FILE DESCRIPTION

NEW YORK FILE

SUBJECT MORTON SOBELL

FILE NO. 100-37158

VOLUME NO. 1 SUB A

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

SERIALS JULY 27, 1950

THRU

SEPT 28, 1955

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Inventory Worksheet
FD-503 (2-18-77)

NEW YORK FILES

VOLUME Sub-file A

REVIEWED BY RRP / NEW

File No: 100-37158 Re: Morton Sobell

Date: 1-78 (month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages Actual	No. of Pages Released	*	Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
NR	7-27-50	NY Mirror	1	1		
"	8-19-50	NY Mirror	2	2		
"	8-19-50	NY Herald Tribune	2	2		
"	8-19-50	NY Times	3	3		
"	8-19-50	NY News	2	2		
"	8-19-50	NY News	1	1		
"	8-20-50	NY Times	1	1		
"	8-20-50	NY Journal American	1	1		
"	8-20-50	NY News	1	1		
"	8-20-50	NY Compass	1	1		
"	8-22-50	NY Times	1	1		
"	8-23-50	NY Journal American	1	1		

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NR	8-24-50	NY Journal American	1	1		
"	8-24-50	NY Herald Tribune	1	1		
"	8-25-50	NY Herald Tribune	1	1		
"	8-25-50	NY Times	1	1		
"	8-25-50	NY Mirror	1	1		
"	8-25-50	NY News	1	1		
"	8-25-50	NY Compass	1	1		
"	9-14-50	NY Herald Tribune	1	1		
"	9-14-50	NY News	1	1		
"	9-19-50	NY News	1	1		
"	4-7-51	NY Mirror	1	1		
"	5-14-51	NY Post & Home News	2	2		

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Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages Actual	No. of Pages Released	*	Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
NR	4-5-52	NY MEMO TO FILE	1	0		NY FILE 65-15348
"	4-5-52	" " "	1	0		" " " " "
"	4-5-52	" " "	1	0		" " " " "
"	4-30-52	" " " "	1	0		" " " " "
"	4-30-52	NY World Telegram & Sun	1	1		
"	5-6-52	NY MEMO TO FILE	1	0		NY FILE 65-15348
"	5-9-52	" " "	1	0		" " " " "
"	5-14-52	" " "	1	0		" " " " "
"	6-2-52	" " "	1	0		" " " " "
"	6-10-52	" " "	1	0		" " " " "
"	6-11-52	" " "	1	0		" " " " "
"	6-13-52	" " "	1	0		" " " " "

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NR	8-22-52	NY MEMO TO FILE	2	0		N.Y. FILE 65-15348
"	11-24-52	NY MEMO TO FILE	2	0		NY FILE 65-15348
"	11-27-52	NY Daily Worker	1	1		
"	11-27-52	NY News	1	1		
"	12-4-52	National Guardian	2	2		
"	12-10-52	NY Daily Worker	2	2		
"	12-10-52	NY Daily Worker	1	1		
"	1-9-53	NY Mirror	1	1		
"	1-9-53	NY Journal American	1	1		
"	1-9-53	NY Post	1	1		
"	1-10-53	NY Times	1	1		
"	1-10-53	NY News	1	1		

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Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages Actual	No. of Pages Released	*	Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
NR	3-22-54	NATIONAL GUARDIAN	4	4		
"	3-29-54	" "	1	1		
"	3-29-54	" "	6	6		
"	3-29-54	" " "	1	1		
"	4-9-54	NY Daily Worker	1	1		
"	4-21-54	" " "	1	1		
"	4-25-54	NY Harlem Edition	1	1		
"	5-31-54	NATIONAL GUARDIAN	1	1		
"	6-1-54	NY Daily Worker	1	1		
"	6-8-54	NY " "	1	1		
"	6-13-54	NY Harlem Edition "The Worker"	6	6		
"	6-14-54	NY Daily Worker	1	1		

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Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages Actual	No. of Pages Released	*	Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
NR	6-14-54	National Guardian	3	3		
"	6-15-54	NY Daily Worker	1	1		
"	6-21-54	National Guardian	1	1		
"	6-20-54	NY Harlem Edition "The Worker"	3	3		
"	7-9-54	NY Daily Worker	2	2		
"	7-20-54	NY Daily Worker	1	1		
"	7-25-54	NY Harlem Edition "The Worker"	2	2		
"	7-25-54	NY Daily Worker	1	1		
"	7-9-54	NY Daily Worker	2	2		
"	7-9-54	" " "	2	2		
"	7-19-54	" " "	2	2		
"	5-10-54	NY National Guarding	1	1		

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Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages Actual	No. of Pages Released	*	Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
NR	5-12-54	NY Daily Worker	1	1		
"	5-10-54	National Guardian	1	1		
"	5-10-54	" "	1	1		
"	5-17-54	" " "	1	1		
"	7-15-54	NY Daily Worker	1	1		
"	7-25-54	NY The Worker	2	2		
"	8-8-54	" " "	3	3		
"	8-16-54	NY Daily Worker	1	1		
"	8-26-54	NY Daily Worker	1	1		
"	9-13-54	National Guardian	1	1		
"	9-19-54	NY Harlem Edition	1	1		
"	9-19-54	" " "	5	5		

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FD-503 (2-18-77)

NEW YORK FILES

VOLUME Sub-File A

REVIEWED BY NRP/NEW

File No: 100-37158 Re: Morton Sobell

Date: 1-78 (month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages Actual	No. of Pages Released	*	Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
NR	9-22-54	NY Daily Worker	1	1		
"	9-22-54	" " "	1	1		
"	9-30-54	" " "	2	2		
"	10-6-54	" " "	1	1		
"	11-15-54	" " "	2	2		
"	11-22-54	NY National Guardian	2	2		
"	11-22-54	" " "	2	2		
"	11-25-54	NY Daily Worker	4	4		
"	11-25-54	" " "	1	1		
"	11-29-54	National Guardian	4	4		
"	12-3-54	NY Daily Worker	1	1		
"	12-28-54	" " "	1	1		

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FD-503 (2-18-77)

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Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages Actual	No. of Pages Released	*	Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
NR	12-30-54	NY Daily Worker	1	1		
"	1-3-55	National Guardian	5	5		
"	1-6-55	NY Daily Worker	1	1		
"	12-30-54	" " "	1	1		
"	12-31-54	" " "	4	4		
"	1-6-55	" " "	1	1		
"	1-28-55	" " "	1	1		
"	2-3-55	" " "	1	1		
"	2-8-55	" " "	2	2		
"	2-8-55	" " "	2	2		
"	2-13-55	NY Times	1	1		
"	3-6-55	NY The Worker	1	1		

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FBI/DOJ

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Inventory Worksheet
FD-503 (2-18-77)

NEW YORK FILES

VOLUME Sub-File A

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Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages Actual	No. of Pages Released	*	Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
NR	9-29-55	Daily Worker	3	3		
"	9-29-55	" "	1	1		
"	10-3-55	" "	3	3		
"	10-4-55	" "	2	2		
"	9-28-55	" "	1	1		
"	9-28-55	" "	1	1		

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FBI/DOJ

Department of Justice

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

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Section 6

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SUBJECT MATTER OF AN[illegible] REPORT, MEMO OR CORRE
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[illegible] SECTION 6
DOUBLE STICKER FILE

See also Yes

Navy Lifts Secrecy On Guided-Missile Tests

The Navy lifted the lid of secrecy yesterday on its highly secret "Project Cyclone," a guided-missiles research center located in the heart of Manhattan—in a building known as "The House on 91st St.

Along with disclosure of the center's existence, newsmen were shown how hundreds of Navy "guided missile's" of all types are "launched" every week — some making "direct hits" and others missing targets and some even "crashing" in Times Sq.

But city residents were informed not to be panicked because the missiles are "flown" by electronic simulation.

The electronic computers, devised by Claude Neon and Reeves Instrument Corp. in cooperation with the Navy's Special Devices Center, reduce any problem of motion, shape or design to a mathematical formula.

Thus, death-dealing missiles can be guided accurately and newsmen yesterday were easily able to "bomb" a target at will.

The center also enables experts to fire missiles and control planes and submarines even before they are built, according to David T. Bonner, chairman of the board of the corporation. Errors then can be corrected.

This, it was explained, means savings of millions to taxpayers, also the lives of many of our fighting men.

Claude Neon spokesmen said the computer might well have a decided effect on future American standards of living since many parts of engines of commercial jet airlines, autos and other products can be quickly designed with its aid.

SAC
ASAC 1
ASAC 2
SEC. 1
SEC. 2
SEC. 3
SEC 4
SEC 5
SEC 6
SEC 7
SEC 8
SEC 9
SEC 11
SEC 12
NITE SUPERVISOR
PROPERTY CLERK
TRAINING UNIT

100-37158-A

F. B. I.
AUG 2 1950
N. Y. C.
ED TO Schoder FILE

TITLE
CLASS
From NY Mirror
DATED July 27, 1950
FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION

Feb N. Y. Engineer As Fugitive Spy in Texas

A fugitive Queens electrical engineer, cleared only two years ago by the FBI for work on highly secretive gunfire control projects, was arrested in Laredo, Tex., by FBI agents yesterday as a member of the Klaus Fuchs international atomic spy ring.

The new prisoner, eighth American to be seized in the roundup of persons accused of relaying atomic and national defense secrets to Soviet Russia, was Morton Sobell, 33, of 164-17 73rd Ave., Flushing.

Morton Sobell...Yesterday arrested in Laredo, Tex., as a suspected member of spy ring. (International Soundphoto)

The New York-born Sobell, father of two children, was charged with conspiracy to commit espionage and was held in $100,000 bail by U. S. Commissioner Hill in Laredo pending return to this city.

Unshaven and dejected, the radar expert was accused of having worked with Julius Rosenberg, another New York engineer, and GI David Greenglass, Rosenberg's brother-in-law, in furnishing vital secrets to Russia.

Sobell, accompanied by his wife and children, fled to Mexico within five days after Greenglass' arrest last June, U. S. Attorney Saypol said. He was traced to Mexico City, where he apparently was trying to arrange transportation for himself and his family to Russia or a Red satellite state.

Unusual Secrecy

The FBI surrounded Sobell's arrest with unusual secrecy, but officials revealed Mexican authorities literally pushed him across the border, where he was taken in tow by four FBI agents and placed in the Webb County Jail about 4:45 a. m.

Sobell's wife, the former Helen Levitov, and their two children, were at a Laredo hotel. She said she was "very, very tired." Sobell asked to see them. He waived removal proceedings, telling Commissioner Hill he "had no rich uncle" to raise the $100,000 bail.

The four FBI agents, John Lewis and Rex Schroeder, both of New York City, L. C. Taylor of Laredo and Jack Peden of San

Continued on Page 6

8TH A-SPY SUSPECT'S WIFE

MRS. HELEN LEVITOV SOBELL. Spy suspect's wife said she was "very, very tired." (International Soundphoto)

SAC
ASAC 1
ASAC 2
SEC. 1
SEC. 2

100-37158-a

F. B. I.
AUG 21 1950
N. Y.

Nab Engineer As Spy Ring Aide

Continued from Page 2

Antonio refused to talk about the case to newsmen.

Sobell, a classmate of Rosenberg's at CCNY, worked at the Naval Ordnance Bureau in Washington from 1938 to 1941. From 1942 to 1947 he was employed on restricted Navy work at the General Electric Co. in Schenectady. The Government claims he conspired with Rosenberg and others to send secrets to Russia while working on this job in 1946.

Two years ago he became a project engineer at the Reeves Instrument Co. plant, at 215 E. 91st St. The plant is the headquarters here for work on the mysterious "Project Cyclone" and about two months ago Sobell was among those in charge of gunfire control research for the Air Force.

Thomas J. Reilly, company personnel manager, said Sobell signed a loyalty pledge to the U. S. and was investigated and cleared by the FBI.

He quit his job toward the end of last June after the arrest of Greenglass. FBI chief Hoover said Sobell failed to show up for work after Greenglass was picked up. He flew with his family to Mexico on June 22, even leaving his 1950 car in his garage in Queens.

Neighbors said FBI agents have been around the area for two months seeking information on Sobell. He lived with his wife and two children. One child, Sydney, 12, is a daughter by her previous marriage. The other is their son, Mark, 15 months old.

Sobell's father, Louis, of 600 Trinity Ave., Bronx, was distraught over news of his son's arrest. The elder Sobell, a pharmacist at the Ralph Drug Co., Inc., 1448 Metropolitan Ave., Bronx, pleaded with newsmen to "leave me alone, I'm sick, I have heart trouble." He said he has not seen his son "in a long time."

Saypol implied that Rosenberg had recruited Sobell into the ring.

Saypol refused to say if any additional arrests could be expected, adding: "The investigation is continuing." Rosenberg's wife is among those also charged with espionage conspiracy.

New York Radar Expert Held Is 8th in Red Atom Spy Ring

Worked in Secret Guided Missiles Research Plant; Turned Over to F.B.I. by Mexican Police

By Milton Lewis

A New York electronics and radar expert doing top secret work for the armed forces was arrested yesterday as a key suspect in the Dr. Klaus Fuchs-Harry Gold Soviet spy ring. He was deported by Mexico and turned over to the F. B. I. in Laredo, Texas.

The suspect, eighth American rounded up in recent months on espionage charges, is Morton Sobell, thirty-three, of 164-17 Seventy-third Avenue, Flushing, Queens. From the middle of 1947 until June 10 this year he worked at the Reeves Instrument Company, 215 East Ninety-first Street, where some of the latest top secret research on guided missiles is being conducted for the United States Air Force and Navy.

The heavily guarded four-story Reeves plant, just east of Third Avenue, is used to build, among other classified material, a "mechanical brain" which can plot future performances of guided missiles and planes before their designs leave the drafting board stage.

Before joining the Reeves company, Sobell worked five years on highly classified material for the Navy at the General Electric plant at Schenectady and for two years before that was employed

(Continued on page 18, column 3)

SAC
ASAC 1
ASAC 2
SEC. 1
SEC. 2
SEC. 3
SEC. 4
SEC. 5
SEC. 6
SEC. 7
SEC. 8
SEC. 9
SEC. 10
SEC. 11
SEC. 12
NIGHT SUPERVISOR
PROPERTY CLERK
TRAINING UNIT

TITLE
CLASS
FROM NY Herald Tribune
DATED AUG 19 1950
~~FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION~~

100-37158-A
F. B. I.
AUG 21 1950
N. Y.
FD TO

Spy Suspect

(Continued from page one)

at the Navy's Bureau of Ordnance in Washington.

Sobell, who holds electrical engineering degrees from City College and the University of Michigan, went to Mexico City on June 22 by plane with his wife and two young children. He last reported for work at the Reeves concern on June 16—the day David Greenglass, twenty-eight, of 265 Rivington Street, was arrested here as an atomic spy for Russia.

Greenglass, an Army sergeant in 1945 working at the Los Alamos, N. M., atomic project, was said by the F. B. I. to have been warned by Julius Rosenberg, also under indictment as an espionage agent, to leave the country for Mexico after the arrest of Harry Gold on May 23. But Greenglass, Rosenberg's brother-in-law, was taken into custody before he could leave.

Classmate of Rosenberg

United States Attorney Irving H. Saypol refused to comment when asked if Rosenberg had also told Sobell to flee to Mexico. Sobell and Rosenberg, also an electrical engineer, were both graduated from City College in 1938.

Specifically, Sobell is charged with conspiring with Rosenberg "and others" to send national defense information to Russia. The two suspects are known to have met on several occasions between January, 1946, and May, 1948.

The F. B. I. traced Sobell to Mexico after they found his two-story Flushing home shuttered. A 1950 Buick sedan, which had never been used, was in an adjacent locked garage. Bottles of milk and newspapers were at the doorstep. Neighbors knew only that the Sobells had left.

American authorities, it was learned, prevailed upon Mexican officials to deport Sobell.

In a pre-dawn rendezvous between Mexican officers and F. B. I. agents on the International Bridge at the Laredo border, Sobell, a short, chunky man with an unruly shock of brown hair and a mustache, was handed over, according to The United Press.

He refused to talk. Brought before United States Commissioner Frank Y. Hill in Laredo after passing a few hours in the Webb County jail, Sobell agreed to waive removal proceedings to New York.

Sobell was said to have refused to make a statement "until I consult an attorney." Commissioner Hill fixed his bail at $100,000.

Later yesterday, Sobell's wife, Mrs. Helen Levitov Gurewitz Sobell, was found in a Laredo hotel. They were married in Arlington, Va., on March 10, 1945. With Mrs. Sobell, it was reported, were two children and an unidentified adult. One of the children was identified as Sydney Gurewitz, nine or ten years old, a son of Mrs. Sobell by a previous marriage. The other child was Mark Sobell, fifteen months.

F. B. I. agents who took Sobell into custody refused to say, according to the United Press, whether the American spy ring might have connections with a powerful and illicit radio station raided Thursday at Chihuahua City, Mexico. Mexican communications inspectors who made the raid arrested Enrique Ricart Coll, a Spanish refugee described as a Communist, who was said to be broadcasting in code to foreign countries, the United Press reported.

Believed To Be in Russia

If Sobell is indicted and convicted he faces the death penalty, since the alleged spy conspiracy began in war-time. He is charged with conspiring since 1942 with Rosenberg, when Sobell first went to work for the Navy at General Electric.

On Thursday, Rosenberg and his wife, Ethel, were indicted here for espionage conspiracy. The Rosenbergs live at 10 Monroe Street, in Knickerbocker Village on the lower East Side. They also are held in $100,000 bail. Mrs. Rosenberg is Greenglass's sister.

Also named in the Rosenberg indictment was Anatoli Yakovlev, former Soviet vice-consul in New York, who is believed to have fled to Russia. It was explained by a high-ranking United States official yesterday that it is standard spy routine to depart first for Mexico when fleeing the United States and then try to promote passage to a Scandinavian country and then to Russia or to one of its satellites.

Sobell was born in New York City on April 11, 1917. His parents, naturalized American citizens, were born in Russia. He was graduated from City College in 1938, receiving a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering degree. In 1942, he received a masters degree in electrical engineering from the University of Michigan.

Sobell was employed as a civilian at the Bureau of Ordnance, United States Navy, in Washington, from January, 1939, to September, 1941, when he resigned to attend the University of Michigan. From June 15, 1942, until June 13, 1947, he was a civilian employee in both the Marine and Aeronautic Engineering Section and the Electrical Control Unit of the Metallurgical Razor Section of General Electric at Schenectady.

The Reeves Firm has been under contract since 1946 to the United States Office of Naval Research to carry advance theoretical testing of proposed guided missiles and planes. Since recently, it has been doing similar work for the Air Force. The Navy Information office at 90 Church Street said yesterday that Sobell "had nothing whatsoever to do with the Navy's research project."

The equipment of the Reeves plant includes a battery of analytic computers, mechanical electronic brains that can accurately plot the potential performance of guided missiles and planes before their designs leave the drafting boards.

Into such a machine is fed all the pertinent data concerning the type of plane or missile, fuselage and wing constructions, and other factors. The figures, accepted in the machine, come out as performance reports [illegible] saving many man-hours and many thousands of dollars [illegible] wasted on expensive metal models [illegible] wind tunnel tests [illegible] evaluation.

