought a second-hand piano and began piano lessons as well as studying voice with "Madame." At one point, another friend said, Ethel won a scholarship to the Henry Street settlement's music school on Pitt St.

"This meant a very heavy program," said Gertrude. "Ethel began making out nightly a little chart for herself for the next day. She is the only person I ever knew who wrote out an hour-by-hour, almost minute-by-minute program and stuck by it.

"One evening I went by and said, 'Let's go for a walk, like we used to do—but not on Rivington St.' I had taken a look at her serious face and so made the little joke. It was about Yom Kipper time, and we used to hate to walk on Rivington St. just before the holidays because they'd be preparing chickens kosher style and we couldn't stand to hear them squawk.

"But Ethel pointed to her little chart on the wall and said no, her schedule called for practicing. I was sort of mad."

Despite Ethel's clinging to her goal of voice study, she was now more interested in regaling her friends with a dramatic take-off on a boss than she was in a play about true artists starving in a garret, a subject which had fired her imagination in her Clark House Players days.

★

WITH STORIES gleaned from fellow workers she would give impromptu dramatizations for Gertrude's benefit of a boss who boasted that he paid his shipping clerks at the rate of $15 for two—they could divide it up any way they wanted. Or she would tell how at the end of a day he'd hand a bookkeeper a broom. By the time Ethel had started work there, however, FDR and the NRA had given them a raise and she made $15 a week as a stenographer.

Gertrude had forgot the name of the firm, but from the trial record of 1950 it appears Ethel worked in the latter '30s for the Bell Textile Co., 353 Broadway, and from other records it appears she began there in about 1937. From the company, outlet for a Calhoun, Ga., mill which makes bedspreads, to the park at Park Place and Broadway is seven blocks; closer is a park at Worth and Lafayette streets, which Ethel may have meant.

Apparently Ethel wasted no time on self-pity when some set-back occurred, but quietly and stubbornly set about making up for it. The day came when she felt sure enough of her voice to try for the Schola Cantorum, a celebrated chorus which on occasions sang in the Metropolitan Opera House. Choice of members was by competition and there was "plenty of it," said Gertrude.

★

BUT WHEN Ethel, trembling inwardly, stood before her judges, she discovered for the first time that one requirement was to read notes by sight. This she had not prepared for, and of course could not do. Undaunted, Ethel set out to teach herself to sight-read, and, after more auditioning, eventually scored, and for a year thereafter was the youngest member of the Schola Cantorum.

Even though she was no longer interested in a career in theatre, she sought out a group attached to one of the early housing developments, the Lavansburg Players, also

tended some of their rehearsals and their famed Friday night lectures by actors, directors and others from the Group Theatre, Gertrude said she was stimulated by the plays the group put on dealing with what was then called "social significance," something new in theatre, and believed she had a few bit roles in some performances.

The Lavansburg Players, later the East Side Dramatic Group, was organized by a young playwright, who had been stirred by the tenement fire at 137 Suffolk St. which claimed three lives. Aided by a talented young artist, interested in housing, he rounded up a bunch of young people and sponsorship by the East Side Tenants Union to present "Kingdom of 137." Later they put on "Netherworld," based on the case of five unemployed East Side youths who then faced the electric chair. (The playwright, interviewed later, said he knew her, that she was "around," and he knew Julie, and neither was in his group.)

★

THE FORMER artist who acted in the group now a businessman, had played with Ethel in Clark House Players, remembered seeing her at rehearsals and recalled her interest in the new "living newspaper" type of play put on by the East Side drama group, although he couldn't say whether she took part in any.

"In that period we were all interested in something—housing, or union activities, or community work," he said. "We grew up in such tumultuous times that to do anything else you'd have to be made of wood."

About this time or later Ethel gain played in "The Valiant," in he Williamsburgh Young Men's Hebrew Association playhouse, part of the old YMHA-YWHA building at Broadway and South Ninth St., as well as in other one-acters, including "The Potboilers," Gertrude said. The YMHA-YWHA is now at Bedford and Keap, but has no theatre group.

During this period Sam, who became Gertrude's husband, met Ethel, and recalled one or two occasions when Julie called for her after the Friday night lectures in the basement of the Lavensburg Homes, where Julie lived.

Sam then was one of the unemployed musicians in WPA, involved in the struggles to prevent wholesale slashing of WPA jobs. But between demonstrations and delegations he found time to court Gertrude, and occasionally Julie and Ethel and he and Gertrude double-dated. It was Sam who first recalled the winter evenings in 1936, before Ethel met Julie, when a group of young people used to gather in the apartment of a young man who had both steam heat and a piano.

