

SOBELL

(Continued from Page 1)

Did you ever read his short stories? They're quite unique like his plays. They have much flavor like Chekhov's short stories. Few short story writers have a flavor. And I read the three mainstays—Time, Newsweek and U. S. News, but not by choice. It's really very strange how one can get such fascist stuff like the American Mercury, such junk as Photo-play . . . anything but a good honest decent periodical for a less biased presentation of the news. U. S. News is best, because it frequently present verbatims of speeches and hearings. Actually the Congressional Record is pretty good for the same reason, it's verbatim, and so quite revealing at times.

The people here have little resemblance to people as you know them. Did you see the movie High Noon? Well when they showed it here the applause and hissing was the opposite of what would be present in an outside audience, many reactions are so reversed. I'm afraid a "square john" (that's what a non-criminal is called) like me will also get a bit mixed up. The strangest thing is to hear people talk of happenings of 20 years ago as if of yesterday.

I was stunned when I read that Arthur Miller had been denied a passport. I have recently read an article of his after a visit to his alma mater, Michigan, in which he forecast grave repercussions as the result of the absence of free expression on the campus today. . . . You know in other countries it is the students who are generally in the forefront in the fight for freedom. I wonder why this country and England seem to be exceptions?

I really would like to discuss with you, your school, your work, your music. But I'm really not too well informed on such matters right now. I suppose you're still infatuated with your school. I wonder if you partake in any outside school activities. . . .

Helen wrote me about your birthday present to me. I will let you know how well I like your mother in the hairdo you bought for her for my birthday.

About Indochina, they'll become schizoid soon, if they don't make up their mind which they're fighting for, the rice or the freedom of the people, and yet the answer is so simple.

I have reached the conclusion that my education was faulty. Right now I'm doing some studying in mechanics that I should have done as an undergraduate. Will you have to take plane geometry later? . . . Take good care of yourself and Pipi and I hope you get to somewhere with him, a kid's play, concert, something to stim-

ulate him, and you. What are you playing on the piano now? And your violin? I don't know much longer it will take, but we'll see it through, we will. All my love for you.

MORTY.

Youth for Sobell Committee Is Formed on Coast

LOS ANGELES, July 19.—A

Youth for Sobell Committee has been formed here to publicize the facts in the frameup case in which Morton Sobell, co-defendant with Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, was sentenced to 30 years. Sobell is now serving his sentence in Alcatraz, on the frameup charge of conspiracy to commit espionage.

Youth can learn more about the case from the committee at 325 S. Broadway, Room 404, Los Angeles, Michigan 0946.

CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

DATED JUL 20 1954

Fe. 7

Col. 7

100-37158-A

J. H. Hargrave
#6

But He Could Not Touch Her Hand

By JOSEPH KLEIN

YOUR hand felt so nice when at the last moment you placed it against the glass for me to feel, and it was as if I truly touched it, or so it felt."

So wrote scientist Morton Sobell to his wife, Helen, after their recent brief visit in Alcatraz. He could not really touch her hand, because on "The Rock" a prisoner can see his loved one only through a thick, small rectangular glass. He can hear the voice of his loved one only through a prison telephone.

Sobell, who was sentenced to 30 years in the Rosenberg trial and is being held in Alcatraz because he refuses to make a false spy confession, also wrote:

"You looked adorable in your black and white outfit and the other aspects of your dress are

Petition Bennett

Petitions urging James V. Bennett, director of prisons, to remove Morton Sobell from Alcatraz are available at the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case, 1050 Sixth Ave., New York. LO 4-9585.



HELEN SOBELL

CLIPPING FROM THE
N.Y. - Harlem Edition "The Worker"
DATED 7/25/54
FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION

100-37158-A

Harrington

also imprinted in my eye, my love. There was a wistfulness about you, a combination of tiredness and loving tenderness. This too will remain with us, as well as your words, dear dear Helen." What do young parents talk about when they visit Alcatraz? What does a man say to his wife in their brief, infrequent visits? It's been nearly two years since Morton Sobell has been imprisoned on "The Rock" and since he has seen his two children, who are not allowed even the luxury of seeing their father through a glass panel.

HELEN SOBELL, tired after her long cross-country journey but encouraged at seeing the nationwide activity in behalf of her husband, told of her visit on returning to New York.

"I saw Mort twice," she said. "Each of our visits lasted an hour and a half. I brought him good

news of people working to free him.

"His eyes were bright and eager. The strained look that was so usual on his face was wiped away for the moment. 'It is good to laugh,' he said. And we laughed together in the darkness of Alcatraz."

She explained how much she and Mort would have liked to talk just about personal things, such as their children, in the three hours they had together. They did talk about their family, about the things they once shared.

"But when time is so short, when every second counts," Mrs. Sobell said, "we had to devote much of our visit to discussing legal plans in the case. It is so seldom that Mort and I get a chance to confer."

Mrs. Sobell asked her husband if there had been any relaxation on restrictions of the material he is permitted to read. There has not been. Sobell is allowed to read the U. S. News and World Report, the American Mercury, movie magazines and Time magazine. He cannot see any newspapers.

"Mort is continuing to work at maintenance of electrical equipment. In the evenings, he manages to work on mathematical problems and attempt to pursue some kind of scientific study."

LEARNING that meetings were held throughout the country on the first anniversary of the execution of the Rosenbergs meant so much to Sobell. Enheartened that more and more people realized the importance of his case to America, he told his wife, as he had written before in his letters:

"Give my warmest personal regards to all of my friends. Tell them there must come a time when liars and informers will no longer be able to sell their fellow men for 30 pieces of silver."

"Tell them that there will come a time when the world will look back in horror to know that it permitted the existence of a place like Alcatraz. If people are sick, ways must be found to cure them. If there are people who have committed crimes, ways must be found to rehabilitate them. Man has no mandate to destroy his fellow man by Alcatraz or any other method. The existence of a place like Alcatraz enables it to be used as a perverse measure. Other innocent people are threatened by my being here as much as they were threatened by my illegal arrest and trial."

Request Filed to Move Sobell from Alcatraz

SAN FRANCISCO, July 7.—Request for the transfer of Morton Sobell from Alcatraz has been made to U. S. Attorney Lloyd Burke by attorney Daniel Marshall of Los Angeles, the San Francisco Rosenberg-Sobell Committee made known today.

Marshall, accompanied by several San Francisco lawyers, met with Burke and asked him to convey the request for Sobell's transfer to Attorney General Herbert Brownell.

Marshall, co-chairman of the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg case, is one of the two attorneys whose arguments led Supreme Court Justice Douglas to grant the Rosenbergs a last-minute stay of execution.

Since the execution, Marshall has played a leading role in the campaign for a new Sobell trial and for the removal of Sobell from Alcatraz.

Sobell charges that his imprisonment in Alcatraz is a third degree tactic designed to bring a false confession that he and the Rosenbergs were guilty.

Petitions demanding Sobell's removal from Alcatraz are being circulated throughout the country. They are addressed to James V. Bennett, Federal Director of Prisons. Petitions are available at the office of the national Rosenberg-Sobell committee, 1050 Sixth Ave., New York.

CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

DATED

PR. 4

100-37158-A

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 Lacalio 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.

(Continued on Page 6)

CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

DATED July 9, 1954

on 1

100-37158-A

SOBELL

(Continued from Page 1)

Did you ever read his short stories? They're quite unique, like his plays. They have much flavor like Chekhov's short stories. Few short story writers have a flavor. And I read the three mainstays—Time, Newsweek and U. S. News, but not by choice. It's really very strange how one can get such fascist stuff like the American Mercury, such junk as Photoplay . . . anything but a good honest decent periodical for a less biased presentation of the news. U. S. News is best, because it frequently presents verbatim speeches and hearings. Actually the Congressional Record is pretty good for the same reason, it's verbatim and so quite revealing at times.

The people here have little resemblance to people as you know them. Did you see the movie "High Noon"? Well when they showed it here the applause and hissing was the opposite of what would be present in an outside audience, many reactions are so reversed. I'm afraid a "square john" (that's what a non-criminal is called) like me will also get a bit mixed up. The strangest thing is to hear people talk of happenings of 20 years ago as if of yesterday.

I was stunned when I read that Arthur Miller had been denied a passport. I have recently read an article of his after a visit to his alma mater, Michigan, in which he forecast grave repercussions as the result of the absence of free expression on the campus today. . . . You know in other countries it is the students who are generally in the forefront in the fight for freedom. I wonder why this country and England seem to be exceptions?

I really would like to discuss with you, your school, your work, your music. But I'm really not too well informed on such matters right now. I suppose you're still infatuated with your school. I wonder if you partake in any outside school activities. . . .

Helen wrote me about your birthday present to me. I will let you know how well I like your mother in the hairdo you bought for her for my birthday.

About Indochina, they'll become schizoid soon, if they don't make up their mind which they're fighting for, the rice or the freedom of the people, and yet the answer is so simple.

I have reached the conclusion that my education was faulty. Right now I'm doing some studying in mechanics that I should have done as an undergraduate. Will you have to take plane geometry later? . . . Take good care of yourself and Pips and I hope you get to somewhere with him, a kid's play, concert, something to stimulate him, and you. What are you playing on the piano now? And your violin? I don't know much longer it will take, but we'll see it through, we will. All my love for you.

MORTY.

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 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.

(Continued on Page 6)

100-37158-A

CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

DATED July 9, 1954

Page 1 Col 1

SOBELL

(Continued from Page 1)

Did you ever read his short stories? They're quite unique, like his plays. They have much flavor like Chekhov's short stories. Few short story writers have a flavor. And I read the three mainstays—Time, Newsweek and U. S. News, but not by choice. It's really very strange how one can get such fascist stuff like the American Mercury, such junk as Photoplay . . . anything but a good honest decent periodical for a less biased presentation of the news. U. S. News is best, because it frequently present verbatims of speeches and hearings. Actually the Congressional Record is pretty good for the same reason, it's verbatim, and so quite revealing at times.

The people here have little resemblance to people as you know them. Did you see the movie "High Noon"? Well when they showed it here the applause and hissing was the opposite of what would be present in an outside audience, many reactions are so reversed. I'm afraid a "square john" (that's what a non-criminal is called) like me will also get a bit mixed up. The strangest thing is to hear people talk of happenings of 20 years ago as if of yesterday.

I was stunned when I read that Arthur Miller had been denied a passport. I have recently read an article of his after a visit to his alma mater, Michigan, in which he forecast grave repercussions as the result of the absence of free expression on the campus today. . . . You know in other countries it is the students who are generally in the forefront in the fight for freedom. I wonder why this country and England seem to be exceptions?

really would like to discuss with you, your school, your work, your music. But I'm really not too well informed on such matters right now. I suppose you're still infatuated with your school. I wonder if you partake in any outside school activities. . . .

Helen wrote me about your birthday present to me. I will let you know how well I like your mother in the hairdo you bought for her for my birthday.

About Indochina, they'll become schizoid soon, if they don't make up their mind which they're fighting for, the rice or the freedom of the people, and yet the answer is so simple.

I have reached the conclusion that my education was faulty. Right now I'm doing some studying in mechanics that I should have done as an undergraduate. Will you have to take plane geometry later? . . . Take good care of yourself and Pips and I hope you get to somewhere with him, a kid's play, concert, something to stim-

ulate him, and you. What are you playing on the piano now? And your violin? I don't know much longer it will take, but we'll see it through, we will. All my love for you.

MORTY.

Belgium Rights League Hits Persecution of Morton Sobell

The Belgium League for the Defense of the Rights of Man has protested the conditions under which scientist Morton Sobell was "kidnaped" from Mexico to the U.S. for trial on a "conspiracy to commit" espionage charge.

Sobell, convicted in the Rosenberg trial and sentenced to 30 years, is imprisoned in Alcatraz. A campaign for a new trial and for his removal from Alcatraz is under way.

The League, in a letter made public by ~~Morton Sobell~~, wife of Morton Sobell, said the seizure of Sobell violated "rules of international law."

The League for the Defense of the Rights of Man is a Europe-wide organization which includes some of the most distinguished attorneys of Europe.

The letter, addressed to Mrs. Sobell, and signed by H. L. Boston, president, and G. Aronstein, General Secretary, said in part:

"Although we cannot, nor do we wish to, pronounce ourselves on the basic jurisdiction of the United States, the League has been struck

by the conditions under which your husband was kidnaped in Mexico and delivered to the police authorities of the United States.

"The League believes that the procedures used are in formal contradiction with the elementary rights of the individual in terms of the defense of justice, as well as with the rules of international law.

"In contempt of these rules, anonymous agents acting without a regular order in the territory of a foreign state and without any consultation with the authorities of that state, proceeded with the arbitrary arrest and kidnaping by armed force of Mr. Sobell in order to carry him against his will out of the country where he was vacationing, delivered him to the authorities of the United States and there placed him in protective custody.

"There is no doubt that this procedure of that nature, the League places, it deprived your husband of the possibility of defending himself with a demand for extradition, which should have been transmitted to the Mexican authorities with an indication of the charges leveled against him. Then and above all, it violated his inalienable right to go and come freely and to be deprived of his liberty only upon a regular order of the constituted judicial authorities.

CLIPPING

DAILY WORKER

July 19, 1954
7-4

100-37158-A

"Moved by the use of police procedures of that nature, the League believes it its duty to protest against the ignoring of the rights of man which it involved. It believes that the rules of procedure established in civilized states against repressive judicial inquiry constitute an essential part of the most elementary rights of the individual which requires a very special vigilance.

"It is in this spirit that the Belgium League for the Defense of the Rights of Man forcefully denounces the illegal practices followed in this case and authorizes you to register with all the political and judicial authorities of the United States in the best interest of your husband the present protest, which expresses the emotion felt in the breast of the League at the blows against liberty and with the rights of defense of justice in your husband's case."

Sobell was seized in Mexico on August 16, 1950. The New York Times on August 18, 1950, quoted Mexican immigration officials as saying that Mexican secret police did not report to their office, but delivered Sobell directly to the F.B.I. The procedure was termed "unusual" by the assistant chief of Mexican immigration.

Last February, the Columbia Law Review commented on the kidnaping of Sobell in a 42-page study of the Rosenberg case. Had this question been litigated, the Columbia Law Review said, "Sobell may have prevailed with the argument that a judgment cannot stand when jurisdiction is obtained through federal officers' violation of the anti-kidnaping law.

CALENDAR

Chicago

PROGRESSIVES this is YOUR theater! CINEMA ANNEX, Madison near Kedzie. See daily listing, under "Movies," "West."

"CRISIS OF THE 20th CENTURY: Can We Avoid a Third World War."
Speaker: Bert Cochran, editor of AMERICAN SOCIALIST. Sedgwick Hall, 333 W. North Av., Fri., May 14, 8:15 p.m. Donation: 50c.

HELP MORTON SOBELL WIN FREEDOM. Contribute clothing, housewares, etc., to Chicago Rosenberg-Sobell Committee Rummage Sale. For pickup write 410 S. Michigan, Room 534. or call WE 9-5402 Tues., Thurs. & Fri., or MO 6-1363 evenings.

700-37158-A

CLIPPING FROM THE
N.Y. *National Guardian*
DATED *May 10, 1954*
FORWARDED BY N.Y. DIVISION

McCarthy Hearing Sheds Light on Sobell Frameup

The Rosenberg-Sobell committee pointed yesterday to the Army-McCarthy hearings as proof of the committee's repeated warnings made before the execution nearly a year ago.

"What has happened since the Rosenbergs' execution on June 19, 1953?" the Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case asked.

Its warning that the execution would endanger our country has been amply justified, it claimed. That the Rosenbergs and Sobell were convicted on hysteria, not evidence, left no American safe, said the committee.

"Senator McCarthy attempted to use the Rosenberg-Sobell case against scientists at Fort Monmouth. Claiming he had evidence of 'spy rings' he attempted to implicate persons for knowing the Rosenbergs and Morton Sobell.

"No less a figure than former President Harry S. Truman," the committee recalled, "was subjected to the 'spy' hysteria when he was accused by Attorney General Herbert Brownell of helping an alleged espionage agent. Congressman Claire Hoffman of Michigan suggested that Truman might deserve the Rosenberg treatment."

Asking if the country was more secure since the Rosenberg execution, the committee declared: "On the contrary, the case has fanned a hysteria under which no man is

safe—whether he be a young scientist like Morton Sobell, an engineer at Fort Monmouth, a former President of the U.S., or the man who built the atomic bomb."

"The man who built the atomic bomb that the Rosenbergs were accused of giving to the Russians is now labeled a security risk," the committee said.

Urging a new trial for Sobell, and the investigation by the Senate Judiciary Committee of the conduct of the Attorney General's office in the Rosenberg-Sobell case, the committee said:

"The irony of the entire situation is that leading scientists now admit freely that there never was any such thing as a 'secret' to the atomic bomb. The New York Times reported on March 17 that Dr. James Beckerly, director of the Atomic Energy Commission's Classification Office, said that the Soviet Union did not get its atom and hydrogen bombs through espionage."

The committee characterized the Attorney General's action in keeping Sobell in Alcatraz, a prison for incorrigible criminals, as "plainly a vindictive act" inspired by Brownell's fear of a new trial.

CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

DATED

May 12, 1954
col. 1, 2

Ps.