ENGINEER IS SEIZED AT LAREDO AS SPY FOR RUSSIAN RING

Deported by Mexico, to Which He Is Believed to Have Gone to Get Passage to Soviet

FLED QUEENS ON JUNE 21

Morton Sobell, Radar Expert Who Worked for Navy, Called a Friend of Rosenberg

Another alleged American member of the Russian atom spy ring, a 33-year-old electronics and radar expert who worked on secret and top-secret Government contracts, was arrested early yesterday in Laredo, Tex., on espionage charges.

The suspect, Morton Sobell of 164-17 Seventy-third Avenue, Flushing, Queens, was picked up at the border by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents as he was being deported from Mexico. He was seized on a sealed warrant issued here Aug. 3 by United States Commissioner Edward W. McDonald.

Sobell went by plane to Mexico City on June 21 with his wife, Helen, and their two children, presumably as tourists. It is believed that they were awaiting Russian visas for a Scandinavian country, from which they would proceed to the Soviet Union or one of its satellites.

The Sobells left an unused 1950 automobile in the garage when they closed their home and disappeared. In addition, the engineer never got in touch with his employer, the Reeves Instrument Corporation of 215 East Ninety-first Street, manufacturers of radar equipment, by which he had been employed since 1947. It was said he had been working on top secret Government contracts.

Friend of Rosenberg

The suspect had been under in-

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tion for some time, accord-
United States Attorney Irv-
H. Saypol. He identified Sobell
as a classmate at City College and
a close personal friend of Julius
Rosenberg, who was indicted
Thursday by the Federal grand
jury for conspiracy to commit
espionage.

Mr. Saypol said that Sobell had
many dealings with Rosenberg in
the conspiracy to supply Russia
with atomic secrets. Rosenberg, it
is believed, recruited Sobell as a
member of the ring.

The Rosenberg espionage indict-
ment also included as defendants
his wife, Ethel, and Anatoli H.
Yakovlev, former Russian vice
consul in New York.

The Sobells' flight to Mexico was
believed to have been precipitated
by the arrest of David Greenglass,
Rosenberg's brother-in-law, as a
member of the spy ring. Green-
glass, while an Army sergeant sta-
tioned at the Los Alamos Atomic
Project in 1945, is alleged to have
passed vital information to Harry
Gold, who has confessed to having
been a member of the spy ring.

Rosenberg is alleged to have
told Sobell to leave the country,
but it was not made known whether
Sobell received any money from
the ring for the flight. Rosenberg
was arrested as he prepared to flee
to an Iron Curtain country.

Held in $100,000 Bail

In Laredo, United States Com-
missioner Frank Y. Hill held
Sobell in $100,000 bail on espio-
nage charges. The suspect waived
removal proceedings and indicated
that he wished to return here
quickly.

A native of New York, Sobell
was graduated from City College
in 1938 and received a Master's
Degree in Electrical Engineering
from the University of Michigan
in 1942.

From 1939 to 1941 he worked as
an engineer in the Navy Bureau
of Ordnance in Washington. Dur-
ing the war he continued with
the Navy, working in the aircraft
and marine engineering division of
the General Electric plant in
Schenectady, which conducted
highly secret research in this field.

Sobell, a short, plump individual
with a shock of brown hair and a
dapper mustache, refused to dis-
cuss his case with reporters.

The prisoner, after agreeing to
come to New York without a legal
battle, said only that he would
make no statement "until I consult
an attorney."

In New York neighbors said the
Sobells kept to themselves and at-
tended no social events. Sobell's
father, Louis, who lives at [illegible]
Trinity A[illegible]ue, the Bronx, is a
pharma[illegible] employed by the Ralph
Drug C[illegible] Inc., of 1448 [illegible]
Metropolit[illegible]ue, the Bronx.

Continued on Page 5, Column 6

Queens Engineer Seized at Laredo On Charge of Aiding Russian Ring

Continued From Page 1

He said he knew nothing of his son's activities.

Mr. Saypol said Sobell had never appeared before a grand jury.

Asked if other arrests are expected or if other sealed warrants have been ordered, Mr. Saypol said:

"I can't tell you because we are still actively engaged in the investigation."

The prosecutor did not know when Sobell would be returned to New York.

LAREDO, Tex., Aug. 18 (AP)--Sobell's wife delivered cigarettes, a toothbrush, razor and clothing to him in jail this afternoon. Meanwhile, Mrs. Sobell's hotel room was kept under watch by the F. B. I. The two children were not along.

Mexican immigration officials in Nuevo Laredo, just across the Rio Grande, said the group that brought Sobell to the border did not report to their office. Ramon Roman Aleman, assistant immigration chief, said this was unusual.

Morton Sobell

Associated Press Wirephoto

It was reported unofficially that a convoy of ten cars brought Sobell to the border early this morning and that Mexican secret police delivered him direct to the F. B. I.

Spy Suspect Roamed Spyproof Plant

The personnel manager of the Reeves Instrument Co. at 215 E. 91st St. was an embarrassed man yesterday, and he admitted it.

The Reeves plant is engaged in the manufacture of top secret equipment for our fighting forces and as such is considered spyproof. Brick walls . . . daily building searches . . . closely guarded doors. Yet through those doors, every work-day for nearly three years, passed Morton Sobell, an employe, just arrested as a spy ring suspect.

Says He's a Genius.

The personnel manager, Thomas J. Reilly, insisted that, because of the plant's stringent security measures, Sobell could not have removed any written data. "How about Sobell's memory?" a reporter asked.

Reilly shrugged. "He was the genius type."

Sobell worked for the company, according to federal authorities, from mid-1947 until last June 16. He was employed as a project and research engineer on gunfire control equipment manufactured for the armed services.

No Access to "Cyclone."

Reilly said Sobell might have known about the push-button warfare Project Cyclone, super-secret until its unveiling last July 26. However, Reilly added, Sobell did not have access to it. Through the use of a series of mechanical brains, Project Cyclone obviates the need of making expensive rocket test flights. The "flights" are made in the laboratory. In this project practically everything needed for an atom and H-bomb war is being developed.

The time at which Sobell entered the employ of Reeves—mid-'47—may be significant, since he was charged by the Government with meeting Julius Rosenberg, indicated in the Gold-Fuchs espionage conspiracy, on severel occasions between January, 1946, and May, 1948.

Liked His Work.

In the Reeves plant Sobell worked quite a lot on his own. He was assigned helpers for his gunfire control experiments whenever he required them.

He was described as being 5 feet 10 inches tall, spectacled, the possessor of a luxuriant mustache—and enthusiastic about his work.

He was a somewhat untidy man, hair sticking out every which way. But there was nothing sloppy about his research.

Like other employes at the Reeves plant, Sobell was required to sign a loyalty pledge and had to be cleared for employment by the Government. Reeves workers, Reilly said, were subjected to "intense investigation."

Last June, Reilly continued, Sobell informed the company he was

(Continued on page 12, col. 5)

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From
NY News
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Sobell Roamed Spyproof Plant Nearly 3 Years

(Continued from page 2)

tired and needed a leave of absence. His request was rejected—so he left. Reilly said he received "a high" salary.

At the plant, situated between Second and Third Aves., Reilly refused to permit reporters into his ground-floor office because of security rules. They had to interview him in the corridor. Within a few feet of them was a sign warning against removal of documents, drawings, sketches, etc.

Sobell lived in a modest two-story brick house at 164-17 72d Ave., Flushing, Queens, one of a row of buildings, which all look alike. With him lived his wife; Sidney Gurewitz, 12 a daughter of Mrs. Sobell by a previous marriage; the Sobells' 15-month-old son, Mark, and Mrs. Sobell's sister, Edith Levitov.

She Just Walked Off.

One day late in June, according to neighbors, the family got into a car and drove off, but Edith returned with the car next day. She put it in the garage under the building, locked up the house, walked away—and has not been seen since, neighbors said.

Mrs. Helen Elitcher, of 161-14 72d Ave., Flushing, whose husband is a friend of Sobell, said Sobell was not well and that when Sobell departed, the family told her he was going away for his health.

U. S. Attorney Irving H. Saypol said that the arrest of Sobell was made under his direction. "We have been investigating Sobell for some time," he added. The Sobell case came to his attention Aug. 5," he said, "as a result of FBI information concerning his involvement and several other suspects." The date Sobell left the Reeves plant, he said, was June 18.

Sobell and Rosenberg, according to Saypol, were classmates at City College.

Sobell's father, Louis, 55, of 600 Trinity Ave., Bronx, is a pharmacist at the Ralph Drug Co. at 1138 Metropolitan Ave., Bronx. Interviewed at the store, he said he was told by a friend of his son's arrest.

"I wish I were dead," he said. "I have high blood pressure and maybe I soon will be dead."

Fleeing Radar Expert Nabbed as Atom Spy

By TED LEWIS
of THE NEWS Bureau

Washington, D. C., Aug. 18.—FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover today announced the arrest of Morton Sobell, 33, New York electrical engineer and radar expert, at Laredo, Tex. Sobell is the eighth American to be seized as a member of the Dr. Klaus Fuchs atomic spy ring.

Sobell fled to Mexico by air June 22, six days after David Greenglass of New York was arrested on espionage charges, but he was deported by Mexico and picked up immediately by the FBI in a predawn, secret maneuver.

Four FBI agents appeared with Sobell at the Webb County jail at Laredo at 3:45 A.M. They would not give details of his capture. He was arraigned a few hours later and held under $100,000 bond.

Hoover said Sobell was employed by the Navy on confidential projects at the General Electric Co., Schenectady, N. Y., from 1942 to 1947. He was charged specifically with conspiring with Julius Rosenberg and others to send secret national defense data to Russia.

Hunt Four More.

Informed sources indicated that the FBI is on the trail of at least four other atomic spies. The ring was uncovered following the arrest in England of Dr. Fuchs, leading German-born British atomic scientist now serving a prison term for stealing A-bomb secrets in the U. S. and feeding them to Russia.

Discussing the Sobell case, Hoover said that after Greenglass was arrested in New York on June 16, Sobell failed to show up for work at the Reeves Instrument Co., 215 E. 91st St., where he was an engineer. The FBI found out he had flown to Mexico.

Employed by Navy.

Rosenberg had warned Greenglass to leave the country in May when Harry Gold, another member of the ring, was arrested, but Greenglass was picked up before he could flee.

A native of New York, Sobell was born April 11, 1917. His parents, both born in Russia, are naturalized Americans. Sobell was graduated from the City College of New York in 1938, with an electrical engineering degree. He obtained a master's degree from the University of Michigan in 1942.

From 1939 to 1941, Sobell was employed by the Navy's Bureau of Ordnance in Washington. After receiving his master's degree, he went to work for General Electric, where he was assigned to a division handling secret radar research. He obtained the job with the Reeves company in mid-1947.

Sobell married Helen Levitov Gurewitz in Arlington, Va., on March 10, 1945, and has two children. Before he fled to Mexico he lived with his family at 164-17 73d Ave., Flushing, Queens. He will be returned to New York for trial.

Mrs. Sobell, with her two children, interviewed this morning at a Laredo hotel, refused to tell the press where she had been or when she arrived in Laredo. Sobell, at his hearing, asked to see her.

(Associated Press Wirephoto)

Morton Sobell. He was nabbed by FBI at Laredo, Tex.

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U.S. DELAYS RETURN OF SUSPECTED SPY

LAREDO, Tex., Aug. 19 (UP)—A [illegible]-year-old radar expert, was in Federal custody today awaiting his return to New York to face charges that link him with the Klaus Fuchs international spy ring.

Officials were reluctant to say when Morton Sobell would be returned to New York. Arrested yesterday as he was deported from Mexico, Sobell has waived extradition. He was being held on $100,000 bond.

The case was surrounded by extraordinary secrecy. The four agents who made the arrest still refused to furnish details. It was not known exactly in what manner Mexican authorities deported the instrument specialist.

It was learned today that Sobell, the eighth American arrested in connection with the Fuchs spy apparatus, worked for three years with a concern engaged in "project cyclone," a super-secret development concerning "push button" warfare devices.

Officials of the Reeves Instrument Company, 215 East Ninety-first Street, in New York, said Sobell was employed there from 1947 until last June as a project and research engineer on gunfire control equipment. They said, however, that Sobell did not have access to "project cyclone."

Sobell was the second alleged member of the Fuchs ring to face legal proceedings this week. Justice Department spokesmen in Washington linked him with Julius Rosenberg, New York engineer indicted Thursday on charges of conspiracy to commit espionage.

Named on the same indictment with Rosenberg were his wife, former Russian vice consul in New York.

The Justice Department said the Sobells fled by airplane to Mexico June 22, following the arrest of David Greenglass, 28, also charged with belonging to the ring.

Mrs. Sobell visited her husband at his cell yesterday. Later she checked out of the hotel with their two children and left no forwarding address.

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From
NY Times
DATED AUG 20 1950
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U.S. to Return Spy Suspect, Trial Here

Plans to Extradite Lobell at Once

Morton Sobell, 33, Queens radar-electronics expert, will be brought to New York to answer espionage charges as soon as a federal judge signs his removal papers in Laredo, Tex., it was announced yesterday.

Sobell, eighth American charged with supplying Russia with this country's defense secrets, is held in $100,000 bail in Laredo, where he was hustled into the Webb County jail following his seizure by FBI agents.

Traced into Mexico City, whence he fled by plane from his home at 164-17 73d ave., Flushing, Queens, on June 21, less than a week after the arrest of David Greenglass, brother-in-law of Julius Rosenberg, both alleged spies, Sobell was arrested by the FBI Friday.

TAKEN TO BORDER

Mexico, at this country's request, deported Sobell, rushing him to the border under guard of 10 carloads of police. When he was delivered into Texas, four FBI agents took over.

Sobell is accused of sending national defense information to Russia while doing restricted work, from 1942 to 1947, at General Electric's Schenectady, N.Y. laboratory.

From January, 1939, to September, 1941, he worked in the U. S. Navy Bureau of Ordnance in Washington.

At the time he left this country, reportedly at the suggestion of Rosenberg, of 10 Monroe st., indicted Thursday with his wife, Ethel, as members of the Klaus Fuchs atomic spy ring, Sobell worked at Reeves Instrument Co., 215 E. 91st st.

DAD WISHES HE WERE DEAD.

Sobell's father, Louis, 55, druggist, of 800 Trinity ave., the Bronx, when informed of his son's alleged complicity in Russian espionage activities in this country said:

"I wish I were dead. I'm sick, and maybe I soon will be dead."

All eight Americans were arrested in connection with the Fuchs spy ring. Fuchs, a British scientist, is now serving 14 years in England as a convicted espionage agent.

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A Spy Suspect Awaits N. Y. Trip in Texas Jail

Laredo, Tex., Aug. 19 (U.P.).—Morton Sobell, 33-year-old radar expert, was in federal custody today awaiting his return to New York to face charges that link him with the Klaus Fuchs international spy ring.

Officials were reluctant to say when Sobell would be returned to New York. Arrested yesterday as he was deported from Mexico, Sobell has waived extradition. He was being held on $100,000 bond.

It was learned today that Sobell, the eighth American arrested in connection with the Fuchs spy apparatus, worked for three years with a concern engaged in "Project Cyclone," a super-secret development concerning "push button" warfare devices.

Officials of the Reeves Instrument Co., 215 E. 91st St., New York, said Sobell was employed there from 1947 until last June as a project and research engineer on gunfire control equipment. They said, however, that Sobell did not have access to "Project Cyclone."

Sobell was the second alleged member of the Fuchs ring to face legal proceedings this week. Justice department spokesmen in Washington linked him with Julius Rosenberg, New York engineer indicted Thursday on charges of conspiracy to commit espionage. Named on the same indictment with Rosenberg were his wife, Ethel, and Anatoli H. Yakovlev, former Russian vice consul in New York.

The Justice Department said Sobell and his family fled by airplane to Mexico June 22, following the arrest of David Greenglass, 28, also charged with belonging to the ring.

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N. Y. Man Held as Spy In Texas

A 33-year-old New York electrical engineer, Martin Sobell, of 164-17 73rd Ave., Flushing, Queens, was arrested Friday in Laredo, Tex., on charges of conspiring to give atomic secrets to Russia. He was the eighth American seized in connection with the U. S. link of Soviet spy chain directed by Dr. Klaus Fuchs, now serving 14 years in Britain for espionage. He faces a possible death penalty.

Sobell was nabbed by FBI agents after he was deported by Mexican authorities, presumably at the request of U. S. authorities. A radar expert who once was a civilian employee of the Navy and most recently worked for the Reeves Instrument Co., 215 E. 91st St., Sobell failed to report for work the day after David Greenglass, another accused spy, was arrested June 16. On June 22, authorities said, he flew to Mexico.

U. S. Attorney Irving Saypol said Friday that the FBI had "been investigating Sobell for some time" and that the arrest—made at the U. S.-Mexican border by four FBI agents under conditions still veiled in secrecy—was on a sealed warrant issued here Aug. 3 by U. S. Commissioner Edward W. McDonald.

Unshaven, his green sports shirt and brown trousers crumpled, Sobell was arraigned in Laredo before a U. S. Commissioner, entered no plea, and was held in $100,000 bond pending removal to New York. He waived removal proceedings.

His wife and their two children, who apparently had followed Sobell to Mexico, were in a Laredo hotel on Friday. Mrs. Sobell would not talk with reporters.

Friend of Rosenbergs

The FBI disclosed that Sobell was a close friend of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were indicted here Thursday on charges of conspiracy to commit espionage. Rosenberg, the FBI said, had warned Greenglass to flee to Mexico shortly before his arrest. All were said to have had dealings with Harry Gold, a Philadelphia chemist who has confessed he transmitted American atom secrets to Fuchs.

Born in New York, Apr. 11, 1917, Sobell was a graduate of CCNY, 1938, and the University of Michi- in Washington. From 1942 to 1947, he was a test engineer in the marine and aeronautics engineering section of General Electric, in Schenectady. Later he went to work for the Reeves firm which, Saypol said, "handled radar among other things."

Held in Theft Of Atom Papers

London, Aug. 18 (AP)—William Wakeham, 35, a jobless clerk, was charged today with stealing a suitcase containing secret atomic research papers which belonged to the British Government, and jailed for a week pending his next appearance in court.

The suitcase was the property of John M. Greenlees, an official of the Supply Ministry, which runs Britain's atomic research program. It disappeared Aug. 8 from Greenlees' train compartment in London, but was recovered intact the following day.

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U.S. Orders Sobell to New York

HOUSTON, Tex., Aug. 21 (AP)—Morton Sobell, charged with giving defense secrets to Russia, was ordered today to be moved from Laredo to New York. United States Marshal Clifton C. Carter said Sobell would be brought to the Harris County jail here late tomorrow and probably would be taken to New York by plane Wednesday.

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From NY Times
DATED AUG 22 1950
FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION

MORTON SOBELL
Grimps in Texas Jail
Wirephoto from AP

Fly Spy Suspect To N. Y. Today

Radar expert Morton Sobell of Queens was to be flown here from Houston, Texas, today to face charges of passing defense secrets to Russia.

Also, Julius Rosenberg, 33, and his wife, Ethel, 35, of 10 Monroe st, were scheduled to be arraigned in Federal Court here on an indictment charging they were "aggressive" members of the Klaus Fuchs atomic spy ring.

Sobell fled to Mexico in June after the Federal authorities began closing in on members of the spy ring. Apprehended by Mexican agents, he was ushered to the Texas border where FBI men arrested him.

