


LA 100-41648

The next speaker was ROSE ROSENBERG. She stated that she also was a Jewish mother. She gave examples of Jewish mothers defying established law of land from Biblical history. The best part of her is in the death house with the other ROSENBERGs. Her son now understands that the ROSENBERGs stand between him and the same treatment. They must not be permitted to die.

DOROTHY MARSHALL stated that even if the ROSENBERGs are guilty death is too severe a punishment. She said she is glad to know other groups such as Jewish Veterans and B'Nai Brith are involved in controversies. This helps her to be resigned to controversies among Catholics.

MAX SCHOEN said that anti-Semitism and anti-Communism were on trial more than the ROSENBERGs and with present hysteria the ROSENBERGs were examples of what fear and witch hunts can lead to. He said that they must not be allowed to die.

 b7D  
HELEN SOBEL spoke first on legal aspects of the ROSENBERG case and then as a wife and mother. She said she knows the ROSENBERGs are not guilty. Bill No. 2255 has been written up appealing for a new trial.

She stated that they and MORTY SOBEL stand between us all and imprisonment and death. If they are allowed to die we are all nearer death.

She stated that because they (the ROSENBERGs) refused their gain of freedom or lighter sentences by giving information against other innocent people they are in the death house. She said that GREENGLASS is too ignorant to have given information regarding the atomic bomb. His testimony against the ROSENBERGs was never confirmed by anyone who understood scientific and mechanical data regarding the atom bomb. She said there was tremendous pressure on SOBEL and the ROSENBERGs by the FBI. SOBEL was told she was getting a divorce and that he could be released if he would talk.

HELEN MILLER stated she would try to interest conservative rabbis in the ROSENBERGs.

LA 100-41648

GEORGE COWELL said even if the ROSENBERGs are guilty they had not committed any crime; that the testimony of GREEN-GLASS lacked credibility; that the drawing of the atom bomb was not shown to the court; and that the table that was used for making microfilm was not included in exhibits.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: SAC, LOS ANGELES

FROM: SA ROBERT E. RUSSELL

SUBJECT: LOS ANGELES COMMITTEE TO  
SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE  
IS - C

DATE: 2/2/53

On 1/20/53 SA ROBERT E. RUSSELL received by mail  
a written report from [REDACTED] which is filed in [REDACTED]

This report reflected informant's attendance at a  
mass rally for the ROSENBERGS held at Factor Hall on Pico  
Bivd., 1/6/53, at 8:15 p.m.

Those persons in attendance known to informant were:

[REDACTED]  
ROSENBERG, (Atty)

[REDACTED]  
HELEN SOBELL (SOBEL)

b7D

RER:cfk  
100-41648

cc: (3) NEW YORK

(REG). (NAT'L COM. ROSENBERG CASE)  
(HELEN SOBELL) (MORTON SOBELL)

[REDACTED]  
100-32591 (R. ROSENBERG)

b7D

[REDACTED]  
100-24350 (RELIGION)  
100-18820 (W. D., LACCP)  
100-29383 (BAY CITIES SEC., LACCP)

100-37158-1420

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
FEB 16 1953	
FBI - NEW YORK	
CHLOPEL [initials]	

LA 100-41648

GEORGE COWELL was the Democratic candidate for some office in his district, possibly the 59th.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were contributors during the "pitch".

b7D

[REDACTED]  
this meeting. (Informant's original report bears a sketch of the area in which [REDACTED] resides).

b7D

HUGH WESTON, Unitarian Minister, without portfolio, said all people, whether they believe in God or not, should stand together for peace, equality and justice. He, as a minister, considers it a privilege and obligation to support all causes such as the ROSENBERG case. He stated that nothing was proved against them and they were framed. He stated that the people are told "Look at the Soviet Unions concentration camps. We are better than they are. We just have little concentration camps." He gave the following brief of previous similar cases:

SOCRATES -- People lost that case.

JESUS -- People lost that case.

DREYFUS -- People lost that case.

MOONEY -- People won that case after 20 years. It was not much satisfaction to MOONEY after spending his life in jail for a frame-up.

ROSENBERG -- If they die the people will have lost that case. If they are later exonerated it will not benefit the ROSENBERGs.

He made the following differences:

Spies -- Those foreign agents working against us

Intelligence -- Our men working to learn secrets of foreign countries. We do not call them spies.

He stated that the West recognizes espionage as a necessary function of a Government branch. Even if guilty of espionage the ROSENBERGs were giving information to an ally. They should have minor punishment ala FUCHS, GOLD and GREENGLASS.



LA 100-41648

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SAC, NY

JOHN W. DOOLEY, SA (65-15348)

JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG  
ESPIONAGE-R

b7D [redacted] Attached hereto is a copy of a report of [redacted] of known reliability, dated 2/5/53. The original report was furnished to SA JOHN W. DOOLEY on 2/17/53. In this report, informant gave an account of "Labor's Rally for Clemency" for the ROSENBERGS at Palm Garden NYC, 2/4/53.

The information contained in this report should not be disseminated outside the Bureau unless it is sufficiently paraphrased to protect informant.

The original report is filed as serial 118

of [redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE.

b7C  
1- [redacted] b7D  
1-NY [redacted]  
1-NY 100-107111 (ROSENBERG COMMITTEE)  
1-NY [redacted]  
1-NY [redacted]  
1-NY [redacted]  
1-NY [redacted]

1-NY 100-37158- (ROSENBERG) / all att  
MORTON

Helen Sobel  
\*100-66793 NI (see 1/10/53)  
\*100-95634?

37158-1423A

100-109849

100-37158-

Filed in  
100-37158  
per J. Harrington  
a.s.

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 17 1953	
FBI - NEW YORK	

C O P Y

Report

"Labor's Rally" for Clemency  
For the Rosenbergs

Feb 5, 1953  
New York

A mass meeting under the heading "Labor's Rally" for Clemency for the Rosenbergs was held on Feb. 4th, 1953, at Palms Garden Hall in New York.

The main force behind this meeting was the "Labor Committee" headed by ABE WEISBURD which attached itself to the National Committee to Secure Justice for the Rosenbergs. Over 400 people were present at this meeting. The meeting consisted mostly of workers of the NY Needle trade industries. Women were in the majority. There were many young workers and a dozen or so negroes.