★

ETHEL SANG, others played, and the evenings would take on the nature of "pretty darned good musicales," he recalled. When they'd take leave of each other and crunch through the snow on a starry night they'd take with them a sense of exaltation. Most of Ethel's numbers were operatic; "Madame" taught nothing else. Sam remembered her "Ciribiribin." by Pastalozza and "One Fine Day" from Puccini's "Madame Butterfly." Her voice was beautiful, he said. He recalled having introduced her at a small mass meeting around Spain and said she sang "most movingly."

"She was working very hard on her voice then," mused Gertrude. "I don't think 'Madame' was the

best of teachers, for all the $2 fee, and privately I thought she was forcing Ethel's voice, which was a very pleasant, very high soprano.

"Ethel had a definite talent for theatre which never had a chance to mature. But by this time her only real desire was to sing. I think I know just when this desire was crystalized. She was playing around before rehearsal and the dramatic coach grew very excited and had her repeat a high note he'd heard her sing. He struck it on the piano and said, 'She hit high C; that's higher than Lily Pons.'"

★

IT WAS at a party in Christmas week of 1936 that Ethel and Julie met. After that, they rarely saw Ethel without seeing Julie. From Laura and from Gertrude and Sam came recollections of this period. While Gertrude and Sam agreed that most of Ethel's development politically took place after her marriage, Sam recalled that she had sung at Lower East Side affairs around Loyalist Spain in 1936. Before her marriage too, it was, they said, that she had with other entertainers sung to strikers on a picket line—the Ohrbach strike of July, 1936.

Julie was almost three years younger than Ethel, and when Julie was graduated from Seward Park high, Ethel already had been a wage-earner for two years. When they met, Julie was a student in electrical engineering at City College.

Laura had described it as "really a case of love at first sight," adding, "From the time they met, Julie practically never left her side."

These were in the days when the East Side was filled with ferment over the Nazi menace and the crucial war in Spain. She told how "you'd see them together at anti-Hitler rallies and meetings to aid Loyalist Spain; they'd come in together, and leave arm in arm."

Another friend of this period described seeing them at meetings, "always holding hands."

★

THE REALIST Gertrude was asked whether she thought it was possible that Ethel, after her marriage to Julie in 1939, eradicated all her old yearnings to be a singer and her general urge for creative expression.

"I don't think you can eradicate it, and I don't think she did," she said. "But look what Ethel was doing with it—that is, from her letters. She was giving her family every chance to grow up creatively. That was why she took a course in music for children (Bank Street School) when Michael was little, and why she hauled the boys around to various agencies to see that they had the best guidance. I read about her insistent demands from Sing Sing that Michael have piano lessons.

"She did more than any of the mothers I know, including myself, to allow her children to develop creatively. Or, she would have—she'd made a good start. And as I see it Ethel took pains not to do what parents used to do too often with gifted children."

She took her own case. "We had an old piano in our flat and I got music lessons, though it meant less to eat. As soon as it was decided I had a mite of talent, up went the metronome, and I had to sit at that piano by the hour, until I hated it and went on strike. It wasn't until later that I decided I wanted to learn music."

GERTRUDE and Sam drifted away after the Rosenbergs' marriage. "While they were engaged, I'd go by Ethel's at night once in a while. She was always working on his home work, happily, typing his papers on that old typewriter she had. They didn't seem even to mind the cold," the wife said.

About all she remembered of their double dates was that "Julie talked over my head, frankly. He was a college boy and at that time he was all excited over his readings in political theory, which I didn't understand and probably wouldn't today."

It was Sam's idea that when Ethel did get "caught up in the whirlpool of the progressive movement—probably about the time of Munich, in 1938, or earlier in the movement around Loyalist Spain—" she obtained more satisfaction from

singing than ever, because it was with an immediate purpose, not a far-away goal.

"Ethel never got paid for singing, never thought of asking pay, that I know," he said.

★

IT WAS LATE by this time, the talk trailed off, and husband and wife looked at each other, absently, deep in reminiscence.

"If you hadn't been crazy enough to burn all those old programs and things in your 'memory book'," he said, leaving his remark unfinished. "Just because they had Ethel's name and yours on them," he added.

Stung by the reproach, his wife said: "Don't—you're just as responsible as I am. I would give anything in the world to have them back. That was a time of panic, and everyone lost their heads.

"You remember, we heard of the FBI coming to one couple who hardly knew them, and—well, so I have nothing to show for all those years of intimate association with her, nothing."