Named as co-defendant in the Greenburg indictment was Anatoli II. Yakovlev, former Soviet Vice-Consul. He is reported to be in Russia.

More features—Your America in Pictures, The Wishing Well, Mary Haworth's Mail, games, puzzles, quizzes, plus many more entertaining features in the daily Journal-American.

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FROM Journal American
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Arraign Sobell Today as Spy

Martin Sobell, 33, of 164-17 73d ave., Flushing, Queens, was to be arraigned today before U. S. Commissioner McDonald on a charge that he was a spy for Soviet Russia.

Sobell was arrested last week in Laredo, Texas, after he had been deported from Mexico City at the request of the United States.

He arrived here last night by plane accompanied by U. S. Marshall Clifton Carter of Houston, and special Deputy Marshal Henry Kuempel, described as "a crack pistol shot." He was handcuffed to Carter.

HELD IN BAIL.

Sobell had been held in $100,000 bail by Federal Judge Hanny in Texas. He waived removal here where he is indicted under the espionage act for passing defense information to Russia.

Sobell, a radar expert who disappeared soon after the arrest of David Greenglass, former Army sergeant at the atomic plant at Los Almos, N. Mex., was arrested on espionage charges. Sobell had been employed on a super-secret Navy guided missles project when he disappeared.

Extra precautions were taken when Sobell arrived by plane last night at Newark airport. On hand were U. S. Marshal William A. Carroll and Chief Deputy Marshal John Picket. They ordered the prisoner taken to a hangar where a grey sedan was waiting. He sat quietly while Carroll officially took custody from the Texas U. S. Marshal.

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From
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Spy Suspect on His Way Here From Texas by Air

Morton Sobell, New York electronics and radar specialist arrested last Friday in Laredo, Tex., as a spy suspect, was on his way back to New York last night.

Sobell, thirty-three, was put aboard an Eastern Air Lines Constellation at Houstn at 5:30 p. m. daylight saving time. In the custody of a deputy United States Marshal and Federal Bureau of Investigation agents, Sobell was due at Newark Airport at 11:15 p. m.

He fled to Mexico June 22, six days after last reporting for work at the Reeves Instrument Corporation at 215 East Ninety-first Street, which has top-secret government contracts. Before his flight to Mexico, where he was deported to Laredo, he lived at 164-17 Seventy-third Avenue, Flushing, Queens.

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From
NY Herald Tribune
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$100,000 Bail Set for Sobell in Atom Spy Case

Held on Charge of Plot With Rosenberg After He Is Brought Here From Texas

Morton Sobell, electronics and radar expert, was held in $100,000 bail yesterday as a Soviet atom spy suspect.

The thirty-three-year-old defendant, who arrived in New York Wednesday night from Texas, was brought before United States Commissioner Edward W. McDonald in United States Court House. After the commissioner told him he need not make any statement, since it could be used against him, Sobell, who has yet to pick a lawyer, said "I am not fully aware of the charge against me."

United States Attorney Irving H. Saypol responded, "Remember when I had you up in my office a few minutes ago I asked you if you were familiar with the charge against you? You said you were familiar with it generally."

"I did not say that," Sobell snapped.

Hearing Adjourned

Shortly after that, the ten-minute hearing was adjourned until Sept. 18. Before being removed to Federal Detention Headquarters at West and Eleventh Streets, Sobell was permitted to telephone his wife, who was still in Houston.

Sobell, until June 16, was employed by the Reeves Instrument Corporation at 215 East Ninety-first Street. The concern has top secret armed forces contracts. He closed his two-story home at 164-17 Seventy-third Avenue, Flushing, Queens, and flew to Mexico City with his wife and two children. Friday he was deported to Laredo, Tex., where Federal Bureau of Investigation agents arrested him for alleged espionage conspiracy.

Mri Saypol, accompanied by his chief assistant, Myles J. Lane, told Commissioner McDonald that Sobel conspired with Julius Rosenberg, an electrical engineer of 10 Monroe Street, to pass "documents, writings, sketches and notes concerning the national defense" to Russia. Rosenberg and his wife, Ethel Greenglass Rosenberg, have already been indicted as spy suspects and were held in $100,000 each Wednesday.

At the outset of the hearing yesterday, Mr. Saypol said that Sobell had waived removal from Texas to New York. The prosecutor was still talking when Sobell, wearing a rumpled gray suit, cut in with, "Can I make a comment on that waiver?"

Sobell Asked to Wait

"Suppose you wait till I finish," Mr. Saypol said.

It was then that the suspect was told he was not required to say anything and that his lawyer could handle the question of waiver for him. Sobell let it drop.

The complaint against Sobell, which he held in his hand, accused him specifically of conspiring on five occasions between July, 1944, and July, 1950, with Rosenberg, in the Southern District of New York.

The well-built, black-haired prisoner, 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighing 165 pounds, did not ask to have the bail reduced. The same sum was fixed in Laredo.

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NY Herald Tribune
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$100,000 BAIL SET IN ESPIONAGE CASE

Sobell, Accused of Conspiring With Rosenberg, Has Dispute With Saypol at Hearing

Morton Sobell, 33-year-old electronics and radar expert who allegedly fled to Mexico to escape arrest, was held in $100,000 bail on espionage charges yesterday by United States Commissioner Edward W. McDonald.

The suspect, who lives at 164-17 Seventy-third Avenue, Flushing, Queens, was flown back from Texas in the custody of deputy United States marshals. He was arrested last Friday by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents at the border city of Laredo after having been deported from Mexico.

He was specifically charged with having conspired from July, 1944, until last July 16 with Julius Rosenberg, who, with his wife, Ethel, has been indicted on charges of conspiracy to commit espionage by transmitting to Russia "documents, writings, sketches, notes and information relating to national defense."

In pursuance of the alleged conspiracy to give vital atomic secrets to Russia, Sobell had five conversations with Rosenberg in this Federal District, the complaint added.

United States Attorney Irving H. Saypol opened the hearing by telling Commissioner McDonald that Sobell had agreed to waive removal from Texas.

Sobell interrupted: "Can I say something about that waiver?"

"Suppose you wait until I finish," Mr. Saypol said sharply.

Because he was not represented by an attorney, Commissioner McDonald advised the defendant not to say anything.

After Mr. Saypol had outlined the charge, the stocky defendant said:

"Up to this point I am not duly aware of the charge of Title 50, Section 32 (a)." (Under which he is charged).

"I take it that is one of the functions of his counsel" the prosecutor told the commissioner.

Turning to the defendant, Mr. Saypol said:

"This morning when you were in my office I asked you whether you had anything to say to me or discuss with me. I asked whether you were familiar with the charge. You said you had some doubt in your mind concerning 32 (a). Then you said you were familiar with it generally."

"I did not say that," Sobell replied sharply.

At this point Commissioner McDonald adjourned the hearing until Sept. 18.

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From
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DATED AUG 25 1950
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Set $100,000 Bail For Sobell As Soviet Spy

Nervous and a little belligerent, radar expert Morton Sobell, accused of belonging to the Klaus Fuchs spy ring which fed atomic secrets to Russia, was held in $100,000 bail by U. S. Commissioner McDonald yesterday pending hearing Sept. 18 on charges of espionage conspiracy.

The bushy-haired electronics specialist and former Navy civilian engineer disputed U. S. Attorney Saypol's contention that he was familiar with the section under which he is charged with having conspired from July, 1944, to July, 1950, with Julius Rosenberg to transmit vital defense documents to Russia.

McDonald, however, cut the verbal wrangle short by advising Sobell that in the absence of a defense lawyer he would not be required to say anything in court.

Sobell, 33, of 164-17 73d Ave., Flushing, Queens, showed no emotion as Saypol read a copy of the complaint. Saypol said Sobell held five conversations with Rosenberg in this district. Rosenberg's wife, Ethel, and her brother, former Army Sgt. David Greenglass, also have been indicted on similar charges.

Sobell fled to Mexico last June 22 after Greenglass' arrest. He then was employed by the Reeves Instrument Corp. which produced secret government defense material. The FBI arrested Sobell after he was deported by Mexico and the prisoner then was flown back to New York two days ago.

Sobell's only request after yesterday's hearing was for permission to telephone his wife, mother of their two children. Officials indicated he would be permitted to make the call.

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From
NY
DATED AUG 25 1950
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100-37158-A
F. B. I.
AUG 28 1950
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8th Atom Spy Suspect Held In 100Gs Bail

By NORMA ABRAMS

Morton Sobell, 33-year-old radar expert and eighth American suspect nabbed in the Klaus Fuchs international atom-spy ring, was held in $100,000 bail yesterday by U. S. Commissioner Edward W. McDonald when arraigned on an espionage-conspiracy charge. Sobell was returned to New York Wednesday night from Texas, where he was arrested by the FBI last week.

The slim, dark Sobell, clad in a rumpled gray suit, interrupted U. S. Attorney Irving H. Saypol when the latter pointed out that the suspect had agreed to waive extradition. "Can I make a comment on that waiver?" Sobell asked.

Annoyed, Saypol broke in hurriedly and said: "Suppose you wait

Morton Sobell
Spy suspect leaves courthouse.

until I finish." McDonald then asked Sobell if he were represented by counsel and the defendant replied: "Not yet."

Advised Not to Talk.

The commissioner told Sobell he was not required to say anything, since he had no lawyer, and advised the defendant not to say anything, pointing out that he lost no rights thereby.

After McDonald fixed bond, Sobell asked if his attorney would be able to discuss the bail and was assured that he could.

The complaint against Sobell charges that from July, 1944, to last July 16 he conspired with Julius Rosenberg to transmit to Russia "documents, writings, sketches, notes and information relating to national defense."

Rosenberg and his wife, Ethel, are awaiting trial on similar charges.

Sobell, who lives at 161-17 73d Ave., Flushing, Queens, will have a hearing Sept. 19. Until mid July, he worked for the Reeves Instrument Corp., 215 E. 91st St., a firm engaged in top-secret government work.

Late in the day, it was reported that Sobell had retained attorney Harold M. Phillips, of 258 Broadway.

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F. B. I.
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Sobell Arraigned Here in Spy Case

Radar engineer Morton Sobell, 33, of 164-17 73d Ave., Flushing, Queens, was arraigned yesterday on charges of conspiracy to commit espionage for Russia. He was held in $100,000 bail by U. S. Commissioner McDonald for hearing Sept. 18.

Sobell, flown here Wednesday night from Texas, where he was arrested by the FBI last Friday, seemed calm during the hearing.

There was one brief flurry when Sobell interrupted U. S. Attorney Saypol's report to the Commissioner on Sobell's waiver of removal hearing.

"Can I make a comment on that waiver?" asked the defendant.

"Suppose you wait until I finish," snapped Saypol.

McDonald stopped the colloquy by asking Sobell if he had counsel. "Not yet," said Sobell. It would be advisable, said McDonald, not to say anything, since he had no attorney. Sobell accepted the suggestion and kept silent.

Saypol said the engineer, from July, 1944, until last July 16, allegedly conspired with Julius Rosenberg and his wife Ethel—both of whom are held in $100,000 bail on espionage charges—to commit espionage by transmitting to Russia "documents, writings, sketches, notes and information relating to national defense."

Sobell fled to Mexico last June 22, and was deported by Mexican authorities a week ago, presumably at the request of the U. S. He was arrested at the border.

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Spy Suspect's Wife Loses Plea to Ignore U. S. Jury

Mrs. Morton Sobell, whose husband is under arrest as a Soviet spy suspect, was directed yesterday in United States District Court to appear at 11 a. m. next Wednesday before a Federal grand jury investigating subversive activities.

Sobell, thirty-three-year-old electronics and radar expert, was arrested last Aug. 18 in Laredo, Tex. He was brought to New York and is being held in lieu of $100,000 bail pending grand jury action. Mrs. Sobell, who lives at 164-17 Seventy-third Avenue, Flushing, Queens, was subpoenaed to appear before the panel. Yesterday, through her attorney, Harold M. Phillips, she asked Judge Edward R. Conger to vacate the subpoena.

Mr. Phillips argued it would be a violation of Mrs. Sobell's constitutional rights and those of her husband if she were to give testimony "detrimental to the interests" of her husband. Judge Conger told Chief Assistant United States Attorney Myles J. Lane that he is not to ask Mrs. Sobell any questions that are contrary to her or her husband's rights. The prosecutor said he had no such intent.

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From
NY Herald Tribune
DATED SEP 14 1950
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Spy Suspect's Wife Must Talk

Mrs. Helen Sobell of 164-17 73d Ave., Flushing, Queens, wife of Morton Sobell, radar expert held in $100,000 bail on espionage charges, lost her fight yesterday in Federal Court to escape testifying before a federal grand jury.

She had asked that the grand jury's subpoena be vacated, charging it would be a violation of her Constitutional rights and also her husband's if she were to give testimony detrimental to the accused man's interests.

Judge Edward R. Conger held that he had no right to keep her from going before the grand jurors, as he did not know what questions would be asked. He instructed Chief Assistant U. S. Attorney Myles J. Lane not to ask any questions contrary to her own or her husband's rights.

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From News
NY
DATED SEP 14 1950
FORWARDED BY

100-37158-a
F. B. I.
SEP 15 1950
N. Y. C.

Waiting Indictment, U.S. Wins Spy Case Delay

By NORMA ABRAMS

On the plea that a federal grand jury may return an indictment against Soviet spy suspect Morton Sobell at any time, the Government yesterday obtained a two-week postponement of a hearing on espionage charges brought against the 33-year-old radar expert.

U. S. Commissioner Edward W. McDonald refused to reduce the

Morton Sobell
His hearing put off.

$100,000 bail set on Sobell, who has been in City Prison since he was brought back from the Mexican border by FBI agents last August.

Accused of Giving Secrets.

Sobell, of 164-17 73d St., Flushing, Queens, is charged with transmitting to Russia top secrets while he was working at the Reeves Instrument Corp., 215 E. 91st St., which is engaged in Government work.

McDonald also adjourned until Oct. 2 a hearing for the removal of David Greenglass to New Mexico to face an espionage indictment. Greenglass, 26, of 263 Rivington St., is accused of selling atom secrets to a Soviet agent. He is a former Army sergeant.

4 Get Adjournments.

In Federal Court, four other persons accused of participating in an espionage conspiracy won adjournments. The setting of a trial date for Abraham Brothman, 36, of 41-08 42d St., Sunnyside, Queens, and Miriam Moscowitz, 34, of 151 Eighth Ave., was postponed until Friday.

Brothman and Miss Moscowitz were indicted for conspiracy to obstruct justice by influencing the testimony of Harry Gold, confessed Soviet spy, before a federal grand jury.

Also put off to Friday was argument on a motion for a bill of particulars by Julius Rosenberg, 33, and his wife, Ethel, 35, of 10 Monroe St., who were indicted on charges of conspiracy to con espionage.

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F. B. I.
SEP 21 1950
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FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION

Jack Lait's
All in the Family

MORTON SOBELL, the traitor who escaped execution and was sentenced to 30 years, will wish a million times that the electric chair had claimed him.

By a strange psychological quirk, convicts are perhaps the most chauvinistic jingoes in the land.

Patriotic holidays bring forth hysterical demonstrations for the country which has caged them and takes from them their first right as Americans, liberty, and in most instances will forever deprive them of other sacred privileges of citizens.

Naturally, felons are no respectors of law.

But they are demons on reverence for the flag, worshipers of our armed men, tops among blood donors.

In their futility, unable to enlist for active duty, they compensate to every limit of their circumscribed existence by cheering, praying, buying bonds if they can, and in every collateral secondary contribution toward victory.

Getting among them one who is guilty of treason, of selling out to the enemy, will mean to them an opportunity to make his life hell in every way these cage-birds know, and they know them all.

There will have to be special and individual provisions for Sobell. If he were allowed to exercise with the others, march with them, sit with them at mess, he would undoubtedly be tortured and in time assassinated.

FEDERAL "stirs" are regarded as "soft" in contrast with state pens. But their inmates are little different from the generic run of cons.

They are, if anything, a bit more coarse and crude, because they embrace many hillbillies nabbed making corn-whiskey and the bulk of narcotics offenders, the latter the lowest law-breakers there are.

But they have also counterfeiters, men of great skill far above the average grade of prisoners, and blue-sky swindlers, the slickest of all grifters; tax-evaders, who must have been successful or they would never have made enough to swindle the government, and mail-frauds operators.

There are comparatively few who have been sent up for violent crimes.

Those would include men who committed robberies or murders on U. S. property, Indian reservations, national parks, etc.

The Territories have their local "stirs." Washington, a large city, has its own jails, confining the common run of offenders.

But, except for an occasional Capone or a tough kidnaper (since the Lindbergh Law) most "heavy workers" are amenable to local punishment.

Rarely does luck send the Federal convicts such picking as a real traitor.

The nearest thing to it in a state Big House is a pariah who has raped a young girl.

For men doing time are as hot for nobility as they are for patriotism.

Safe-blowers, burglars, stickup-men, cop-shooters are aristocrats.

Pickpockets, sneak-thieves, shop-lifters, embezzlers, forgers—all those who commit crimes for money but take no great physical risks—are tolerated. They are at least professionals.

Those in for crimes of passion, personal revenge, isolated misdeeds under pressure of personal emotion, are ignored; they are probably one-timers, amateurs, accidentals.

Hop-heads get sympathy rather than contempt, though they are not admitted to inner councils unless they are also bad men, in which case their "habit" is not important.

BUT A GENUINE enemy of their beloved country, who has sold us out, who has plotted to harm the nation and arm its foe—he is a set-up for vengeance.

There are few releases for powerful feeling behind the strong, high walls and barred steel doors, within the routine of prison existence. All communication is restricted. Normal relations in every way are cut off.

So, when someone or something gives opportunity for an outlet, these fettered men let loose with explosions of pent-up sentimentality, fury, loyalty, contempt and other primary human affections.

That is why they become infatuated with birds or mice; one brute became famed because he trained a pet fly, and he wept hysterically when it died a natural death.

That is why these embittered, deprived castoffs kill and cut for acts or words which would have small significance in our world.

That is why the Sing Sing or Leavenworth baseball teams have rooters such as Babe Ruth never knew.

That is why a con suspected of "rattling the tin cup" is found bleeding and lacerated, if still alive, though in life outside, as a rule, treachery is accepted as part of the overhead of this mortal experience.

I have no pity in my heart for a traitor.

But when I think of what Sobell will be up against for probably the rest of his life—which may not be as long as the judge contemplated—I shudder.

For I believe I know something of the hearts of convicts.

An amateur can back a professional in the spot news field. Phone MU 2-1000. Ext. 14.

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APR 9 1951
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The Lyons Den

By Leonard Lyons

As a result of her successful legit broadcasts, Margaret Truman now has offers from producer Max Gordon to star in "Candida" and from producer John Golden to appear in "The Mikado" and a musical version of "Seventh Heaven" . . . The second important N. Y. indictment resulting from the Kefauver hearings—following the conviction of Jim Moran—is being prepared . . . Prime Minister Ben-Gurion spoke Turkish with the UN's Turkish delegate, Russian with Yul Brynner of "The King and I," English with Dorothy Sarnoff, Chinese with actor Michael Wager, and finally Hebrew to Shelley Winters at Sardi's. Miss Winters replied, in Hebrew: "Hear, O Israel," and Ben-Gurion told her: "Come to visit my country. That's all you need to know."