The Chairman of the meeting was LEON STRAUS. He stated that "We, you and I, know that the ROSENBERGS are innocent". He underlined that the "ROSENBERGS are victims of the cold war. Labor has it within it's power to save the ROSENBERGS just as HAROLD WARD was saved. That power is labor unity. Victories can be won even now if labor unites". He calls upon every worker to act, "starting right now."

He asked everyone to visit friends, neighbors; to talk to shopmates, etc. about the Rosenberg case and to send telegrams to President EISENHOWER asking for clemency for the Rosenbergs. He concluded with "the ROSENBERGS will not die if organized labor will speak out more strongly."

VICTOR RABINOWITZ, labor Lawyer, compared the Rosenbergs case to the case of SACCO and VANZETTI and the HAYMARKET case. He spoke as a lawyer trying to show that from a "legal point of view" the ROSENBERGS shouldn't have been convicted. He told the meeting that many books, poems and plays were written about SACCO and VANZETTI. "We can do without the fine books and poems that were written about these two innocent victims after they were murdered saying what a horrible injustice was done. We can do without the fine poems and books written after they are dead telling us

3/19/53

that the ROSENBERGS were innocent. Let's have two living people not two martyrs. Let's see to it that this monstrous injustice is not done."

Dr. JOHN CODINGTON said that he speaks as a scientist and as an individual. He doesn't speak in the name of his organization, the NY branch of the American Association of Scientific Workers. He read a memorandum which his organization sent to the President asking for clemency for the ROSENBERGS. This memorandum intervenes from "a scientific point of view" that the ROSENBERGS can not be guilty of a crime for which "a death penalty is warranted". CODINGTON underlined that "major organizations of the workers in countries all over the world" are protesting the death sentence of the ROSENBERGS.

He stated that "when the workers raise their voices through their unions the sound somehow carries a long way. He stated that there were no atom bomb secrets since 1940. He said that in 1945 anyone could pick up all of the Atom bomb secrets in any of the scientific Journals which dealt with the atomic bomb. To "proof" this statement he quoted English, French, Canadian and US scientists and he concluded that "scientists too are playing an extremely important role in securing Justice for the Rosenbergs".

HELEN SOBEL said that at this moment she is working to save the lives of the ROSENBERGS. "I have 30 years to work to show that MORTON is innocent, but we have only days to save ETHEL and JULIUS ROSENBERG." She asked the people to donate money which is "needed for the work of saving the lives of JULIUS and ETHEL. I'm not coming to you as a beggar. I'm asking you to give more than you can afford. I'm asking you to give a little to your lives to the ROSENBERGS should live. Should they die you will also die. It will be yours next.

ABE WEISBURD made an appeal for funds. [REDACTED] The meeting authorized the sending of a telegram to President EISENHOWER asking for clemency for the ROSENBERGS. b7D

ABE WEISBURD announced that a trade union delegation will be sent to Washington on Feb. 16, 1953, to visit the President and the Department of Justice. He also announced that the National Committee to Secure Justice for the



ROSENBERGS will shortly start a campaign for a million signatures on petitions to ask the President to commute the ROSENBERGS sentence.

LEON BEVERLY, negro, from Chicago, President Local 347 Packinghouse Workers Union, said that "The Imperialists are preparing for war and to frighten and to silence the people they need victims. The ROSENBERGS are these victims of the old war which the imperialists are trying to turn into a hot war. Labor has it within its power to save the ROSENBERGS just as HAROLD WARD was saved."

He pledged that when he will return to Chicago he will redouble his work on behalf of the ROSENBERGS among the working and the negro people. He said that the Negro people should be in the forefront of the fight to save the ROSENBERGS because "We know the meaning of frame ups and executions of innocent people".

The two who sang songs at the meeting were MARTHA SCHLAMONE and LEON BIRE...

INDICES SEARCH SLIP

TO CHIEF CLERK:

DATE

SUBJECT

*Helen Sobell*

ALIASES

ADDRESS

DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH

- ☐ Exact Spelling
- ☐ All References
- ☐ Subversive References
- ☐ Main File
- ☐ Restricted to Locality of

FILE & SERIAL NO.	REMARKS	FILE & SERIAL NO.	REMARKS
<i>100-0-75133</i>		<i>100-107111-1648</i>	<i>memo 6-2-52</i>
<i>100-107111-1648</i>		<i>DW m/c 6-9-52</i>	
<i>-16 5-8</i>		<i>6-13-52</i>	
<i>-14</i>		<i>NY memo m/c 6-15-52</i>	
<i>-15</i>		<i>DW 6/17/52</i>	
<i>-16 A p. 2</i>		<i>NY letter m/c 6/19/52</i>	
<i>-60 2</i>		<i>DW m/c 6/19/52</i>	
<i>-72 12</i>		<i>6/23/52</i>	
<i>-73 A</i>		<i>NY memo m/c 6/24/52</i>	
<i>-87 A p. 2</i>		<i>100-107111-9502, 3, 6</i>	
<i>100-107111-A</i>		<i>-1371</i>	
<i>-new dg. 3/12/52</i>		<i>-586 p. 7, 24, 25, 26, 27</i>	
<i>3/19/52</i>		<i>-A p. 2</i>	

Searched by

Clerk

Agent

References Reviewed by

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*100-37158-1423B*

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FBI - NEW YORK	

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-620

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-1371

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" " 12/23/52

- D p. 2

12/23/52

- B p. 1 N/C of Dec 10<sup>th</sup> '52 - D W

97-169-1a6

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6/19/52 p. 3 col. 3

3/23/52 p. 8 col. 4 sec. 1

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- 52 p 2

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- 362 p 3

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-501 p 2

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W  
SAC, DETROIT

4/1/53

SAC, SAN ANTONIO (65-1436)

MORTON SOBELL, was,  
ESPIONAGE - R

Information set out first below previously furnished to the Bureau and New York is set out for the information of Detroit and Chicago;

On January 9, 1953, JOHN L. ECHOLS (of unknown reliability), 520 West Mistletoe, San Antonio, Texas, telephone number P-29371, furnished the following information:

ECHOLS' former wife, Mrs. THECKLA LEVIN nee KLABUNDE, told ECHOLS, after MORTON SOBELL had been arrested on the Mexican border, that SOBELL and his family had stayed in a rooming house at 1500 Main Avenue, San Antonio, Texas, home of Mrs. EVELYN ELKINS (now deceased) at the time SOBELL was en route to Mexico.

ECHOLS stated he believed his former wife and her sisters-in-law, listed below, may have arranged for SOBELL and his family to stay at the rooming house as indicated above.