100-37158-A

Harrington #6

TK

CALENDAR

Chicago

PROGRESSIVES this is YOUR theater! CINEMA ANNEX, Madison near Kedzie. See daily listing under "movies" "West."

"CRISIS OF THE 20th CENTURY: Can We Avoid a Third World War?" Speaker: Bert Cochran, editor of AMERICAN SOCIALIST. Sedgwick Hall, 333 W. North Av., Fri., May 14, 8:15 p.m. Donation: \$0c.

HELP MORTON SOBELL. WIN FREEDOM. Contribute clothing, housewares, etc., to Chicago Rosenberg-Sobell Committee. Rumms30 Spis. For pickup write 410 E. Michigan, Room 334, or call WF 9-5002 Tues., Thurs. & Fri., or HQ 5-1363 evenings.

100-37158-A

7/15-157

CLIPPING FROM THE
N. Y. *National Guardian*
DATED May 10, 1954
FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION

SAVE SOBELL. SMORGASBORD
Fri., May 21, 7 p.m., at Hungarian
Hall, 3141 Southern Blvd. (bet. 141-
142 Sts.). Entertainment by Lillian
Goodman, dancing. Auspices: Bronx
Rosenberg-Sobell Committee.

100-37158-A

100-37158-1150

CLIPPING FROM THE
N. Y. *National Guardian*
DATED *May 10 1954*
FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION

SAVE ROBBIE, HMO(1)ANDORR
Fri., May 21, 7 p.m., at Hungarian
Hall, 2141 Southern Blvd. (bet. 181-
182 Sts.). Entertainment by Lillian
Goodman, dancing. Auspices: Bronx
Gosenberg-Sobell Committee.

100-37158-A

CLIPPING FROM THE
N. Y. *National Guardian*
DATED *May 17, 1954*
FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION

Harriington
#6

Mrs. Sobell Tells of Trip

Helen Sobell reported yesterday that activity in behalf of her husband, Morton Sobell, is increasing throughout the country. Mrs. Sobell, just returned from visiting her husband in Alcatraz and speaking at public meetings in many parts of the U.S., said:

"I found that more and more people are becoming aware of the importance of this case. My husband is encouraged by the progress we are making.

"I attended meetings in San Francisco, Vancouver, Philadelphia, Washington and conferred with people in other cities. Petitions are being circulated demanding the removal of my husband from Alcatraz. Many are writing personal letters to James Bennett, Director of Prisons, in Washington."

Sobell, convicted in the Rosenberg frameup trial, was sentenced to 30 years. He has been under constant pressure to confess, but he firmly maintains his innocence. When all other pressure failed, Sobell was sent to Alcatraz, America's prison for the most hardened criminals.

Mrs. Sobell visited her husband twice, each visit lasting 90 minutes. In accordance with prison rules, they were able to talk with each other over a telephone. Separating them was a small glass panel. Children are not permitted in Alcatraz. Thus Sobell has not been able to see his five-year-old son and his 14-year-old daughter in nearly two years.

Sobell was heartened at news of the nation-wide activity. He expressed confidence that the people would free him and that the

Mrs. Sobell

(Continued from Page 2)
truth in this case would become known.

"Give my warmest personal regards to all of my friends," he said. "Tell them there must come a time when liars and informers will no longer be able to sell their fellow men for 30 pieces of silver."

Petitions asking Director of Prisons Bennett to remove Sobell from Alcatraz are available at the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case, 1050 Sixth Ave., New York.

CLIPPING FROM THE
DAILY WORKER
JUL 15 1954
DATED 2-2-54
Pg. 2

100-37158A

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
JUL 16 1954
FBI - NEW YORK
J. Harrington
#6

But He Could Not Touch Her Hand

By JOSEPH KLEIN

YOUR hand felt so nice when at the last moment you placed it against the glass for me to feel, and it was as if I truly touched it, or so it felt."

So wrote scientist Morton Sobell to his wife, Helen, after their recent brief visit in Alcatraz. He could not really touch her hand, because on "The Rock" a prisoner can see his loved one only through a thick, small rectangular glass. He can hear the voice of his loved one only through a prison telephone.

Sobell, who was sentenced to 30 years in the Rosenberg trial and is being held in Alcatraz because he refuses to make a false spy confession, also wrote:

"You looked adorable in your black and white outfit and the other aspects of your dress are



CLIPPING FROM

THE WORKER

HELEN SOBELL

DATED

July 25, 1954

100-37158-A

NEW YORK

Handwritten notes and signatures at the bottom right of the page.

...imprinted in my eyes my love. There was a wistfulness about you, a combination of tiredness and loving tenderness. This too will remain with us, as well as your words, dear dear Helen." What do young parents talk about when they visit Alcatraz? What does a man say to his wife in their brief, unfrequent visits? It's been nearly two years since Morton Sobell has been imprisoned on "The Rock" and since he has seen his two children, who are not allowed even the luxury of seeing their father through a glass panel.

HELEN SOBELL, tired after her long cross-country journey but encouraged at seeing the nationwide activity in behalf of her husband, told of her visit on returning to New York.

"I saw Mort twice," she said. "Each of our visits lasted an hour and a half. I brought him good

Petition Bennett

Petitions urging James V. Bennett, director of prisons, to remove Morton Sobell from Alcatraz are available at the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case, 1050 Sixth Ave., New York. LO 4-9585.

news of people working to free him.

"His eyes were bright and eager. The strained look that was so usual on his face was wiped away for the moment. It is good to laugh," he said. And we laughed together in the darkness of Alcatraz."

She explained how much she and Mort would have liked to talk just about personal things, such as their children, in the three hours they had together. They did talk about their family, about the things they once shared.

"But when time is so short, when every second counts," Mrs. Sobell said, "we had to devote much of our visit to discussing legal plans in the case. It is so seldom that Mort and I get a chance to confer."

Mrs. Sobell asked her husband if there had been any relaxation in restrictions of the material he is permitted to read. There has not been. Sobell is allowed to read the U. S. News and World Report, the American Mercury, movie magazines and Time magazine. He cannot see any newspapers.

"Mort is continuing to work at maintenance of electrical equipment. In the evenings, he manages to work on mathematical problems and attempt to pursue some kind of scientific study."

LEARNING that meetings were held throughout the country on the first anniversary of the execution of the Rosenbergs meant so much to Sobell. Enheartened that more and more people realized the importance of his case to America, he told his wife, as he had written before in his letters:

"Give my warmest personal regards to all of my friends. Tell them there must come a time when liars and informers will no longer be able to sell their fellow men for 30 pieces of silver.

"Tell them that there will come a time when the world will look back in horror to know that it permitted the existence of a place like Alcatraz. If people are sick, ways must be found to cure them. If there are people who have committed crimes, ways must be found to rehabilitate them. Man has no mandate to destroy his fellow man by Alcatraz or any other method. The existence of a place like Alcatraz enables it to be used as a coercive measure. Other innocent people are threatened by my being here as much as they were threatened by my illegal arrest and trial."

Compares Morton Sobell's Frameup to Dreyfuss Case

CLIPPING FROM

THE WORKER

August 8, 1954

DATED

PR. 14 CH. 1

100-37158-A

J. Herrington

By JOSEPH KLEIN

ALCATRAZ PRISON is often compared to Devil's Island, the place where Captain Alfred Dreyfus was unjustly imprisoned in France's famous frameup case. Today, more than ever, America's prison situated on a rocky isle off San Francisco can be likened to Devil's Island.

For behind the bars of Alcatraz is scientist Morton Sobell, who was convicted in the Rosenberg trial. And there are strong parallels between the reasons why Morton Sobell is in Alcatraz and why Captain Dreyfus was incarcerated on Devil's Island.

Dreyfus was accused of treason on a trumped up espionage accusation. From the very start he was under pressure and intimidation to "confess." When he fought to prove his innocence after being found guilty by a court martial, he was ordered to Devil's Island, where those who planned the frameup believed he would be silenced and perhaps persuaded to confess.

Morton Sobell, accused of "conspiracy to commit espionage," has also been under constant pressure to "confess." For fighting to prove his innocence, he was sent to Alcatraz, America's prison for the most hardened criminals.

In both instances, the imprisonment constituted an abuse of administrative power.

★
IN THE BOOK "The Dreyfus Case" written by Pierre Dreyfus, the victim's son, the hours when Dreyfus first learned of the accusation are described as follows:

"His heartbreaking protests, his requests for the documents on which the accusation was based, his reiterated professions of innocence—all these succeeded only in exasperating the narrow and bigoted minds of these men (the authorities). What they wanted was a confession. And when they were unable to get it, they were incensed. Dreyfus was scarred like a criminal, and just as in every orthodox scenario of this type, a revolver was placed within his reach so that he might himself do the work of justice.

This effort at making Dreyfus commit suicide was not very different from a trap set for Morton Sobell. According to Sobell's wife, Helen Sobell, when Sobell was being transported to Alcatraz, he

Petitions are being circulated throughout the United States demanding that James V. Bennett, director of prisons, remove Morton Sobell from Alcatraz.

The petitions can be obtained at the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case, 1050 Sixth Ave., New York City.

Many individuals are writing personal letters addressed to James V. Bennett, director of prisons, Justice Department, Washington, D. C.

was left alone at an airport for a few moments. He was left without handcuffs and unguarded, and thus was presented with the "opportunity" to make a break. Had Sobell so much as looked like he might be trying to get away, he could have been shot down in what would have been neatly recorded officially as an attempted escape.

When Dreyfus was found guilty, the decision condemned him to be detained in a "fortified enclosure," that is to live outside the borders of France in a place where he could be watched, but would not be imprisoned. His wife and children were to be permitted to join him. The law specified that the place was to be an island in New Caledonia.

But the French government

passed a special law that provided for Salvation Islands also to be used as a place of deportation. When Dreyfus continued to proclaim his innocence, French General Mercier completely abused his powers by changing the penalty of deportation to that of imprisonment.

Dreyfus was taken to Devil's Island, which was part of the Salvation Islands. The isle, a barren rock, had previously been a leper colony. There Dreyfus was imprisoned and subjected to the most inhuman conditions.

★
ALCATRAZ was established in 1933 as a prison for the nation's most dangerous criminals—men who were known as troublemakers in other federal prisons. Prisoners who cannot be disciplined in a regular prison are sent to "The Rock."

Therefore, the sending of Morton Sobell to Alcatraz was a departure from the pronounced practices of the federal penal system.

This is made clear in recent testimony before a House subcommittee on appropriations by James V. Bennett, Federal Director of Prisons. Testifying on June 15, 1954, Bennett said there were 291 men in Alcatraz.

Rep. Clevenger asked: "A great many of them are people who are troublemakers, inciters of riots who upset the institution where they were before they went to Alcatraz?"

Bennett answered: "All of them are of that kind, sir."

Morton Sobell does not fall into this category, since there is nothing in his record that would justify this classification. His confinement in Alcatraz is clearly in violation of the purposes for which the director of Prisons himself testified that Alcatraz is being used.

Morton Sobell was sent to Alcatraz, where rules deprive him of seeing his two children, only after all other pressure to make him "confess" had failed.



DREYFUS

THE CASE of Captain Dreyfus grew into a tremendous campaign for justice. Dreyfus' statements of innocence were heard, and he walked free from Devil's Island to be vindicated and to become a man honored throughout the world.

Morton Sobell has said that Alcazar would never break him, that he would never stop saying he was innocent. He is confident that just as the French people learned the true story of the frameup against Captain Dreyfus, the American people will learn the true story about the case of Morton Sobell. He knows that then he too will be set free.



—SOBELL

Mrs. Sobell Asks Calif. Parties Help Husband

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 15.—Mrs. Helen Sobell, wife of Morton Sobell, now serving a 30-year sentence in Alcatraz, has urged California's three major political parties to ask the removal of her husband from Alcatraz.

Mrs. Sobell sent a letter to the Republican, Democratic and Independent parties, which convened in Sacramento last week-end.

She asked that the parties urge Director James V. Bennett of the Federal Bureau of Prisons to transfer her husband.

"You must give your help," Mrs. Sobell said in her letter, "because if this can happen to Morton Sobell, it can happen to you. I ask you to examine the complete trial record and all of the facts in this case.

"The debacle of Ft. Monmouth," she added, "the attack on Dr. Oppenheimer and the exposure of Roy Cohn, one of the prosecutors in the Rosenberg-Sobell case, have brought a new understanding of the tactics and motives which have been used in my husband's case to condemn an innocent man."

She named several prominent Americans of the hundreds who have asked for a new trial for Mr. Sobell.

CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

DATED

Aug. 16, 1954

PE

Col.

100-37158-A

J. Harrington

Many Notables Ask Sobell Case Review

A growing number of Americans and prominent individuals and organizations abroad are urging a reexamination of the case of Morton Sobell, the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case said yesterday.

The committee, in a partial list issued yesterday, gave the names of 58 American leaders in many fields of activity, as well as the names of 17 prominent individuals and organizations abroad who have urged justice for Sobell.

Sobell, sentenced to 30 years in the Rosenberg trial on a charge of conspiracy to commit espionage, is imprisoned in Alcatraz.

The Sobell committee is calling for a new trial, and for his removal from Alcatraz on grounds that his imprisonment in the maximum security prison constitutes an attempt to force a false "confession" from him.

Alcatraz was established in 1933 for the announced purpose of holding those few convicts called "humble-makers" in regular federal prisons. The Sobell committee has said that there was nothing in Sobell's conduct that could possibly



MRS. SOBELL.

justify his being sent to Alcatraz by the U. S. Attorney General's Office.

CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

DATED

8/26/54

FR

Vol. 2, 3

100-37158-A

John Harrington

Los Angeles

CONCERT, Sat., Sept. 12, 8:30, at 1808 N. Kenmore. Vivian Millman, Priscilla Esterman with other outstanding musical entertainment. Refreshments, donation, ASP.

COME & SIGN THE COMMUNITY SCROLL CALL FOR JUSTICE to transfer Morton Sobell from Alcatraz. Meet Helen Sobell, Rev. Pitchman, Al Hammer and many others. Refreshments and entertainment. Park Manor, 607 N. Western. Thurs., Sept. 10, 8 p.m. Admission: \$50.

CLIPPING FROM THE

"National Guardian"

SEP 13 1954

DATED

FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION

100-37156-A

SEP 13

J. Harrington #6

Was Perjured Testimony Used Deliberately?

Documents from the files of attorneys for prosecution witnesses show that the Attorney General's Office made a deal for false testimony. These documents have been submitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee with a request for an investigation into the conduct of the Attorney General's Office in the Rosenberg-Sobell case.

In recent months millions of Americans have become aware of the manipulations of Roy Cohn, who was one of the chief prosecutors in the Rosenberg-Sobell trial. Cohn's involvement in the "faked" photo in the Army-McCarthy hearings, in addition to other irregularities, necessitates a review of the prosecution's methods in the Sobell case.

In a case of lesser political importance, it was recently proven that the Attorney General's Office had tried to gain a conviction through dishonesty. The Attorney General's Office was found to have deceived a Grand Jury in the "loyalty" case of Val Lorwin. When these facts came to light, the Lorwin case was dismissed and a government attorney lost his job.

CLIPPING FROM THE
New York-Herald Tribune
DAILY WORKER

DATED 9/19/54
Pg. 14 Col. 3

100-37158-A

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
SEP 23 1954	
FBI - NEW YORK	

Questions and Answers On The Scientist at Alcatraz

Editor's Note: We believe that the case of Morton Sobell, the third defendant in the Rosenberg trial, is one of vital importance. To acquaint you with the basic facts in the case, we are publishing excerpts from a pamphlet titled, "The Scientist in Alcatraz—Questions and Answers on the Case of Morton Sobell." The pamphlet, which sells for 10 cents, has been published by the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case, 1050 Sixth Ave., New York City.

Who Is Morton Sobell?

He is a 36-year-old scientist and engineer born in New York City and convicted in the same trial with Ethel and Julius Rosenberg on a charge of "conspiracy to commit espionage." He was sentenced to 30 years in prison and is now in Alcatraz. Sobell swears he is completely innocent.

Ever since his school days Sobell aspired to be a scientist. He was graduated as an electrical engineer from City College of New York, worked for the Bureau of Ordnance of the Navy Department, received a degree of Master of Science in Engineering from the University of Michigan, passed up a fellowship so that he could do war work against the Axis, was registered on the National Roster of Scientific Personnel for the War Manpower Commission, cooperated in 1944 with the Senate Committee investigating the National Defense program, worked for the General Electric Company and was employed by the Reeves Instrument Company.

During his college days and later during his professional life, Morton Sobell was an ardent liberal who vigorously supported Franklin D. Roosevelt and his New Deal policies.

Sobell is married. Until the time of his arrest, he lived with his wife, their son, and his wife's daughter by a previous marriage. Sobell's wife, his parents, Rose and Louis, and the entire Sobell family, have dedicated themselves to proving his innocence.

CLIPPING FROM THE
New York Herald Tribune
DAILY WORKER
DATED 7 9/19/54
3

100-37158-A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 23 1954	
FBI - NEW YORK	

What Was the Charge?

Sobell was charged with "conspiracy to commit espionage" with Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. Sobell was not named in the first indictment in the case. He was brought into the case in a "superceding" indictment. The only specific charges listed against Sobell by the prosecution were made that he had five conversations with Julius Rosenberg. These five conversations were required to be proved in court. They never were even mentioned during the course of the trial.