Mrs. Frances Leonard, whose term as a Magistrate just expired, will not be reappointed by the Mayor . . . Laura Z. Hobson's new novel will be called "The Celebrity." Darryl Zanuck, who made the film version of her "Gentleman's Agreement," is reading the manuscript now . . . David Leggett was caught in the rain last week, and couldn't find a taxi to take him from the Little Club. He phoned Inskip Motors, and in 15 minutes the Rolls-Royce he had bought by phone was delivered to him at the night club . . . Sen. Harry Byrd said that MacArthur could win the Presidency on his five-word campaign: "Stop War—God Bless America."

James Jones, author of "From Here to Eternity," is in Hollywood helping on the screen adaptation of his best-selling novel. He plans to write nine books, all as massive as his first one . . . Jones, incidentally, has upset studio routine in Hollywood. He insists on working from 7 a.m. to noon, then taking the rest of the day off . . . Songwriter Harry Ruby wrote to Gertrude Lawrence, and complained that Rodgers and Hammerstein are taking over the country. "What hurts me is that they have no talent," he stated. "All they have is pull with 150 million people" . . . Perle Mesta returned to N. Y. last night. Madam Minister is heading for Washington, then for speeches in Baltimore and the mid-West.

William Remington, convicted of perjury for having denied he was a Communist, received permission from the Circuit Court of Appeals to advance the date of his appeal. It will be argued June 12. He requested this speed-up because the uncertainty of his fate, he says, makes it difficult for him to find a job . . . Louis Waldman is chairman of the Tamiment conference on how to combat crime—"A Program to Smash the Alliance of Crime and Politics." Waldman is the lawyer for Irving Sherman, who ducked the Kefauver Committee until his surrender a few days ago . . . Paul Gallico leaves for Tel Aviv this week, to do research on his next Sat. Eve. Post serial, "To Live Forever."

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From NY Post & Home News
DATED MAY 14 1951
FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION

Last year Sen. Kefauver went to Judge Ferdinand Pecora's office. "Our committee seeks your advice," he said, "because your Wall St. investigation was the ideal, as far as Senatorial investigations are concerned." He showed Pecora four names suggested for the Chief Counsel's job. The last was Halley's . . . Pecora has known Halley for many years, and recommended him. He suggested that Kefauver also check with the Republican members of the one-time Truman War Investigating Committee, for which Halley had been counsel . . . When Kefauver left, Pecora accompanied him to the outer office. There, making his first visit to Pecora in six months—a surprise visit to explain cancellation of a luncheon date—sat Halley . . . He got the job.

Morton Sobell, who was convicted and sentenced to 30 years in the Rosenberg spy case, will be moved from the Tombs this week to a Federal penitentiary . . . An English actor who has seen Judith Anderson flinging her arms upwards in all her screen roles, made his first trip to America last week. When he saw the Statue of Liberty, he said: "She looks just like Judith Anderson—that is, when Judith is annoyed" . . . Hopalong Cassidy is in Washington to do his circus bit in the DeMille movie about the Ringling circus . . . Leo Durocher is the subject of a calypso song just finished by Nat King Cole.

Elsa Maxwell will sail for France at the same time the Duke and Duchess of Windsor sail, and expects them to attend the ball she's giving in Paris. Miss Maxwell's last Paris ball was announced as a costume party. She invited the guests to come dressed as the character, in history or fiction, they wished most to have been . . . The hostess then decided that this would be too much trouble, and so changed the plans and made it a formal instead of a costume ball. Lady Duff Cooper, however, was away when the announcement of the change was made, and came dressed as a Grenadier Guard, complete with busby.

Last night Walter Winchell again commented about the contempt-of-court risk in my refusal to reveal the sources of my information to counsel for the atom bomb spies. "Funny" is the word Winchell used. I wonder if Walter would find it as funny if the Senate Crime Investigating Committee were to subpena him to disclose the full details of how Lepke happened to surrender to him—and/or the sources of his sympathetic stories about Frank Costello? . . . One of the witnesses who will testify before the House Un-American Committee stammers when excited. The witness therefore may be permitted to make his replies in writing . . . The Gen. Douglas MacArthur real-estate deal in Meriden, Conn., is off.

A few days ago, at his home in Rehovath, in the suburbs of Tel Aviv, President Chaim Weizmann had a dinner party. Two new arrivals to Israel were the guests of honor, and Mr. Weizmann sat between them. "I rather like this—sitting between two pretty girls," said the venerable President of the young Republic . . . One of the ladies studied the dark glasses the President wears, and said: "But Mr. President, I thought your eyesight was bad" . . . "Young lady," replied Weizmann, "my eyesight will never be THAT bad."

Atomic Spy's Wife Faints at Rally Heckling

A meeting in behalf of two convicted atom spies was broken up last night by an unidentified man whose sarcastic remarks led to the collapse of the principal speaker and a spectator.

It happened in the Hotel Genadeen, 271 Beach 19th St., Far Rockaway, where about 75 persons were attending a session sponsored by the Rockaway branch of the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case.

Sobell's Wife Is Speaker.

Julius Rosenberg, 32, and his wife, Ethel, 35, are in Sing Sing awaiting execution for conspiracy to commit espionage. They were members of a spy ring through which British scientist Klaus Fuchs got atomic information to Russia.

Morton Sobell, 34, also is in Sing Sing serving a 30-year sentence for the same offense. His wife was the principal speaker at last night's meeting.

He Speaks, She Faints.

Mrs. Sobell referred to "unclean witnesses doing their tricks" at the trial, adding that "the judge is now waiting for the dead bodies of the Rosenbergs to use as a stepping stone." She said that was the way Hitler started—"by persecuting the Jews with Jewish judges."

After she finished, and some money had been collected, a well-dressed, middle-aged man arose and charged that "the whole thing is a stage show."

He wanted to know why the committee had waited a whole year after the sentencing of the Rosenbergs before starting the movement for a new trial.

Mrs. Sobell fainted.

Shouts, Collapses.

"Pay no attention to that!" the man shouted. "She'll always faint when something like this happens. She's a wonderful actress!"

Another man in the audience then got to his feet, cried "Oh, my God!" placed his hand to his heart and collapsed.

A third man fell over a chair in the excitement.

The man who had caused all this flurry hurried out of the room and ran down the street before anyone could learn who he was.

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CLIPPING FROM THE
N.Y. WORLD TELEGRAM & SUN
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Morton Sobell Transferred To Alcatraz

Morton Sobell, in jail on a 30-year sentence given him at the same frameup trial that passed the death sentence for Edith and Julius Rosenberg, was transferred yesterday to the Alcatraz prison for hardened criminals, 3,000 miles away from his family. This was the Thanksgiving eve ruling made yesterday by Federal Judge Edward Weinfeld.

Jude Weinfeld refused to grant a plea to let Sobell remain nearer his family. Sobell is now in the Federal House of Detention.

Mrs. Helen Sobell, wife of Morton, declared this week that the office of the U. S. Attorney was attempting to destroy her husband by removing him to a prison like Alcatraz.

"They want him to name innocent persons as spies and admit a crime which he never committed," she said. "They have subjected him to a campaign of vicious pressures, including the showing to him of anonymous letters and circulation of rumors about my leaving him.

"They are sending Morty to Alcatraz and the Rosenbergs to their death because they will not become informers. It's a horrible perversion of justice."

CLIPPING FROM THE
N. Y. Daily Worker
Nov. 27, 1952

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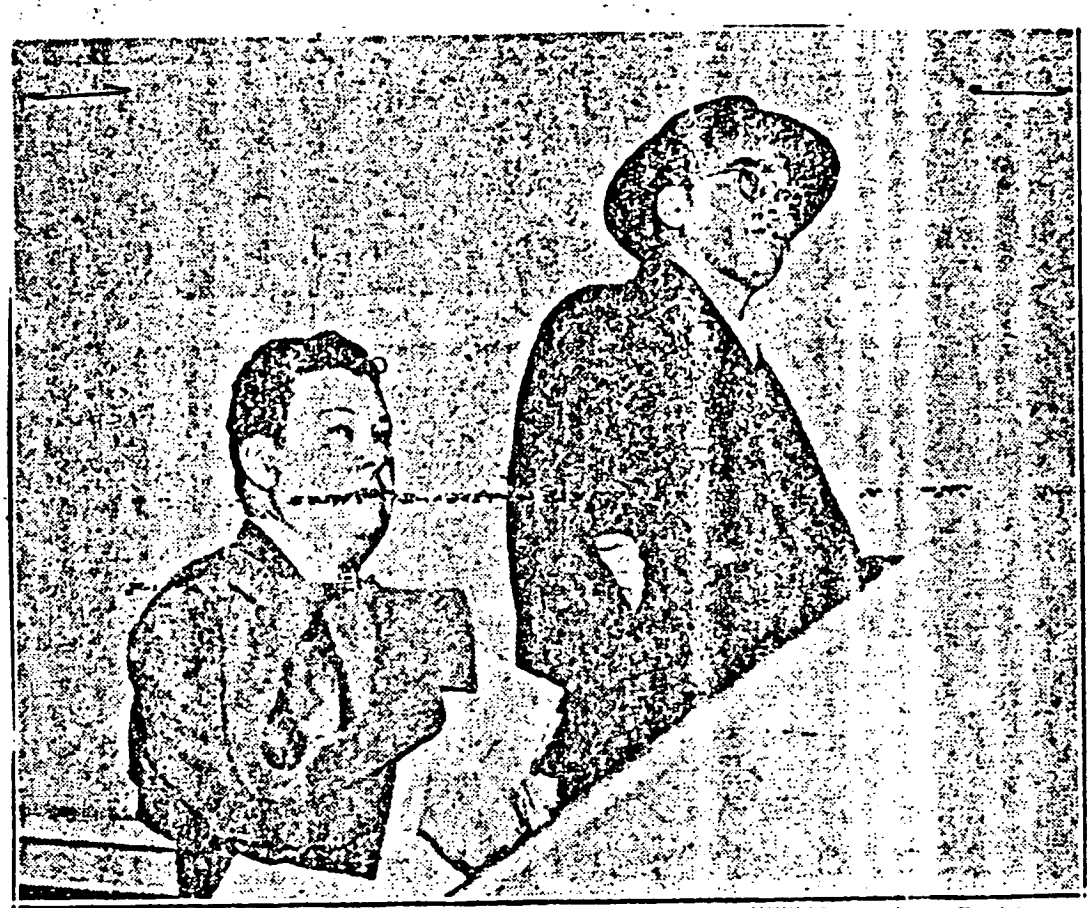

(NEWS foto by George Torrie)

A-Spy Flies to Alcatraz. Morton Sobell (right) is escorted by Deputy U. S. Marshal John Collins onto plane at LaGuardia Field yesterday. Convicted as Atom spy with the Rosenbergs, he'll serve 30 years at Alcatraz prison. —Story p. 62

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NOV 29 1952
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CLIPPING FROM THE
N. Y. N.Y. NEWS
DATED NOV 2 1952
FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION

ROSENBERG DEADLINE JAN. 12

Trial judge out of case; Sobell sent to Alcatraz

JUDGE IRVING R. KAUFMAN, who sentenced Julius and Ethel Rosenberg to death as "atom-spies," last week acceded to a defense request for another judge to pass upon new motions to invalidate the conviction and set aside the sentence. The new legal move was assigned to Federal Judge Sylvester Ryan, who ordered a hearing for Monday afternoon, but postponed it to Tuesday when government attorneys were unready with their answering brief.

Attorneys for the Rosenbergs and Morton Sobell, convicted with them and sentenced to 30 years, had first appeared before Federal Judge Edward Weinfeld to ask that the hearing be assigned to a judge other than Kaufman; he found "no special circumstances" for such an order. But Judge Kaufman himself asked to be relieved after studying a 12-page affidavit signed by the Rosenbergs charging him with "personal bias, hostility, animus and prejudice against us." Though he called their charges "clearly insufficient" and said they "had a fair trial," he had decided to remove himself from passing on the motions "in the interests of judicial expediency." (Had he decided not to disqualify himself, his ruling would have been immediately appealed to a higher court; a decision there might have taken months.)

"REASON ASSAILED": In their affidavit, the Rosenbergs charged:

- That Judge Kaufman's remarks upon passing the death sentence rested entirely "on assumptions of fact which do not comport with truth or reality."
- That his conclusions "assailed reason and the intelligent and informed mind; they were an admixture of misinformation, sired by ignorance, and of unfair syllogisms, erected on infirm premises."
- That the blame he placed on them "for a succession of national disasters" was in complete disregard of the trial record — "his only avowed source of information" — and "contrary to the facts of history and science."

The petition to invalidate the conviction and set aside the death sentence was based, defense attorney Emanuel H. Bloch told the court, on "unfairness, fraud, perjury known to the authorities," and the contention — buttressed by affidavits of four internationally-known scientists (GUARDIAN, Nov. 27) — that the material allegedly transmitted to Russia was not secret but well-known. Further evidence of its non-secret nature was submitted in the form of more than 100 scientific journals, collected from all over the world, showing the "secrets" were public knowledge as early as 1940.

PRESSURE TO "TALK": During the week Sobell was removed from New York to Alcatraz. His wife gave this reason for his assignment to the toughest of federal prisons:

> "They want him to name innocent persons as spies and admit a crime which he never committed."

Pressure on the Rosenbergs and Sobell to "confess" and name others has been constant since their conviction. It has been repeatedly suggested to them that Ethel Rosenberg might be freed entirely and Julius given a relatively light prison sentence in return for "talking." In a prosecution-inspired series of articles beginning in the N.Y. Post Oliver Pilat wrote:

> The Rosenbergs have apparently chosen to welcome . . . martyrdom. Only executive clemency or confession, it appears, can save them from the chair; and Julius Rosenberg apparently rejected the alterna-

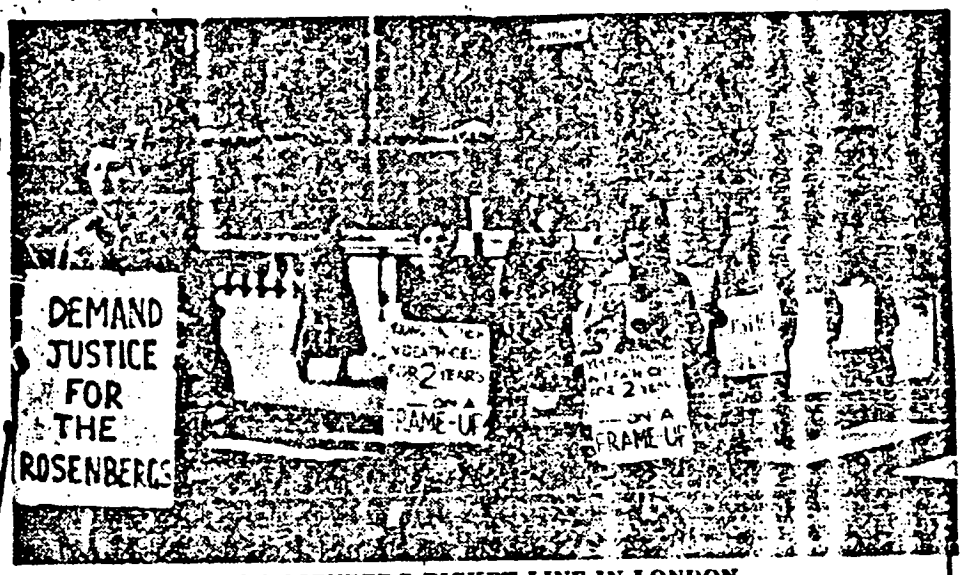
CLIPPING FROM THE
N. Y. National Guardian
DATED Dec 1, 1952
FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION

tive of confession in mid-October after learning that the Supreme Court would not review the conviction.

The Rosenbergs have insisted from the beginning that they have nothing to "confess."

VOICE OF THE WORLD: As the execution date (set for the week of Jan. 12) drew closer, supporters of the Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case stepped up their activities. More than 2,500 persons overflowed Los Angeles' Embassy Auditorium, contributed $3,500 to the defense. Three of Canada's leading Jewish newspapers urged clemency. The N. Y. Times (11/28) published a letter from

(Continued on Page 8)



A ROSENBERG PICKET LINE IN LONDON
In Grosvenor Sq., which Londoners call Eisenhower Plat:

She Fights to Save Rosenbergs And Her Own Framed Husband

By BETTY STEVENS

She holds her head high and watches her 3½-year-old son proudly as he scribbles on the small slate blackboard. Her large brown eyes are very intent on the chalk marks.

She touches his forehead and smooths his soft blonde hair gently.

"He has a cold," she says. "But the fever is down and I thought I'd let him play awhile this afternoon."

All over America mothers keep their children inside when they have winter colds, and caress their children's faces as they make sure the fever is gone. All over America mothers watch their children playing.

But this young woman who holds her head high with love and pride is Helen Sobell, who is fighting every day and every night to save the lives of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg and to free her husband, Morton, framed to 30 years in the case.

And the child is Mark Sobell, whose father on Thanksgiving eve was sent to Alcatraz, one of the worst prisons in America, a prison for hardened, incorrigible criminals.

"I work at the office of the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg case, every day," Mrs. Sobell said. "And I speak several times a week."

She's a little over five feet tall and slightly built.

"They are trying to destroy Morty by sending him to Alcatraz," she said. "They want him to name innocent people as spies and admit a crime he never committed. They've been vicious, they've shown him nasty anonymous letters and told him rumors that I might leave him.

"They've sent him to Alcatraz and the Rosenbergs to a death sentence, becuse they will not become informers."

She paused and brushed back her short dark hair. Then she said with quiet intensity. "I will fight every hour of every day for 30 years."

THREATS

She told of how the parole officer spoke to her every week when she visited Morton at the West Street House of Detention, from March until November. "He used to say to me, 'Morton could have helped himself, but he didn't. You could have helped Morton, too, but you haven't.'

"And, the FBI said to me right after he was arrested, 'You'll be surprised at how much you'll remember after you've worked with

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"I'll never remember anything I didn't remember before," she said. "There is nothing to remember."

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Mark is always part of things, even when Helen visited Morton at the West Street prison. "We went in a family group," she said. "Mark and my 13-year-old daughter Sydney and Morty's parents. We were separated from him by a thick glass wall, we had to talk to him by telephone. Mark always asked to speak first."

What has her life been like, this woman of 34 who keeps her family united, who leads a fight to save the Rosenbergs and to save her husband from the living death of 30 years in Alcatraz?

She learned to fight to be alive when she was 17 and a victim of infantile paralysis. "The doctors said I would never walk again," she said. "I was strapped in a cast, flat on my back, in bed for six months. In about a year I walked again."

She majored in scence, mathematics and education at Wilson Teachers' College in her home city, Washington. She wasn't able to attend her graduation exercises in 1940 because she was pregnant with her daughter, Sydney.

During World War II, she worked as a physicist at the National Bureau of Standards in Washington. A paper she wrote on facilitating the measurement of optical glass was published by the government.

She met Morton when he was working in Washington, and later they worked for General Electric in Schenectady. She was an engineering assistant, he an engineer.

She wanted more education, so she took more physics and more mathematics at Rensselaer Polytechnical Institute in Troy, N. Y. As we were talking, Sydney came from school, carrying her books and an ice cream cone for Mark. Helen left the house with me to go down to do some work for the Committee. Sydney was practicing her piano lesson and Mark smiled goodbye, his face happily smeared with chocolate ice cream.