Mrs. THECKLA LEVIN's first husband, WILLIAM "BILL" LEVIN, is now deceased. Mrs. LEVIN resides alone at 2900 San Pedro Street.

The following are sisters of WILLIAM LEVIN:

1. Mrs. G. S. MELUGIN, aka Yaika Melugin  
318 West Hermine  
San Antonio, Texas
2. Mrs. IZZIE GOLDSTEIN, aka Rosie Goldstein  
846 Clover Street  
San Antonio, Texas
3. Mrs. SAM MALTZMAN, aka Birdie Maltzman  
516 North Monumental Street  
San Antonio, Texas

Mrs. LEVIN has also stated to JOHN L. ECHOLS that MORTON SOBELL is related in some way to ABRAHAM ROSENBERG, with Sol Frank's (men's clothing store), 517 East Houston Street.

LC/sjs  
Enc. 2

2cc: Chicago (Enc. 2)  
1cc: New York (100-37158)

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 9 1953	
FBI - NEW YORK	

*Shirley*

158-1420

SA 65-1436

ABRAHAM ROSENBERG is owner and/or manager of Sol Frank's Men's Clothing Store which is one of the better known men's clothing stores in San Antonio.

The indices of the San Antonio Division contained no pertinent derogatory information of a subversive nature concerning any of the above individuals.

After the above was furnished to Bureau and New York by letter dated January 16, 1953, the Bureau furnished instructions contained in Bureau letter to San Antonio dated February 4, 1953, a copy of which is hereby enclosed for Detroit and Chicago.

Thereafter a signed statement was obtained from JOHN LEON ECHOLS, and information furnished to Bureau and New York by San Antonio letter dated March 5, 1953, a copy of which is hereby enclosed for Detroit and Chicago.

The Bureau has now instructed by letter dated March 23, 1953 that San Antonio develop additional background information on the sisters-in-law of ECHOLS' former wife and on ABRAHAM ROSENBERG and that if nothing derogatory is developed that they should be interviewed.

The Bureau also instructed that San Antonio fully inform Detroit and Chicago Offices of allegations of ECHOLS so that his former wife, Mrs. THECKLA LEVIN, may be located and interviewed.

Detroit is requested to attempt to locate Mrs. THECKLA LEVIN through her daughter, Mrs. A. S. ARBURY, JR., 712 East St. Andrew, Midland, Michigan, and thoroughly interview Mrs. LEVIN.

Chicago is requested to attempt to locate Mrs. THECKLA LEVIN through her daughter, Mrs. R. H. SUTKER, 2939 West 66th Street, Chicago, Illinois, and thoroughly interview Mrs. LEVIN.

Detroit and Chicago are requested to furnish San Antonio, as well as New York and Bureau, information obtained from Mrs. LEVIN.

The Bureau has instructed that this matter be given prompt attention.

# Morton Sobell Urges Stepped-Up Clemency Drive

SAN FRANCISCO, April 7.—Morton Sobell, serving a 30-year sentence at Alcatraz as the third defendant in the Julius and Ethel Rosenberg case, is well, in good spirits, and considers his present imprisonment as temporary, it was stated last week by Sobell's wife, Helen, who has just visited him.

Mrs. Sobell is allowed to see him, and talk to him by phone, during their monthly 1½ hour visit, separated by a steel wall broken only by a glass panel, six by eight inches.

For this, she travels from New York, enduring great expense, after having made arrangement for special care for their two children.

"We talked about many different things," Mrs. Sobell said. "About our children—about Mark, our 3½ year old boy—whether he should be allowed to have a cap pistol . . . Morty wanted to know everything about the children, how they are, what they are doing . . ."

As for Sobell's conditions, Mrs. Sobell reported that so far his only job is waxing the floors in the mess hall, but that he has been

promised work in the carpenter shop when a position opens. Other than that he reads, and is allowed to walk outside.

Convicted with the Rosenbergs of conspiracy to commit espionage, Sobell is one of only 200 out of 20,000 federal prisoners who are confined in Alcatraz as maximum security criminals.

"Naturally," Mrs. Sobell continued, "we talked about the Rosenberg case. There is no separation in our minds between his case and the Rosenbergs'.

"We talked about the appeal filed this week with the Supreme Court asking for a new trial. A similar appeal will be filed for him later this month.

"Although it includes the same points as in the Rosenberg appeal, perjury, adverse publicity, etc., it also raises separate points."

These mainly concern the fact that "the prosecution knows there was never at any time any connection even in their own case between my husband and the atomic project. Yet, he continues to be labeled an atomic bomb spy."

Mrs. Sobell said her husband is not allowed to receive the daily papers and was thirsting for news on peace developments. He is allowed some weekly magazines and seven letters a week. He may write two single page letters a week.

While here Mrs. Sobell is at-

tending several meetings and affairs in the campaign to save the Rosenbergs and free her husband. She emphasized that the defense campaign has reached a crisis stage since the filing of the Supreme Court appeal, and activities and letters are more important now than ever.

100-37158-1428

SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
APR 10 1953  
FBI - SAN FRANCISCO  
Morton Sobell

*Misc.* CHICAGO

June 24, 1953

SA JUDSON L. RIGBY

CHICAGO COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE  
IN THE ROSENBERG CASE  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

*Interfile*

[redacted] of unknown reliability, but who has furnished reliable information, orally advised SA JOHN J. JARMUL and the writer on May 29, 1953 that he had attended a meeting of the captioned organization on May 28, 1953 at Curtis Hall, 410 S. Michigan, Chicago. *Said*

According to the informant, Rev. WILLIAM T. BAIRD *100-110312* officered a prayer and then a small colored woman, whom *100-10741-37* he could not identify, opened the meeting and turned *100-10741-37* it over to Attorney DAVID ALMAN who talked on the legal *5/18* aspects of the case and told how the FBI had given *100-9512-18* money to GREENGLASS to get a statement from him. *100-10327-70*

*Alman*  
*100-65376*

Mrs. MORTON SCHELL then spoke about her friendly *65-2683* relations with the ROSENBERG family and how her husband *100-240* and the ROSENBERGS had been "framed" and that pressure *100-240* on President EISENHOWER and the courts would save the *1033A* ROSENBERGS. According to the informant, her talk *105-174-67* was very emotional and \$1500 was collected though there were not more than three hundred people there. Mrs. SCHELL stated that if the ROSENBERGS were not saved their death would be a crime participated in by all America.