What Was Sobell's Connection With Julius Rosenberg

Sobell knew Julius Rosenberg when they were classmates at City College. They were part of a circle of friends. After graduation Sobell and Rosenberg visited each other socially a few times. Rosenberg, who testified to his own innocence, also testified that Morton Sobell was innocent.

What Were the Circumstances of Sobell's Arrest?

Morton Sobell and his family went to Mexico on June 22, 1950. On Aug. 16, 1950, his apartment in Mexico City was invaded by armed men who claimed to be Mexican police but had no warrant.

They accused Morton Sobell of having robbed a bank in Acapulco. Sobell protested his innocence, showed his tourist card and tried to call the American Embassy. The men dragged him out of the house. Sobell was beaten unconscious and taken to an office building. His wife, protesting the kidnapping and screaming for help, was also seized. The two

Sobell children were left alone for several hours until another group of armed men came to get them. The men also gathered up some of the Sobell belongings and stuffed them into suitcases.

At 4 a.m. Sobell was put in one car with armed guards instructed to kill him if he "made trouble," and his wife and children put in a second car. They rode for 24 hours without stopping until they reached the U.S. border. At 2 a.m. Mrs. Sobell, in a state of collapse, was released with the children. Sobell was turned over to the FBI.

The New York Times on Aug. 18, 1950 quoted Mexican immigration officials as saying that Mexican secret police did not report to their office, but delivered Sobell directly to the FBI. This procedure was termed "unusual" by the assistant chief of Mexican immigration. An article in the New York Times on Aug. 19 stated: "The case was surrounded by extraordinary secrecy. The four agents who made the

What Can Be Done?

Legal moves are under way to win a new trial for Morton Sobell. Meanwhile, Morton Sobell remains imprisoned in Alcatraz . . . where he is under daily pressure to "confess" . . . where he is not permitted to see his two young children.

Will you act to remove Morton Sobell from Alcatraz? Join your fellow Americans who are requesting Sobell's removal in letters to James V. Bennett, Director of Prisons, Justice Dept., Washington, D. C.

arrest still refused to furnish details. It was not known in exactly what manner Mexican authorities deported the instrument specialist. The government promptly issued inflammatory stories in the press charging that Sobell was an atom spy. He was convicted in the headlines before being brought to trial.

Why Was Sobell Kidnapped?

The lack of evidence against Morton Sobell was underscored by the unlawful kidnaping of Sobell and his family from Mexico. By the kidnaping, the government showed that it did not even have enough evidence to extradite him from Mexico through legal channels, let alone prove espionage activities.

The kidnaping also deprived Sobell of his right to return voluntarily to face charges. The government thereby tried to make it appear that Sobell was a fugitive. It should be noted that Sobell later waived extradition from Texas, anxious to be brought to New York to fight the charges against him.

Sobell stated that he and his family were vacationing in Mexico. The plane tickets in his name and the passenger list of the airline show that Sobell and his family went to Mexico as tourists in a routine manner. In a legal motion Sobell's attorney presented the uncontradicted fact that the Sobell family had received the vaccinations needed to return to the United States just before the kidnaping. Proof of the vaccinations, their child's return plane ticket to the United States, family movies of their tour, as well as camera, watch, clothing etc., were among personal belongings which disappeared at the time of the kidnaping. The return plane ticket has been found to be in the possession of the FBI.

What Was the Evidence?

No documentary evidence linking Sobell to espionage was ever introduced in the trial. Only one man connected Sobell to the conspiracy charged. This witness was Max Elitcher, a neighbor of the Sobell family and one of Sobell's former classmates at City College.

What was Elitcher's testimony?

(a) In the first 12 pages of Elitcher's testimony, he did not mention Sobell in connection with espionage. Elitcher finally linked Sobell to the conspiracy with the statement that Julius Rosenberg had told him Sobell was in it too.

(b) Elitcher said that one night he drove to Morton Sobell in New York from Washington, D. C., believing that the FBI was following him. He told this to Sobell, says Elitcher, and then was asked by

(Continued on Page 14)

Q and A on Sobell Frameup

(Continued from Page 7)

Sobell to accompany him to Julius Rosenberg, allegedly also a spy. (Elitcher admitted under cross-examination that his story was added to his testimony four months after Sobell's kidnapping from Mexico).

Elitcher asked us to believe that spies, knowing they were being followed by the FBI, would visit each other.

(c) Elitcher also tried to say that Sobell had "confessed" to him that he was a spy. These are Elitcher's words:

A. Well, he said, I don't know in what words, or implied that it had to do with this espionage business, but I don't recall the exact nature of the words.—Trial Transcript, p. 249.

Other conversations such as the above and Elitcher's story of the ride constitute the total evidence linking Sobell to espionage.

Was Sobell Linked to Atomic Sabotage?

The prosecution branded Sobell "atom spy" and this label was

pinned on him by the newspapers. Most Americans probably have been misled into believing he was convicted of "atomic espionage." This is completely false. Judge Kaufman told Sobell in court: "The evidence in the case did not point to any activity on your part in connection with the atomic bomb project."

Why a 30-Year Sentence?

Even if Sobell were guilty, the 30-year sentence was unprecedented for cases tried under the same act. Sentences of persons charged with espionage for a wartime enemy (and Sobell's case involved a wartime ally) averaged four to five years. In Sobell's case the judge went out of his way to recommend in advance that there be no parole. Why such severity?

In passing sentence Judge Kaufman said: "It is so difficult to make people realize that this country is engaged in a life and death struggle with a completely different system."



MORTON SOBELL

AMERICAN AIRLINES, INC. 1 012 A 121894

NEW YORK JUN 22 50

NEW YORK

NOT BOARDING

Morton Sobell

LISTA DE PASAJEROS AEROS
AIR PASSENGER MANIFEST

PROPIETARIO AMERICAN AIRLINES DE MEXICO S.A.
AMERICAN AIRLINES, INC.

U.S.A. FLIGHT DATE

NO.	NAME	AGE	SEX	CLASS	FARE BASIS	FARE	TAXES	TOTAL	COUPON	STATUS
1	Mr. Sobell	41	M	Y	Y	10.00	1.00	11.00		OK
2	Mr. Sobell	41	M	Y	Y	10.00	1.00	11.00		OK
3	Mr. Sobell	41	M	Y	Y	10.00	1.00	11.00		OK
4	Mr. Sobell	41	M	Y	Y	10.00	1.00	11.00		OK
5	Mr. Sobell	41	M	Y	Y	10.00	1.00	11.00		OK
6	Mr. Sobell	41	M	Y	Y	10.00	1.00	11.00		OK
7	Mr. Sobell	41	M	Y	Y	10.00	1.00	11.00		OK
8	Mr. Sobell	41	M	Y	Y	10.00	1.00	11.00		OK
9	Mr. Sobell	41	M	Y	Y	10.00	1.00	11.00		OK
10	Mr. Sobell	41	M	Y	Y	10.00	1.00	11.00		OK

Airline tickets bought in Sobell's name, as certified by American Airlines, and the listing as tourists of Sobell and his family on the airline passenger roster show Sobell went to Mexico in a routine manner.

Mother Appeals to All Parties to Help Move Sobell From Alcatraz

The mother of Morton Sobell has appealed to New York State's four major political parties to urge the removal of her son from Alcatraz.

Mrs. Rose Sobell, who lives in the Bronx, N. Y., has addressed a plea to the platform committees of the Republican, Democratic, Liberal and American Labor parties. She asked that the parties take action at their forthcoming state conventions to aid her son, sentenced to 30 years in the Rosenberg trial.

Sobell, who has been fighting for a new trial, contends that he is innocent, and that he was sent to Alcatraz, America's most severe prison, in an effort to force a "false confession" from him.

Mrs. Sobell's appeal follows:

My name is Rose Sobell and I live at 2400 Davidson Avenue in the Bronx, N. Y. I have been a resident of New York State for many years, and it is in this state that I raised my family.

I am appealing to you, one of my state's major political parties, to help me secure justice for my son, Morton Sobell, who grew up in the Bronx and was graduated from City College of New York.

Although he has done nothing wrong, he has been sentenced to 30 years in prison. You may think that any mother would say her son is innocent. But believe me, I know my son Morton very well, and I know he has done nothing wrong. The 30-year prison sentence in itself is something terrible. Still more horrible is the fact that he has been sent to Alcatraz, which is the most severe prison in our country.

My son was charged with "conspiracy to commit espionage in the trial with Ethel and Julius



SOBELL

Rosenberg. He was convicted—not on any evidence—but on the testimony of only one witness. This witness was a man who faced a possible perjury indictment and stood to gain by saying my Morton was guilty. My son is appealing for a new trial, and when he wins such a trial, he will be able to prove his innocence. It will be shown that he was a victim of the hysteria that has resulted in so many injustices.

Many prominent Americans have already asked Federal Director of Prisons, James V. Bennett, to remove my son from Alcatraz. I ask your party convention to express approval of the request that my son be removed from Alcatraz.

Does my son belong in Alcatraz? All law and custom show that he does not. Alcatraz is supposed to be for hardened criminals who have escaped from other prisons, or who are considered a menace in regular prisons.

If you could talk with my son,

and see what a gentle person he is, a scientist who longed to serve his country and humanity, you would see that even by the remotest stretch of the imagination, he should not be in Alcatraz.

Do you know that in Alcatraz a prisoner isn't even allowed to be visited by his children? And my son has two beautiful children. Even when I get to see him, I must talk to him through a telephone, and I am separated from my dear son by a thick prison glass.

It is clear to me that my son is being held in Alcatraz mainly for one reason—to try to force him to "confess." From the time of my son's arrest he has been under constant pressure to "confess." However, he has always spoken the truth and said that he had done nothing to "confess." When every other pressure failed, the authorities sent my son to Alcatraz.

We have seen this kind of third degree being used in New York. I'm thinking of the case of Paul Pfeiffer. It was shown that he was forced to make a false confession. When the facts became known, he was released and is going to get a new trial.

I am asking you to approve the removal of my son from Alcatraz for two reasons. One is because I am Morton Sobell's mother and naturally want to see justice done for my son. The other is because I know that if such things can happen to my son, they can—and will—happen to others in our country and in our state. I love my country and know that trying to force confessions from people is not the way of our democracy. When a man says he is innocent, he deserves a chance to prove it.

I hope you will give careful consideration to my request.

CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

DATED

4 9/22/54

Col.

3

100-37158-A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 23 1954	
FBI - NEW YORK	

Mother Appeals to All Parties to Help Move Sobell From Alcatraz

The mother of Morton Sobell has appealed to New York State's four major political parties to urge the removal of her son from Alcatraz.

Mrs. Rose Sobell, who lives in the Bronx, N. Y., has addressed a plea to the platform committees of the Republican, Democratic, Liberal and American Labor parties. She asked that the parties take action at their forthcoming state conventions to aid her son, sentenced to 30 years in the Rosenberg trial.

Sobell, who has been fighting for a new trial, contends that he is innocent, and that he was sent to Alcatraz, America's most severe prison, in an effort to force a "false confession" from him.

Mrs. Sobell's appeal follows:

My name is Rose Sobell and I live at 2400 Davidson Avenue in the Bronx, N. Y. I have been a resident of New York State for many years, and it is in this state that I raised my family.

I am appealing to you, one of my state's major political parties, to help me secure justice for my son, Morton Sobell, who grew up in the Bronx and was graduated from City College of New York.

Although he has done nothing wrong, he has been sentenced to 30 years in prison. You may think that any mother would say her son is innocent. But believe me, I know my son Morton very well, and I know he has done nothing wrong. The 30-year prison sentence in itself is something terrible. Still more horrible is the fact that he has been sent to Alcatraz, which is the most severe prison in our country.

My son was charged with "conspiracy to commit" espionage in the trial with Ethel and Julius



SOBELL

Rosenberg. He was convicted—not on any evidence—but on the testimony of only one witness. This witness was a man who faced a possible perjury indictment and stood to gain by saying my Morton was guilty. My son is appealing for a new trial, and when he wins such a trial, he will be able to prove his innocence. It will be shown that he was a victim of the hysteria that has resulted in so many injustices.

Many prominent Americans have already asked Federal Director of Prisons, James V. Bennett, to remove my son from Alcatraz. I ask your party convention to express approval of the request that my son be removed from Alcatraz.

Does my son belong in Alcatraz? All law and custom show that he does not. Alcatraz is supposed to be for hardened criminals who have escaped from other prisons, or who are considered a menace to regular prisons.

If you could talk with my son,

and see what a gentle person he is, a scientist who longed to serve his country and humanity, you would see that even by the remotest stretch of the imagination, he should not be in Alcatraz.

Do you know that in Alcatraz a prisoner isn't even allowed to be visited by his children? And my son has two beautiful children. Even when I get to see him, I must talk to him through a telephone, and I am separated from my dear son by a thick prison glass.

It is clear to me that my son is being held in Alcatraz mainly for one reason—to try to force him to "confess." From the time of my son's arrest he has been under constant pressure to "confess." However, he has always spoken the truth and said that he had done nothing to "confess." When every other pressure failed, the authorities sent my son to Alcatraz.

We have seen this kind of third degree being used in New York. I'm thinking of the case of Paul Pfeffer. It was shown that he was forced to make a false confession. When the facts became known, he was released and is going to get a new trial.

I am asking you to approve the removal of my son from Alcatraz for two reasons. One is because I am Morton Sobell's mother and naturally want to see justice done for my son. The other is because I know that if such things can happen to my son, they can—and will—happen to others in our country and in our state. I love my country and know that trying to force confessions from people is not the way of our democracy. When a man says he is innocent, he deserves a chance to prove it.

I hope you will give careful consideration to my request.

CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

DATED

Pr.

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 23 1954	
FBI - NEW YORK	

100-37158-A

Sobell's Letter to His Wife

Morton Sobell, sentenced to 30 years in the frameup trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, is now in Alcatraz, a prison marked out for "hardened" criminals. The Committee to Win Justice for Morton Sobell has released the following letter from Sobell to his wife, Helen:

My Love:

I have your Sunday letter. I don't know why I didn't get it until yesterday though. It's a nice letter, in so many ways. Evidently you didn't get my letter No. 54, which makes me feel bad, because it was such a good letter, and I feel that it's sort of gone to waste. Even if you get it now, the timing will be wrong.

I was glad to hear that Pips may be rid of his cold. I did not tell you, in my yesterday letter but Sunday I went to the Services, that was how I felt. There was the deliverance of a dissertation calling for faith, and I thought of another call for faith. Perhaps the best part of it all was the music, 16th Century Choral, throughout the entire service.

Hello darling, you have an almost ideal set-up in Los Angeles, what with someone to take care of Pips and a car. I guess around this time I shall always think back to 1950 and the last day of freedom, and all that happened that day. Most of all I recall that trip to the park and how we sat down and how I gazed at you, and at the pretty flowers.

The lushness of the vegetation brings back an awareness. It is almost as if I could reach out my hand and touch the flowers. There was Pips, running off, with his new-found ability. And then that last meal, the last supper? Yes and the storm, and the breaking wind, down. If we believed in signs, they were there.

LINES DRAWN CLEARER

The lines have become much more clearly drawn in the years since 1950. Today the accusation of being a 5th amendment Communist has been hung at everyone from our ex-President all the way down the line. The threats and promises which were offered in my case have been concretized into laws.

Not only is there the projected bill which grants immunity from prosecution to those who will stand and beat their breasts and proclaim "Mea culpa," but there is the so-called Communist Control Bill which decrees death for peacetime espionage.

When Elizabeth Bentley took the stand to testify as an expert in our case, she laid the foundation for this law. How enraging it was to sit by and have her declare her knowledge of spies and espionage and Communists and never once was she able to say that she knew men, or anyone else connected with the case.

But with all this fakery, the Court of Appeals decreed that her testimony provided "the missing link" that showed that "Communists and Communist sympathizers were more likely to commit espionage than others not so orientated." This concept, which started here, has grown and blossomed, so that it now is the very core of the anti-labor Brownell Bills. And the unprecedented death sentence which was meted out to the Rosenbergs has now become precedent, and law.

PERIL WIDENS

Certainly it is no accident that at the same time the cry of "20 years of treason" is thrown against the Democrats. The Constitutional guarantees which would protect a person in our courts against an unfounded charge of treason, are being stripped from others as they were stripped from me.

When the charge of conspiracy to commit espionage can be substituted for the charge of

CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

Sept 30, 1954

ca 3

100-37158-A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 1 1954	
FBI - NEW YORK	

treason and when one witness who declares his own guilt can send a person, not only to face 30 years in prison, as was done to me, but even now, to death, we have gone a long way downhill.

The charges against the Fort Monmouth scientist, and against Dr. Oppenheimer, were not really charges of espionage, they were in fact charges of treason, as were the charges against me.

It was because our Founding Fathers realized the importance of protecting individuals against pressures toward conformism, masked as charges of treason, that they placed the protection of a two-witness rule within the body of the Constitution itself.

This protection was not left as an amendment, and the encroachment upon this basic guarantee can very well mean the appearance within the next short while of a whole string of conspiracy cases.

The prosecutor in our case, Roy M. Cohn, continues to beat this particular drum, and soon Democratic and who knows even Republican Congressmen will be facing charges of conspiracy to commit espionage. Can't you get someone interested in exploring this point?