A few weeks ago, Helen was speaking to a group of people at a house party given to raise funds to save the Rosenbergs and to free her husband.

"If they die, it is your death, too," she said. "While Morty is in prison, the handcuffs are on your wrists, too.

"Will you let your sister and brother, Ethel and Julie, die?

"Will you let your brother, Morty, die the living death of 30 years in prison?"

And to this small brave woman who holds her head high with love and pride and struggle, the people are answering, They shall not die.

She Fights to Save Rosenbergs And Her Own Framed Husband

By BETTY STEVENS

She holds her head high and watches her 3½-year-old son proudly as he scribbles on the small slate blackboard. Her large brown eyes are very intent on the chalk marks.

She touches his forehead and smooths his soft blond hair gently.

"He has a cold," she says. "But the fever is down and I thought I'd let him play awhile this afternoon."

All over America mothers keep their children inside when they have winter colds, and caress their children's faces as they make sure the fever is gone. All over America mothers watch their children playing.

But this young woman who holds her head high with love and pride is Helen Sobell, who is fighting every day and every night to save the lives of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg and to free her husband, Morton, framed to 30 years in the case.

And the child is Mark Sobell, whose father on Thanksgiving eve was sent to Alcatraz, one of the worst prisons in America, a prison for hardened, incorrigible criminals.

"I work at the office of the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg case, every day," Mrs. Sobell said. "And I speak several times a week."

She's a little over five feet tall and slightly built.

"They are trying to destroy Morty by sending him to Alcatraz," she said. "They want him to name innocent people as spies and admit a crime he never committed. They've been vicious, they've shown him nasty anonymous letters and told him rumors that I might leave him.

"They've sent him to Alcatraz and the Rosenbergs to a death sentence, because they will not become informers."

She paused and brushed back her short dark hair. Then she said with quiet intensity, "I will fight every hour of every day for 30 years."

THREATS

She told of how the parade of lies spoke to her every week when she visited Morton at the West Street House of Detention, from March until November. "He tried to say to me, 'Morton could have helped himself, but he didn't. You could have helped Morton, too, but you haven't.'

"And, the FBI said to me right after he was arrested, 'You'll be surprised at how much you'll remember after you've worked with us for a while. Your baby needs his father.'

"I'll never remember anything I didn't remember before," she said. "There is nothing to remember."

She has been pressured by the FBI, the press, the radio and the petty writers, but she is not fighting alone. People from all over America, of all religions and nationalities, and millions throughout the world have spoken out to save the Rosenbergs, and to free her husband.

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Blasts Sobell As Unrepentant Spy

Convicted atom-spy Morton Sobell "has shown no cooperation or remorse" and deserves no leniency, Federal Judge Irving R. Kaufman was told yesterday during a hearing of the traitor's plea for reduction of his 30-year sentence.

The court reserved decision after Assistant U. S. Attorney Kilsheimer argued that Sobell, who conspired with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg to deliver top secrets to the Russians, "has stood mute and made no attempt to tell about the crime."

Sobell's attorney, Howard Meyers, called the sentence "inhumanly unfair" and asked that it be cut to time already served, or to five years. Sobell is in Alcatraz.

Kilsheimer also attacked requests from Sobell's wife Helen and his mother Rose for leniency for the spy. Both appeared before the Federal grand jury, he said, but "were most uncooperative and did not offer to tell what they knew. I think it is in poor grace when they seek consideration now."

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J. A. Harrington

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Jailed as A-Spy:

Sobell Refused Cut in Sentence

Not Remorseful, Judge Asserts

Federal Judge Irving R. Kaufman today denied an application by atom spy Morton Sobell for a reduction of his 30-year prison sentence, which he is serving in Alcatraz Prison, Calif.

TRIED WITH ROSENBERGS.

Sobell, 34, was convicted with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg of conspiring to transmit atomic secrets to Soviet Russia in wartime. The Rosenbergs, condemned to die in the electric chair in Sing Sing prison, have asked executive clemency.

In support of his petition for a lighter sentence, Sobell's attorney cited the "devotion" of Sobell's wife and family and pointed to Sobell's academic record and his "devotion to science."

NOT REMORSEFUL.

In refusing the reduction of sentence, Judge Kaufman said:

"Sobell shows no signs of remorse for his traitorous acts against the society which he now seeks to rejoin at an earlier date.

"It is indeed calamitous that Sobell, who might have been a worthwhile member of our community and a source of pride to his mother, wife and children, should have chosen a course of betrayal of those who made possible the very academic achievements which he urges upon the court as a ground for reduction of sentence."

Judge Kaufman said he "deplored" Sobell's failure to follow the course of other atom spies who, after pleading guilty, aided the government in bringing to justice other espionage agents, who were endangering the national security.

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A-Spy Sobell Loses Plea For Cut in Prison Term

Federal Judge Irving R. Kaufman today refused to reduce the prison sentence of Morton Sobell, 34, who was convicted with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg of conspiracy to transmit atom bomb secrets to Russia.

Sobell's attorney yesterday petitioned the court for a reduction of sentence from 30 years to either the time already served or five years. The electrical engineer is now in the federal penitentiary at Alcatraz.

In his refusal to grant the plea, Judge Kaufman said Sobell "shows no signs of remorse or repentance for his traitorous acts against the society which he now seeks to rejoin at an earlier date.

"It is indeed calamitous," he added, "that Sobell, who might have been a worthwhile member of our community and a source of pride to his mother, wife and children, should have chosen a course of betrayal of those who made possible the very academic achievements which he urges upon the court as a ground for reduction of sentence."

The judge deplored Sobell's failure to follow the course of other atom spies who pleaded guilty and then helped the government bring others to justice. Sobell, he said, "adheres to misguided loyalties."

The Rosenbergs, condemned to die in the electric chair in Sing Sing, are awaiting the outcome of an appeal for Presidential clemency.

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TERM CUT REFUSED SOBELL, ATOM SPY

Judge Kaufman Cites Lack of Remorse—Paris Anti-Reds Ask Mercy for Rosenbergs

Federal Judge Irving R. Kaufman refused yesterday to reduce the thirty-year sentence of Morton Sobell, who was convicted with Ethel and Julius Rosenberg of conspiracy to transmit atomic secrets to the Soviet Union. He is now in Alcatraz Prison.

In denying Sobell's application for reduction of sentence, Judge Kaufman said:

"Sobell shows no sign of remorse for his traitorous acts against the society which he now seeks to rejoin at an earlier date.

"It is indeed calamitous that Sobell, who might have been a worthwhile member of our community and a source of pride to his mother, wife and children, should have chosen a course of betrayal of those who made possible the very academic achievements which he urges upon the court as a ground for reduction of sentence."

Judge Kaufman said he "deplored" Sobell's failure to follow the course of other atomic spies, who, after pleading guilty, aided the Government in bringing to justice other espionage agents who were endangering the national security.

At Sing Sing Prison, Emanuel H. Bloch, attorney for the Rosenbergs, served a court stay on Warden Wilfred Enno indefinitely halting their executions, which had been set for Wednesday.

Then Mr. Bloch interviewed his clients in the death house and reportedly discussed with them the proposed petition to be filed with President Truman for clemency. The stay was granted early this week by Judge Kaufman on condition that the petition be filed by today.

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A-Spy Sobell Refused Cut in 30-Year Term

Morton Sobell, fellow A-spy of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, yesterday was denied reduction of his 30-year prison term by Federal Judge Irving R. Kaufman. The judge said the radar expert "shows no signs of remorse for his traitorous acts."

Morton Sobell

Sobell's counsel cited his academic record and "devotion to science" but Kaufman found it "calamitous" that the prisoner had elected "a course of betrayal."

Sobell has been transferred to Alcatraz Prison.

Emanuel S. Bloch, attorney for the Rosenbergs, yesterday served on Sing Sing Warden Wilfred Denno the stay of execution issued Monday by Judge Kaufman. Bloch also spent an hour with the Rosenbergs, conferring on the appeal for mercy which will be addressed to President Truman.

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"HIS CASE IS STILL ALIVE—SERVICE CAN, THEREFORE, STILL BE RENDERED TO THE CAUSE OF JUSTICE

D. N. Pritt analyses the evidence in the case of Morton Sobell

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N. Y. Nat'l Guardian

D March 22, 1954

VARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION

DENIS NOWELL PRITT, a[illegible]r of this analysis of the Sobell case, contributed [illegible]imilar analysis of the Rosenberg case to the GU[illegible]AN Nov. 20, 1952. The author is one of the veter[illegible] senior members of the English Bar: a Queen's (King's) Counsel since 1927. For many years a Labour MP and chairman of the Howard League for Penal Reform and the Bentham Committee for Poor Litigants, he presided in Sept., 1933, over the Reichstag Fire inquiry in London.

THE ROSENBERG CASE—in which Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were tried and convicted on a charge of conspiring to commit espionage in relation to the alleged secret or secrets of the atom-bomb and as a result were ultimately electrocuted in June, 1953—excited interest and controversy all over the world. I was myself one of the many people who studied, analyzed and criticized that trial.

There is nothing more that any lawyer can do directly for the Rosenbergs; but I have now been invited, as a lawyer, to study the trial again, wholly afresh and from a different angle, in relation to the charge of conspiracy against Morton Sobell, which was as it were "tacked on" to the Rosenberg case.

Sobell was tried jointly with the Rosenbergs, for what was alleged to be the same conspiracy, and was found guilty and sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment. His case is still alive in the sense that he is himself alive and can be released from prison. Service can, therefore, still be rendered to the cause of justice by an objective examination of the trial, and of the evidence which was given at the trial against him.

I have undertaken to make this examination to the best of my ability and I approach the task from the point of view of one who has been an English barrister for 44 years—practising both in trial and in appellate work, having to study in detail many hundreds of records of cases from all parts of the British Empire and Commonwealth, in which countries the procedure is very similar to that of the U.S.A.; and also a certain number of records from the U.S.A. itself. To form an estimate of the value which the evidence given in the case should possess in the eyes of lawyers trained in Anglo-Saxon legal traditions, is thus work of the sort to which I have devoted a large part of my professional time.

Sobell not named in Rosenberg 'overt act' charges

THE INDICTMENT on which the two Rosenbergs and Sobell were actually tried was what is called a superseding indictment—i.e., one based on, and taking place of, earlier indictments. It was returned on January 31, 1951, against five defendants, namely the two Rosenbergs, Sobell himself, one David Greenglass, and one Yakovlev. Greengass pleaded guilty. The case of Yakovlev was severed and was not proceeded with. The Rosenbergs and Sobell pleaded not guilty and were tried together.

The charge was that five defendants named, together with one Harry Gold, one Ruth Greenglass, "and other persons unknown," had conspired over a period of six years, from June 6, 1944, to June 16, 1950,

"... the U.S.A. being there and then at war, with intent and reason to believe that it would be used to the advantage of a foreign nation, to wit the U.S.S.R., to communicate, deliver and transmit to a foreign government, to wit the U.S.S.R., and representatives and agents thereof, directly and indirectly, documents, writings, sketches, notes and information relating to the National Defense of the U.S.A."

To understand the case against Sobell—with which alone this article is directly concerned—one must first examine how that case originated. The charge against him was first made by a complaint on oath, of a special agent of the FBI, sworn on August 3, 1950, accusing him of conspiring with Julius Rosenberg and others unknown to the accuser—and therefore presumably excluding Ethel Rosenberg and David Greenglass. The "overt acts" of this conspiracy—the significance of overt acts is explained fully

below—were in this case alleged only in the complaint to consist mainly of five unspecified "Conversations with Julius Rosenberg in the Southern District of New York," said to have taken place in Jan., 1946, June, 1946, Feb., 1947, and May, 1948.

On August 17, 1950, shortly after the date of that complaint against Sobell, the first indictment against the Rosenbergs was filed. This charged the two Rosenbergs and Yakovlev with conspiring among themselves and with Harry Gold, David Greenglass, Ruth Greenglass and with other persons unknown—thus excluding Sobell substantially to the same effect as is set out in the superseding indictment quoted above; and in this indictment 11 overt acts were alleged. These overt acts, with the addition of one which was added in the final superseding indictment, were as follows:—

(1) That Julius Rosenberg visited a building in Washington, D.C., on or about June 6, 1944.
(2) That on or about November 15, 1944, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg talked with Ruth Greenglass.
(3) That, five days later, Julius Rosenberg gave Ruth Greenglass some money in New York.
(4) That, on the same day, Ruth Greenglass took a train from New York to New Mexico.
(5) That, three weeks later, Julius Rosenberg went to a building in New York.
(6) That, on the same day, Julius Rosenberg received from Ruth Greenglass a paper containing written information.
(7) That, on or about January 5, 1945, in New York, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg talked with David and Ruth Greenglass.
(8) That, on the same day, Julius R[illegible] gave Ruth Greenglass a portion of th[illegible]

(9) That, five days later, Julius Rosenberg introduced David Greenglass to a man in New York.

(10) That, two days later, Julius Rosenberg talked with David Greenglass.

(11) That, on the same day, Julius Rosenberg received from David Greenglass a paper containing sketches of experiments conducted at the Los Alamos Project.

(12) That, two days after that, David Greenglass took a train from New York to New Mexico.

corresponds pr[illegible] closely to that of the indictment of August 17, [illegible], mentioned above—with the important exc[illegible]s that David Greenglass is named not merely [illegible] a conspirator but as one of the defendants, and that Morton Sobell is added as a defendant. The addition of Sobell is made quite crudely, with no change in the wording or any other attempt to "fit him in"; his name is just, as it were, thrown in, and the "overt acts" of the conspiracy in which he is thus alleged to be involved remain the

D. N. PRITT

MORTON SOBELL

THEL ROSENBERG

JULIUS ROSENBERG

Difference between Rosenberg and Sobell cases

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTICE, at that stage, how very different the two cases were. Let me examine them one by one:—

(1) The initial charge against Sobell was one of conspiring with Julius Rosenberg alone, with "overt acts" covering a period of January, 1946, to May, 1948; nothing in the complaint indicated any connection with atomic bomb information, and in fact no such connection was ever suggested, nor was any connection between Sobell and any other alleged conspirator suggested.

(2) The first indictment of Rosenberg alleged a conspiracy of six named persons, not including Sobell, and the "overt acts" seemed to indicate—as proved at the trial to be the case—that the charge related solely to atom-bomb information; the overt acts covered a period of six months which ended one year before those alleged against Sobell were said to have begun.

There was thus nothing in common between the two cases except that they were both charges of obtaining "information relating to the national defense of the U.S.A." for transmission to the U.S.S.R., and that both involved Julius Rosenberg; and even on this latter point it is noticeable that, whilst Sobell was charged with conspiring with Rosenberg, Rosenberg was not charged with conspiring with Sobell!

To come back to the narrative, there comes, after certain further proceedings, the superseding indictment of January 31, 1951, already set out which

same 12 overt acts (already [illegible]) which came to an end a year before [illegible] previously alleged against him and had nothing [illegible] with him, carrying no mention of him whatever nor any attempt made at the trial to connect him with any of them. The overt acts which had previously been alleged against him were not brought into this indictment, nor referred to in any way.

'Loose practices' in conspiracy trials

BEFORE CARRYING the narrative any further, it is necessary to explain what is the essence of the crime of conspiracy, and why a charge of conspiracy to commit some crime or other is so frequently made, in lieu of a charge that the substantive crime was actually committed. "Conspiracy" can be defined, sufficiently for present purposes, as an agreement between two or more people to commit a crime; it is itself a crime, and it is complete as soon as two or more persons have agreed in any way whatsoever, whether formally or informally, by words or by conduct, to commit some crime; it is not necessary for the prosecution to prove the commission of the ultimate crime, nor even of acts amounting to an attempt to commit it.

It is thus in general easier to secure a conviction for conspiracy than for any other offense, for less has actually to be proved against the defendants; and prejudice or excitement may lead a jury to convict parties on a mere allegation that they agreed or arranged together to do something, under circumstances where, if it were necessary to prove some positive criminal act, the jury would have to

To secure a conviction is made easier still by the operation of a peculiar rule of evidence. In all normal cases no evidence can be given against any defendant in a criminal case except evidence of acts which he himself did or words which he himself spoke; but in a conspiracy case, so long as some evidence—even tenuous—is given from which an agreement between the alleged conspirators might be inferred so as to establish a case of conspiracy against them, the acts and words of any of them, asserted to be done or spoken in pursuance of the conspiracy, become admissible evidence against all the others, on the footing that they are all agents of one another, and so responsible for each other's words and actions.

It is little wonder, in the circumstances, that in all periods of tension, in all countries, charges of conspiracy have been frequently made, and many defendants have been found guilty and sentenced to imprisonment, although little has been proved against them and no other crime could plausibly even be charged. The dangers, inherent in conspiracy charges, of convictions being reached on inadequate evidence are well recognized; they were cogently stated by Mr. Justice Jackson of the Supreme Court of the U.S., in a judgment delivered in 1949:

"The unavailing protests of courts against the growing habit to indict for conspiracy in lieu of prosecuting for the substantive offense itself, or in addition thereto, suggests that loose practice as to this offense constitutes a serious threat to fairness in our administration of justice. . . . When the trial starts, the accused feels the full impact of the conspiracy strategy. . . . [He] often is confronted with a hodgepodge of acts and statements by others which he may never have authorized or intended or even known about but which help to persuade the jury of the existence of the conspiracy itself. . . . The naive assumption that prejudicial effects can be overcome by instructions to the jury . . . all practising lawyers know to be unmitigated fiction."

As will be seen later, the present case provides an extreme instance of the abuses against which Mr. Justice Jackson was there protesting.

One result of these dangers of conspiracy prosecutions is that a rule has become firmly established in most Anglo-Saxon jurisdictions, including that of the Federal Courts of the U.S.A., that "overt acts" demonstrating the conspiracy should be alleged in the indictment, and that at any rate one of them should be proved. It is usual, and in accordance with the general principle that persons accused of crime should know pretty fully what they have to meet, that such overt acts should be stated with precision.

Sobell's 5 'overt acts' vanish

SOBELL WAS CONFRONTED, by this indictment, not only with a very vague charge, but with the astonishing situation that he was suddenly charged with 12 overt acts which had previously been alleged against other persons only, and seemed to have no connection with himself whatever; and that the five overt acts that did at any rate mention his name were either abandoned or left in the air. In the circumstances, his counsel naturally enough made application to the court to dismiss the indictment as against himself, on the ground of vagueness, or alternatively to order that particulars of it should be supplied to him by the prosecution so he might know what the case against him really was.

This latter application should surely have been accepted as a matter of elementary justice; but the prosecution resisted it stoutly, even going so far as to ask for a re-hearing after an order for particulars had been made; but it was finally ordered that certain (somewhat meagre) particulars should be given. The prosecution then stated, in compliance with this order, (1) that the date at which Sobell was alleged to have joined the conspiracy was on or about June 15, 1944—five months before the Rosenbergs' started on or about [illegible]e 6); and (2) that the five overt acts mention[illegible] in the original complaint against Sobell, co[illegible]ng of conversations with Julius Rosenberg, as [illegible]oned above, were still relied upon by the prosecution.