*Morton Schell*  
*100-371584*

Someone from the floor proposed that fifty percent of the money collected be donated to the ROSENBERG Defense Fund and this was done.

RANDALL, a neighbor of the ROSENBERGS, then spoke about them and GREENGLASS who he claimed to know and telegrams were distributed which were to be sent to President EISENHOWER asking for clemency for the ROSENBERGS.

The informant made available a pamphlet entitled "New Evidence in the Rosenberg Case" issued by the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case and distributed at this meeting. This pamphlet is being retained in 100-25530-1B2 (47).

SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
JUN 26 1953  
FBI - NEW YORK

JLR:mkr  
100-25530

CC: NEW YORK - 3 (Registered)  
1 100- Mrs. MORTON SCHELL)  
1 100- DAVID ALMAN)  
1 100- RANDALL)  
A7134-169  
100-22765 (Rev.  
WILLIAM T. BAIRD)

*100-27158-1439A*



## Morton Sobell

**M**MORTON SOBELL, convicted under the same indictment with Ethel and Julius Rosenberg but never accused of dealing with atomic energy information, is serving a 30-year sentence on Alcatraz Island, harshest federal prison in the country. For as long as hope lasted, the Rosenberg Case necessarily took precedence. Now a fight must be waged in his behalf. Last week his attorney, Howard N. Meyer, issued this statement:

"The opinion of Justice Frankfurter states that 'the opportunity for adequate exercise of the judicial judgment was wanting' in the Rosenberg Case."

"The opportunity for judicial judgment still exists in the case of Morton Sobell, and every possible step to win his freedom will be taken. I wrote to Sobell yesterday, as follows:

The courage and quiet dignity with which Julius and Ethel Rosenberg died were a moving lesson for even those who wanted them to die. To those of us who felt that they had been unjustly convicted and sentenced, it must be an inspiration not only to vindicate their memory, but to win your freedom."

CLIPPING FROM THE

N. Y. *Natl Guardian*  
DATED *June 29, 1953*  
FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION

100-37158-1440

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 1 - 1953	
FBI - NEW YORK	



# FREE MORTON SOBELL!

Ethel and Julius Rosenberg are dead.

But Morton Sobell, convicted in the same trial whose evidence the Supreme Court admits it has never read—Morton Sobell is alive, condemned to jail for 30 years, a life sentence.

Alive? He is on Alcatraz, that fogged-in rock in San Francisco Bay, a Devil's Island so bad that the Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons urges that it be closed down.

But he keeps Morton Sobell there.

Why? For exactly the same reason they kept a telephone line open to the execution chamber in Sing Sing until the deed was done: they hoped that the Rosenbergs would "co-operate."

Today those whom Manny Bloch called the "animals" in Washington know that there is only one thing that will lay the ghosts of the Rosenbergs — a "confession" from Morton Sobell.

Does anyone think today that the "animals" who killed the innocent parents of two young children will refrain from physical torture to justify their deed of murder?

The Rosenbergs were in the world limelight and were visited constantly. Under those circumstances the "animals" could no more use physical torture than Hitler could use it against Dimitroff in the Reichstag Fire Trial 20 years ago.

But Morton Sobell is at a place where normal routine has the announced purpose of frightening hardened criminals out of committing deeds that might get them sent there. If ordinary prisons enforce punishments so brutal as to provoke the desper-

100-37158-1441

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUL 1 - 1953	
FBI - NEW YORK	

CLIPPING FROM THE

N.Y. Nat'l Guardian

DATE 6/29/53

SUBJECT

ate rebellions that shook the nation last year, what must be the horrors of Alcatraz?

The "animals" need a confession from Sobell now.

What are they doing to Morton Sobell?

Decent America — and two weeks ago in Washington and New York we thrilled to learn how much there is of decent America—must free Sobell!

That is the first payment on our debt to the Rosenbergs. And to Morton Sobell's wife, the mother of two children, who put aside the fight for her own loved one to work for the lives of Ethel and Julie.

To free Morton Sobell means to expose the frame-up and vindicate the name of the Rosenbergs as Sacco and Vanzetti were vindicated. It means to compel the Supreme Court to read the record of the Rosenberg-Sobell trial.

Morton Sobell is the Tom Mooney of our day.

Let us go to the people and remind them that the Supreme Court would have let Mooney die—but the people saved him and in time proved him innocent.

The fight for Tom Mooney helped bring a New Deal to America.

The fight for Morton Sobell can help bring peace to America—for his trial was entirely product of the cold war.

For his sake and for ours, let us not wait 23 years as Tom Mooney had to wait.

First of all—GET SOBELL OFF ALCATRAZ!

DEMAND THAT THE SUPREME COURT READ THE RECORD!

FREE MORTON SOBELL!

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NATIONAL GUARDIAN

## Morton Sobell

MORTON SOBELL, convicted under the same indictment with Ethel and Julius Rosenberg but never accused of dealing with atomic energy information, serving a 30-year sentence on Alcatraz Island, sharpest federal prison in the country, for as long as hope flirts, the Rosenberg case necessarily took precedence. Now a fight must be waged in his behalf. Last week his attorney, Howard J. Meyer, issued this statement:

"The opinion of Justice Frankfurter states that the opportunity for adequate exercise of the judicial judgment was wanting in the Rosenberg case."

"The opportunity for judicial judgment still exists in the case of Morton Sobell, and every possible step to win his freedom will be taken. It wrote to Sobell yesterday as follows:

"Your courage and quiet dignity with which Julius and Ethel Rosenberg died were a moving lesson for even those who wanted them to die. To those of us who felt that they had been unjustly convicted and sentenced, it must be an inspiration not only to vindicate their memory but to win your freedom."