Dear, dear wife, I sigh, and I wonder. Where to? Four years ago would we have dreamed of this, in our wildest moments? Where will we be four years from now?

St. Louis Rally Asks Transfer of Sobell

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 5.—An appeal to federal authorities to remove 37-year-old scientist, Morton Sobell, from Alcatraz, was made last week-end by the St. Louis Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case.

The action was taken at a Sobell supper at the Italian Fraternal Hall. Mr. Sobell, who was sentenced to 30 years in the 1951 trial with Ethel and Julius Rosenberg on a charge of "conspiracy to commit espionage," has asserted his innocence and is seeking a new trial.

CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY EXHIBIT

DATED

FR

OCT 6, 1954

CL

100-37158A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 25 1954	
FBI - NEW YORK	

Sobell Defies Threats By FBI; Refuses to Lie

The wife of imprisoned scientist Morton Sobell disclosed yesterday that FBI agents had visited Sobell in Alcatraz and implied that he would receive leniency if he would say that he is guilty and that Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were guilty.

Mrs. Sobell, who recently returned from visiting her husband, said she had written a demand to J. Edgar Hoover that FBI agents stop harassing her husband.

Sobell, sentenced to 30 years in the Rosenberg trial, has maintained his absolute innocence and has been seeking a new trial. According to Mrs. Sobell, many prominent Americans have urged federal authorities to remove Sobell from Alcatraz to a regular federal prison.

Mrs. Sobell said that her husband has been subjected to three recent visits by the FBI. The first visit was ostensibly to return to Sobell his daughter's plane ticket confiscated at the time Sobell and his family were seized in Mexico in August, 1950. Also returned were the receipts from the customs for cameras and other items declared enroute to Mexico.

The second visit was described by Mrs. Sobell as "free of all pretense." In her letter to J. Edgar Hoover, she said:

"Starting with expressions of

friendship and interest in my husband's welfare, your agent told my husband: 'You cannot hurt the Rosenbergs now, nor can you help them. Why don't you start thinking about your own future?' In this way the FBI agent implied that if my husband would misalign dead persons, and if he would pretend to be guilty himself, there might be some reward."

THIRD VISIT

Mrs. Sobell continued: "In a third visit my husband was informed that confidential sources available to the FBI had information that my husband was being deserted. Your agent said that my husband was needlessly sacrificing his youth, his home and even the opportunity to see his children."

In a letter to his wife, Morton Sobell wrote, in commenting on the FBI visits: "I will never soil these hands. A person must live with himself for a long time—and his children and their children must live with his name and what it means after his time. And it's so simple. There is no slightly soiled dirt, all dirt is dirty."

Helen Sobell asserted that despite the use of Alcatraz as a third degree method, her husband had not lost any of his integrity.

She pointed out that her husband had long been under pressure to say he was guilty, and cited the remarks of Judge Irving Kaufman in denying Sobell a reduction in sentence. Kaufman said in a ruling on Jan. 9, 1953:

"It is still more deplorable and grievous that Sobell has not seen fit to follow the course of David Greenglass, Harry Gold and Klaus Fuchs, who, after pleading guilty, gave substantial aid in detecting and bringing to justice other espionage agents whose acts were endangering our national security."

"Rather Sobell has chosen to follow in the footsteps of the defendants Rosenberg, and, like them, adhere to misguided loyalties. His choice has been deliberate, and the enormity of his offense becomes even greater, for apparently, he still feels no remorse or contrition."

"The application is denied."

The National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell has been conducting a campaign to have Sobell removed from Alcatraz pending a new trial. It is asking that people write to James V. Bennett, Director of Prisons, Justice Department, Washington, D. C., requesting Sobell's transfer.

100-37158-A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 24 1954	
FBI - NEW YORK	

DATED Nov. 15, 1954
Pg. 6 Col. 1

MRS. SOBELL'S LETTER OF PROTEST TO FBI

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Justice Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I have just returned from seeing my husband, Morton Sobell, in Alcatraz. The difficulties of a 3,000 mile trip, the problems involved in a resettlement of my children's lives, even the forbidding experience of entering Alcatraz itself are no longer new to me. I am greatly concerned at this time with what your agents have been trying to do to my husband.

You must know that from the time that my husband, I, and my children were brutally and illegally kidnapped in August of 1950 by your agents, my husband has been constantly pressured to confess to a crime which has not committed. All of the various types of pressures which were used ~~eliminated in the choice~~ of Alcatraz as the place of imprisonment for my husband, and in his being sent there on Thanksgiving Day of 1952.

There is nothing in my husband's history, in prison or out, which could justify a decision to send him to Alcatraz. He does not belong in any prison; he certainly does not belong in Alcatraz.

Recently, perhaps under the impression that a man who is beginning his fifth year in prison has lost some of his integrity, courage, or honesty, your agents have again begun their harassment of my husband. Perhaps too, your office may be motivated by the fact that so many and such powerful forces are protesting against the use of Alcatraz as a third degree method in the case of my young scientist. No matter what your reasoning may be, this harassment must be stopped.

ON AUGUST 27 my husband was maneuvered into meeting with an FBI agent who said he wanted to return to my husband some of our belongings which were taken from us at the time of the kidnapping in Mexico. He returned our daughter's return trip ticket from Mexico and our customs receipts that meant we would not have to pay duty on cameras, etc., upon our return.

Obviously this could have been done with greater propriety, less expense, and more consideration through our attorneys. But the reason for this visit became all too obvious when your agent tried to persuade my husband that the people who believe in his innocence and who are working toward securing some measure of justice for him are not concerned with his welfare.

The second visit by your agent was free of all pretence. Starting with expressions of friendship and interest in my husband's welfare, your agent told my husband: "You cannot hurt the Rosenbergs now, nor can you help them. Why don't you start thinking about your own future?"

In this way the FBI agent implied that if my husband would malign dead persons, and if he would pretend to be guilty himself, there might be some reward.

In a third visit my husband was informed that confidential sources available to the FBI had information that my husband was being deserted. Your agent said that my husband was needlessly sacrificing his youth, his home, and even the opportunity to see his children.

I AM CONVINCED that the truth must come to light. When it is known, my husband will be free to return to his family who love him, in honor and with dignity. You are using Alcatraz and your FBI as a rack and pinion with which to destroy my husband.

Brave men have always fought for truth and honor. Even though the days of his youth are being torn from him one by one, my innocent husband will not perjure himself. He will betray neither his ideals nor other innocent people.

To have suffered some 15 months of prison, to face the living death of 30 years in Alcatraz, to have been convicted in a conspiracy trial where no witness ever testified that my husband had ever given or received any secret material, this is injustice compounded. Do not add to this by further visits from your FBI agents.

Very truly yours,

MRS. MORTON SOBELL

"ALL DIRTY IS DIRTY"

FBI makes 3 vain tries to get Sobell to 'talk'

FOR Morton Sobell the monotony of the grim island prison of Alcatraz has been relieved three times recently — by FBI agents. Mrs. Helen Sobell, who visited her husband recently, charged Nov. 15 that the agents suggested Sobell might receive leniency if he would talk. He is serving a 30-year sentence on a charge of conspiring to commit espionage with Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. In a letter to FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, Mrs. Sobell wrote:

"The second visit by your agent was free of all pretenses. Starting with expressions of friendship and interest in my husband's welfare, your agent told my husband: 'You cannot hurt the Rosenbergs now, nor can you help them. Why not start thinking about your own future?'"



MORTON SOBELL
His hands remain uncoiled

In behalf of her husband Mrs. Sobell wrote:

"Brave men have always fought for truth and honor. Even though the days of his youth are being torn from him one by one, my innocent husband will not perjure himself. He will betray neither his ideals nor other innocent people."

"To have suffered nine months of prison, to face the living death of 30 years in Alcatraz, to have been convicted in a conspiracy trial where no witness ever testified that my husband had ever given or received

Conviction of Rosenberg defender is reversed

BERKELEY, CALIF.—Reuel S. Amdur, "Thoreau-an anarchist" convicted in Feb., 1953, of setting up a sidewalk table without a permit to collect protest signatures in the Rosenberg case, was finally acquitted last month by the same municipal judge R. C. Staats Jr. who convicted him. The Appellate Court had found that the City Council had no authority to deny Amdur a permit on the grounds that he did not apply for it "in good faith," and that the real basis for the denial was that Council members did not agree with Amdur's views. Judge Staats found that Amdur, who was defended by American Civil Liberties Union counsel, had been denied equal protection of the laws since similar permits had been granted to others.

any secret material, this is injustice compounded. Do not add to this by further visits from your FBI agents."

"WONT SOIL MY HANDS": Mrs. Sobell charged that since his arrest her husband has been under constant pressure to "confess" and implicate others, and that even his transfer to dread Alcatraz

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 2 1954	
FBI - NEW YORK	

National Guardian
November 22, 1954

100-37158-A

on Thanksgiving Day, 1952, was an attempt to break him into co-operating with the government. She cited the remarks of trial Judge Irving Kaufman when he denied a motion for reduction of sentence on Jan. 9, 1953:

"It is still more deplorable and grievous that Sobell has not seen fit to follow the course of David Greenglass, Harry Gold, and Klaus Fuchs, who, after pleading guilty, gave substantial aid in detecting and bringing to justice other espionage agents whose acts were endangering our national security."

For himself, Sobell had this to say in a recent letter to his wife:

"I will never soil these hands. A person must live with himself for a long time—and his children and their children must live with his name and what it means after his time. And it's so simple. There is a slightly soiled dirt; all dirt is dirt."

The Natl. Comm. to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case (1050 Sixth Av., New York 18) has recently stepped up its nationwide campaign to win for Sobell a transfer from Alcatraz. Stephen Love, law pro-

Sanity corner

"We must abandon the indignity of teachers' loyalty oaths and legislative investigations to discover subversives among educators. . . . We must cease harassing our teachers and our educators. We must cease meddling in their intellectual and private affairs. We must abandon inquiries into the curriculum and the libraries and the textbooks to discover dangerous ideas. . . .

"A free society does not regard political differences as evidence of treason. . . . is not afraid of ideas at home, is not afraid of ideas abroad."

—Columbia Univ. history prof.
Henry Steele Commager in the
Adult Education Assn. Natl.
Conference, Nov. 7.

fessor at Northwestern University and past chairman of the Committee on Professional Ethics of the Illinois State Bar Assn., has been retained to conduct this phase of the case. Letters urging a transfer are requested by the committee to be sent to James V. Bennett, Federal Director of Prisons, 101 Indiana Av., Washington, D. C.

If THEY knock at your door

THE GUARDIAN has several times alerted its readers and all who have ever been connected with progressive organizations or movements to be prepared for a visit at home or place of work, or to be stopped in the street, by agents of the FBI, Immigration Service etc. We again suggest that you arm yourself with an understanding of your rights so that, knowing in advance how to protect yourself, you may safeguard not only your own rights but those of others:

- No matter what official identification any stranger presents, you need not let him into your home; unless he has a warrant, he has no right to enter.

- Whether at your door or elsewhere, you need not answer FBI questions. Tell the agent, if you like, that you will make an appointment to meet him at your attorney's office.

- Your right of refusal being what it is, there is nothing to get flustered about. The agents are looking for a sign that you are intimidated; they are trained in techniques of heightening intimidation.

- You need not be drawn into conversation about whether you "want to co-operate with the government": it is designed to make you fear that you will "look suspicious" if you refuse. Your co-operation may be wanted for only one purpose—to destroy either yourself or another decent citizen.

- Keep calm, confident in the knowledge that it is you, not they, who are defending good Americanism.

- Above all—when in any doubt about what you should do, talk it over with a good lawyer FIRST—that is, BEFORE, not after you do or say anything, you might later regret.

"ALL DIRT IS DIRTY"

FBI makes 3 vain tries to get Sobell to 'talk'

FOR Morton Sobell the monotony of the grim island prison of Alcatraz has been relieved three times recently — by FBI agents. Mrs. Helen Sobell, who visited her husband recently, charged Nov. 13 that the agents suggested Sobell might receive leniency if he would talk. He is serving a 30-year sentence on a charge of conspiring to commit espionage with Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. In a letter to FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, Mrs. Sobell wrote:

"The second visit by your agent was free of all pretenses. Starting with expressions of friendship and interest in my husband's welfare, your agent told my husband: 'You cannot hurt the Rosenbergs now, nor can you help them. Why not start thinking about your own future?'"



MORTON SOBELL

His hands remain unsoiled

In behalf of her husband Mrs. Sobell wrote:

"Brave men have always fought for truth and honor. Even though the days of his youth are being torn from him one by one, my innocent husband will not perjure himself. He will betray neither his ideals nor other innocent people.

"To have suffered some 50 months of prison, to face the living death of 30 years in Alcatraz, to have been convicted in a conspiracy trial where no witness ever testified that my husband had ever given or received

Conviction of Rosenberg defender is reversed

BERKELEY, CALIF.—Reuel S. Amdur, "Thoreau-an anarchist" convicted in Feb., 1953, of setting up a sidewalk table without a permit to collect protest signatures in the Rosenberg case, was finally acquitted last month by the same municipal judge R. C. Staats Jr. who convicted him. The Appellate Court had found that the City Council had no authority to deny Amdur a permit on the grounds that he did not apply for it "in good faith," and that the real basis for the denial was that Council members did not agree with Amdur's views. Judge Staats found that Amdur, who was defended by American Civil Liberties Union counsel, had been denied equal protection of the laws since similar permits had been granted to others.

any secret material, this is injustice compounded. Do not add to this by further visits from your FBI agents."

"WON'T SOIL MY HANDS": Mrs. Sobell charged that since his arrest her husband has been under constant pressure to "confess" and implicate others, and that even his transfer to dread Alcatraz

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 22 1954	
FBI - NEW YORK	

100-37158-A

National Guardian
November 22, 1954

on Thanksgiving Day, 1952, was an attempt to break him into co-operating with the government. She cited the remarks of trial Judge Irving Kaufman when he denied a motion for reduction of sentence on Jan. 9, 1953:

"It is still more deplorable and grievous that Sobell has not seen fit to follow the course of David Greenglass, Harry Gold, and Klaus Fuchs, who, after pleading guilty, gave substantial aid in detecting and bringing to justice other espionage agents whose acts were endangering our national security."

For himself, Sobell had this to say in a recent letter to his wife:

"I will never soil these hands. A person must live with himself for a long time—and his children and their children must live with his name and what it means after his time. ~~And it's so simple.~~ There is no slightly soiled dirt; all dirt is dirty."

The Natl. Comm. to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case (1050 Sixth Av., New York 18) has recently stepped up its nationwide campaign to win for Sobell a transfer from Alcatraz. Stephen Love, law pro-

Sanity corner

"We must abandon the indignity of teachers' loyalty oaths and legislative investigations to discover subversives among educators. . . . We must cease harassing our teachers and our educators. We must cease meddling in their intellectual and private affairs. We must abandon inquiries into the curriculum and the libraries and the textbooks to discover dangerous ideas. . . .

"A free society does not regard political differences as evidence of treason. . . . Is not afraid of ideas at home, is not afraid of ideas abroad."

—Columbia Univ. history prof. Henry Steele Commager to the Adult Education Assn. Natl. Conference, Nov. 7.

fessor at Northwestern University and past chairman of the Committee on Professional Ethics of the Illinois State Bar Assn. has been retained to conduct this phase of the case. Letters urging a transfer are requested by the committee to be sent to James V. Bennett, Federal Director of Prisons, 101 Indiana Av., Washington, D. C.

If THEY knock at your door

The GUARDIAN has several times alerted its readers and all who have ever been connected with progressive organizations or movements to be prepared for a visit at home or place of work, or to be stopped in the street, by agents of the FBI, Immigration Service etc. We again suggest that you arm yourself with an understanding of your rights so that, knowing in advance how to protect yourself, you may safeguard not only your own rights but those of others:

- No matter what official identification any stranger presents, you need not let him into your home; unless he has a warrant, he has no right to enter.

- Whether at your door or elsewhere, you need not answer FBI questions. Tell the agent, if you like, that you will make an appointment to meet him at your attorney's office.

- Your right of refusal being what it is, there is nothing to get flustered about. The agents are looking for a sign that you are intimidated; they are trained in techniques of heightening intimidation.

- You need not be drawn into conversation about whether you "want to co-operate with the government"; it is designed to make you fear that you will "look suspicious" if you refuse. Your co-operation may be wanted for only one purpose—to destroy either yourself or another decent citizen.

- Keep calm, confident in the knowledge that it is you, not they, who are defending good Americanism.

- Above all—when in any doubt about what you should do, talk it over with a good lawyer FIRST—that is, BEFORE, not after, you do or say anything you might later regret.

Sobell in Alcatraz Sends All His Meager Earnings to Family

100-37158-A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 6 1954	
FBI - NEW YORK	
K C	

CLIP FROM T-13

DAILY NEWS

Nov. 23, 1954

6

Col. 1

By HYL HARPER

THREE YEARS AGO this Thanksgiving Morton Sobell was put away in that grave of the living which is Alcatraz prison in California.

But still—good family man that he is—he provides as best as a prisoner can for his loved wife and two children left behind.

Eight thousand dollars a year he earned as a promising young electrical scientist before he lost his job with his freedom. Fifteen cents an hour, \$4.50 a week is what he receives now as an armature winder in the prison shops.