In a case where all the charges were made in vague terms, and in particular the overt acts were expressed in the most general phraseology imaginable—a "conversation in the Southern District of New York," for example, could take place anywhere in a very large area of New York State; and it could surely be expected, in an important prosecution, that the prosecuting authorities who proposed to prove by evidence that a conversation had taken place would be able to state, at any rate within a mile or two, where it took place—the defendants were surely entitled to be told with much more particularity what the case against them was. But in truth the extraordinary position developed at the trial—as will be seen below—that no attempt was made to prove any of the five overt acts alleged against Sobell (with one possible exception).

It is difficult to guess why the prosecution thought of — or invented — these particular allegations and the dates of them; and they did in substance disappear from the picture. For example, when the trial judge, in his charge to the jury, had the whole indictment read to them, it was read only with the 12 "non-Sobell" overt acts, and no mention was made of the other five.

Was it the same or a different 'conspiracy'?

TO RETURN TO THE NARRATIVE of the case, one can see that, with this very scanty information as to what the prosecution's case against Sobell really was, it was impossible at the beginning of the trial to ascertain whether the conspiracy which it was sought to prove against Sobell was or was not the same as that which was sought to be proved against the two Rosenbergs and Greenglass. Sobell could not therefore apply for a separate trial, but had to be tried along with the Rosenbergs before the same judge and the same jury; and the jury which had to determine Sobell's guilt or innocence thus had to listen to all the tens of thousands of words of evidence of the general case against the Rosenbergs, sensationally related by a string of witnesses who knew nothing of Sobell, and were unknown to him.

As a matter of common sense, as well as of law, it is plain that the case on the one hand against the two Rosenbergs and others in relation to the atomic information alleged to have been obtained by Greenglass and handed to Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, and the case on the other hand in relation to the totally different information alleged to have been sought and obtained by Sobell for Julius Rosenberg, were as far apart as Los Alamos (where the atomic information lay) and New York City or Schenectady (where Sobell was allegedly active).

This point will be further developed later in this analysis. For the moment, it is sufficient to repeat that the jury which had to try Sobell had to listen to the evidence against the Rosenbergs—which could never be admissible against Sobel unless it were established that he and the Rosenbergs had entered into one conspiracy together; and that they were moreover subjected to the mass of hysterical prejudice which was worked up against the Rosenbergs, including in particular the prejudice which was bound to accompany any allegation of espionage into atom-bomb secrets (with which, in due course, it became common ground that Sobell had nothing whatever to do).

NEXT WEEK: In his second and concluding article, Mr. Pritt will sift the testimony of Max Elitcher, the key witness, and will sum up the whole case.

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS IN THE GUARDIAN

NEXT WEEK: FULL REPORT ON THE CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL FARMERS UNION IN DENVER

D. N. PRITT CITES WEAKNESSES IN THE CHARGE AND THE EVIDENCE

How fair was the conspiracy trial of Morton Sobell?

100-37158-A

CLIPPING FROM THE
Nat'l Guardian
March 29, 1954
FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION

By D. N. Pritt, Q.C.

(Second and concluding part of Mr. Pritt's analysis)

IT would not be practicable in this analysis, which is designed to provide an examination of the case against Sobell alone, to study in any detail the defects of the trial as it affected the Rosenbergs—defects which are widely-known and have been very fully canvassed in many countries. These defects nevertheless form an important part of the background of the trial of Sobell, and they may well of themselves have gone a long way towards making a fair trial of Sobell impossible; indeed, it is curious to reflect, when the new evidence that was sought to be adduced in relation to the Rosenbergs is studied, that if that new evidence had been called at the trial itself, its effect in weakening the prosecution's case against the Rosenbergs might well have been sufficient in fact, however illogically, to have secured the acquittal of Sobell. But the case against Sobell must here be examined entirely separately; and I can now proceed to examine that evidence.

The evidence of Max Elitcher

OF THE 23 WITNESSES actually called by the prosecution against all the defendants, only nine had anything to say about Sobell; and eight of those nine dealt with a relatively subsidiary matter. The main witness against Sobell, indeed the only one who gave any evidence which even purported to show directly that Sobell had committed the crime with which he was charged, was one Max Elitcher. Elitcher had worked from October, 1938, to October, 1948, in the Bureau of Ordnance of the U.S. Navy Dept.—which was not suggested to have had any connection with atomic secrets at that time.

Elitcher was asked and was allowed to answer, in spite of objections, questions as to whether Sobell had been a member of the Communist Party in 1939, years before the time of the alleged conspiracy, on the basis that such evidence showed motives for the commission of the offense charged. The trial judge's ruling that this evidence was admissible was based partly on statements by the prosecuting attorney that he would in due course prove both that the association of Sobell with the Communist Party lasted "right into the conspiracy" and also that there was a "causal connection between communism and the crime charged in the indictment". On the first of those points the prosecution wholly failed to make good its statement. On the second, a much more complex and indefinite matter—one more of opinion than of hard fact—it seems to me that it wholly failed on that point too; but in truth, in the atmosphere of the time and place of the trial, the mere assertion of membership of the Communist Party was presumably so prejudicial that, once it was made, the chances of a fair trial were greatly diminished.

However, the evidence was given, and Elitcher said that he himself had joined the party in 1939 at the suggestion of Sobell, who was at that time a member, and that Elitcher remained a member after 1941.

Turning now to such evidence as there was of Sobell having conspired with anybody about anything: the essence of this, coming of course exclusively from Elitcher, can be given in six items which I state not in the order in which they were given in evidence, but in their chronological order:—

1. Elitcher said that, in 1944, he told Sobell that Julius Rosenberg had asked him (Elitcher) to "contribute military information to Russia," and that Rosenberg had said that Sobell was also "helping in this"; and he added that Sobell had become very angry and said that Rosenberg should not have mentioned his name.

2. He said that, in the early part of 1946, Sobell asked him whether there were in existence any written reports on a system of firing control on which Elitcher was working, and whether Elitcher could get them for him.

3. He said that, later in 1946, Sobell suggested that he (Elitcher) should visit Rosenberg.

4. He said that, sometime in 1947, when he happened to meet Sobell, the latter asked him "whether I knew of any engineering students or engineering graduates who were progressive, who would be safe to approach on this question of espionage, of getting material."

5. He said that, about June, 1948, Sobell made an appointment for him to meet Rosenberg: that the three of them met, and Rosenberg urged him (Elitcher) not to leave the Bureau of Ordnance as he was proposing to do; and that Sobell agreed with Rosenberg on this.

6. He said that, about the end of July, 1948, when he traveled by car from Washington to New York, he thought he had been followed by FBI agents, and that he drove to Sobell's house and told him so. Sobell was very angry at this, he said, and complained that in such circumstances he should not have come to the house at all. Sobell, according to Elitcher, went on to say that he had some valuable information in the house (of which he gave no description), and that in the circumstances he must get rid of it at once; and he then

and there took a 35 mm. film can and drove to Rosenberg's apartment with it, accompanied by Elitcher!

Accomplice who was 'scared to death'

A FEW COMMENTS MUST BE MADE on this evidence. Firstly, it must be remembered that the whole of it comes from Elitcher and Elitcher alone, and is not corroborated. Elitcher, according to his own account, was an accomplice at any rate of Rosenberg; as he said, "I was part of it." He admitted that he had been "scared to death" continuously from June 1948 onwards, that he was afraid of being prosecuted for perjury, and that he had told the

MAX ELITCHER
His testimony separated . . .

FBI "everything he knew"—although he admitted lying to them too—in the hope that he might "come out the best way" and that "nothing would happen to him." He also admitted that he had been under psychological treatment for a long time. (It was not clear why he was not indicted nor even mentioned in the indictment as conspiring with, at any rate, Julius Rosenberg.)

The fact that Elitcher was admittedly an accomplice in a conspiracy with Rosenberg—and it was the prosecution's case that there was only one conspiracy—puts him at once into the class of "accomplice witnesses," those who, in the old English phrase, "turn Queen's evidence." Such witnesses are universally regarded as highly unreliable, not merely because they are self-confessed criminals and are betraying their associates, but far more because it is dangerously easy for them to implicate falsely, for some benefit to themselves, or to pay off some "score" or for any other reason, one who in fact took no part in the crime.

They are in a position to tell a story that is in the main true, and thus much easier to tell without being exposed as a liar in cross-examination; but at the same time to insert into that story some limited but serious falsity—as, for example, an assertion that some particular accused person was present, when he really was not present, at some particular incident which had in fact taken place; or to insert a damning word or two into an account of a harmless conversation which had in fact taken place, and thus to give a criminal atmosphere to a perfectly innocent conversation.

It is plain that Elitcher was still in danger of prosecution, and—as he says—was anxious to help himself out if he could; and it is equally plain that there was no corroboration of his story. And, as one peruses his evidence, it is noticeable that the few words here and there that relate to espionage might well have been quite easily and neatly inserted in an otherwise true and innocuous story.

The next point to be noticed is that none of the six incidents seems to bear any relationship whatever to the five overt acts alleged against Sobell (although the fifth is only one month out from one of the conversations alleged between Sobell and Rosenberg.)

'Inherent Improbability': the 'flight' to Mexico

TURNING TO STUDY the six incidents separately, perusal of the evidence relating to the first incident shows that it is not by any means clear that Sobell's anger was due to his name being mentioned under circumstances where it was correct in fact, but might have been more prudent not to mention it, or to the fact that he had had nothing to do with any such conversation if it had ever taken place.

On the second incident, the evidence makes it plain that having regard to the work which Sobell was doing for his own employer in behalf of the U.S. Government at the time, it was quite legitimate for him to seek to see such written reports.

The fourth item is a typical indication of a case where a person in Elitcher's position could just slip in a reference to espionage; for it would have been quite reasonable at that time for Sobell, for innocent purposes, to want to know engineering students or graduates in connection with his work for the Government.

On the sixth item, one sees at once the inherent improbability that Sobell, fearing Elitcher might have been traced to his house, would rush straight out

DAVID GREENGLASS
. . . Morton and Helen Sobell (c.)

with valuable information, presumably under the eyes of watchers, and thus lead them not only to Rosenberg but also to himself; and it is further to be noticed that Elitcher admitted in cross-examination that when he was telling the FBI "everything I know," he said nothing of this incident either in his first interrogation by the FBI, which lasted ten hours, or in his second interrogation, or in his evidence before the Grand Jury.

That weak and inconclusive story, from a lone uncorroborated accomplice, was the whole of the evidence against Sobell that went in any way to establish attempts at espionage; but there was one other item of evidence brought forward against him, namely, the story of his alleged "flight" to Mexico some time before he was charged. Evidence of flight, as in some way establishing guilt, is seldom regarded as anything more than some reinforcement of other, direct, evidence; but its actual strength must always depend on the circumstances.

The circumstances here are that Sobell, accompanied by his wife and children at a time when there did not appear to be any likelihood of his being prosecuted, traveled from New York to Mexico City, quite openly booking air passages in his own name and telling various people where he was going; and that on arrival in Mexico City, he took an apartment in his own name, where he could be and was in fact found without any difficulty. He did, however, after having been in Mexico over three weeks, travel about to various places, using various aliases during a brief period. The value of this evidence was sought to be enhanced by the prosecution by an allegation that he had been deported from Mexico to the U.S. The evidence relied upon to prove that he had been deported consisted of a written entry by a U.S. Immigration official, which was probably technically inadmissible in law; but—and this is more important—other evidence showed quite conclusively that he had not been deported from Mexico but had been violently and illegally seized by armed men and rushed to the frontier where U.S. officials were expecting him. It would seem clear in any case that the question whether he had been deported from Mexico or not was a matter of pure prejudice which should not have been introduced into a serious political prosecution.

The evidence of Elitcher and the evidence of the alleged flight were the whole of the evidence against Sobell. There was no suggestion that he had ever heard of the atomic conspiracy. There was no pretense that the two alleged sets of espionage activities —namely, the atomic conspiracy centering around Greenglass and the shadowy conspiracy to commit espionage in relation to firing control and other similar matters with which Elitcher and Sobell were alleged to have had something to do—were connected in any way at all, except to the extent that Julius Rosenberg was alleged to be connected with both.

It was only possible, indeed, to link them together in an indictment by keeping the charge so vague—it referred merely to "Information relating to the national defense of the U.S.A."—that it could cover practically any acts of espionage; and the test normally applied to determine whether people are parties to one conspiracy or not—namely, the question whether they had "some common unlawful objective" —is one that could scarcely be answered, on the facts proved in this case, except by saying that there was no such common objective. Two separate sets of activity, both alleged to offend the same provision of law, are not thereby made into one and the same activity.

Did prosecution ever have a real case?

I MUST NOW EXPRESS the views which I have formed as best I can, in the light of the facts which I have related above, on the questions whether there was a "case"—as the lawyers express it—on which Sobell could properly be convicted, and whether he had a fair trial. (The two questions are not identical, but they are closely connected).

I feel bound to express my view, on substantially five grounds, that both these questions ought to be answered against the prosecution.

The ground which can conveniently be taken first, although it is not the most important, is this very serious fact: that the case for the prosecution, as against Sobell, was not, on a comparison of the indictment and other documents connected with its institution on the one hand and with the facts proved in evidence on the other, apparently a seriously prepared case at all.

I have already referred to the five dates on which the overt acts are alleged to have been committed, and the date on which it was alleged that Sobell joined the conspiracy, shortly after the date on which it was begun. Whether the prosecution ever had any intention or capacity to establish any of these dates, or whether it just "took them out of the air," is not clear; but it is beyond dispute that in the evidence it never made any attempt to prove that anything happened on any of those dates; the only incident deposed to anywhere which even comes near to any of those dates is the fifth incident described by Elitcher, which is only a month away from one of the dates. It is difficult for any experienced trial lawyer to understand how, if the prosecution ever had any real case against Sobell, it gave such unreal particulars, and made no attempt to link them to the evidence, or the evidence to them.

There is, indeed an element of comedy in this tragedy of mis-trial when one observes the odd and almost casual attempts which were made—consciously or unconsciously—at the trial to ascertain whether there ever had been meetings between Sobell and Julius Rosenberg of the sort alleged. There was nothing of the sort in the evidence for the prosecution; and when one turns to that for the defense, the first attempt is to be found in the evidence of Julius Rosenberg, who was not asked in the first instance any questions whatever by the prosecution about any such meetings as were alleged between him and Sobell; but after the cross-examination of Julius Rosenberg had been almost completed without any such question, the trial judge intervened and asked Julius whether Sobell had ever been at his home; and, somewhat later in the evidence, the prosecuting counsel himself asked Rosenberg almost casually whether he had been in touch with Sobell between 1940 and 1945!

THE NEXT GROUND to be mentioned is that against Sobell on the charge of conspiracy—the only charge made against him—is singularly weak. As mentioned above, it is generally much easier to prove a charge of conspiracy than to prove a charge of some specific crime—here, espionage; but it remains the fact that even a conspiracy charge must be supported by some evidence that the accused in some way, expressly or impliedly, made an agreement with some fellow-conspirator.

Here, the charge was that a conspiracy began on June 6, 1944; that the main "overt acts" (with which Sobell was unconnected) were all over before the end of January, 1945; that the five overt acts mentioned in the first complaint against Sobell began in January, 1946, and ended in May, 1948. When one turns to look at the evidence to see what case was made out against Sobell of conspiracy with Julius Rosenberg (the only alleged fellow-conspirator with whom there was any evidence of his communicating), we find that the only conversation between the two (the fifth item of the Elitcher evidence) was a conversation of little intrinsic importance four years after Sobell was alleged to have joined (presumably by some act of agreement) the conspiracy, over three years after the last of the 12 overt acts, and a month after the last of the five overt acts.

The next ground is that of the extreme weakness of the evidence against Sobell. I have already fully stated both the weakness of Elitcher as a witness and the support of what evidence he did actually give, and need not develop this further.

The next ground is the most important. It is that there was no justification for allowing in evidence against Sobell the mass of the "atomic conspiracy" evidence which secured the conviction of the Rosenbergs and must have played a large part in convicting Sobell too. The basis on which it was ruled to be admissible was that the evidence for the prosecution had established that there was one conspiracy only, to which the two Rosenbergs and Sobell were parties, and not merely two separate conspiracies (if any).

This seems to me, for reasons which I have already sufficiently stated, to be wrong; but what is surely wrong beyond doubt or dispute is that the trial judge did not give the jury the opportunity to decide for itself whether there was one conspiracy or two. If they had been given that opportunity, it is at least likely that they would have said there were two; and that should have at least gone a very long way towards the acquittal of Sobell. The trial judge, however, in effect, compelled the jury to treat the matter as one conspiracy, since he charged them positively that, if they believed the evidence of Elitcher, Sobell was a member of the larger conspiracy—i.e., the single conspiracy charged in the indictment—whereas it is plain on the evidence that if Elitcher's evidence be accepted fully, it still does not go one inch towards establishing that Sobell had anything to do with any other conspiracy.

Case 'totally different' if tried separately

IT THUS SEEMS to me to have been doubly wrong to compel the jury, unless it disbelieved Elitcher, both to treat Sobell as a party to the main conspiracy, in defiance of all the common sense of the matter, and to treat the sensational evidence of Greenglass and others as evidence in the fullest sense against Sobell. It is clear that, if Sobell had been tried separately without the emotional hysteria raised by reference to atom-bombs and without the jury's mind being filled with the long story of David Greenglass's espionage and other similar operations, the case would have had a totally different appearance and the jury would have had a totally different and smaller set of facts to consider.

The last ground is that, even if it were regarded as proper that Sobell should be tried jointly with the Rosenbergs, with the jury being charged that they were to consider the atomic espionage evidence as against the Rosenbergs only, and to ignore it when dealing with Sobell, it would not in fact be possible to have a fair trial of Sobell in such conditions, having regard to the intellectual impossibility of a jury dividing up in their minds such a mass of evidence, of such sensational quality.

It is true that both prosecuting counsel and judges often profess that it is quite possible for juries to go through such mental gymnastics, although laymen generally regard it as quite impossible, as I myself regard it, except in the shortest and simplest cases. It is comforting to recall that in the passage in the judgment of Mr. Justice Jackson, cited earlier in this analysis, one finds that learned judge declaring that

"... the naive assumption that prejudicial effects can be overcome by instructions to the jury ... all practising lawyers know to be unmitigated fiction."

Washington, D. C.

DR. ROYAL W. FRANCE, noted Civil Rights lawyer, will speak on "The Crisis in Civil Rights." Dramatic presentation of Sobell Case. Entertainment. Wed., April 7, 8:30 p.m. Odd Fellows Hall, 9th & T Sts., N.W. Auspices: Rosenberg-Sobell Committee of Washington. Admission: Free.

100-37158-A

CLIPPING FROM THE
N. Y. Post Guardian
DATED March 29, 1954
FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION

Petitions Will Ask Transfer of Morton Sobell

The 37th birthday of Morton Sobell this Sunday will mark the start of a new nationwide petition drive to tarnsfer him from Alcatraz to a regular prison, it was announced yesterday by the National Commitee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case.

The Committee charged that Sobell was sent to Alcatraz after all pressure had failed to make him give a false "confession."

Alcatraz has a classification committee, composed of the Warden, his associates, the Chief Medical Officer, and the Chaplains with power to recommand transfer when, according to the official policy, "it is believed the prisoner will be able to conform to the regimen at other penitentiaries."