CLIPPING FROM THE

N. Y. *The National Guardian*  
DATED JUN 29 1953

FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION

100-3756-14416

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 14 1953	
FBI - NEW YORK	

*[Signature]*

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, NEW YORK (100-37158)

DATE: July 9, 1953

FROM : SAC, WFO (101-2316)

SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL, was.,  
ESPIONAGE - RREGISTERED MAIL

By letter dated June 17, 1953, the Bureau transmitted to this office specimens Kc 39, Kc 40, and Kc 43 which had been transmitted to the Laboratory by this office. These specimens, which consist of photostatic copies of various documents, are enclosed for disposition by your office. They are as follows:

Kc 39

1. Letter from SOBELL to Draft Board, 5th Ward, dated November 25, 1940.
2. Letter from SOBELL to Local Board #5, Washington, D. C., dated June 5, 1942.
3. Letter from SOBELL to Local Board #5, Washington, D. C., dated November 19, 1941.
4. Page 4 of Selective Service document signed by SOBELL dated March 12, 1943.
5. Page 7 of Selective Service document signed by SOBELL dated April 2, 1941.
6. Selective Service Questionnaire addressed to SOBELL and mailed March 26, 1941. (page 7 is missing from this Questionnaire).
7. Letter to Local Board #5, Washington, D.C., dated June 24, 1942.
8. Pages 3 and 4 of Selective Service Occupational Questionnaire.
9. Supplemental questionnaire addressed to SOBELL and mailed March 8, 1943.
10. Application for Amateur Radio License dated December 19, 1931.
11. Application for renewal of Amateur Radio License dated November 15, 1932.
12. Application for new Amateur Radio License dated June 1, 1933.
13. Letter from SOBELL to Federal Radio Commission dated June 9, 1933.
14. Letter from SOBELL to Federal Radio Commission dated October 7, 1933.
15. Application for Amateur Operator and/or Station License dated October 7, 1933.
16. Letter from SOBELL to Federal Radio Commission date stamped October 18, 1933.
17. Application for Amateur Operator and/or Station License October 14, 1936.
16. Application for Amateur Operator and/or Station License dated October 12, 1939.
19. Letter from SOBELL to FCC dated November 19, 1941.
20. Preliminary and Declaration Sheet, U. S. Civil Service Commission, dated June 22, 1938.
21. Application Form 8, U. S. Civil Service Commission dated March 4, 1938.

LEG/mmd  
ENCLOSURES - 40100-37158-1443  
100-37158-1443  
100-37158-1443

Letter to SAC, New York  
Re: MORTON SOBELL, was.,

Kc 40

1. Department of Commerce Stock Form 77, dated February 22, 1945, signed by HELEN L. GUREWITZ.
2. Form 1922a (CSC) addressed to Miss HELEN L. GUREWITZ, dated December 11, 1941.
3. Personal History Statement dated January 2, 1942, signed by HELEN L. GUREWITZ.
4. Oath of Office for HELEN L. GUREWITZ dated January 2, 1942.
5. Form 375, U. S. Civil Service Commission, signed by HELEN L. GUREWITZ July 11, 1942.
6. Standard Form 62, U.S.C.S.C. signed by HELEN L. GUREWITZ, December 16, 1944.

Kc 43

1. Change of Address card dated October 1, 1941, signed by WILLIAM DANZIGER.
2. Change of Address card dated June 3, 1943, signed by WILLIAM DANZIGER.
3. Change of Address card dated August 17, 1941, signed by WILLIAM DANZIGER.
4. Card from WILLIAM DANZIGER to Local Board 24, Washington, D. C., December 10, 1946.
5. Change of Address card dated April 10, 1943, signed by WILLIAM DANZIGER.
6. Change of Address card dated July 1, 1946, signed by WILLIAM DANZIGER.
7. Letter from WILLIAM DANZIGER, 304 E. 178 St., New York, to Local Board 24 date stamped June 11, 1942.
8. Occupational Certificate for Registrants Deferred by Reasons of Dependency signed by WILLIAM DANZIGER.
9. Pages 3 and 4 of Selective Service Occupational Questionnaire for DANZIGER.
10. Selective Service Questionnaire signed by WILLIAM DANZIGER dated May 28, 1941.
11. Selective Service Supplementary Questionnaire signed by WILLIAM DANZIGER dated December 31, 1942.
12. Letter from DANZIGER to Local Board 24 dated April 17, 1945.
13. Selective Service document signed by WILLIAM DANZIGER dated May 26, 1941.

Bureau letter of June 17, 1953, advised that no copies of the above were retained in Bureau files.

-RUC-



SAC, NEW YORK (100-37158)

July 9, 1953

SAC, WFO (101-2316)

REGISTERED MAIL

ROSTON SOBELL, was.,  
ESPIONAGE - R

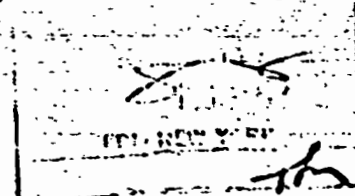
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LEG/med  
ENCLOSURES - 40

100-37158-1443



Letter to SAC, New York  
Re: MORTON SOBELL, was.,

Kc 40

1. Department of Commerce Stock Form 77, dated February 22, 1945, signed by HELEN L. GUREWITZ.
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Bureau letter of June 17, 1953, advised that no copies of the above were retained in Bureau files.

-RUC-

## DRIVE FOR MORTON SOBELL TO BE LAUNCHED AT RALLY

The fight to secure justice for the word of a single witness, Max Elitcher, who faced a perjury indictment for lying to the government. Sobell swears he is innocent.

Plans for the rally were announced yesterday by the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case, which is urging a new trial for Morton Sobell.

Sobell, who was convicted with the Rosenbergs, is serving a 30-year sentence on Alcatraz. The only "evidence" against him was

Judge Jerome N. Frank of the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals has said that Sobell should have a new trial. Judge Frank made his statement in a 2-1 decision rejecting an appeal by Sobell.

Tickets will sell for \$1 and for 50 cents to those under 16.

Tickets may be obtained at the National Committee, 1050 Sixth Ave., N. Y. C., phone LO 4-9585.

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DAILY WORKER

DATED

7/15/53

PR. 8

2

100-37158-1447

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JUL 13 1953	
FBI - NEW YORK	

**The Case of  
Morton Sobell**

Page 1

**The Prisoner on Alcatraz**

Morton Sobell is in prison for 30 years because he would not help frame the Rosenbergs

100-37158-1448

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SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUL 2 1953	
FBI - NEW YORK	

CLIPPING FROM THE  
DAILY NEWS

DATED JUL 2 01953

pg. 1 col. 2



By MILTON HOWARD

A YOUNG American, in his middle 30s, is in a cell on America's "Devil Island," the prison at Alcatraz, Cali. He is in prison for life, 30 years, to be exact. It is a sentence of living death.

But here is the point which the country does not know, which it would find hard to believe, but which is nonetheless true.

The prisoner—Morton Sobell—never did anything. He never committed any illegal act. He never carried anything, transmitted anything, stole anything.