Yet he saves every penny of that pittance for his family. "This holiday season," Helen Sobell, his wife, told me, "he has asked the authorities at Alcatraz to send us \$150 in his accumulated wages for things that we need."

I talked to Helen, a graduate physicist in her own right at the offices of the Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell, 1050 Sixth Ave., New York City this week. While the rest of us were making our Thanksgiving preparations, this pretty, dark-haired young mother was sitting at a desk writing letters in behalf of the husband who will be absent from his loved ones today when the nation will be celebrating.

"They locked him up in America's most inhuman and disgraceful prison to break his morale and turn him into a pitiful pawn that they could use to frame still others." Helen's voice echoed the indignation felt by all of us who know Morton Sobell who was sentenced to 30 years, to be the victim of one of the most savage conspiracies in American history.

"But two things have kept him alive during these three years since they snatched him from me and the children. The first," she declared, "was his realization that he was innocent of the fake 'spy' charge. The second was those family ties which all the massive legal machinery of our government and all the finagling of the FBI have been unable to break."

THOSE TIES continue even when Helen can talk to her husband only through a glass partition on her periodic visits to the gaunt, gray prison, guarded like a fortress, in San Francisco Bay.

"We can only see each other dimly so that we must seem to each other like ghosts framed in cameras during our meetings," she says. "We can't kiss. We can't touch each other during those heartbreaking sessions. Most of our talk is always about the family because Mort is so anxious to do everything that he can for us."

"Let me show you an example," she said, rising to her feet. Helen pointed to a pair of specially constructed orthopedic shoes which she was wearing. "I have to wear these kind of

shoes. Mort is allowed once each year to request that money be sent home to his dependents.

"So he had me mailed a voucher for a hundred dollars—which one of our lawyers refused to accept her legal expenses. Mort's forethought and the attorney's kindness meant that I got the shoes. Mort made a little joke of it by writing that he wanted to support me at every step."

"He was always that kind of a ~~housewife~~ ^{housewife}, Helen said, the kind who would help at every step of the way. There was no such thing, for instance, as his sitting back and letting her wash the dishes after I had cooked the meal. Always during those years that we were under our own roof, we did everything together.

"In fact we'd always worked together, too. At Schenectady where we formerly lived, we were both employed in the research laboratory of General Electric, he as a development engineer and I as a physicist."

HELEN then paid tribute to the efforts that Mort had made to further her education. "We met," she recalled, "before he went back to school to get his master's degree at the University of Michigan. Since he'd had more scientific training than I'd had, he was eager that I catch up. So with his encouragement and inspiration, I enrolled for more courses at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy."

Helen said that Mort missed, as his family does, the modest but attractive home which they had brought out of their savings. "It had to be sold," she said, "to meet the expenses of the trial and we had paid for it with many hours of labor. It was at Flushing, L. I., and we had planted the backyard with hydrangeas, rhododendron and tulips. After we had lost it, Max Etcher, the government witness who helped frame Mort,



HELEN SORELL



MORTON SOBELL

managed to get hold of some of our furniture at bargain prices."

I ASKED HELEN what she thought Mort's Thanksgiving wishes would be.

Next to winning a new trial "the pressing wish," she answered, "will be to get transferred from Alcatraz. Therefore, we would like everybody to write to Federal Director of Prisons James V. Bennett requesting this transfer for him. This would be the finest Thanksgiving remembrance they could give a devoted husband and father—and an honest, useful American."

The next wish . . . ? "Well," Helen answered, "that also has to do with looking after his family."

"The dull feeling of prison life has not dulled his old sense of responsibility," she said. "In fact, that sense is even greater because he is restricted in every other way when it comes to contributing to our family life."

"Mort," she declared, "hopes that his wages will be raised to 20 cents an hour. And he's already thinking of what that extra nickel can buy for us."

THANKSGIVING DAY LETTER FROM SOBELL TO HIS WIFE

From a letter from Martin Sobell to his wife Helen Sobell on the occasion of Thanksgiving Day.

This is the 5th Thanksgiving that marks my time in prison. And even though I am here on this barren rock, I am grateful— for ever so much. First that we are together, wedded and welded into a tighter bond than ever I dreamed, and with a spirit that transcends any prison wall. And that out of this union has arisen in your heart the unquenchable fire that will set me free.

I am grateful, too, that my mother has the will and the energy and the courage to espouse my innocence. I am grateful for all those who feel that I am worth saving, and who give of themselves unstintingly and unselfishly. I treasure this realization.

I am thankful that our children are growing up into real people, like their mother. And really, my love, I have a thousand other reasons for feeling grateful. That I am still here, gives me no reason for hopelessness or cause for bitterness. That a friend bore false witness against me, that a prosecutor betrayed the trust placed in him for his own selfish gain, that a politician sought to elevate himself on my shoulders, none of this can weaken my faith in unspoiled man, in his goodness of heart. For this, too, I am grateful.

(See Page 6)

CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

DATED

Nov. 25, 1954

2

col. 1

100-37158-A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 25 1954	
FBI NEW YORK	

THANKSGIVING IS A TIME TO REMEMBER

The writing on the seawall in San Francisco Bay

By Helen Sobell

IT HAS only been a few days since I watched the beacon light that flashes from Alcatraz. Wherever I saw it through the whole San Francisco bay area I thought of the 300 men who undergo the living death that is Alcatraz. How can I believe that the old men, the young men, the hundred men who are Negro, deserve the fate that has been decreed for them? How can I believe it when I know that my husband, Morton Sobell, was sent there because he would not perjure himself, would not confess to a guilt which he did not have, would not bear false witness against others? I think of these 300 men all the time, but when Thanksgiving comes, I feel the frozen tears of four years of sorrow.

When I saw Mort this time there was another visitor. This was unusual because there are only some ten visitors a month to the men in Alcatraz. She crossed on the boat, and took the bus to the top of the hill, and the same gate clanged shut behind us. She picked up her telephone as I picked up mine, and she strained to see through the small pane of glass at her station just as I did mine.

A CUP OF COFFEE: Mort and I had so much to talk about in that precious hour and a half, hemmed in by watchful guards. Then we pressed our fingers together through the glass, kissed the air that separated us, and parted.

I boarded the boat and someone said to me: "Come sit over here, Helen." Every nerve in my body snapped to attention, and I thought of the many times I had been addressed so, arrogantly, by FBI agents. It was my fellow visitor. "Doesn't it make you nervous to come over here?" she asked me. "I

always have to have something to warm me up afterwards. We'll have a cup of coffee together, that'll fix us up."

"How did you know my name?" I asked her. She hesitated, and then: "I saw it on the register." The boat had pulled up to the pier, and we started up the hill together. I said: "I guess I'll be running along, I have a lot of things to do." She put her hand on my arm and said:

"My brother told me to be sure to tell you that your husband is the best loved man on Alcatraz."

THE MYTH: It was the first Christmas after the first Thanksgiving Mort came to Alcatraz that I began to doubt the myth of Alcatraz. The myth says that the men there will not permit themselves to be treated differently; that they are beyond help and beyond hope. There is no commissary at Alcatraz. At other prisons men may buy food to supplement or vary their diets. They can feel some contact with the outer world. They have some slight freedom of choice. Here year follows year in endless monotony and one may not buy even a candy bar. At Christmas time each prisoner is given a small bag of hard candy, the year's rations.

In 1952 when Mort was a newcomer, he too received his little bag of candy, and it was stolen from him. He mentioned his loss casually at the mess table, and his table mates insisted upon making it up. They didn't want him to feel he was in bad company.

Are they then the ones who are beyond redemption? Who has decided their fate, and on what basis?

THE SEA-WALL SIGN: For me beside the flashing beacon of Alcatraz there is the steady light of my husband's courage. In these days when the

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 6 1954	
FBI - NEW YORK	

100-37158-A

National Guardian
November 29, 1954

FREE
MORT. SOBELL

THE WRITING ON THE WALL
For Nebuchadnezzar there was a warning too.

prudent man compromises and sells half his ideals so that he may buy bread, Mort does not compromise. Now when the fearful man sells half his expression so that he may not be molested, Mort speaks loudly so that he may be heard. When the harbingers of decay, the agents of the FBI, came to Mort some weeks ago they cajoled and threatened him: "You can't help the Rosenbergs any more, nor can you harm them." This was his fifth year of imprisonment, and they were interested in his welfare; he must look out for himself, he had sacrificed enough. And Mort wrote to me: "How can anyone even speak to this kind of people? I can't. My thoughts may not be pearls, still I do not cast them indiscriminately."

They came again, and they had confidential information that he had been deserted. Mort wrote: "I will never sell these hands. . . . All dirt is dirty."

It is a steady light and a bright one

that shines from Mort's cell on Alcatraz. The answering lights have sprung up all over our country, and all over the world. One of the answering lights is a sign in black paint with letters almost two feet high on the sea wall

facing Alcatraz. My friends in San Francisco who showed it to me did not know who had put it there. We stood and marveled at this wonderful sign: "Free Morton Sobell." Every day in one place or another new signs are posted by the people who understand the threat of his imprisonment. They say:

"If Morton Sobell could be convicted on the uncorroborated testimony of one man who said he was 'scared to death' because he faced a perjury charge, I can be convicted on that kind of evidence. But even this witness never said Sobell had ever given or received any secret material. If a man be sentenced to 30 years on that kind of evidence, then our law is lynch law, and our courts rubber stamps. I am afraid to let this continue, my life is bound up in it."

They speak so and they act, and the world begins to listen.

THE WASTED DAYS: It is the beginning of the fifth year of imprisonment for my Mort. Five beautiful years of his life from his 33d birthday have been turned into so many days and nights of wasted loneliness. He could have realized his dream of helping the sick, the lame, the deaf, the blind. He could have taught his little Mark to make gliders, and run toy trains, and what it means to have a father in the home. He could have taught Sydney all that he knew and loved so that she would understand her music better.

Soon it will be Thanksgiving, Mort's third Thanksgiving in Alcatraz. In other families they remember births and deaths, and weddings. We remember Thanksgiving. For us that was the beginning of Alcatraz. Mort was snatched away, delivered to Alcatraz on Thanksgiving Day of 1952.

In Los Angeles I took Mark into the barber shop to have his hair cut. He sat in the chair designed to look like an automobile and asked: "How do you make it go? Where are the lights? Why don't the back wheels go?" The barber said: "You certainly ask a lot of questions. Where is your father? What does he do? Does he ask a lot of questions, too?" Finally Mark answered, evasively: "You know I don't live here. I live in New York." The conversation moved back and again the barber asked: "Where is your father? What does he do?" Mark answered in his five-year-old wisdom: "Let's not discuss about that, it's too complicated."

THE SIMPLE TRUTH: It is too complicated. Not only too complicated for a five-year-old, but for the whole world. The truth is simple, it takes a minute to listen to it, it takes a minute to learn it. My husband is innocent. In Alcatraz his days are being torn from him one by one.

I shall spend the next 30 years of my life, if need be, fighting for his freedom and for his vindication. I shall fight every minute of every hour because I love him, and because I cannot bear to live in a world where truth and sensitivity and generosity bring destruction.

If you will help, we can save some of the days of our youth, some of the years of our lives.

John Wexley to Address Meeting On Sobell Case

Neighbors of Helen Sobell met recently to consider what they could do to help Helen Sobell and her family.

Mrs. Sobell is the wife of Morton Sobell, imprisoned in Alcatraz on a 30-year sentence on a charge of "conspiracy to commit espionage," a crime of which Mr. Sobell swears his innocence.

As a first step, the group decided to call together a larger gathering of neighbors to hear the facts on the case, presented by John Wexley, playwright and screenwriter, author of a forthcoming book on the Rosenberg and Sobell case.

Wexley's book, titled "The Judgment of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg," will be published by Cameron and Kahn.

The gathering will be held Dec. 10, 8 p.m., Room 201, 3110 Broadway (near 137 St.), New York.

Dec 3, 1954
8 5

100-37158-A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 10 1954	
FBI - NEW YORK	

R. A. [Signature]

Morton Sobell's Life in Peril, His Wife Tells Eisenhower

Declaring she had learned that her husband's life "is in immediate danger," Mrs. Helen Sobell appealed to President Eisenhower for the transfer of Morton Sobell from Alcatraz.

The letter from Mrs. Sobell, wife of the engineer convicted with Ethel and Julius Rosenberg of conspiracy to commit espionage, was released Sunday evening by the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell, 1050 Sixth Ave.

Mrs. Sobell in her letter revealed that Alexander Pavlovich, convicted for the near-fatal slugging of

Robert Thompson, Communist leader and Smith Act prisoner, with a lead pipe in West Street House of Detention here, "has been transferred to Alcatraz."

Citing the recent murder of William Remington in Lewisburg federal penitentiary by prisoners, and the character of Alcatraz prison, described officially as established for prison troublemakers, Mrs. Sobell wrote:

"I know my husband has committed no crime. I know that he does not belong in any prison. To have him sent to Alcatraz when he has never been accused of committing a violent act, in prison or

out, and when he has no previous prison record, cannot be justified."

She added, "I ask your help so that we will not have to live each hour with impending tragedy hanging over our heads."

The letter revealed that Mrs. Sobell has "just been granted the unprecedented privilege of bringing the children to see their young father of Alcatraz."

Since Sobell was transferred to Alcatraz more than two years ago he has been denied by Alcatraz regulations from receiving visits from his son, Mark, 5, and Sidney, 15, daughter of Mrs. Sobell by a previous marriage.

CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

DATED Dec 28, 1954

2 Oct 1

100-37158-A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
6	1
DEC 28 1954	
FBI - NEW YORK	

The The Aff

SOBELL WELCOMES CHANCE TO SEE HIS CHILDREN

"It was good to learn that I will be permitted to see the children, finally," Morton Sobell wrote from Alcatraz to his mother, Rose Sobell recently.

Earlier this week, Mrs. Helen Sobell, wife of the engineer who was given a 30-year sentence in the Rosenberg espionage frame-up, revealed that for the first time Alcatraz prison authorities have lifted the ban on visits from children under 16 years old.

Date of the proposed visit of the wife and Mark, 5-year-old son of Helen and Morton Sobell, and Sydney, 15-year-old daughter of Mrs. Sobell by a former marriage, was not revealed.

A month after their visit he will receive a visit from his mother.

Continuing in his letter to speak of the children's expected visit, Morton Sobell admitted he thought of it with mixed feelings.

"And yet it makes me sad—to think of peering through a small bullet-proof window at them," he wrote. "Mark will be puzzled by the bars, and will want to know why I cannot hold him, or kiss him. The last time I saw him he was yet too small to think of asking why. Syd at least can understand."

He wrote, "Of all the nights

in the year, Christmas eve is the most difficult, even to the most hardened."

He told his mother that it wasn't true that nothing changed in Alcatraz. "I recently moved into a 'new' cell, newly painted, and a little closer to the windows, so that it is lighter than in the daytime—progress!"

He spoke of his limited news source, saying he found the U. S. News the most satisfying, and explained: "It makes no attempt at subterfuge. Of course it sometimes turns one's stomach to read it, viz., on desegregation." With his magazine on electronics, he added, "I manage not to fall too far behind the times in my field. However, reading without creating is not too satisfactory, and unfortunately I never could create too much on paper. I always needed a lab."

He inquired if his mother were coming by plane or train, spoke of his concern over his father, who has been in failing health since the son's conviction, and added:

"Goodnight, Mother, and I can't urge you too much not to worry. Whatever happens, we'll live through it, and emerge. Give all our friends my regards. He ended the letter, "All my love, Morty."

CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

DATED Dec 30, 1954

pg. 3 col. 4

700-37158-A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 20 1955	
FBI - NEW YORK	

Morton Sobell

Your voice is needed to get Morton Sobell out of Alcatraz.

MAILING FROM THE

N. Y.

DATED

FORWARDED BY N. Y. OFFICE

100-37158-A

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JAN 20 1956	
FBI - NEW YORK	

[Signature]

When Morton Sobell is confined to Alcatraz is hinted at in a letter from one of the nation's top atomic scientists to Director of Prisons James V. Bennett, asking Sobell's transfer elsewhere. A copy was sent to Mrs. Sobell, who has asked the **GUARDIAN** to withhold the name of the author of this and other similarly-purposed letters. The scientist wrote:

"I believe the evidence against Mr. Sobell is very flimsy, but this is beside the point I wish to emphasize. The Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the U. S., which is most abused and criticized these days, I believe was inserted to forbid the extraction of confessions from people by torture, a proceeding that was used during the middle ages and with which the Founding Fathers of this country were well acquainted.

"Of course we do not use the rack and pinion any more, but perhaps the confining of a man on Alcatraz who, so far as I know, gives no evidence of being a dangerous criminal, likely to kill his guards, likely to make desperate attempts to escape, is a way of applying pressure to secure a confession from a man.

"Mr. Sobell refuses to confess to the crimes for which he was convicted. That is his right, and I do not believe the government should

try in any way by mental or physical pressure to make him confess. For these reasons I should like to suggest that Mr. Sobell should be moved to an ordinary prison of the U.S. There seems to be no reason why he should be confined in a more rigorous prison than such people as Alger Hiss or David Greenglass or Mr. Remington or other people of this point of view."