Her husband sat staring at his cold coffee, then asked, "What about Louise? Would she have saved anything—theatre programs or old snapshots?"

"Oh, I wouldn't go to her. I don't think she really cared about Ethel. Just superficially. Though—" she stopped, turned stricken eyes to her husband, then went on relentlessly: "At least she went to see Ethel's mother afterward. That is more than we did. We didn't do anything."

★

SHE WAS dry-eyed, her voice a dull monotone, at this point, a voice which had been full of life and humor and variety as she had recreated incidents of their youth. It was all too clear that behind her last four words, lay hours of self-recrimination, of bitterness at those who created the hysteria and those who like herself were touched by it, at least to the extent of staying out of the way, of not going near Ethel and Julie in their time of trouble—while there still was time, before they were shut away to await that last unbelievable act.

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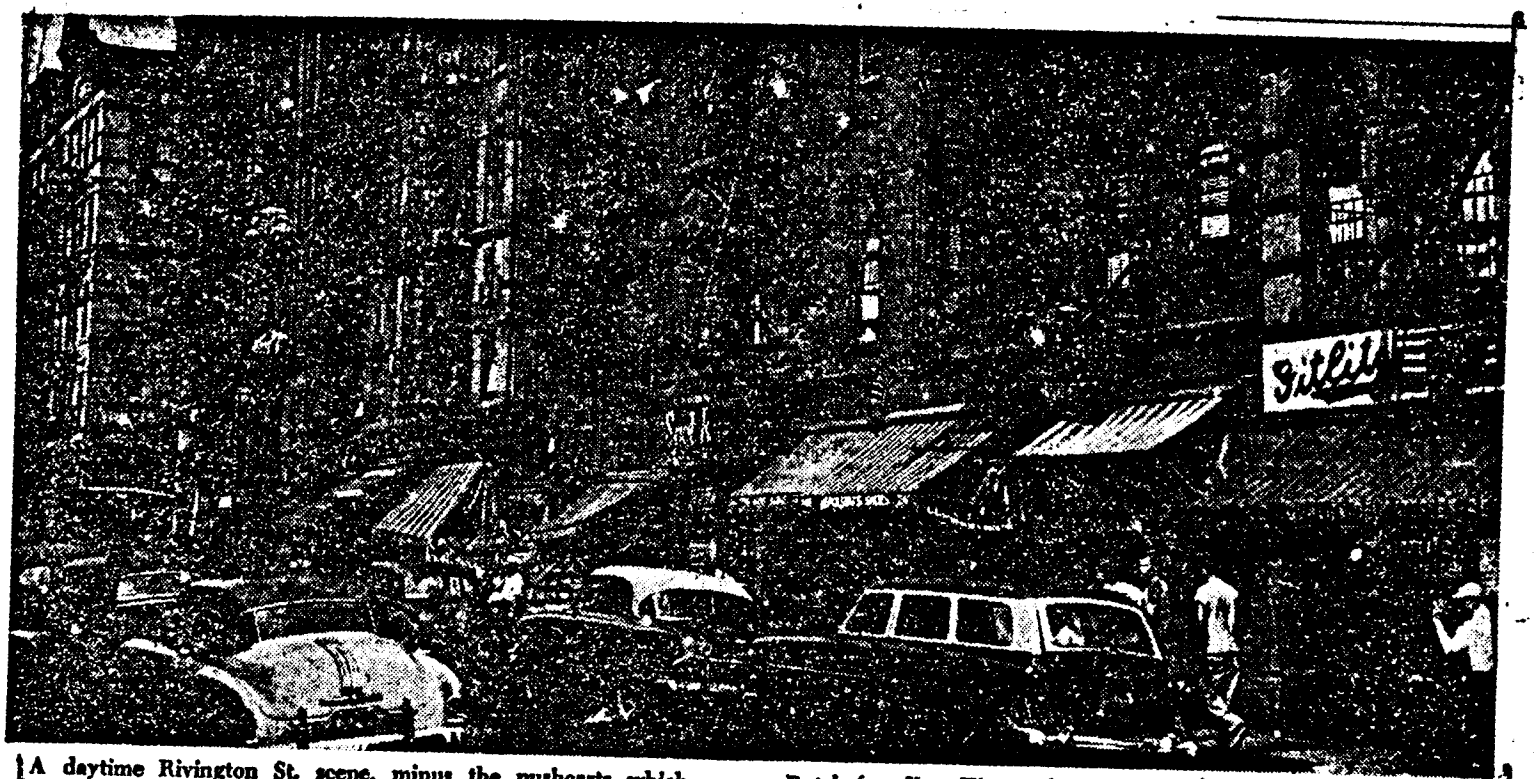
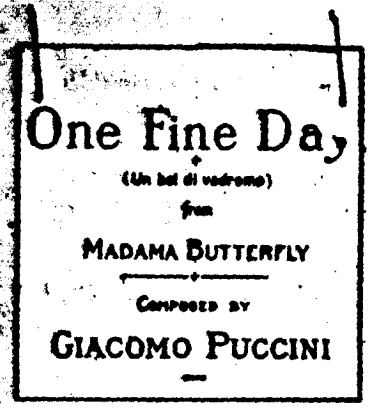
(In the next instalment, in The Worker of Oct. 18, scenes of Julie's childhood will be depicted as told to Virginia Gardner by his mother, Mrs. Sophie Rosenberg. In a later article more will be told of Ethel's early struggles and growth.)