In fact, the government indictment never even charged him with doing anything, or even tried to prove that he ever did anything.

Morton Sobell—who faced the death penalty as one of the defendants on the Rosenberg case—is in jail for life solely because he would not help the FBI's political police frame Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. As a college classmate of Julius Rosenberg, he would not "do a Greenglass"; he would not buy his own safety by agreeing to the official falsehoods in the case.

What did the government decide to indict him for?

What was the evidence against him, if any? Here we must go to the record.

★

WE FIND out that Morton Sobell, who was visiting Mexico City, with his wife and children, was seized by FBI agents, August, 1950, slugged into unconsciousness, carried in a car to the borders of the U. S. A., where he was then arrested, later to be charged with "conspiracy to commit espionage."

We find out that while Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were being branded as "atom spies" on the basis of nothing whatever but the unsupported word of David Greenglass, Morton Sobell was being called "an atom spy" by the government, Edgar Hoover, and prosecutor Saypol on the basis of nothing whatso-



MRS. HELEN SOBELL, the prisoner's wife, says: "I know he is innocent."

ever either in the indictment, in the testimony, evidence or proceedings of the trial.

In fact, Morton Sobell, in huge headlines, was being called an "atom spy" who was "connected with the Fuchs ring" even while the notorious Judge Irving Kaufman in the case was forced by sheer necessity to admit in his sentencing of Sobell:

"The evidence in this case did not point to any activity on your part in connection with the atom bomb project."

Yet the prosecution was carefully planned to give the impression that Sobell was "an atom spy."

We find out that the sole witness against Sobell in the entire case was Max Elitcher, a classmate of his at City College. All that Elitcher could produce for the government was his story that he had conversations with Sobell at six month intervals starting in 1947. Sobell was alleged to have asked him for "information" from "safe progressive people."

Elitcher never dared to claim that Sobell asked him for "atomic information." He did not dare to claim that he had ever given any "information" or that any had ever been transmitted by so-

bell to anyone at any time (neither could this be proved against the Rosenbergs).

But the remarkable facts about this solitary witness against Sobell is that while implicating Sobell in an alleged "conspiracy" solely on the basis of alleged conversations, to which there were no witnesses, Elitcher himself faced a five-year perjury rap if he did not "cooperate."

Plus the fact that it is a matter of the trial record that Sobell never, not for one single time, ever approached his alleged "victim," Elitcher, but that it was always the other way around. It was always Elitcher who approached Sobell for visits, talks, etc! The alleged "conspirator" seeking "information" never once took the initiative or offered to visit or see the witness testifying against him, whom he was supposed to be "recruiting" for "information."

THE PRESS frands in this case were unbelievable, just as they were and still are in the Rosenberg case. Just to take one example.

The New York Post (March 12, 1951) carried this typical item:

"The former Army sergeant, Greenglass, whose testimony began Friday, gave a detailed clock-and-dagger account of his dealings with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, and Morton Sobell, electronic engineer. . . . The three, Greenglass testified, conspired with him to steal the top secrets from the government and transmit them to Moscow."

But the truth is that this Post report was a fraud!

For there is not one single word, not one single phrase in the entire court record for that day or any other day, which in any way connects Greenglass with Sobell. Greenglass never mentioned Sobell at all. But the press—like the Post—dished out this savage torrent of deceptions from day to day.

BUT THAT is not all in this wild jangle of perjury and frame-up. Let us look at one of the most dramatic things in

Elitcher's story that resulted in his not being prosecuted for perjury after he admitted perjury, and which resulted in his getting FBI "clearance" for a salaried job after the Rosenberg trial was over.

THE SOLE, single, solitary piece of "evidence" against Morton Sobell were certain words of the witness Max Elitcher. Elitcher said he had heard Sobell say that (he) Sobell had said that Julius Rosenberg had said something about the notorious informer, Elizabeth Bentley. The reader will recall that Bentley's name was being splashed in huge headlines all over the press as a renegade "spy." She was "fingering" one victim after another, and had become part of the FBI stoolpigeon machinery, providing whatever they needed in the way of testimony.

Elitcher—who was facing a perjury rap if he did not cooperate, and who managed to pick out of all the lawyers in the city the law firm of O. John Rogge, ex-FBI man, and lawyer for the other key government witness, Greenglass—now came up with his key "evidence." Here it is:

He said he came to New York and phoned Sobell, whom he had not seen for more than a year and whom he barely knew at all. Sobell did not want to have him in his house.

Elitcher insisted on staying on the grounds that he had no place to stay.

Elitcher then said that Sobell drove down to the apartment of Julius Rosenberg and left Elitcher waiting in the car. He continues:

He came back approximately a half an hour later, and as we drove off I turned to him and said, "Well, what does Julia think of this, about my being followed?" He said, "It's all right; don't be concerned about it. It's OK." He then said that Rosenberg had told him he had once talked with Elizabeth Bentley on the phone but he was pretty sure she didn't know



**MORTON SOBELL, in August 1950, as he arrived in shackles at Newark Airport after the FBI had seized him in Mexico.**

who he was and therefore everything was all right." (Trial record, p. 261.)

On this testimony, and on this alone, Judge Kaufman sent Morton Sobell to prison for 30 years, that is for life!

There is absolutely nothing else in the record against Sobell except the sinister meaning the government gave to a trip Sobell took to Mexico with his family, without any effort at concealment, living under his own name in Mexico City, where he was kidnaped, beaten, and dragged to the United States to help build up the government's "case" of a "spy ring."

But here is the even more remarkable fact.

Elitcher never mentioned this above-quoted incident in any of the conversations he had with the FBI or the Grand Jury UN-

(Continued on page 10)

**TELL AN FBI MAN SUGGESTED IT TO HIM! This too is in the court record! Read it:**

"Q. I am asking you whether it isn't true that you testified here this morning in answer to a question by Mr. Bloch that you only mentioned Miss Bentley to the FBI after the FBI suggested that name; isn't that true?"

A. Yes.

Q. So that my memory is correct on that, isn't it?

A. Yes.

Was there ever a built-up "case" where the truth cries out so loudly to the eyes and ears of the American people in one searing word-frame-up? Morton Sobell will spend the rest of his life in Alcatraz, because someone in the FBI suggested the name of the professional informer, Elizabeth Bentley, whose elastic memory has shocked even most conservative people in the country.

