FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY ACTS

Subject: Alfred Sarant

File Number: 65-1664

Section:
Vol. 42

Serialo: 887-914

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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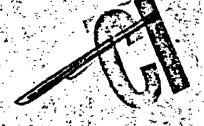
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See also Nos. ___



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STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • United States Government

TO : SAC

DATE: December 11, 1953

ASAC EARL E. BROWN

SUBJECT:

FROM :

ALFRED SARANT

ESPIONAGE

This is to record that on the afternoon of December 11, 1953, the writer received calls from a Mr. HARPER of the Associated Press and BILL LOWENBERG of the "Times Union" regarding SARANT. LOUISE SARANT was questioned in Washington on December 11, 1953 by the MC CARTHY Committee and declined to say whether or not she had been a Communist or whether or not her husband had ever been involved in espionage.

They were advised this office has no comment.

EEB:mb 65-1664

> S-1664 - 892 SEADCHED INDEXED THE DECIT 1953





Ithacan Called To Testify In Capital

Mrs. Louise Sarant of the West Shore declined to tell Sen. Joseph McCarthy (R-Wis) in Washington today whether she had ever engaged in spying. She invoked her constitutional protection against possible self-incrimination.

She also declined to answer similar questions about her former husband, Alfred Sarant, whom Senator McCarthy described as a fugitive espionage agent.

Mrs. Sarant was called before the Senate Investigations Sub-committee in its search for evidence of espionage at the Army's Ft. Monmouth, N.J., Signal Corps laboratories.

Francis P. Carr, the subcommittee staff director, told reporters after the hearing that Sarant worked at Fort Monmouth in 1941 and 1942, and was dismissed.

Mr. and Mrs. Sarant were married in 1945 in New York City. Sarant worked for the Laboratory of Nuclear Physics at Cornell about 1947 and 1948. He later was in business here as a painting contactor. The couple was divorced in 1950.

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Ithacan Refuses Answer Questions Before McCarthy in Washington

band, Alfred Sarant, Joel Barr, Party. and Julius Rosenberg, the ex- She also was questioned about 1945, worked as a technician ecuted atom spy, discussed "es- her father (Victor K. D. Ross) in the Cornell University Nuclear

ber of the Senate Investigations She refused to answer. Subcommittee present as it con-tinued its search for evidence of Sarant Sharp protest from Mrs.

The questions about her father work for the government.

The alleged spy worked at Corespionage at the Army's Ft. Mon-Sarant. She said she felt the sub-nell from May, 1947 to July, 1948. mouth, N.J., Signal Corps labora- committee was "attempting to He then went into business for

When the Ithaca woman declined to answer, McCarthy asked if she felt a truthful answer of questioning by asking if her aged 5 and 7, live with she replied that as she understood ment At first Mrs. Sarant rethe Fifth Amendment, it was for the protection of the innocent.

invoke the Fifth Amendment unless he feels a truthful answer would tend to incriminate him.

Declines to Answer

spiled at her attorney, Julian C. Ithaca, N.Y."
Trupin of New York City, still
Mrs. Saran

once attend a gathering of the have any brothers or sisters. Rosenberg spy ring at a restaurant in 34th St. in New York, matter of fact, two persons had whose purpose was to look over passed as her brothers in the a Carl Greenbaum and "see if Communist Party, even though he would make a suitable mem-they were not her brothers. ber for your ring?

in espionage," demanded McCar-agents. thy.

Again, "I refuse to answer."

when McCarthy asked if Sarant, occasions in 1947. Coleman, a who worked at Ft. Monmouth in witness before the committee the early 1940s, was a member earlier in the week, is a radar of the spy ring headed by Julius engineer at Ft. Monmouth who Rosenberg, McCarthy said Sar-was suspended last September. ant was "part of the Rosenberg He has denied any espionage acspy ring" when he worked at Ft. tivities. Monmouth and "continued his Husband Called Fugitive contacts for a considerable perlod of time after leaving" the tell anything about the where-Signal Corps laboratories.

Placed on the witness stand. Mrs. Sarant refused right off to say what her former husband's IIE ITIACA JOURNAL. Fifth Amendment she had a right not to be a witness against

Mrs. Louise Ross Sarant of Ith- Other questions Mrs. Sarant de- as a fugitive from the FBL a refused to tell Senator Joseph clined to answer were whether "Your refusal means that you aca refused to tell Senator Joseph clined to answer were whether McCarthy (R-Wis) in Washing-she is a member of a Communist are equally guilty with him," Mcton Friday whether she was Party today, and is receiving Carthy declared. present when her former hus money from the Communist Sarant, after h

ecuted atom spy, discussed established who, she said, was a lawyer in Physics Laboratory. University States."

Ithaca. She was asked if he is a officials pointed out today that McCarthy was the only mem- member of the Communist Party. the university has not or is not

drag people in who are in no way himself as a painting contractor, related to the purposes" of its in- and disappeared in 1949.

vestigation. McCarthy started off this line in 1950. Mrs. Sarant and two sons of questioning by asking if her aged 5 and 7, live with her parment. At first, Mrs. Sarant refused to answer but, when Mc-Mrs. Sarant for more than three Carthy ordered her to, she said, months before calling her as a McCarthy retorted nobody can "All right, then, he is not working for the government." Tather an Attorney'

where he was working. Finally, committee previously in executive Mrs. Sarant, who testified in Mrs. Sarant said, "Since you ina quiet voice and frequently sist, my father is an attorney in

declined to answer on the basis of the Fifth Amendment.