The committee urged letters recommending a transfer to James V. Bennett, director Bureau of Prisons, Justice Department, Washington.

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CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

DATED 4-9-54

Pg. 2 Col. 2

PETITIONS URGE TRANSFER OF SOBELL FROM ALCATRAZ

A petition asking the transfer from Alcatraz of Morton Sobell, who was sentenced to 30 years, in the trial in which he was a defendant with Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, has been issued by the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case.

The petition, addressed to James V. Bennett, director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, reads as follows:

"Law and custom have established Alcatraz as a prison for criminals who, by the number and violence of their crimes, their attempts at escape, by attacks on prison guards, must be kept in extreme isolation.

"Morton Sobell, a scientist charged with conspiracy to commit espionage and sentenced to 30 years, has been in Alcatraz since Thanksgiving Day, 1952.

"Mr. Sobell does not fit into any of the categories of prisoners kept in Alcatraz. He has never been charged with any previous crime.

"We believe that imprisonment of Morton Sobell at Alcatraz is an unusual and unprecedented punishment.

"We therefore respectfully petition that Morton Sobell be transferred to a regular federal institution."

Petitions are available at the National Committee, 1050 Sixth Ave., New York 18.

100-371 58-A

CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

DATED APR 21 1954

Pg. 4 Col. 2

Harrington

World Figures Rally in Support of Sobell

PROMINENT persons throughout the world have gone on record in favor of a new trial for Morton Sobell, sentenced to 30 years in the trial with Ethel and Julius Rosenberg and sent to Alcatraz.

Helen Sobell has received hundreds of letters from abroad expressing support from persons of many political persuasions. Some of the letters are from prominent individuals and organizations, others from ordinary citizens who have heard about the case.

British scientist J. A. Newth wrote: "It is my firm belief that the trial was conducted in an atmosphere of hysterical prejudice and that the verdict against Sobell was due to this prejudice. The sentence of 30 years in prison can only be described as inhuman. . . . Anyone who values justice will support Sobell's claim for a retrial and, in doing so, will help to protect our civilization from the growing menace of brutality, corruption and bigotry."

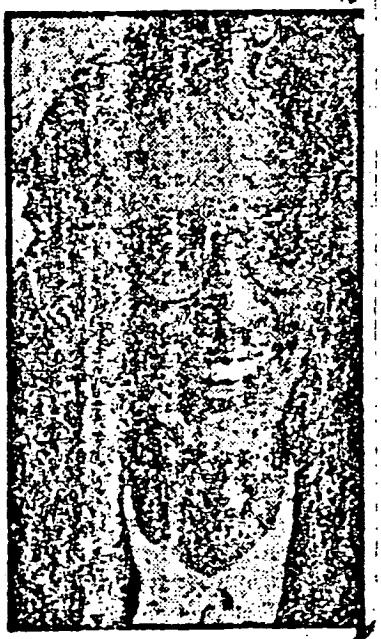
An example of the many political opinions reflected in the appeals for a new Sobell trial was the letter from Mrs. Eileen Jeater of Stafford, England. She wrote: "I am in fact a practical working member of the Conservative Party, and a strong supporter of Sir Winston Churchill. As a conservative, however, I believe in the freedom of the individual conscience, and deplore any attempt to prosecute any person because of his honest political convictions."

French Attorney Paul Villard said: "I realize how terrible it must be for you and your children to be separated from your husband, who is the victim of one of the most tragic miscarriages of justice of modern history."

JANET JAGAN of British Guiana declared: "The incarceration of your husband, Morton Sobell, in the horrible Alcatraz has touched the inborn sympathy of all peoples for those who are unjustly persecuted. I wish to join with the many who are demanding a new trial in the hopes that justice will triumph and that your beloved husband be returned to his rightful place by your side and to guide his children."

Henri Jourdain, secretary of the World Federation of Trade Unions wrote Mrs. Sobell: "The World Federation of Trade Unions feels sure that, with the powerful support of all true democrats and honest men in the United States to whom peace is dear, you will secure justice for your husband."

British Sobell Committee recently sent birthday greetings to Morton Sobell in Alcatraz.



JANET JAGAN

CLIPPING FROM THE
New York Harlem Edition
DAILY WORKER
DATED 4-25-57
PG. 7 COL. 4-2

100-37158-A

Harrington

CALENDAR

Chicago

FRIENDS OF MANDEL TERMAN
Keep open Sat., June 26, for huge dinner-tribute to Mandel, arranged by group of friends. Watch for details later. B. Brail, Chairman of Committee.

REMEMBER THE ROSENBERGS—JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL!
Rosenberg Memorial Meeting. Presiding: Miss Pearl Hart, Prof. Stephen Love, Prof. Malcolm Sharp, Rabbi S. Burr Yampol. Thurs. June 17, 8:15 p.m., Curtiss Hall 410 S. Michigan Av. Adm. $1. Ausp. Chicago Rosenberg-Sobell Comm.

100-37158-A

CLIPPING FROM THE National Guardian
N.Y.
DATED May 31, 1954
FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION

'The Rock' Is an Exciting New Recording on Sobell Case

THE ROCK, 10 in. LP recorded drama issued by the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case. $3.

• • •

The fight to preserve American liberties has resulted in a new kind of recording. Out of the campaign for clemency for the Rosenbergs came two recordings dramatizing their case. There have been popular recordings of witnesses putting Congressional inquisitors in their place, and recordings of important speeches by progressive leaders.

Now comes an exciting new record that tells the story of Morton Sobell, young scientist and co-defendant of the Rosenbergs who is fighting his 30-year sentence and imprisonment on Alcatraz.

The strength of this record, performed by actors of stage, radio, and television, is that it avoids for the most part the pitfalls of the so-called "message" drama. Performed in radio style, "The Rock" achieves a dramatic impact as it digs into the facts of the case and into the charatcer of the man in Alcatraz. The script, written by Fred Daniels, is based on letters between Morton Sobell and his family and on a close study of the man and his case. The presentation is capable of keeping a gathering engrossed in the Sobell case for a full half hour. The record is being used by various Rosenberg-Sobell committees holding Rosenberg memorial meetings throughout the country.

Much of the power in the presentation is contained in the strong narration by Bill Robinson, noted Negro actor. He successfully gets across the feeling of Alcatraz, the terror used against Sobell and his family, the tender feelings toward the Rosenbergs, and the determination of Sobell and millions of people to make the truth in this case known. The drama is strengthened by background of piano music by Al Moss.

This is a recording you will find well worth having in your collection. You will also find it extremely useful in helping to reveal to your friends the facts in the Sobell Case. The record can be obtained from the Rosenberg-Sobell Committee, 1050 Sixth Ave., New York City 18, N. Y.

—JOSEPH KLEIN

A meeting to remember the Rosenbergs and fight for justice for Morton Sobell will be held Thursday, June 17, 8 p.m. at Chateau Gardens, 105 E. Houston St. (at Second Ave.). The meeting will mark the first anniversary of the execution of the Rosenbergs. Tickets, at $1 (tax incl.), may be obtained from the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case, 1050 Sixth Ave., New York City. LO 4-9585.

CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

DATED June 1, 1954

Pg. 7 Col. 2,3

100-37158-A

Harrington #6

REJECT NEW SOBELL PLEA

WASHINGTON, June 7.—The Supreme Court today rejected another appeal by Morton Sobell, framed up together with Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

Sobell was sentenced to 30 years in prison although he was not even charged with committing any act of espionage, but of "conspiracy." He is in Alcatraz Federal prison.

Sobell's appeal showed there was no evidence to link him with any conspiracy and that even the dates the government charged of "conspiracy" were later than the dates of the alleged Rosenberg "espionage."

100-37158-A

CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

DATED June 8, 1954

Pg. 1 Col. 1

J. Harrington

A Mother Keeps Faith with Her Son

100-37158-A

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PPING FROM THE
Edition "The Worker"
ne 13, 1954

By VIRGINIA GARDNER

THE YOUNG MOTHER who sat in the crowded hall that night long years ago and saw Mother Mary Mooney on the platform, hardly listened to the speeches. Instead he ed to the speeches. Instead she watched Mother Mooney's face, tried to imagine what she was going through, wondered if she herself would have the strength Mother Mooney had.

"She impressed me so strongly I couldn't stay home after that, but went about raising funds, helping organize meetings getting signatures to petitions to free Tom Mooney."

The mother who no longer wonders, but knows what it was for Mother Mooney, is Mrs. Rose Sobell, 59-year-old mother of Morton Sobell, young scientist convicted with Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. Consigned to 30 years in Alcatraz, he faces the equivalent of a life sentence in an ordinary prison, his mother figures.

Telling of her experience in the Mooney campaign, Mrs. Sobell appeared not unlike her own description of Mother Mooney. She has the blue eyes, clear and direct, the fresh color in her cheeks, the short stocky figure, the hair drawn back from a rather high forehead, and like the Irish mother's, the Jewish mother's is a working-class mother's face.

Since March 11, 1952, when the first public meeting around the Rosenberg-Sobell case was held in Pythian Hall, Rose Sobell has attended meeting after meeting—at least several hundred. At times she has spoken, as in Los Angeles and in San Francisco, in crowded halls. But no meeting is too small for her to attend, whether as speaker or merely to be introduced.

MRS. ROSE SOBELL

Morton's wife, Helen, has spoken throughout the country. It was she who had the difficult task of breaking the news to a mass picketline before the White House June 19 last that Eisenhower had refused clemency and Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were to die that night.

Until that night, the fight to save the Rosenbergs overshadowed all else. The injustice done to Sobell in the same frameup did not claim the worldwide focus centered on the clemency fight.

But when Julius, then Ethel, walked calmly to the waiting chair that night, their assertion of their innocence unbroken, they passed the torch of vindication on to Sobell's hands.

Perhaps no one was more acutely aware of the heavy burden now placed on the youthful scientist's shoulders than his mother. Speaking now of it, there was no glib assurance in her voice, no underestimation of the enormous stamina required for her son, on the grim Rock in San Francisco Bay, to continue to assert his innocence.

★

THAT THE GOVERNMENT also is aware Morton Sobell is the living link with the executed Rosenbergs and the truth about their case has been noted by the Sobell-Rosenberg committee. First by liberalized treatment, allowing him to make phone calls to his family and to work at electrical repairs in the House of Detention here, then by harsher treatment, and now by the repression of Alcatraz, it sought to obtain a spurious "confession," the committee has stated.

In Rose Sobell's restraint, her words were all the more moving as she said: "I have a lot of confidence in Morton. He is very sensitive. But he is basically wholesome. And he understands the issues. That will help him."

She read some excerpts from his last letter. "Did you ever read accounts of concentration camps where the ordinary human being becomes brutalized?" he asked, speaking of his associates.

Folding the letter carefully, the mother said quietly: "It is fascism he is experiencing. We were a little too sure about our democracy. We didn't think it could happen here."

★

SHE WAS ASKED what it was in her own life which gave her such strength, for it was so apparent that here was all that an ordinary working-class mother was—but more. "Oh," she said, "I do all right nine times out of ten. But the tenth—well, I am human.

"But Morty has never seen me cry." Once, when she visited Morton in West Street jail, he told her a guard, wishing to torment him, had told him how he'd seen the mother weeping as she left the building.

"I just said, 'Well, Morty, I do cry once in a while.' And he said, 'That's all right, it's not so bad to cry a little, mamma. I do it myself sometimes.'"

Married to Louis Sobell in 1915, she came to this country when she was 12 years old. Her father was dead, her mother was rearing eight children alone. "I went to school for three years. Then I went to work. I'd learned to be a bookkeeper and typist, but I didn't like it. I went to work in a factory, in the needle trades." For years Mrs. Sobell was a member of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, she said.

"I had dreams of finishing my education. I longed to. And my mother, who was a remarkable woman, a very brilliant woman, wanted me to study."

She recalled how in Europe, although they had no shoes, the children had been sent to school by the mother. The biggest carried the littlest, she said.

"But I never did get back to school after I began work. I could have, but—I guess at heart I was an idealist. At any rate, I immediately began to participate in the working-class struggles. If my mother was disappointed, she understood—for she knew the score, herself."

She recalled how one of her brothers lost his university position after he opposed World War 1. He is one of three brothers "who is fighting valiantly for Morty," she said.

"Mother scolded him roundly for being so unworldly, but we had a sneaking idea she was proud of him. She lived until she was 80, fifteen years ago. And I can still hear her, pausing to watch some carpenters working on an apartment house in the Bronx, telling them in her broken English, 'Why

work so fast? You'll work yourself out of a job. Go slower, the boss will stand it.'"

MORTON, eldest of two children, was born in 1917. Rose Sobell went back to work when he was three or four years old, when her husband, an engineer, decided to study pharmacy. Morton attended his graduation. "Through the years I'd occasionally work, particularly during the depression—if I could get it— and always I'd feel so proud, when I could earn some money again."

Her grandson, Mark, who will be five this month, is "like Mort was when he was little—wants to know how everything works." When Mort was six he managed all the family's electrical repairs.

She opened a drawer, lifted a bronze medal from its velvet box. It was marked "Medal of Honor" and on the back, "App. Elec. (applied electricity) '33." In 1934 at Stuyvesant high school, he was among the first five in his class—she thinks he ranked second—in 1934. "I can just see him coming down the steps, taking out the medals from his pockets, handing them to me casually, with a 'Here, Ma,' she said. In 1938 he was graduated from City College of New York. Julius Rosenberg received his degree there, also from technical school in January, 1939, taking part in graduating ceremonies in June, 1939.

"It will take a major upheaval to get Morty out of Alcatraz and get him a new trial. But such things can be done. It took 300,000 signatures on petitions but Debs was freed," she said, alluding to Eugene V. Debs, the Socialist imprisoned during World War I.

At the name of Debs her husband who suffered two strokes since Morton's arrest in 1950, spoke up proudly. "I voted for Debs," he said. "And he got 800,000 votes, running from prison."

★

ROSE SOBELL spoke of the "dark years," before the Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case, now the Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case, was formed.

"Those were the times when we didn't know what to expect next, didn't know when they were going to take Mort's wife, perhaps all of us, and put us all in the electric chair. Yes, and they were the times when no one knew us, no one dared come near us, the days when we'd meet friends and progressives, on the street and they would not see us. For a while we couldn't even get a lawyer.

"They were days of panic. The FBI ransacked our house when we were gone. Days when little Mr. Cohn (Roy M. Cohn then assistant prosecutor) was a busy man indeed."

Now, she felt the McCarthy hearings "mean they won't allow him to have another hysterical espionage hunt." Then she added, in her calm, objective way: "And their cold war has had a setback, it isn't going so hot. People don't want war."

With almost the same objectiveness she compared Ethel and Julius Rosenberg to her boy, Morton, on the day when she saw them, Aug. 23, 1950 when the three pleaded not guilty to conspiracy to deliver to the USSR information relating to the national defense, and David Greenglass pleaded guilty.

"I can just see them now, as they were arraigned," she said. "What strong people Ethel and Julie were! You couldn't fail to see it.

"Morton was standing there, next to Julie, then Ethel, and, facing them, brought in later, David Greenglass. I could see Greenglass' face; he didn't look at anybody. The others had their backs to me, but even backs can be expressive."

Then, with a tender smile, as if it were difficult for a mother to see her own son in a heroic light, she said: "I could see my Morty, shifting from one foot to the other

ANNIVERSARY MEETINGS

Anniversary meetings marking the death of the Rosenbergs all over the country will ask freedom for Morton Sobell. In New York the anniversary will be marked at Chateau Gardens Thursday, June 17, at 8 P.M.

like this, not very at ease. But there was Julie, standing upright, I felt sure he didn't blink an eye, and Ethel, petite little thing, standing right alongside him, head up, alert, like at a reception. I saw them even then as a tower of strength."

Mrs. Sobell recalled the day of the sentencing of the Rosenbergs and her son, April 5, 1951 and the sentencing of David Greenglass to a mere 15 years.

"I said, 'Morton, don't even think in terms of 30 years.' He said, 'Mamma, if I thought I'd be in prison 30 years I couldn't live.' And then he went on talking of how they'd get a new trial. They were all full of hope that day, hope that they couldn't put it over."

All through the trial Rose Sobell visited Foley Square daily, was allowed to carry in lunch which Morton, Helen and she ate in one of the basement lockups. Mark, then 21 months old, also visited his dad. They had almost two hours at the noon recess.

"I'd often pass by Ethel or Julie. What a guy that Julie was! What people they both were! Ethel would call out, 'Pick your chin up, mother! Everything will be all right!'"

LATER she often saw their lawyer, "Manny," the late Emanuel Bloch, in the struggles around the case. "Manny would come from Sing Sing and say, 'You don't know what kind of people they have there, sentenced to die. You have no idea.' Now he's gone, too. How I loved Manny! We always saw eye to eye. Any time I'd come to him, he'd be there with his warmth, his arms open to me."

Once since the execution she saw Mrs. Sophie Rosenberg, mother of Julius. "She took my hands, said, 'God can help you, because your son's still alive.' What could I say? To her I seemed fortunate."

She has seen Morton twice in Alcatraz, the last time in September, 1953. "All I know is that each time I mustered up everything in me to appear full of optimism."

Rose Sobell, who will be 60 on July 30, and her husband, 65, had planned to buy a little farm up state by now. "I used to think how Morty would like it, how my grandchildren would visit us." Now, however, anything is inconceivable to her except to stay here and work tirelessly, with others, for her son's freedom and the vindication of the Rosenbergs and her son.

"Some day," she said, her blue eyes unclouded, steady, "the history of these days will be written—by working-class historians, I mean. There will be many sad things to recount, but there will be some glorious ones, too."

One of the countless vigils and demonstrations for the Rosenbergs, in the above Cantor Kaminsky and The Rev. H. S. Williamson lead prayers in front of the White House.

British Unions Urge New Trial for Sobell

Leading British trade unions have demanded a new trial for Morton Sobell, scientist convicted in the Rosenberg trial and imprisoned in Alcatrez on a 30-year sentence.

A call for a new Sobell trial and for Sobell's removal from Alcatrez will be heard in New York at a Rosenberg Memorial meeting this Thursday, at Chateau Gardens, 105 E. Houston St. These demands will also be heard at other memorial meetings next week being held at major cities throughout the country to mark the first anniversary of the Rosenberg execution.

British unions taking a stand on the Sobell case include the Manchester General Branch of the Clerical and Administrative Workers Union, The Fallowfield Branch of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allieid Workers, the Manchester Branch of the Constructional Engineering Union and the Manchester Branch of the National Union of Railwaymen.

Typical of the statements made was a resolution passed by the Manchester area of the Electrical Trade Union, which state: "We, the members of the E.T.U., support the plea of Mrs. Morton Sobell for a new trial for her husband. Meanwhile, we would urge the American government to transfer Morton Sobell to a prison where it is possible for him to see his family." (Morton Sobell's children are not allowed to visit him in Alcatraz).

A petition campaign is under way in the U. S. to obtain the removal of Morton Sobell from Alcatraz, the prison for the most hardened criminals. Morton Sobell was ordered there after he refused constant pressure to "confess" and continued to fight to prove his innocence. The petitions being circulated by the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case are addressed to James V. Bennett, Director of Prisons, Washington.

In addition to the Rosenberg Memorial Meeting being held in New York, meetings are also scheduled for San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Baltimore and Newark. There are also meetings in Canada and other countries throughout the world.