It is plain why the FBI kidnaped and slugged Sobell—they needed more than one "spy" to link to the martyrs Ethel and Julius Rosenberg in order to make the picture of a "ring" and not just two people, seized for a legal murder to provide a scapegoat for the Korean war and the atomic fear in the United States.

**THERE IS MUCH more in the unbelievable Rosenberg-Sobell frame-up; the world knows a good part of the Rosenberg story which has aroused hundreds of millions all over the world. Now is the time to open the doors of truth on the Sobell case, with which the government helped to deceive America on the Rosenberg case. Sobell is a martyr whose courage and steadfast adherence to truth makes him a hero of democracy as the Rosenbergs were. It is up to us to right this horrible miscarriage of justice.**

OFFICE MEMORANDUM - UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC

DATE: JUL 21, 1953

FROM : SA J. J. FARMLEY

SUBJECT: NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE  
JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

( ) CSNY 425, of known reliability, made available to the New York Office, evidence concerning the above-captioned subject, obtained from the building located at 80 Fifth Avenue, New York City. This building is occupied by National Headquarters of the IWO.

(X) CSNY 426, of known reliability made available to the New York Office information concerning the above-captioned subject, obtained from 35 E. 12th St., N.Y.C. This building is occupied by the following organizations, which are all under the control of the Communist Party: Publishers New Press, Inc. ("Worker" and "Daily Worker"); Morning Freiheit Association ("Morning Freiheit" and "Jewish Life"); Workers' Bookshop; F & D Printing Co.; 12th - 13th Realty Corporation. Prior to September, 1951, the National, State and N.Y. County offices of the Communist Party also occupied these premises.

Strict care must be exercised so that the existence of this important source of evidence will not become known to any outside agency. It is also to be noted that because of the nature of this source of information it will be impossible to recontact the source regarding information furnished.

Date information received JUL 15, 1953

Identity of employee who can testify as to the receipt of the exhibit SA J. J. FARMLEY AND SA H. P. BUCHHEIT

The following disposition is being made of the original exhibit:

(X) Placed in NY file 100-37158 Serial 1  
Exhibit # 1

( ) Forwarded to you for your information and whatever action you deem appropriate.

Description of exhibit:

100-37158-1449

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SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUL 21 1953	
FBI - NEW YORK	



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# Committee To Secure Justice In The Rosenberg Case

**JOSEPH BRAININ**  
Chairman

**DAVID ALMAN**  
Executive Secretary

**AARON SCHNEIDER**  
Organizational Secretary

1050 SIXTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.  
LOngacre 4-9585

## RANDALL'S ISLAND RALLY TO LAUNCH JUSTICE FIGHT FOR MORTON SOBELL

NEW YORK, July 9--The fight to secure justice for Morton Sobell will be launched publically at a Rosenberg Dedication Rally at Randall's Island Stadium on Wednesday night, Aug. 19, at 7:30 p.m.

Plans for the rally were announced today by the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case, which is urging a new trial for Morton Sobell.

Sobell, who was convicted with the Rosenbergs is serving a 30-year sentence on Alcatraz. The only "evidence" against him was the word of a single witness, Max Elitcher, who faced a perjury indictment for lying to the government. Sobell swears he is innocent.

Judge Jerome N. Frank of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has said that Sobell should have a new trial. Judge Frank made his statement in a 2-1 decision rejecting an appeal by Sobell.

The program for the rally is to be announced.

Tickets will sell for \$1.00 plus tax, with persons under 16 being admitted for 50 cents, plus tax. Tickets may be obtained at the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case, 1050 Sixth Ave., New York 18. The phone number is LO 4-9585.

### SPONSORS (Partial List)

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Emily Almas  
Dr. Herbert Aptheker  
Ivan Von Auw  
Dr. Edward K. Barsky  
Prof. E. Berry Burgum  
Alice Hill Byrne  
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Rev. F. C. Collins  
Rabbi Abraham Cronbach  
Prof. Ephraim Cross  
Marjorie DiSilva  
Dr. Katharine Dodd  
Dr. W. E. B. DuBois  
Gertrude Evans  
Waldo Frank  
Joseph Friedman  
John Gojack  
B. Z. Goldberg  
Shirley Graham  
Nahum Greenberg  
Louise Harding Morr  
Rev. Spencer Kennaard  
Hon. Robert Morris Lovett  
Dr. Bernard Lubka  
Dr. John Marsalka  
John T. McManus  
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Capt. Hugh N. Mulzac  
William A. Reuben  
Dr. John L. Simon  
Leon Straus  
Lois Timmins  
Elizabeth Todd  
Dr. Leonard Tushnet  
Dr. Gene Wolfish

####

# Coast Parley Maps Drive for Morton Sobell

By HELEN EDELMAN

SAN FRANCISCO, July 22.—Over 100 persons this weekend held a conference to map a campaign to win a new trial for Morton Sobell and his removal from the medieval island jail where he is now held.

Sobell's wife, Helen, took part in the conference at 150 Golden Gates Ave., only a few miles from the grim island where her husband is held.

As part of the campaign to secure a new trial for Sobell, members of the local and national Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg case called for:

- A full page advertisement on behalf of Sobell in a major San Francisco newspaper. The ad would be sponsored by 1,000 signers contributing \$1 each.

- A national conference in September to present a full report on finances and achievements of the Rosenberg Committee, after which the committee would probably be dissolved and replaced by a Sobell Committee. The conference will be held in the Midwest.

- Changing the organizational structure of the committee to provide for three autonomous regions

CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

DATED 7/23/53  
11 Cal. 1

100-37158-1450

in the West, Midwest and East, rather than a single committee centered in New York. The three regions would act separately but meet together to establish policy.

- Establishment of a national legal committee to consult with Sobell's attorneys.

#### FINAL POLICY

Joseph Brainin, chairman of the national Rosenberg Committee, and David Alman, executive secretary, noted that final policy as to how the campaign should be carried out should be made after discussion with Rosenberg-Sobell committees in all parts of the country.

Francis McTernan, who outlined legal factors in the Sobell case, explained that the 36-year-old engineer still has an appeal pending in the New York courts as well as the possibility of action by the Supreme Court on the grounds that Sobell should have been tried on a separate indictment from Julius and Ethel Rosenberg.

He stressed, however, that the case of Morton Sobell will not be won by lawyers and courts, but by the people. "I don't think any other case has proven so dramatically and tragically (as the Rosenberg-Sobell case) how inadequate law is in a political case," McTernan observed.