ASSORTED JUSTICE: This letter was written in July. In November, 1954, William Remington was killed by fellow-prisoners at Lewisburg (Pa.) penitentiary; a few days later Hiss was released from there with time off his 30-year sentence for good behavior.

Hiss and Remington were jailed for perjury for denying allegations of Communist activity against them by Whittaker Chambers and Elizabeth Bentley; Greenglass and his wife Ruth were charged with being co-conspirators with Ethel and Julius Rosenberg in atomic espionage activity. They were the chief witnesses against the Rosenbergs. Greenglass was sent to prison for 15 years; his wife was never indicted.

"A POLITICAL PRISONER": Other letters stressed other points. A Massachusetts social worker wrote:

"Recent efforts of the FBI to bribe him to 'confess' and implicate others (when he steadfastly maintains he has nothing to confess and would never subject others to like persecution) give proof that Mr. Sobell is held as a political prisoner and could be released if it served political ends. The fiction that he is 'dangerous' collapses overnight."

From a Schenectady minister:

"If all those interested were saints or all interested were devils, I should still have to have the same opinion as to the confinement of Mr. Sobell in Alcatraz; and I would join bishop or radical in urging his transfer. . . ."

TIME IS NOW: Letters have been sent by physicians, professors, trade union leaders, lawyers, artists, writers, publishers and others not identifying themselves by occupation:

Your voice in this campaign can be of inestimable help and the time to be heard is now.

Write to Director of Prisons Bennett, Justice Dept., Washington, D.C., and to President Eisenhower, urging Morton Sobell's transfer from Alcatraz to an institution near his family and attorneys in New York. If possible, send copies to Helen Sobell, c/o the GUARDIAN.

HE'LL SEE HIS CHILDREN

Fear felt for Sobell as assassin goes to Alcatraz

By John T. McManus

FOR scientist Morton Sobell on Alcatraz Island, serving a 30-year sentence for alleged complicity in the Rosenberg Case on the unsupported testimony of a government witness himself in jeopardy, this New Year seemed the brightest of many.

By special permission his wife, Helen, for the first time since he entered Alcatraz in November, 1952, could bring their children to visit him for two hours later this month. They will be able to see one another through a glass panel, talk via telephones. On four holiday greeting cards allowed him for the first time this Christmas, he sent cheerful messages from his country's grimmest prison.

LIFE IN DANGER? On the outside, however, there is deepening concern for Sobell's safety among 300 of the nation's most hardened and violent criminals. During Christmas week the news came out that among Sobell's prison

mates at Alcatraz now is Alexander Pavlovich, Yugoslav seaman who on Oct. 23, 1953, attacked and nearly killed the imprisoned Communist leader Robert Thompson with a 3-ft. length of iron pipe in West Street detention prison in New York.

Pavlovich, a Yugoslav fascist accused by the U.S. government of at least one kidnaping and assassination, was scheduled to be deported the afternoon of the day he attacked Thompson. A year earlier he had mutilated himself with a razor and threatened to slash immigration officials assigned to remove him from Ellis Island for deportation.

Indicted and tried for assaulting Thompson, he was sentenced to three years in prison for assault "with intent to commit bodily harm." The government produced witnesses to show that Pavlovich had conspired with a fellow prisoner to obtain the length of pipe "to get Thompson on the chow-line" in order to win sympathy and the right



THIS YOUNG MAN'S GOING ON A LONG JOURNEY

This is the picture Morton Sobell has in his cell at Alcatraz of his wife, Helen, and son, Mark, 5.



MEET ETHEL JULIA VAN HAAREN OF ROTTERDAM

This expressive Dutch miss was born in March, 1953, and named by her parents for Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. Her parents sent this picture to the *GUARDIAN* last week, with season's greetings for all of you and especially those working for vindication for the Rosenbergs and freedom for Morton Sobell.

to remain in this country by killing a leading Communist.

KILLED THERE: In a direct appeal to President Eisenhower Dec. 28, Helen Sobell wrote in part:

"This man's presence, the recent prison murder of William Remington and the character of Alcatraz cause me to ask for the immediate transfer of my husband to a regular federal prison. In the Prison Bureau's pamphlet, Alcatraz Island, it is stated: 'Five prisoners have been killed in altercations between inmates since the institution was established.' ... I know my husband has committed no crime. I know that he does not belong in any prison. To have sent him to Alcatraz when he has never been accused of committing a violent act, in prison or out, and when he has no previous prison record, cannot be justified. The Bureau of Prisons describes Alcatraz as established for prison trouble-makers. I ask your help so that we will not have to live each hour with impending tragedy hanging over our heads."

THE WORLD WATCHES: Mrs. Sobell's letter to the President, which she released to the press "because my husband's life is in immediate danger on Alcatraz and because I feel that you [President Eisenhower] would like to know the feelings of others on this matter," brought to public attention for the first time the fact that Pavlovich had been transferred to Alcatraz. Previously Mrs. Sobell had appealed to James V. Bennett, federal Director of prisons, for her husband's transfer to another institution. Dozens of clergymen, social workers and leaders in all walks of life have written similarly to

Bennett. In her letter to the President, Mrs. Sobell told of this and concluded:

"Throughout the world as in our country, people have questioned the justice of my husband's conviction and sentencing. Our country must preserve its reputation for goodness and humanity in the eyes of the world. I teach my children that their father has been taken from them through a mistake which must be corrected soon. My husband has already spent five of the best years of his life in prison. [Sobell was kidnapped by FBI accomplices while vacationing with his family in Mexico in August, 1950, and has been in federal custody since.—Ed.]

"We have just been granted the unprecedented privilege of bringing the children to see their young father at Alcatraz. We would like to see him in a room, not through a pane of glass, and speak to him directly, not through telephones. We have suffered much, we may have to suffer more. Please give us the minimum protection and the minimum of living which would result from my husband's transfer out of Alcatraz."

CHRISTMAS GIFT: The permission to bring the Sobell children, Mark, 5, and Sydney, 15, to see their father for the first time since Nov., 1952, came in a letter to Mrs. Sobell from Alcatraz Warden Edwin B. Swope a few days before Christmas. Mrs. Sobell had requested this privilege and received it officially a few days after a story appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle* (12/15) quoting Warden Swope that "children of prisoners on Alcatraz are now being permitted to visit their fathers under some circumstances."

White House Answers Mrs. Sobell

Helen Sobell, whose husband, Morton Sobell, is imprisoned in Alcatraz, said yesterday she had received acknowledgement of a plea for her husband's transfer which she made to President Eisenhower. Prison Director James V. Bennett, writing Mrs. Sobell that "the President has asked me to acknowledge receipt of your letter," said that "we are giving considerable thought" to the question of Morton Sobell's transfer from Alcatraz. In another letter, Bennett assured Mrs. Sobell that her husband would be protected.

Mrs. Sobell had written President Eisenhower on Dec. 26 that her husband's life was "in immediate danger" as a result of the sending to Alcatraz of Alexander Pavlovich, who was convicted of assaulting Robert Thompson, Smith Act prisoner. She stated that Sobell, who maintains his innocence of the "conspiracy to commit espionage" charge, on which he was sentenced to 30 years in the Rosenberg-Sobell trial, does not belong in any prison, let alone Alcatraz, which is supposed to be used only for prison troublemakers.

BENNETT'S LETTER

Mrs. Sobell yesterday received the following letter from Bennett, dated Jan. 3:

"My dear Mrs. Sobell:

"The President has asked me to acknowledge receipt of your letter of Dec. 26, 1954, which has been referred to this office for appropriate handling.

"As you know from other corre-



SOBELL

spondence we have had, the question of your husband's transfer is one to which we are giving considerable thought and we are therefore glad to have your further views. Very truly yours, J. Bennett, director."

Another letter dated the same day which Bennett wrote to Mrs. Sobell in answer to an appeal she had made to him was as follows:

"This is to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of Dec. 26, 1954, expressing your apprehension of your husband's well-being in Alcatraz.

"You may be sure we will do everything possible to protect him and will keep in mind your request that he be transferred elsewhere. Sincerely yours, James V. Bennett, director."

Mrs. Sobell said yesterday in a reply to Bennett that she appreciated the consideration of her request and was heartened to learn that her husband's transfer might be forthcoming, but continues to feel great anxiety each moment her husband remains in Alcatraz. She hoped the transfer would be soon, so that her two children, who are to visit their father in Alcatraz for the first time, might see him under conditions more favorable than those in the grim prison. At Alcatraz, they will be able to see their father only through a bullet-proof pane of glass, and will be able to talk to him only through telephones.

CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

DATED January 6, 1955
Pg. 2 Col. 1

100-37158-A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 20 1955	
FBI - NEW YORK	

SOBELL WELCOMES CHANCE TO SEE HIS CHILDREN

"It was good to learn that I will be permitted to see the children, finally," Morton Sobell wrote from Alcatraz to his mother, Rose Sobell recently.

Earlier this week, Mrs. Helen Sobell, wife of the engineer who was given a 30-year sentence in the Rosenberg espionage frame-up, revealed that for the first time Alcatraz prison authorities have lifted the ban on visits from children under 16 years old.

Date of the proposed visit by the wife and Mark, 5-year-old son of Helen and Morton Sobell, and Sydney, 15-year-old daughter of Mrs. Sobell by a former marriage, was not revealed.

A month after their visit he will receive a visit from his mother.

Continuing in his letter to speak of the children's expected visit, Morton Sobell admitted he thought of it with mixed feelings.

"And yet it makes me sad—to think of peering through a small bullet-proof window at them," he wrote. "Mark will be puzzled by the bars, and will want to know why I cannot hold him, or kiss him. The last time I saw him he was yet too small to think of asking why. Syd at least can understand."

He wrote, "Of all the nights

in the year, Christmas eve is the most difficult, even to the most hardened."

He told his mother that it wasn't true that nothing changed in Alcatraz. "I recently moved into a 'new' cell, newly painted, and a little closer to the windows, so that it is lighter than in the daytime—progress!"

He spoke of his limited news source, saying he found the U. S. News the most satisfying, and explained: "It makes no attempt at subterfuge. Of course it sometimes turns one's stomach to read it, viz., on desegregation." With his magazine on electronics, he added, "I manage not to fall too far behind the times in my field. However, reading without creating is not too satisfactory, and unfortunately I never could create too much on paper. I always needed a lab."

He inquired if his mother were coming by plane or train, spoke of his concern over his father, who has been in failing health since the son's conviction, and added:

"Goodnight, Mother, and I can't urge you too much not to worry. Whatever happens, we'll live through it, and emerge. Give all our friends my regards." He ended the letter, "All my love, Morty."

CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

DATED

Dec. 30, 1954

Page

9

Col.

4

100-37158-A

[Handwritten signature and initials]

1954 Saw Cracks in Wall
Of Silence Around Sobell

100-37158-A

CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

DATED Dec 31, 1954

Pg. 6 Col. 1

(P. Martin)
1119

MRS. VIRGINIA GARDNER

The year 1954 has seen at least a few cracks in the wall of silence with which the case of Morton Sobell has been for the most part surrounded.

The National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell, reviewing these, pointed to the wide coverage given in the press to a statement by Helen Sobell last Nov. 14 protesting FBI visits to Sobell.

Asking FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover to stop FBI agents from harassing her husband, Mrs. Sobell revealed his agents had visited Sobell three times trying to get him to change his testimony and say that Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were guilty.

With Mrs. Sobell's revelations, the continued nervousness of Attorney General Herbert J. Brownell over the skulduggery engaged in up to the end of the Rosenberg case, the whipping into line of the Supreme Court majority and the rush to execute them, also stands revealed.

The failure of the Justice Department to deny Helen Sobell's accusations has only underlined the impression that the government fears above all else Morton Sobell's integrity, and the potential movement around the Sobell case as one which eventually may vindicate the Rosenbergs and establish their and his innocence.

OTHER BREAKS

The committee cited other breaks in the silence in which the government hoped to entomb Morton Sobell when he was transferred to Alcatraz for no obvious reason except to break his spirit and wear down his resistance to FBI offers.

Early in the past year there was the Columbia Law Review article (February, 1954), "The Rosenberg Case: Some Reflections on Criminal Law," which termed the case the "outstanding political trial of this generation." The 42-page study criticized the haste with which the Supreme Court acted in its unprecedented reversal of the Douglas stay, and said the court appeared to have overextended its powers in the reversal.

The inevitable conclusion is that in this last stage of an extraordinarily protracted litigation, the rights of the Rosenbergs did not receive the precise and extensive consideration that must characterize the administration of the criminal law.

JUDGE FRANK'S OPINION

And the study found merit in the argument that Sobell's case should have been considered by a jury separately. On this issue Judge Jerome Frank of the Court of Appeals dissented. "Had Judge Frank's opinion prevailed, Sobell would have been granted a new trial," it pointed out.

Actually the Rosenbergs and Sobell were indicted for conspiracy to commit espionage, the rules of evidence in conspiracy cases allowing introduction of all sorts of vague and collateral evidence.

There was no evidence that anything ever was "delivered to the Russians," and only David and Ruth Greenglass' unsupported evidence - both were confessed conspirators and Ruth was not even indicted - linked the Rosenbergs to David's supposed A-bomb



MORTON SOBELL

sketch. And no evidence linking Sobell to any atomic espionage or any espionage except some highly future visionary espionage, according to one witness who admitted he was afraid of a perjury rap.

The trial judge, Irving Kaufman, claimed the Rosenbergs put "into the hands of the Russians the A-bomb years before our best scientists predicted Russia would perfect the bomb," and "caused . . . the Communist aggression in Korea, with the resultant casualties, exceeding 50,000," but he made no such claim about Sobell. Instead, he told him in court no evidence linked him with "the atomic bomb project."

AN EXPERT'S OPINION

A speech by Dr. James Beckerley, former director of the Atomic Energy Commission Classification Office, reported in the New York Times on March 17, 1954, was cited by the committee as another break in the gradual spreading of truth around the case.

The Times reported: "The atom bomb and the hydrogen bomb were not stolen from us by spies, Dr. Beckerley emphasized. Espionage played a minor role in the attainment of successful weapons by the Soviets, he said. . . . Atom bombs are not matters that can be stolen and transmitted in the form of information, Dr. Beckerley said, in emphasizing the relative unimportance of spying in nuclear physics."

ROY COHN'S ROLE

An important breakthrough in the fight for truth, according to the committee, was the exposure of the role of Roy Cohn, one of the prosecutors in the Rosenberg-Sobell trial. It was Cohn and his boss, Senator Joseph McCarthy, who made headlines with new charges, never made in the trial, that the Rosenbergs and Sobell had master-minded a radar spy ring at Fort Monmouth, a ring allegedly still operating.

The sensational charges caused many innocent scientists to lose their jobs—though many have been reinstated. But McCarthy and Cohn proved unable to present a shred of evidence of Ft. Monmouth espionage.

The Army conducted its own investigation, after which Army Secretary Stevens stated that no espionage ring existed at Ft. Monmouth. It was the Army's expose of these unfounded charges, the committee pointed out, that led McCarthy and Cohn to launch their attack on the Army itself, a sequel of which was the vote in the Senate to condemn McCarthy.

PUBLICATIONS

In the year 1954 a new edition of the Rosenberg letters was published and again gained wide circulation abroad as well as in this country. "The Rosenberg Story," by Virginia Gardner, was published by Masses & Mainstream, an enlarged version of a series on the lives of the Rosenbergs first published in The Sunday Worker.

Other books have been completed and are scheduled for early publication: John Wexley's "The Judgment of Julius and Ethel Ro-

senberg," exposing the legal frame-up, and William Reuben's book exposing the atom spy hoax. Wexley has spoken at meetings sponsored by the committee in all the five boroughs of the city in the last two months, at Boston and elsewhere.

Abroad, a brief submitted in December, 1953, to Senator William Langer of the Senate Judiciary Committee by the committee in support of its demand for an investigation of the conduct of the Department of Justice in the Rosenberg-Sobell case, was translated and published in German in 1954. It is being circulated in Europe by the Democratic Lawyers of Germany.

POEMS AND PLAYS

Here, Edith Segal's poems on Sobell, "I Call to You Across the Continent," were published, and abroad, plays on the Rosenberg case were produced in 1954, "La Pêr" ("The Fear") in France, and "Ethel and Julius" in Poland.

Large meetings pledging justice for Sobell were held throughout France and Italy last June 19, a year after the Rosenberg's execution. A legal analysis of the case by the English barrister, D. N. Pritt, was translated into many languages and published in 1954.

June 19 memorial meetings were held here in numerous cities, and memorial meetings honoring Attorney Emanuel Bloch, counsel for the Rosenbergs, were held in Los Angeles and New York.

Helen Sobell has continued to address smaller gatherings in cities throughout the country, including a students' gathering on the University of Minnesota campus. Mrs. Rose Sobell has spoken in Baltimore and elsewhere recently.

Some 10,000 more persons signed petitions in 1954 to Director of Prisons James V. Bennett urging Sobell's transfer to a regular federal prison. The winning of the concession on his children's visits is attributed directly to the petitions, and numerous letters from prominent clergymen, lawyers, educators and labor leaders, copies of which Helen Sobell received.

Such leading persons as Dr. Harold Urey, scientist, and Dr. Linus Pauling, Nobel prize winner, signed an amicus brief submitted in January, but the Supreme Court rejected a motion for a new trial. Lawyers such as Stephen Love, prominent Catholic layman in Chicago, and Daniel Marshall, also a liberal Catholic lay spokesman in Chicago, have interested themselves in the case and are studying new legal moves.

