

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
AND  
PRIVACY ACTS

Subject: Alfred Sarant

File Number: 65-1664

Section: \_\_\_\_\_

Vol. 42

Serials: 887-914



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## NOTICE

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FILE

DESCRIPTION

ALBANY FILE

SUBJECT Alfred E. Sarant

FILE NO. 65-1664

VOLUME NO. 42

SERIALS 887

thru

914

File No: 65-1664Re: Alfred E. SarantDate: March 3, 1978  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
887	11-19-53	Let. from HQ to AL	1	-	(Presumptive to Bufile 65-59242)
887	11-19-53	(Copy of above)	1	-	" " "
888	11-24-53	Let to HQ from LA	3	-	(Presumptive to Bufile 65-59242)
888	11-24-53	(Copy of above)	3	-	" " "
888	11-24-53	(Copy of above)	3	-	" " "
888	11-24-53	(Copy of above)	3	-	" " "
888	11-24-53	(Copy of above)	3	-	" " "
888	11-24-53	(Copy of above)	3	-	" " "
889	12-2-53	Report from NY to HQ	16	-	(Presumptive to Bufile 65-59242)
889	12-2-53	(Copy of above)	16	-	" " "
889	12-2-53	(Copy of above)	16	-	" " "
890	12-2-53	Let from NH to HQ	1	-	(Presumptive to Bufile 65-59242)
891	12-8-53	Let from AL to HQ	1	-	" " "
891	12-8-53	(Copy of above)	1	-	" " "

File No: 65-1664

Re:

Alfred E. Sarant

Date:

March 3, 1978  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
892	12-11-53	Memo from AL (ASAC) to SAC	1	1	
893	12-11-53	NY let. to HQ	1	-	(Presumptive to Bufile 65-59242)
894	12-10-53	NY let. to HQ	2	-	(Presumptive to Bufile 65-59242)
895	12-11-53	Newspaper clipping from Ithaca Journal	1	1	
896	12-12-53	Newspaper clipping from Ithaca Journal	1	1	
897	12-14-53	Newspaper clipping from Cornell Sun	1	1	
898	12-31-53	Memo from SA to SAC, AL	1	1	
899	10-23-53	Photostat of Encl. to ser. 900 Testimony of Louise Sarant	9	-	(Presumptive to Bufile 65-59242) (see ser. 900)
900	12-28-53	Let from HQ to AL	1	-	(Presumptive to Bufile 65-59242)
900	12-28-53	(Copy of above)	1	-	" " "
901	1-5-54	Let from HQ to NY	1	-	(Presumptive to Bufile 65-59242)
901	1-5-54	(Copy of above)	1	-	" " "

File No: 65-1664Re: Alfred E. SarantDate: March 3, 1978  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
902	1-11-54	Memo for file Albany SAC	1	1	
903	1-13-54	Let. from LA to HQ	4	-	(Presumptive to Bufile 65-59242)
903	1-13-54	(Copy of above)	4	-	" " "
904	1-28-54	Let to HQ from NY	3	-	(Presumptive to Bufile 65-59242)
905	2-4-54	Report from AL to HQ	13	-	(Presumptive to Bufile 65-59242)
905	2-4-54	(Copy of above)	13	-	" "
905	2-4-54	(Copy of above)	13	-	" "
906	2-4-54	Let from AL to NY	1	-	(Presumptive to NY file 65-15360)
907	2-9-54	Let from NY to AL	1	-	(Presumptive to NY file 65-15360)
907	2-9-54	(Copy of above)	1	-	" " "
908	2-9-54	Let from HQ to AL	1	-	(Presumptive to Bufile 65-59242)
908	2-9-54	(Copy of above)	1	-	" " "

File No:

65-1664

Re:

Alfred E. Sarant

Date:

March 3, 1978

(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
909	2-10-54	Report from NY to HQ	14	-	(Presumptive) to Bufile 65-59242
909	2-10-54	(copy of above)	14	-	" " "
909	2-10-54	(copy of above)	14	-	" " "
910	2-24-54	Let from AL to HQ	5	-	(Presumptive) to Bufile 65-59242
911	3-4-54	Let from HQ to AL	1	-	(Presumptive) to Bufile 65-59242
911	3-4-54	(copy of above)	1	-	" " "
912	3-10-54	Report from MM to HQ	2	-	(Presumptive) to Bufile 65-59242
912	3-10-54	(copy of above)	2	-	" " "
912	3-10-54	(copy of above)	2	-	" " "
913	3-24-54	BS Report to HQ	3	-	(Presumptive) to Bufile 65-59242
913	3-24-54	(copy of above)	3	-	" " "
913	3-24-54	(copy of above)	3	-	" " "

File No: 65-1664

Re: Alfred E. Sarant

Date: March 3, 1978  
(month/year)

[illegible]



U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

# 65-59242

See also Nos. \_\_\_\_\_  
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SI  
GA  
RCI

65-1664

Serial 887

Section 42

→ 914

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC

FROM : ASAC EARL E. BROWN

SUBJECT: ALFRED SARANT  
ESPIONAGE

DATE: December 11, 1953

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

65-1664-892

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
DEC 11 1953	

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## 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 Subcommittee 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 contractor. The couple was divorced in 1950.