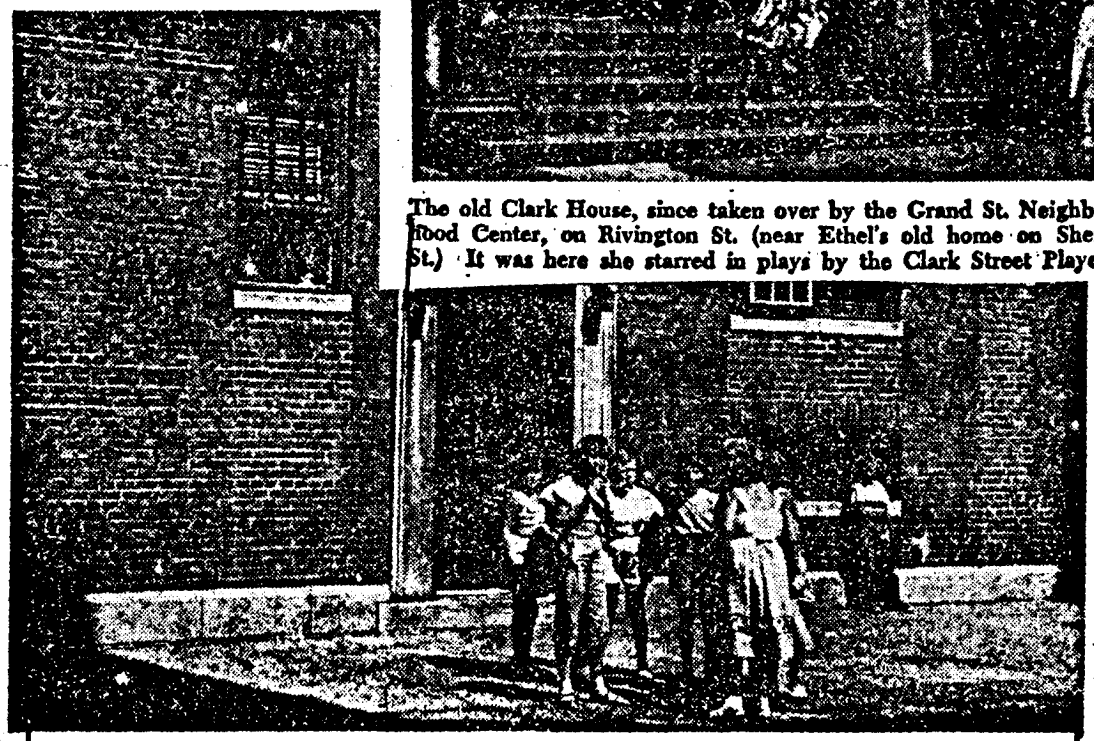


A daytime Rivington St. scene, minus the pushcarts which line the street when Ethel resided less than half a block from Rivington. It was down this street that Ethel and Gertrude often walked. But before Yom Kippur they avoided Rivington, which echoed with the squawks of chickens being prepared Kosher fashion for the holiday.



ONE OF THE SONGS Ethel sang in her pleasant soprano was "One Fine Day" (Un bel di vedremo) from Puccini's "Madam Butterfly."

The old Clark House, since taken over by the Grand St. Neighborhood Center, on Rivington St. (near Ethel's old home on Sheriff St.) It was here she starred in plays by the Clark Street Players.



THE LAVANBERG HOUSE at 132 Baruch Place. It was here that the Lavanberg Players, later the East Side Dramatic Group, was organized.