During the year ads on the Sobell case were run in the San Francisco Chronicle, Cleveland Press, Vancouver Sun, North Penn News of Philadelphia, and in Washington, D.C.

White House Answers Mrs. Sobell

Helen Sobell, whose husband, Morton Sobell, is imprisoned in Alcatraz, said yesterday she had received acknowledgement of a plea for her husband's transfer which she made to President Eisenhower. Prison Director James V. Bennett, writing Mrs. Sobell that "the President has asked me to acknowledge receipt of your letter," said that "we are giving considerable thought" to the question of Morton Sobell's transfer from Alcatraz. In another letter, Bennett assured Mrs. Sobell that her husband would be protected.

Mrs. Sobell had written President Eisenhower on Dec. 26 that her husband's life was "in immediate danger" as a result of the sending to Alcatraz of Alexander Pavlovich, who was convicted of assaulting Robert Thompson, Smith Act prisoner. She stated that Sobell, who maintains his innocence of the "conspiracy to commit espionage" charge, on which he was sentenced to 30 years in the Rosenberg-Sobell trial, does not belong in any prison, let alone Alcatraz, which is supposed to be used only for prison troublemakers.

BENNETT'S LETTER

Mrs. Sobell yesterday received the following letter from Bennett, dated Jan. 3:

"My dear Mrs. Sobell:

"The President has asked me to acknowledge receipt of your letter of Dec. 26, 1954, which has been referred to this office for appropriate handling.

As you know from other corre-



SOBELL

spondence we have had, the question of your husband's transfer is one to which we are giving considerable thought and we are therefore glad to have your further views. Very truly yours, J. Bennett, director."

Another letter dated the same day which Bennett wrote to Mrs. Sobell in answer to an appeal she had made to him was as follows:

"This is to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of Dec. 26, 1954, expressing your apprehension of your husband's well-being in Alcatraz.

"You may be sure we will do everything possible to protect him and will keep in mind your request that he be transferred elsewhere. Sincerely yours, James V. Bennett, director."

Mrs. Sobell said yesterday in a reply to Bennett that she appreciated the consideration of her request and was heartened to learn that her husband's transfer might be forthcoming. She continues to feel great anxiety for her husband's future and hopes that the transfer will be made soon.

CLIPPING FROM THE

DATED JAN 8, 1955

PR. 2

100-3758-A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 10 1955	
FBI - NEW YORK	

[Handwritten signature]

Sobell's Wife Charges Threat by Prison Director

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 27.—Mrs. Helen Sobell, wife of Morton Sobell today accused Federal Prison Director James V. Bennett of "threatening" her after she complained that a scheduled visit with her husband at Alcatraz had been cancelled. Sobell is serving a 30-year sentence in Alcatraz, a prison usually reserved for hardened and dangerous criminals. He was tried with Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, and with them constantly maintained his innocence of any espionage conspiracy.

Mrs. Sobell said she had received authorization to take her five-year-old son, Mark to the island penitentiary this afternoon for the boy's first visit with Sobell since he was convicted there 2½ years ago. However, she told a press conference, when she and the boy arrived at the pier to catch the Alcatraz launch she was hand-

ed a note from Warden Paul Magdigan telling her the visit had been cancelled.

"I called the warden on the telephone and he told me the visit would not be possible today because there had been 'too much publicity' surrounding my husband's case," she said.

Mrs. Sobell said she immediately placed a call to Bennett in Washington and told him what had happened.

CITES THREAT

"He threatened me," she said. "He told me if I didn't discontinue my efforts in behalf of my husband my visiting privileges would be discontinued."

"He said also that if I continued to propagandize for my husband the children would not be permitted to visit him."

Mrs. Sobell said Bennett apparently referred to her efforts to

have her husband transferred from Alcatraz to an ordinary Federal prison.

A wire service dispatch quoted Bennett, reached in Washington, as saying, "Of course I did not threaten Mrs. Sobell."

He claimed he was informed she arrived in San Francisco "with her children to visit her husband without prior approval," and apparently he was irked that, as he said, she had done so "after giving out advance information of the intended visit."

Mrs. Sobell's charges were at least partly confirmed by Bennett who said he told Mrs. Sobell that "visits could not be allowed under the circumstances and that we felt it improper for her to use her visiting privilege to call attention to her husband's case and her effort to force his removal from Alcatraz."

CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

DATED Jan. 28, 1955

pg. 2 col. 2

100-37158-A

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
JAN 27 1955
FBI NEW YORK

R. M. [Signature]

3/7

Judge Denies Sobell Plea to See His Son

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 2.—A Federal judge yesterday refused to order the warden of Alcatraz prison to permit Morton Sobell, to see his five-year-old son.

Sobell charged in a petition to the Federal District Court that he was discriminated against when warden Paul J. Madigan refused to permit his wife, Helen, to bring their son, Mark to the Alcatraz jail where Sobell is serving a 30-year sentence.

Judge Louis E. Goodman ruled that the courts "have no power to interfere in matters of discipline and management in the Federal prisons."

Sobell said he had never been permitted to see his children since he came to Alcatraz in November, 1952, while other prisoners were allowed to see their children.

Madigan, who took over as warden earlier this month, conceded there have been instances in which children under 16 visited the prison.

Madigan added he "may not allow Mrs. Sobell to make a visit, at least for the time being."

CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

DATED

100-37158-A

SEARCHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INDEXED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SERIALIZED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FILED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MAR 3 1953	
FBI - NEW YORK	

Ask New Sobell Trial, Cite Harvey Matusow

Because of the linking of Roy Cohn and former U.S. Attorney Myles Lane to Harvey Matusow's use of perjured testimony in the courts, Attorney General Herbert Brownell was asked yesterday to reopen the case of Morton Sobell, Mrs. Rose Sobell, mother of Morton Sobell, speaking for the Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell, pointed out to Brownell that both Cohn and Lane played major roles in the trial of Morton Sobell, convicted of "conspiracy to commit espionage" with Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, and sentenced to 30 years.

Matusow, in an affidavit, had said that in a Smith Act trial he lied under the guidance of Roy Cohn and "with the knowledge of the U. S. Attorney." Lane was U. S. Attorney in New York at the time.

prosecution staff is the height of irresponsibility and disregard for the cause of justice. "I ask that your office start an immediate investigation into the circumstances of Sobell's conviction, and take steps to see that he gets a new trial."

100- 37158-A

SEARCHED ☒ INDEXED ☒
SERIALIZED ☒ FILED ☒
MAR 7 1955
FBI - NEW YORK

DATED Feb 8, 1955

FILE 8

The letter sent to Brownell by the mother of Morton Sobell was as follows:

"The linking of Roy Cohn and former United States Attorney Myles Lane to knowing use of perjured testimony in the courts is a further reason why your office should reopen the case of my son, Morton Sobell. While the disclosures against Cohn and former U. S. Attorney Lane by Harvey Matusow concerned another case, these facts cannot but add to the doubts in the Sobell case, in which Cohn and Lane played a major role.

"I remind you that there was only one major witness against my son. This witness, Max Elitcher, admitted perjuring himself, in another matter. Moreover, when asked by attorney Manuel Bluch:

"Will you name the person or persons with whom you went over your testimony, in preparing for this trial?" Elitcher answered:

"Well, I have talked to Mr. Kilsheimer and Mr. Cohn" (p. 270, printed Trial Record.)

"To continue to keep my son in Alcatraz on a 30-year-sentence after it has been disclosed that there have been such irregularities on the part of members of the

Ask New Sobell Trial, Cite Harvey Matusow

CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

DATED

Feb 8, 1955

Col. 1

100-37158-A

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAR 7 1955	
FBI - NEW YORK	

Because of the linking of Roy Cohn and former U.S. Attorney Myles Lane to Harvey Matusow's use of perjured testimony in the courts. Attorney General Herbert Brownell was asked yesterday to reopen the case of Morton Sobell. Mrs. Rose Sobell, mother of Morton Sobell, speaking for the Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell, pointed out to Brownell that both Cohn and Lane played major roles in the trial of Morton Sobell, convicted of "conspiracy to commit espionage" with Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, and sentenced to 30 years.

prosecution staff is the height of irresponsibility and disregard for the cause of justice. immediate investigation into the circumstances of Sobell's conviction, and take steps to see that he gets a new trial.

"I ask that your office start an

Matusow, in an affidavit, had said that in a Smith Act trial he lied under the guidance of Roy Cohn and "with the knowledge of the U. S. Attorney." Lane was U. S. Attorney in New York at the time.

The letter sent to Brownell by the mother of Morton Sobell was as follows:

"The linking of Roy Cohn and former United States Attorney Myles Lane to knowing use of perjured testimony in the courts is a further reason why your office should reopen the case of my son, Morton Sobell. While the disclosures against Cohn and former U. S. Attorney Lane by Harvey Matusow concerned another case, these facts cannot but add to the doubts in the Sobell case, in which Cohn and Lane played a major role.

"I remind you that there was only one major witness against my son. This witness, Max Elitcher, admitted perjuring himself, in another matter. Moreover, when asked by attorney Manuel Bloch:

"Will you name the person or persons with whom you went over your testimony, in preparing for this trial?" Elitcher answered:

"Well, I have talked to Mr. Kilsheimer and Mr. Cohn" (p. 270, printed Trial Record.)

To continue to keep my son in Alcatraz on a 30-year sentence after it has been disclosed that there have been such irregularities on the part of members of the

UREY DENOUNCES ATOM SPY'S TRIAL

Charles Sobell Verdict Was
"Not Justified"—He Also
Defends Rosenbergs

Special to The New York Times.

CHICAGO, Feb. 12—Dr. Harold C. Urey, Nobel Prize winner and Professor of Chemistry and Nuclear Studies at the University of Chicago, charged here tonight that:

"Morton Sobell, who was convicted with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, the atom spies, was not properly tried" and that "the verdict and sentence were not justified."

"The Rosenbergs were not

proved guilty of the crime for which they were executed.

Warning that the integrity of justice as administered in the United States was at stake, Dr. Urey said:

"If proper trials cannot be secured for unpopular people—and it is evident from the publicity of this trial that all those charged with crimes were unpopular—then it will become impossible to secure justice for other somewhat less unpopular people and so on until no justice is possible at all."

Dr. Urey spoke at a testimonial dinner given him by the Chicago Sobell committee. The Chicago group is a unit of the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell.

A spokesman said the group was attempting to secure a new trial for Sobell. It also is seeking to have Sobell removed from Alcatraz, where he is serving a

thirty-year prison term, to another penitentiary.

Dr. Urey was among prominent Americans who joined in a "Friends of the Court" brief submitted Jan. 28 to the Chief Clerk of the Supreme Court. The brief asked for a new trial for Sobell. The appeal is based on the ground of new evidence that major prosecution witnesses had committed perjury.

At the dinner, Dr. Urey made his charges after he had been presented with a bound volume of scrolls. They were signed by 5,000 persons throughout the world in tribute to him as a scientist and for his achievements as a citizen.

The volume of scrolls, which was presented by Mrs. Sobell, read in part:

"In your protests in the Rosenberg and Sobell case, even to those who may disagree with your evaluation of the case itself, you have exemplified the vital principle of seeking out firmly and courageously when

one deeply feels an injustice has taken place."

Dr. Urey criticized the use of the professional informer by the Department of Justice and Congressional committees. He cited recent statements of Harvey Matusow that he had given false testimony in trials of Communists. He also said that Roy M. Cohn, former counsel for the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, then headed by Senator Joseph R. McCarthy, Republican of Wisconsin, had been involved by Matusow.

Dr. Urey said that Mr. Cohn was assistant prosecutor against Sobell and the Rosenbergs. The scientist stressed that Sobell had been convicted on the word of an admitted perjurer.

He also asserted that a well-justified concern for our security on a modern, dangerous world has led us to do things which will undermine our life, our form of government and our freedoms."

Defending his right to voice his

views, Dr. Urey said, "I am exercising certain rights that were mine at birth and I wish to keep them until death."

Following is a list of some who signed the scrolls:

Dr. James Franck and Linus Pauling, Nobel Prize-winning scientists; Dr. Henry Stimson, Commander, Columbia University; Van Wyck Brooks, author; Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, president emerita of Bethune-Cookman College; Roger Baldwin, national chairman of the American Civil Liberties Union; Dr. Perry Julian of Oak Park, Ill., president of Suburban Chemical Company, Franklin Park, Ill.; Prof. Fowler Harper, Yale Law School; A. Philip Randolph, president of Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, A. F. L.; Dr. Robert Strozier, Dean of Students, University of Chicago; Rabbi Abraham Cronbach of Cincinnati; Also Alexander Meikeljohn, former president of Amherst College; Prof. Kirtley Mather, Harvard; Prof. Ernest W. Burgess, University of Chicago; Prof. Philip Morris, scientist, Ithaca, N. Y.; Prof. Mark De Wolfe Howe, Harvard

Law School; Prof. Robert S. Lynd, Columbia University; Judge George Quiffel, Chicago; Dr. George Barton, Harvard; Justice James A. Wadsworth, retired.

Also Charles A. Coulson, Professor of Mathematics, Oxford, England; Lord Cherley, Middlesex, England; Waldo Frank, author; Prof. Dorothy Brewster, retired, Columbia University; John K. Rahn, scientist, Pittsburgh; Serge Hovey, composer, New York City; Prof. Anton J. Carlson, University of Chicago; Dr. Alexander S. Langsdorf, dean emeritus, Washington University; Robert Morris Lovett, former Governor of the Virgin Islands; Dr. Isaac Kolthoff, scientist, University of Minnesota; the Rev. John Howland Lathrop, the Rev. John Paul Jones, and Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois, educator, all of New York.

Also the Rev. John Howard Melish, the Rev. William Howard Melish, and Rabbi Max Fishkin, all of New York; Prof. H. H. Wilson, Princeton University, and Royal Wilbur France, attorney, New York. Also Robert M. Hutchins, former president of the University of Chicago, now head of Ford for the Republic, Inc., an offshoot of the Ford Foundation, and Arnold Toynbee, British historian.

Trans
Feb 13, 1955

100-37152-B

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 7 1955	
FBI - NEW YORK	

R.A. Mink

Urey Receives A Fight for Civil Liberties

DR. HAROLD UREY, Nobel-Prize scientist, receives a bound volume of scrolls honoring him for his achievements as a scientist and contributions as a citizen. The scrolls, signed by prominent persons from throughout the world, many of them differing with Dr. Urey on specific issues, were presented by Mrs. Helen Sobell. Dr. Urey asserted in a speech at the testimonial dinner in his honor that Morton Sobell, sentenced to 30 years in Alcatraz, was not properly tried, and that the Rosenbergs were not proven guilty of the crime for which they were executed. Dr. Urey pointed out that Morton Sobell has been convicted on the word of an admitted perjurer, and that Roy

Cohn was assistant prosecutor in the trial.

The chart in the background is the diagram that Dr. Urey prepared to illustrate that the alleged conspiracy could have taken place without Sobell and the Rosenbergs.

Copies of the full text of Dr. Urey's speech, which stirred wide press comment, can be obtained by writing to the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell, 1050 Sixth Ave., New York 18, N.Y.

World-wide efforts to win a new trial for Morton Sobell and to secure his removal from Alcatraz have recently been increasing. Trade union organizations in Mexico, Chile, Columbia, and England are among the groups that have in the past few weeks appealed to Sobell's behalf to Prison Director Bennett, and to President Eisenhower. In France, the newspaper *Droit et Liberte*, called upon all those who had sought to save the lives of the Rosenbergs to join in winning justice for Morton Sobell.

The Sobell committee is stepping up its campaign to acquaint millions of people with the facts and urges all those who have not yet done so to help obtain Morton Sobell's transfer by writing to James V. Bennett, Director of Prisons, Justice Dept., Washington, D.C.

CLIPPING FROM

THE WORKER

3-6-55

100-37158-A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 10 1955	
FBI - NEW YORK	
P.A. Friedman	

Sobell's Mother Tells How She Learned Pattern of Frameup

By VIRGINIA GARDNER

CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

DATED Sept. 29, 1955

Pr. _____ Col. _____

100-37158-A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 1 1955	
FBI - NEW YORK	

7-01
H. J. ...

In the midst of all the opening up, both on the Rosenberg-Sobell case itself and in the entire field of the spy hoax, following last August's revelations by scientists in Geneva exploding the myth of atomic secrets stolen or otherwise, a curious thing is happening.

It was revealed in an interview with Mrs. Rose Sobell, mother of Morton Sobell, in quiet words, uttered with reflective pauses in between.

The curious thing is being experienced by the persons who were at the heart of what has become the wound and the shame of Twentieth Century America—those who suffered along with the accused while others closed their eyes and ears and refused even to think of justice for "spies" who, said Judge Kaufman, were worse than murderers.

And it is simply this: that the details of the frameup, which they locked in their hearts, so wide seemed the gulf between them and others, or shared only with a few, now suddenly stand out in relief, seen in all their awfulness.

A PATTERN

Only now, Mrs. Rose Sobell said, since the frameup nature of the case from start to finish as a product of the FBI and Department of Justice has been revealed by author John Wexley, can she see that what she experienced might seem important to others as pointing to a pattern.