TITLE

CLASSIFICATION 65-1664  
CLIPPING FROM THE ITHACA JOURNAL  
ITHACA, N.Y. 12/11/53

DATE

65-1664-895

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI - ALBANY	

CPH

# Ithacan Refuses to Answer Questions Before McCarthy in Washington

Mrs. Louise Ross Sarant of Ithaca refused to tell Senator Joseph McCarthy (R-Wis.) in Washington Friday whether she was present when her former husband, Alfred Sarant, Joel Barr, and Julius Rosenberg, the executed atom spy, discussed "espionage against the United States."

McCarthy was the only member of the Senate Investigations Subcommittee present as it continued its search for evidence of espionage at the Army's Ft. Monmouth, N.J., Signal Corps laboratories.

When the Ithaca woman declined to answer, McCarthy asked if she felt a truthful answer might tend to incriminate her. She replied that as she understood the Fifth Amendment, it was for the protection of the innocent.

McCarthy retorted nobody can invoke the Fifth Amendment unless he feels a truthful answer would tend to incriminate him.

## Declines to Answer

Mrs. Sarant, who testified in a quiet voice and frequently smiled at her attorney, Julian C. Rupin of New York City, still declined to answer on the basis of the Fifth Amendment.

Did she, McCarthy pressed, once attend a gathering of the Rosenberg spy ring at a restaurant in 34th St. in New York, whose purpose was to look over a Carl Greenbaum and "see if he would make a suitable member for your ring?"

"I refuse to answer," said Mrs. Sarant.

"Did you yourself ever engage in espionage," demanded McCarthy.

Again, "I refuse to answer."

The response was the same when McCarthy asked if Sarant, who worked at Ft. Monmouth in the early 1940s, was a member of the spy ring headed by Julius Rosenberg. McCarthy said Sarant was "part of the Rosenberg spy ring" when he worked at Ft. Monmouth and "continued his contacts for a considerable period of time after leaving" the Signal Corps laboratories.

## Refused to Give Husband's Name

Placed on the witness stand, Mrs. Sarant refused right off to say what her former husband's name was, saying that under the Fifth Amendment she had a right not to be a witness against herself.

Other questions Mrs. Sarant declined to answer were whether she is a member of a Communist Party today, and is receiving money from the Communist Party.

She also was questioned about her father (Victor K. D. Ross) who, she said, was a lawyer in Ithaca. She was asked if he is a member of the Communist Party. She refused to answer.

The questions about her father drew a sharp protest from Mrs. Sarant. She said she felt the subcommittee was "attempting to drag people in who are in no way related to the purposes" of its investigation.

McCarthy started off this line of questioning by asking if her father worked for the government. At first, Mrs. Sarant refused to answer but, when McCarthy ordered her to, she said, "All right, then, he is not working for the government."

## 'Father an Attorney'

McCarthy wanted to know where he was working. Finally, Mrs. Sarant said, "Since you insist, my father is an attorney in Ithaca, N.Y."

Mrs. Sarant also first refused to say whether she had any brothers or sisters but, ordered to answer, she replied, "I don't have any brothers or sisters."

McCarthy asked her if, as a matter of fact, two persons had passed as her brothers in the Communist Party, even though they were not her brothers.

She refused to answer, nor would she reply to other questions about the two, including whether they were espionage agents.

Mrs. Sarant refused to answer when asked if Aaron H. Coleman had visited her home on several occasions in 1947. Coleman, a witness before the committee earlier in the week, is a radar engineer at Ft. Monmouth who was suspended last September. He has denied any espionage activities.

## Husband Called Fugitive

The Ithaca woman declined to tell anything about the whereabouts of her former husband, who was described by McCarthy

as a fugitive from the FBI.

"Your refusal means that you are equally guilty with him," McCarthy declared.

Sarant, after being married to the former Miss Louise Ross in 1945, worked as a technician in the Cornell University Nuclear Physics Laboratory. University officials pointed out today that the university has not or is not conducting any classified or secret work for the government.

The alleged spy worked at Cornell from May, 1947 to July, 1948. He then went into business for himself as a painting contractor, and disappeared in 1949.

Mrs. Sarant obtained a divorce in 1950. Mrs. Sarant and two sons aged 5 and 7, live with her parents on the West Shore.

The subcommittee investigated Mrs. Sarant for more than three months before calling her as a witness, staff members revealed Friday night. Staff Director Francis P. Carr also said that Mrs. Sarant had testified before the subcommittee previously in executive session.

The Albany office of the FBI declined comment on a report, it had been searching for Sarant since he disappeared.



MRS. LOUISE SARANT  
Testifies in Washington

THE ITHACA JOURNAL

ITHACA, N.Y. - page 3

12/12/53

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65-1664-896

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# 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 Investigation.

The husband, Al Sarant, was employed by the Nuclear Physics Laboratories 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 experimental 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. McCarthy 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 Sun"  
Ithaca, N.Y. - Jan 12  
12/14/52

65-1664

65-1664-897

TITLE  
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## 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:PFM  
65-1664

65-1664-898

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 21 1953	
FBI - ALBANY	

MEMO FOR FILE

1/11/54  
Albany, New York

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  
D. K. BROWN, SAC

65-1664

FORM 0-1

DATE RECEIVED 1/20/54 - Maxson  
DATE RETURNED 1/26  
REPORT BY ✓ 1/21/54

65-1664-902

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FBI - ALBANY		

1 Maxson  
J. O'Brien