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CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

DATED June 14, 1954

Pg. 1 Col. 2, 3, 4, 5

ON JUNE 19, 1953, ETHEL AND JULIUS ROSENBERG WERE PUT TO DEATH

'They left us a legacy—we will live freer because they died'

100-37158-A

SEARCHED ..... INDEXED .....
SERIALIZED ..... FILED .....
JUN 14 1954
FBI — NEW YORK

CLIPPING FROM THE
N. Y. National Guardian
DATED June 14, 1954
FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION

By Helen Sobell

I COULD have reached out and touched Ethel's hand. I said to myself again, as I had said to so many others: "I could have been in Ethel's place; she could have been standing here in mine." It would have taken such a small turn of the wheel of fate for my husband, Morton Sobell, to have been lying in one of the caskets, and I dead at his side. Instead, Morton's fate is the living death of 30 years on the Devil's Island of Alcatraz—and I stood beside the coffins of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

Not here in this coffin but in the tight little apartment of the lower east side will I remember a living Ethel. My eyes have seen her face fewer times than can be counted on my fingers, but my heart knows her well. She was born in the squalor of the poorest, most crowded part of New York City on Sept. 28, 1915. Her mother still lives in that same house where Ethel grew up with her three brothers. She suffered a childhood of loneliness and deprivation. Unloved herself, she poured her heart's warmth and affection into her little brother, the infamous David Greenglass, who sent her to her death.

ALWAYS THE ARTIST: But even the hardness of her life added to the strength and creativeness of this daughter of the people. After high school and a six months' business course, Ethel worked three years as a clerk in a shipping and packing concern; but she found her real life in her singing. In each place where she worked from 1932 until her marriage in 1939, she was a union member. Through those years each penny of every paycheck, except for carfare and lunches, went to her family—to the mother who did not even come to her funeral, to the brother who killed his sister.

Always Ethel was the artist, the singer, the dancer. She studied drama in a famous settlement house on the lower east side, but she never studied a drama which could be compared to that which she was to experience.

When Ethel and Julius were married they had the problems of where to live and what to do. But they knew each other well; they had gone to the same high school, had exchanged experiences and ideas during the time they waited for Julius to graduate from the School of Technology of the College of the City of New York in February of 1939. It was a period of working at odd jobs for Julius. They knew they were meant to live together. They did not know that they must die together.

THIS WAS HOME: They went to live with Julius's mother, Sophie Rosenberg. No help or offer of help came from Ethel's mother. But Sophie Rosenberg must have then, as she did later wailing at their caskets, called them her two children. They were her pride and her promise.

They found a furnished room in the same poor section of the city, and finally an apartment—a place to live and bring their children into the world. They must have felt that this modest yet to them wonderful apartment, these three rooms and bath in an elevator building, was more than a stopping place for them: it was really a home. From a friend who was going to California they got some old furniture. They picked up other odds and ends—and one new piece of furniture, a console table. It was this table that David Greenglass said had been given them as a reward for spying. (Did he feel that his sister and brother-in-law should not have permitted themselves the luxury of buying themselves a cheap $21 table, as a representative of Macy's department store testified had been done?)

Ethel then, a queen among her second-hand furniture, bore her children, tended and cared for her family,

cooking, washing, cleaning. All the pleasure and pain that belong to a woman's life were hers as she lived and worked as millions of her sisters throughout the world have done and will continue to do.

THE BABY COMES: Her first son, Michael, was born to her on March 10, 1943. As soon as he could talk, questions poured forth to challenge the energy, imagination, and patience of

the mother. Sharp, eager, he hungered for life and knowledge.

Ethel needed all of her strength and cleverness to bring her baby through his first years of life. He was sick. His was not the usual illness common to infants, but unremittingly his temperature soared and he tossed the night away in an atmosphere of vapor and drugs to ease his pain. Patiently Ethel nursed him, looking for improvement, happy for each respite, until her child outgrew his sickness. This very period, when her life was so concentrated upon the most intimate personal cares, was the period during which Ethel was accused of being a spy.

When Michael was 2½ she studied child psychology and music for children, that she might better meet his needs. With Robert came the problems of readjusting an older child to the advent of a younger one, but this too was accomplished with thought and understanding. In their small apartment, to let the older child sleep undisturbed by the younger one, they would leave the combination living-room-bedroom in darkness for Michael and sit in their tiny kitchen. There was no "sacrifice." They wanted to do these things; they worked for their children together.

There were times when Ethel was not too well. She suffered a spinal curvature from the time she was 13, and occasionally would be confined to bed with severe backache; but she still managed to oversee the household. Even when sometimes the hands and shoulders which did the work were another's, hers was always the mind and heart of her home.

SOUND OF A VOICE: The morning of the trial I came to the basement of the court-house, to the place where the jailors keep their prisoners. I wanted to catch a glimpse of my husband, to hear his voice. He was there, and so were Ethel and Julius, each in a separate cell. These three, still clothed in the presumption of innocence ordained by our law, had already suffered more than seven months' imprisonment. Especially for this mother and for her children, even if the jury had decreed her innocence, a tremendous wrong existed. As I pressed against the bars and wires to see a little of what was within, so they, each one of the three, pressed against their bars to see what lay outside. They did not permit me the cold pleasure of almost seeing, almost hearing, almost being together with my husband. They sent me away.

Later I saw them: Ethel with her sweet face and little red jerkin provided a spot of brightness in the somber courtroom. A man sitting next to me whispered: "Is that your husband? He looks so very young." And so they were, all of them. All young with the youth which comes from not having sold one's birthright for a mess of pottage. Young with the love and trust in one's fellowman which loves a neighbor as oneself. Young with decency and honesty which would not lie then and which gave up life later rather than live a lie.

TOGETHER: In the last days before the execution my husband wrote to me from the fog-bound rock that is his prison:

"There are worse things than facing death when you know you are innocent and when you know your cause is just. It is much worse to face the death of your beloved."

True, no agony was spared the Rosenbergs. Ethel could not lay down her life for her husband. Julius could not lay down his for his wife. They had to die together for the world. They knew far better than anyone, with the clarity and detail which come from endless nights and days of contemplation, what sufferings would be visited upon the heads of their children and of their mother. But they saw the whole world too, and in a process as inexorable as giving birth, they knew the truth must be held holy. They left us a legacy. We will live freer, braver because they died.

As I passed by the coffins and looked at Ethel clad in shimmering white, I knew that for me especially she had left a legacy. Her lifeless lips gave me a message of hope:

"You will have your Mort again. The people are stronger now, they are less afraid. They will not permit the first defender of the Rosenbergs to be buried alive. He faced death together with us, he would not exchange his truth for lies about the Rosenbergs. He is the hostage who will be delivered up when the people of the world rise in their anger and demand his freedom."

Thousands pressed to look at Ethel and Julius. I whispered: "I will make your words come true. The free[illegible] of my Mort will be [illegible] indicat[illegible]

Memorial Week

A STONE in memory of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg will be unveiled Sunday, June 20, at 1 p.m., at Wellwood Cemetery, Pinelawn, Long Island. The ceremony is open to the public. These meetings will be held:

NEW YORK: Thurs., June 17, 8 p.m., Chateau Gardens, 105 E. Houston St., Manhattan. Speakers: Helen Sobell, John T. McManus. The recorded voice of Emanuel Bloch will be heard.

CHICAGO: Thurs., June 17, 8:15 p.m., Curtis Hall, 410 S. Michigan Av.

DETROIT: Wed., June 16, 8 p.m., 5928 Joy Rd.

NEWARK, N.J.: Wed., June 16, 516 Clinton Av.

BALTIMORE: Sat., June 19, Little Falls Theater, Pennsylvania and North Av.

Other meetings will be held in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Toronto and Vancouver, B.C.

THEY'LL NEVER SILENCE ME, SOBELL VOWS FROM PRISON

Morton Sobell, writing from the dread Alcatraz Prison to his mother, Rose Sobell, in May, said, "Every time I have to write the date, I have to make an effort to remember it is 1954, and the month, because there is no season here."

Yet even Sobell cannot forget the approach of June 19, when his college friend, Julius Rosenberg, and his wife, Ethel Rosenberg, whom Sobell knew slightly, went to their death.

In a recent letter to his wife, Helen Sobell, Morton Sobell wrote:

"Perhaps the sacrifices that Ethel and Julius Rosenberg made have caused enough people to stop and think to bring back sanity. Fort Monmouth, the attack on Dr. Oppenheimer, and the Army-McCarthy hearings keep reopening again the questions which were raised in our trial.

"The death of Ethel and Julie a year ago did not answer any questions. My being buried in Alcatraz has not permitted these questions to be swallowed up in oblivion. There are people who love truth and justice and who must have it themselves. They cannot rest when it is denied to others.

"Perhaps we, together with these people, have already made those who put me here regret that they did not murder me too. Neither death nor Alcatraz will keep the truth hidden. I have proved in these last four years that I can never be pressured into giving up my freedom from guilt.

"They would so like me to stop saying I am innocent. I will not stop saying it, not ever.

"I am innocent."

The letter was released by the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case, which will sponsor a Rosenberg Memorial meeting at 8 p.m. Thursday, in the Chateau Gardens, 105 E. Houston St.

Speakers will include: John Wexley, author, whose book on the Rosenberg case is scheduled for early publication by Cameron & Kahn; Rabbi Meyer Shartf, of Brooklyn; Helen Sobell, and John T. McManus, general manager of the National Guardian. A recorded speech by the late Emanuel Bloch, attorney for the Rosenbergs, will be heard.

The meeting is one of many being held over the country this week in memory of the Rosenbergs and to renew the drive to obtain a new trial for Sobell.

Sobell was unjustly imprisoned for 30 years when the Rosenbergs were sentenced to death and David Grenglass was sentenced to a mere 15 years, on April 5, 1951.

A stone will be unveiled this Sunday over the grave of the Rosenbergs. The unveiling, which will be open to the public, will be at 1 p.m., Wellwood Cemetery, Pinelawn, Long Island.

100-37158-A

CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

DATED June 15, 1954

Pg. 5 Col. 1, 2

To those who remember June 19...

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN MORTON SOBELL?

LAST YEAR YOU CAME to Washington from all corners of the land. "The biggest demonstration this city has seen," the police chief said.

You mothers, who took your babies 500 miles in the coaches of the Women's Special. . . .

You teen-agers who picketed 12 hours at a stretch, button-holed every leader in the neighborhood on your own initiative, wrung telegrams for clemency from the commuters hurrying home to Jersey. . . .

You scientists who knew that the charge was false. . . .

You clergy who pleaded charity and mercy. . . .

You people of New York who ignored the police in a flaming demonstration through the East Side in the hours after the execution. . . .

You mourners who threw your cars in a steel blockade across Sunrise Highway when they tried to keep you from the cemetery. . . .

Where are you today?

Where is your energy, your anger, your sorrow?

Have you forgotten the living Rosenberg—Morton Sobell?

You acted for Michael and Robbie. When will you act for the Sobell children? Is his growing daughter to marry, and have her children, and reach middle age before the prison doors open to let a white-haired father come home? Is his little boy to know no father's games, to have no father's help in school, in adolescence, in facing the draft, in college?

That two young parents should die moved you to forget comfort—and to forget fear in the most fearsome year our time has known. You were heroes!

Is the life-long widowing of a young wife less moving?

Your hearts opened to Mother Rosenberg. Are Sobell's parents—both living—never to see their son free again?

Is quick death more awful than 30 years in an island dungeon?

Will you wait until Sobell—like Mooney—is freed only to die?

Mankind Will Not Forget That Date

Morton Sobell and his mother, Mrs. Rose Sobell

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NEW YORK

CLIPPING FROM THE
N. Y. Harlem Edition "The Worker"
DATED June 20 1953
FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION

THERE are many heavy hearts throughout the world this weekend. Humanity will never forget that on June 19, 1953, one year ago, the lives of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were snuffed out.

The long fight for clemency... the vigils at the White House... meetings throughout the country... the thousands paying their last respects at the funeral... these are the memories of those who fought for the Rosenbergs and to save the honor of America.

Today (Sunday) the unveiling of a stone over the grave of the Rosenbergs will take place 1 P.M., at Wellwood Cemetary, Pinelawn, Long Island.

Three thousand miles away, in a cell in Alcatraz, there is a man who shares—humanity's sadness—and determination—on this occasion. Morton Sobell, who was convicted in the Rosenberg trial, today fights for his freedom and for the vindication of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

Morton Sobell, condemned to 30 years, has been under constant pressure to "confess." When he continued to press for a new trial, he was sent to Alcatraz, America's prison for the most hardened criminals.

In Alcatraz, he is not permitted to see his two children, his 14-year-old daughter Sydney, and his five-year- old son Mark. He is allowed but one visit a month from his family. His wife, mother, and father live in New York and monthly trips are financially impossible.

His main contact with the world is through his letters to his family. He is permitted to write two letters a week, each one on a single sheet of paper. ★

THE FOLLOWING excerpts from Morton Sobell's recent letter reveal aspects of his prison life, his longing for his family, and his conviction that the American people will free him.

Morton Sobell's family has made public portions of his letters in the hope that millions will take heart from them and press forward with the campaign for justice in this case.

• • • •

From a letter to Louis Sobell, his father, who has suffered two strokes since Morton's imprisonment.

If at least we had four seasons here it might give some semblance of time moving. As it is, the calendar keeps turning but nothing seems to change here. If not for all of you working for me on the outside, I'd feel like a dead one, embalmed. I know it is very difficult right now to do anything, with the madness sweeping away all reason, but I know there have been periods like this one in the past, and eventually things have changed, by the force of many stalwart people. Goodnight, and happy birthday Pa, and I guess I'll see you someday. Love for you, and everyone. . . . Your son.

From a letter to his mother, Rose Sobell:

Let me ask you, where does the warmth that a person gives off

come from? Is it born in him? Does he store it up for a lifetime, from childhood? I don't think so. True, some are more and others less disposed toward exuding it, yet it must come from somewhere, not within the person. Can I get it from the cold walls of this cell? No, the few letters and visits are not enough. They are microscopic compared to the rest of my life, and yet I try to make the most of them to serve me in every way possible.

Did you ever read any of the accounts of the concentration camps, where ordinary people become brutalized? I am not able to describe to you those aspects of prison life, so you must take my word for it. Even if I were to tell you, it would not make much sense, like an unknown language.

★

From a letter to his wife, Helen Sobell:

Dear Dear Dear Helen: I have assiduously avoided thinking all this long weekend, what with no letter since Monday. I'm so worried, and apprehensive. I don't dare admit it to myself. (Sometimes Morton Sobell's mail is held up for one reason or another—editor). And so I spent a weekend playing bridge, and reading old books, and today a movie. And I just finished a lengthy letter to Howard (attorney Howard Meyer) and I love you so much, and the children.

The movie "Shane," what a shame. It was bad, really bad. It purports to show how a "good" gunman, by killing, can solve the problems of a community. It says this in such unmistakable terms. And this is permitted by the moral code, as entertainment, not as education. (Two compartments, you know, we keep them separate.)...

In the Supreme Court decision on the McCarran Act, they effectively reversed a fundamental dicta and now say there exists two classes of citizens. One class with irrevocable citizenship (maybe) and the other revocable at any time by a Bill of Attainder. A clear violation of the Constitution as I learned it. These are bad days when they have no compunctions about destroying the fundamental precepts of the Constitution and then breaking up families of people who have been married for decades. . . .

These days it is the events of the external world that serves my best stimulus for optimism. People all over the world have really awakened and are asserting themselves as human beings which they are. . . .

I would like to talk to you now of things close to the heart yet you know how difficult it is. Good night, I hope you are well and the kids, and that you have time for them and for yourself and for me. I love you deeply, Your own husband.

★

From a letter to his daughter, Sydney:

Copeland remarks that many and "advanced" piano students don't really understand music. I wonder how well acquainted you are with the symphonies of Beethoven and Brahms and the moderns. Have you yet developed the perception where one of the other will "send you?" Do you recall the Brahms Double Concerto? Do listen to it and tell me what you think, Syd? For me it was always an experience like nothing else. I wonder how long it will be before I forget it all.

Of your recent social life I know nothing. How is it? Under control? Gosh, school's almost out. Do you really study much? How much? In college I had a good ancient history teacher and I, an engineer, would put in nine or 10 hours a week. Shows what happens if you like something. An odd letter this, but never mind, I love you. Morty.

★

From a letter to his five-year-old son, Mark:

I haven't heard from you recently. I hope you have a nice birthday with lots of fun and ice cream and didn't get sick. Tell me what you are reading these days and how else you pass your

(Continued on Page 14))

SOBELL

(Continued from Page 7)

time. I'm glad you like Beethoven's Fifth. I like it too. All my love, Morty.

★

From a letter to his wife:

Perhaps the sacrifices that Ethel and Julie may have caused enough people to stop and think to bring back sanity and truth. Fort Monmouth, the attack on Dr. Oppenheimer, the Army-McCarthy hearings keep reopening again the questions which were raised in our trial. The death of Ethel and Julie a year ago did not answer any question. My being buried in Alcatraz has not permitted these questions to be swallowed up into oblivion.

There are people who love truth and justice and who must have it for themselves. They cannot rest when it is denied to others. Perhaps we, together with these people, have already made those who put me here regret that they did not murder me too.

Neither death nor Alcatraz will keep the truth hidden. I have proved in these last four years that I can never be pressured into giving up my freedom from guilt. They would so like me to stop saying I am innocent.

I will not stop saying it, not ever. I am innocent.

While legal steps to win a new trial for Morton Sobell are being taken, a campaign is also under way to remove him from Alcatraz.

People throughout the country are writing letters demanding his transfer. Letters should be addressed to James V. Bennett, Director of Prisons, Justice Department, Washington, D. C.

A Father's Letter from Alcatraz

(The following is a text of letter that Morton Sobell wrote recently to his 14-year-old daughter, who is not allowed to visit him in Alcatraz. Morton Sobell, who was convicted in the trial of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, was sent to Alcatraz to serve a 30-year sentence. Thousands of Americans throughout the country are intensifying their fight for justice for Morton Sobell. Petitions are being circulated urging his removal from Alcatraz, and efforts are being made for a new trial.)

Dearest, dearest Sydney:

How are you? A little worn out by now—what with your caring for the Pips? (Pips is the nickname of Morton Sobell's 14-year-old son.) Or isn't he much trouble? I know he's cute and all that—but even cuteness can be much trouble.

Were you able to accomplish anything during the holidays?

"Vacations" in prison don't mean too much—even if we do get a little better than meal than usual. Nor do we get paid on the 6 or 7 holidays we do get off—perhaps in another hundred years—.

You know, Syd, it wouldn't be so bad if there were absolutely no music at all, but it's having this so called jazz blaring out in the yard continuously that really makes it terrible. It sort of rubs it in—the absence of real music, that is.

Odd, I'm reading a book by Copland on how to enjoy music, some joke. I think it rates as a classic under these circumstances. Haven't read too much lately, some by Lacadio Hearn on Japan (about 1900). He was an American who went there to live and in spots he's good, but way off in some places on interpreting the Japanese people. Funny how we are brought up here in the States—to believe that there is no real need to understand these other peoples because their way to life is not American. This point of view is transmitted in all the vehicles of our culture today from the comic strips up.

Also I read some Saroyan

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CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

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Col. 1

Harrington