Telling the story of the pressure applied to herself and members of her family to persuade Morton to turn state's evidence and inform on the Rosenbergs, it was as if she had borne so much in anguish alone for so long that it never occurred to her to speak of it publicly.

One of the persons on the old Rosenberg committee, now with the Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell, had recalled the incident to this reporter. Asked about it, she said:

"My husband and I were being called before the grand jury. We were walking down the corridor of the Federal building with Myles J. Lane (later U.S. Attorney). He kept stressing that I, as Morty's mother, could do a lot to make Morty work with them."

After she testified before the jury, Lane apparently abandoned the attempt to win over Mrs. Sobell in the government's attempt to make Sobell an informer against the Rosenbergs. But he subjected another member of her family to worst pressure, she said.

BROTHER PRESSURED

"Myles Lane," she said, "wiped up the floor with my brother," and



MORTON SOBELL

she named the brother who had experienced the intimidation. "At least he tried to. He told him he could get the electric chair himself if he withheld any information from them. He wanted him to cooperate, to tell all he knew and to get Morty to do the same."

"As if there was anything to tell," she added, her tone mild but scornful with a smile which would be one of bitterness on any face other than the serenely confident, strong and beautiful face that is Morton Sobell's.

Then, pushing back a strand of almost white hair from her high forehead, her eyes flamed momentarily with tears. "Of course, it was nothing, what we experienced," she said. "Why, even at Laredo, after Mort was kidnapped and beaten in Mexico and brought across the border, the FBI told him, 'You have a baby, your baby needs a father.'"

She said that Mort wrote that he had the book by Wexley—"The Judgment of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg."

"He said that in reading it he was re-living again all the horror of the trial," said Rose Sobell.

Against the execution of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg in June, 1953, millions over the world had demonstrated until the last. Only after the execution did many of them learn much about Morton Sobell, the young engineer convicted with the Rosenbergs and sentenced to 30 years.

A GIGANTIC JOB

Ahd even then, there seemed a gigantic job ahead, before this nation could be convinced that the entire case was a hoax, before what was so obvious to those close to the case became even credible to big audiences. Now, suddenly, almost, the job has eased—and those who went through that or

Rose Sobell to Speak at Rally Today

Rose Sobell will be among the speakers heard at the Assembly for Justice meeting for her son, Morton Sobell, at 8 p.m. today (Thursday) in Carnegie Hall.

Feature speakers will include Sen. William Langer (R-ND), Warren E. Billings, framed and imprisoned with Tom Mooney and later pardoned, Attorney John F. Finerty and novelist Walter Frank.

deal of fire are finding that every fact they experienced is meaningful to audiences.

"The day the trial opened," Rose Sobell said, "I went to the courtroom and was told to leave. Why, Because and my husband were among the 116 witnesses listed by the government, mind you. So, I was allowed to hear none of the trial."

Morton's father suffered a nervous breakdown after the trial and is now hospitalized.

Rose Sobell talked of how all were unwittingly influenced by the intimidation.

"I think," she said, "that the Wexley book is helping bring us out of it—that and the Geneva conference, and what was brought out by the scientists at Geneva."

Sobell's mother spoke matter-of-factly of mistakes attorneys made at the trial as revealed by Wexley. She could understand Morton's probable anguish at reading the book alone in Alcatraz and seeing the mistakes anew.

"It would be so easy for me to become bitter about it," she said composedly. "But I could find no room in my heart for anything but gratitude for the lawyers who took Morty's case. Why, those two men were heroes to take the case at that time. I remember Ed Kritz (one of Sobell's attorneys) saying that he was afraid every time he went to the jail to see Morty that he wouldn't come out."

She spoke in the same way of the late Emanuel Bloch, attorney for the Rosenbergs.

"No, it is a different world now. But as I sat with Morty last spring in Alcatraz, seeing him only for the second time since he's been there, and I tried to tell him all the wonderful things that had happened when I spoke to audiences on the Coast, tried to tell him that the truth was emerging, he looked at me. Then he said, 'Ma, it will have to be a lot stronger to penetrate these walls.'"

She repeated some of the incidents of which she told him in Petaluma, Calif., a man about 50

(Continued on Page 8)

SOBELL

(Continued from Page 1)

years old came up to her after her talk, opened up a little black leather purse, and emptied the contents—three quarters and some nickels. "I'm sure it was all he had. He said, 'That's for you, son. I want him to be free.'"

In June she spoke at a Rosenberg memorial meeting, with 1,800 attendees, in Los Angeles' Embassy auditorium. A man came up to her and said, "Mrs. Sobell, I want to tell you that as long as Morton is in Alcatraz a part of me is there."

In Portland, Ore., an astronomer came up to her after a meeting and said he had debated whether to hear her or the scientist, Robert Oppenheimer, who was speaking there the same night. "I'm glad I made this choice," he said. It was in Portland, too, that a Smith Act victim who was out of work gave \$5 to the collection.

LESSON FROM THE PAST

THE appearance of Warren K. Billings at the meeting for Morton Sobell at Carnegie Hall tonight (Thursday) will evoke many memories for those who fought to free Billings and Tom Mooney from prison.

Billings, who was given a complete pardon after his case was exposed as a frame-up, is speaking for Morton Sobell because he is convinced Sobell was the victim of the same kind of frameup.

Today people can look back and see the terrible injustice against Billings and Mooney. Because the facts came out, the U. S. emerged from the nightmare of the Mooney-Billings case, just as it must emerge from the nightmare of the Rosenberg-Sobell frameup.

A great attendance at this Assembly for Justice for Morton Sobell will help speed victory and serve as an encouragement to others to come forward on this case.

CLIPPING FROM THE
DAILY WORKE

DATED Sept 29, 55
Pg. 5 Col. 1

100-37158-A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 1 1955	
FBI - NEW YORK	

Huntman

Sen. Langer Pledges to Do All He Can for Justice to Sobell

CLIPPING FROM THE
DAILY WORKER

DATED Oct. 3, 1955
Pg. 8 Col. 1

100-37158A

7-2

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 18 1955	
FBI - NEW YORK	

Thurman

By VIRGINIA GARDNER

Sen. William Langer (R-ND) was wildly applauded and cheered in Carnegie Hall Thursday night when at the end of his speech he summoned Mrs. Morton Sobell to his side and pledged:

"Everything I can do as a member of the Judiciary committee of the U. S. Senate I shall do, to see that her husband gets justice."

The crowd was estimated at 1,800 by the Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell, which sponsored the rally in behalf of justice for Sobell, condemned to 30 years on a charge of "conspiracy to commit espionage" in the 1951 trial of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

Sobell is fighting for a new trial. The committee has petitioned the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights, of which Sen. Langer is a member, to investigate the conduct of the Attorney General's office in the Rosenberg-Sobell case.

Other speakers at the rally included Waldo Frank, novelist and essayist; Warren K. Billings, who served 23 years in prison and was released after it was proven he and Tom Mooney were victims of the frameup; Rose Sobell, mother

of Morton Sobell and Mrs. Elina Griffin, Des Moines, Ia., Negro mother active in the Iowa Sobell committee.

Sen. Langer, attacked in the press prior to the meeting for his consent to speak at the rally, interjected throughout his speech running remarks to reporters in the front row of the audience.

The attack in the Mirror mentioned that his appearance at a "Rebirth of Freedom" rally earlier had drawn "sharp protests" from unnamed GOP associates, and quoted an unnamed "spokesman" for the New York GOP state committee as saying his appearance at the Sobell meeting would embarrass the party.

A column in the Post by Barry Gray cited presumably the same "leftist" rally.

Langer said he was happy to appear at the Sobell rally, and that he regarded as one of the significant things in his life his participation in such meetings as that of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee last spring (the "Rebirth of Freedom" rally).

He told the reporters to be sure and take that down. "I want the people back in North Dakota to know it," he said. And he smiled.

He assured his applauding audience: "There are scores and scores of folks in North Dakota who would speak at such a rally if they were in my place."

Sen. Langer said there were liberals as well as conservatives on both sides of the aisle in the Senate, adding: "Some men are just as much interested in Morton Sobell as I, and will gladly put their hands to the plough."

The Senator described the power of the attorney general as "almost unbelievable." He assailed prosecutors who get hold of the press and in story after story "create an atmosphere" before the accused goes to trial. He then linked his remarks to the Sobell case, pointing out how "my friend Waldo Frank referred to the atmosphere in the courtroom."

Sen. Langer called for new legislation or at least new interpretation of law, "to say to the attorney general" that his office must protect the innocent as well as prosecute the guilty and should use all the services of the FBI to see all the evidence is brought out and not suppressed."

One of the charges before the subcommittee is that the FBI and Department of Justice suppressed

evidence in the Sobell case.

The Senator also answered press criticisms that he had spoken from the same platform as persons who had been cited for contempt. He paid tribute to Corliss Lamont as one of the great champions of civil liberties and said, "I can't tell you what a pleasure it was to help Sen. Lehman in the great fight we had in trying to keep him from being cited."

He had inserted into the Congressional Record the fact that a court decided Lamont was not guilty, he said. He said he wanted Helen Sobell to know that he had inserted in the Record data on the Dr. John Peters case, "and he won."

The Senator received applause and laughter when he put in a plug for his state, saying that with everyone rushing "to travel to Russia now" they shouldn't forget North Dakota.

As former Attorney General of his state, he boasted that he had inquired into the cases of two Negroes imprisoned in penitentiaries, obtained the court record, found that "Mr. Williams and Mr. McGee were innocent, and got them out."

A standing ovation was given to Billings, 62-year-old watch repair worker of San Francisco, when chairman Angus Cameron introduced him as a "legendary figure."

"Morton Sobell," Billings said, "was placed in the same position I was placed in 1916 when I was placed on trial with Tom Mooney. What happened to me is exactly what happened to Morton Sobell—though maybe the brainwashing they do now is more refined."

In working-class language Billings told how the district attorney stood over him, shook his fist under his nose and said, "If you

don't testify for us we'll hang Mooney and we'll hang you too."

THE SAME POSITION

"But," he said matter-of-factly, "Morton Sobell was in the same position I was. He didn't have anything to testify to. And when they offered me \$25,000 and my expenses to Mexico if I'd testify, I still didn't have anything to testify to." Applause thundered through the old hall.

Even after Mooney was convicted and sentenced to hang, Billings said, he still was visited in his cell and urged to testify against Mooney, "and the same thing is happening to Morton Sobell, I'll bet on it; the prosecution has to, the framework is so rotten."

He cited the Harry Bridges case and his and Mooney's case as proof that sooner or later perjury comes to light. "The thing we have to worry about is that it doesn't take too long, and sometimes it does take long." He said it "is up to all us common ordinary working stiff and ordinary citizens" to free Sobell.

Mrs. Rose Sobell in a moving speech told of Morton Sobell's top honors won in high school and colleges, adding: "Yes, as a mother I have been honored by Morty, but today all of us are honored by Morty, all mothers, all Americans."

Saying that Morton Sobell has refused all "deals" offered him, she said: "We did not have much money in our home, but we had principles. 'Do not bear false witness; Love your fellow men.' Morty has stood by those principles. No more could a son do for his mother."

"As true as I'm standing before you, I swear before God and man my son is innocent."

"Responsibility Is Ours," Says Waldo Frank in Plea for Sobell

By VIRGINIA GARDNER

"You don't have to be a lawyer to read the record of the case and know that he was never proven guilty."

These words came quietly from the lips of the novelist and essayist, Waldo Frank, at the rally for justice for Morton Sobell, last Thursday night, and Carnegie Hall rang with applause.

Frank, who was making his first public appearance at a Sobell meeting, found the fact heartening that on the platform "are many men, of many views, many more conservative than I believe I am."

"Perhaps some are radicals, some liberals. Few would dare admit they are conservatives," he said. Yet, he said, he was there as a conservative, and all of them were to conserve America.

To think of Morton Sobell, he said, "is so painful that I find I don't think of him most of the time." Then he added: "But we must, because he is ourselves."

Perhaps, he said, it was because he was generous, because he was adventurous, or outspoken, that Sobell was where he was. Mr. Frank did not know. But he knew "that they are cruelly torturing him, his wife, his children."

"They have sentenced him to 30 years. They have sent him 3,000 miles away, to a prison reserved for the hopeless criminals. Is this man a hopeless criminal? Far from it."

But, he said, those who put him there are criminals.

Frank began by saying that the answer to the question posed by Cain, "Am I my brother's keeper?" was "Yes."

"If the human spirit is to grope its way toward the light—and it has only begun its long long way—if it is to have its home in America, we must defend the right to dissent," he said. "Even if the dissenters are wrong in their dissent, we must. This is our one way of preserving America."

The novelist said, "I'm only going to talk about facts I'm sure of. I don't know Morton Sobell. I'm pretty sure he made mistakes. It wasn't smart to run to Mexico. He was afraid. One makes mistakes when afraid."

"It wasn't smart," he continued.

CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

DATED Oct. 4, 1955

pg. 9 col. 4

100-37158A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 18 1955	
FBI - NEW YORK	
Sheridan	



WALDEN FRANK

"not to take the stand to the advice of his lawyer. I don't know if he was a Communist. I don't know their philosophy. I don't happen to agree with it. But as I have my philosophy, I will defend their right to express their views even though I don't agree."

After saying what he learned from the trial record, he was silent a moment, then said slowly to the completely quiet, rapidly listening house:

"All of us are responsible because this man is in Alcatraz. He didn't know how they were responsible, he said, but something told him that they were responsible for the 'atmosphere in that courtroom, where the Rosenbergs and Sobell were tried, the atmosphere so thick with hysteria and fear that they were literally stifled."

"We're responsible," he went on. "Just as everyone was responsible during the Salem witchhunt, or during the Ku Klux Klan break, or during the Know-Nothing period of hatred against Catholics. We are responsible, my friends, for seeing that America must right itself."

"Leaving aside what Morton Sobell thought, or in some vague moment said, he was tried because he was a heretic."

He spoke of those who say to him, "But these people were Communists, and Communists themselves would take away free speech." Frank said he agreed with those who said that, but he still said that the only way the country could preserve its freedom was to give Communists a chance to express themselves.

Referring again to the charged atmosphere of the trial of 1951, which allowed "this man," and he glanced momentarily over his shoulder of the large portrait of Sobell on the platform, to be cruelly and outrageously sentenced.

And speaking of the forces which put Sobell in Alcatraz, he said:

"This corruption is within ourselves." But, he said, this meeting in Carnegie hall gave hope, it was a meeting which could be called a symbol of the America we all love."

Chairman of the committee was Angus Cannon, publisher. Facts in the case were presented by David Alman, writer, and a founder of the National Committee to Secure Justice for the Rosenbergs. Yip Suhl, poet, made a collection of speech.

Mrs. Rose Sobell
At Rally Tomorrow
 Mrs. Rose Sobell will be among the speakers heard at the Assembly for Justice meeting for her son, Morton Sobell, at 8 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday) in Carnegie Hall.

Feature speakers will include Sen. William Langer (R-ND), Warren K. Billings, framed and imprisoned with Tom Mooney and later pardoned, Attorney John F. Finerty and several Waldo Frank.

100-0-70315
 + mem ref

CLIPPING FROM THE
DAILY WORKER
 DATED Sept. 28, 1955
 Pg. 2 Col. 1

100-37158 Sub A
 7-2

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 12 1955	
FBI - NEW YORK	

Sheridan

SOBELL'S LETTER TO BE READ TO RALLY TOMORROW

100-0-70315
4 num ref.

Morton Sobell, in a letter to be read at the Carnegie Hall meeting tomorrow in his behalf, says that the recent Geneva atom conference will help America to emerge from "this nightmare through which we passed."

At the Geneva conference, scientists admitted that the Soviet Union did not develop its atomic power through secrets allegedly stolen by spies—an admission which came two years after the execution of the Rosenbergs for the crime now judged impossible.

Sobell, imprisoned in Alcatraz on a 30-year sentence, has maintained his complete innocence of the "conspiracy to commit espionage" charge against him. He said in a letter to his wife, Helen:

"When I read of the results of the Geneva Atom Conference, I

felt more optimistic than about anything that had occurred in the recent past. A very personal reaction to the fact that scientists are leading the way."

(Morton Sobell is a scientist and was a specialist in radar before his arrest).

"I know it will take a little time," Sobell wrote, "for people to really appreciate the changed climate, this sudden release from the bondage of fear and tension, a fear that had become the accepted way of life to a whole new generation. Only later when we are descended into the calm fields and have begun to really build for peace again will the people shudder at this nightmare through



SOBELL

which we passed. And I can only hope that the insights gained in this new atmosphere, will extend into all realms, even into here."

The Assembly for Justice for Morton Sobell will be held at Carnegie Hall tomorrow (Thursday) night, 8 p.m., under the auspices of the Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell.

Speakers will include U.S. Senator William Langer, Waldo Frank, novelist and essayist, John F. Finely, attorney in the Sacco and Vanzetti case, and Warren E. Billings, who was convicted with Tom Mooney and later given a full pardon when the case exposed as a frame-up.

CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

DATE Sept 22, 1955
P. 4 C. 4

100-37158-1A

SEARCHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INDEXED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SERIALIZED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FILED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
OCT 12 1955	
FBI - NEW YORK	

Sherridan

1-2