Did she, McCarthy pressed, to answer, she replied, "I don't to answer to ans

McCarthy asked her if, as

She refused to answer, nor "I refuse to answer," said Mrs. would she reply to other ques-arant. tions about the two, including "Did you yourself ever engage whether they were espionage

Mrs. Sarant 'refused to answer when asked if Aaron H. Coleman The response was the same had visited her home on several

The Ithaca woman declined to abouts of her former husband, Refused to Give Husband's Name who was described by McCarthy

Sarant, after being married to the former Miss Louise Ross in conducting any classified or secret

Mrs. Sarant obtained a divorce

The subcommittee investigated witness, staff members revealed Friday night. Staff Director Francis P. Carr also said that Mrs. Sa-McCarthy wanted to know rant had testified before the sub-

The Albany office of the FBI declined comment on a report it Mrs. Sarant also first refused had been searching for Sarant



MRS. LOUISE SARAN Testifies in Washington

65-1664

65-1664-896 DEC 15 1953

name was, saying that under the TILLCA, II.Y.

Mrs. Louise Sarant Refuses To Testify Before McCarthy

Mrs. Louise Sarant of Ithaca, became the fourth witness in four days to refuse to answer questions on the ground that they might tend to incriminate her, before Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy's special sub-committee in Washington last Friday.

McCarthy, sitting as a committee of one, asked Mrs. Sarant

the whereabouts of her ex-husband whom McCarthy charged was a member of the Julius and Ethel Rosenberg spy ring (the Rosenbergs were electrocuted earlier this fall), and a fugitive from the Federal Bureau of Inyestigation.

n The husband, Al Sarant, was employed by the Nuclear Physics Lipboratories here from May 1947 until June 1948.

According to Dr. Robert R. Wilson, director of the laboratories, Sarant was doing wire installation on the then being constructed 300,000,000 volt cyclotron—an electron accelerator.

When told that McCarthy implied that Sarant could possibly have been conducting espionage operations here Wilson answered that any information Sarant could have obtained would also have been available in the public journals which described in detail the work being done here.

"There is no secret work being done at Cornell," he affirmed.

Dr. Wilson went on to add that Sarant's connection with the University had been very "casual," he had no professorial or experimentational connection here—Sarant was merely one of many construction workers, Dr. Wilson said.

When asked if he knew of the present whereabouts of Sarant Dr. Wilson answered that he had heard rumors that he had left the country.

Mrs. Sarant, after she refused to testify to the location of her ex-husband (she was divorced in 1950), was labeled by McCarthy as "equally guilty" with her husband. McCarthy did not produce any documented proof to back up his allegations.

According to the New York
Times, Mrs. Sarant remained uncooperative upon the advice of
counsel and that some of McCarthy's questions suggested that
they might have been gathered
by the FBI or contained in
secret files. A spokesman for the

Carthy had received none of its confidential file information. Mc-Carthy did not disclose his "investigative processes."

The special sub-committee is currently looking into alleged espionage work in Fort Monmouth, New Jersey.

McCarthy charged that Sarant, who worked in Fort Monmouth early in the 1940's was carrying on espionage and that "he continued his connections for a considerable period of time after leaving" the Signal Corps laboratories at the Fort.

Mrs. Sarant, according to Victor K. D. Ross, her father, will remain in Washington until today or tomorrow and thus was not available for comment to this paper.

"Cornell Seen"

Ithaca 1.7.- jax 12

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TITLE CLASSIFIC CLIPPING.

DATE

Office Memorandum

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO

SAC

(65-1664)

DATE: 12/21/53

FROM.

SA PETER F. MAXSON

SUBJECT:

ALFRED EPAMINONDAS SARANT, was.

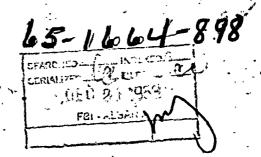
ESPIONAGE - R

This is to advise that on December 15, 1953, the writer had occasion to meet VICTOR K. D. ROSS, stepfather of LOUISE SARANT. He brought up her recent testimony before the Mc Carthy sub-Committee and how he thought that Mc Carthy was unjust and un-ethical in the manner in which he put questions to her.

ROSS was asked why his daughter as reported in the newspapers refused to answer practically all of the questions put to her by Senator Mc Carthy. ROSS stated that in refusing to answer all questions, she could not be held for contempt of congress and for that reason, it was decided that she not co-operate with Senator Mc Carthy in any way.

ROSS seemed somewhat bitter over the fact that his name had been injected into the hearing by Mc Carthy.

PFM: #FM 65-166L



1/11/54
Albany, New York

MEMO FOR FILE

RE: DETCOM PROGRAM

This is to advise that in addition to other Security Index subjects assigned to SA MAXSON , he will be held responsible for the apprehension of the following individual, in the event the Detcom Program is put into effect:

LOUISE ROSS SARANT

This apprehension was formerly assigned to SA O'BRIEN.

D. K. BROWN, SAC

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REPORT BY 1/14