#### 1,100 AT RALLY

LOS ANGELES, July 22.—The men and women who fought for the lives of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg pledged a "fight for truth" in a campaign to free Morton Sobell

from Alcatraz prison. Eleven hundred persons jammed Park Manor ballroom and pledged support to "the widest possible movement for Sobell's immediate transfer from Alcatraz, and ultimate reversal of the 30 year sentence he received in the 'conspiracy' trial that resulted in the death of the Rosenbergs.

Mrs. Helen Sobell, wife of the imprisoned scientist, was joined by leaders of diverse sections of the community in the plea for unity in the "free Sobell" struggle.

Mrs. Sobell sketched in detail the facts of the frameup of Sobell, the FBI campaign to intimidate the Sobells to "become cooperative" and "confess" to a crime not even committed.

Like the Rosenbergs, Mrs. Sobell said her husband "is innocent and we stand together with the Rosenbergs who chose to die rather than lie."

Horace Alexander, national committeeman of the Progressive Party, and a leader of the Negro community here, stressed "the identity of the Negro people, victimized for centuries, with these victims of frameup—the Rosenbergs and Morton Sobell."

Alexander said the Negro community can be enlisted in the struggle for Sobell.

#### ROLE OF LABOR

Reid Robinson, former national president of the Mine, Mill & Smelter Workers Union appealed to trade unionists to rally behind Sobell.

Freedom of Sobell, said Robinson, "is in the interests of the entire organized labor movement."

David Gruthman, president of the Southland Jewish Organizations, called for unity of the Jewish community and its leaders in the fight against "scapegoatism" which is reflected in the persecution of the Rosenbergs and Sobell.

#### VINDICATION

Joseph Brainin, national chairman of the Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case, and David Alman, the committee's national executive secretary, outlined perspectives ahead in the campaign to establish a trust fund for the Rosenberg children, to force Sobell's transfer from Alcatraz and his ultimate release.

Alman stressed that the Rosenberg committee, in the words of Rabbi Abraham Cronbach, seeks "not vengeance but vindication" for the victims of the frameup.

# Sobell Expects to Take Stand If He Wins New Trial

By STEVE MURDOCK

SAN FRANCISCO, July 23.—

Mrs. Helen Sobell, wife of Morton Sobell, said here her husband is now convinced he should have taken the witness stand in his own trial and proclaimed in detail his innocence of charges of "conspiracy to commit espionage."

Mrs. Sobell visited her husband this week in Alcatraz prison in San Francisco bay where he is serving a 30-year sentence. The sentence was imposed by Judge Irving Kaufman in New York at the same time that Sobell's co-defendants, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, were sentenced to death.

"One thing we discussed," said Mrs. Sobell after her visit to "the Rock," "was the question of Morty not having taken the stand."

Sobell, on the advice of his attorneys, did not testify for tactical reasons. The defense contention was that the burden of proof of the alleged conspiracy rested with the government—and the government had failed so completely to prove a case that formal defense was not necessary.

"While this may have been justifiable from the legal point of view," said Mrs. Sobell, "what it did, in effect, was place Morty in a position of giving up his life

without having had a chance to fight for it."

The implication was clear that if the fight to win a new trial for Sobell is successful, he will definitely take the stand to brand the case against him a tenuous frame-up—based on the unsupported and unconfirmed testimony of one man.

Mrs. Sobell had not seen her husband since last winter. She said she found him in a courageous "interested" in plans being made nationally for a campaign, first, to have him transferred from dread Alcatraz and second to win his freedom.

"He wants," she said, "as much as is possible to participate in these plans."

Sobell, a friend of the Rosenbergs, has now become the worldwide symbol of the campaign for their vindication. Like the Rosenbergs, he has persistently proclaimed his innocence.

Although his prison record has been exemplary, Sobell was sent to Alcatraz—the prison for supposed incorrigibles—last November. The charge has been made by the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case that Sobell was sent to Alcatraz because he refused to tell the government the story it wanted to hear.

There is, Sobell contends, simply nothing to tell.

CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

DATED 7/24/53

Cal 1

100-37158-1457

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 24 1953	
FBI - SAN FRANCISCO	



DIRECTOR, FBI

7-14-53

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED]

HELEN SOBOL  
SM - C

[REDACTED]

SOBOL,

[REDACTED] wife of MORTON

[REDACTED]

charged the government of the United States with conjuring up a very flimsy case of circumstantial evidence with DAVID GREENGLASS being used as a main key witness. b7D

According to subject, due to GREENGLASS' being guilty of some other crime he had been willing to "become a stooge for the F.B.I." in order to escape a stiffer sentence and that the F.B.I. in looking around for some one "to be the fall guy" had selected the ROSENBERGS. She indicated that her husband who is presently serving a thirty year sentence in Alcatraz could have gotten off with a much lighter sentence had he testified against the innocent ROSENBERGS.

[REDACTED]

1 cc - WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE

RET:bak

100-37158-1452

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 31 1953	
FBI NEW YORK	

*[Signature]*

[REDACTED]

b7D

The above data is being supplied for the Bureau's information. It is to be noted that apparently no concrete results were obtained as a result of her visit [REDACTED] no known delegates went to Washington, D.C. in this regard [REDACTED]

b7D

ROUTING SLIP

Date July 30, 1953

SAC:

New York Field Division

RE:

Morton Sobell  
Espionage -R

NY File 100-37158  
Bufile 101-2483

The attached is for your information. If  
used in a future report, ( ) conceal all sources,  
( ) paraphrase contents. (X) Remarks: Include  
in report on Helen Sobell.

Very truly yours,

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
John Edgar Hoover  
Director

100-37158-1452

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

*J. Harington*

## OFFICE MEMORANDUM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES

DATE: 7/6/53

FROM : SA ROMNEY STEWART

SUBJECT: LOS ANGELES COMMITTEE TO SECURE  
JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE  
IS - C

On June 23, 1953, [REDACTED] dictated information to SA ROMNEY STEWART which was transcribed and signed by informant on June 27, 1953 [REDACTED] as follows:

"On the night of Wednesday, June 17, 1953, 1600 people attended a meeting concerning the Rosenbergs at the First Unitarian Church on 8th Street near Vermont Avenue in Los Angeles, overflowing to the outer courtyard so that it became necessary to hold a second meeting later in the evening. The sum of \$1800 was collected at this meeting to finance a delegation of four people for a flight to Washington, D. C. to plead for clemency for the Rosenbergs. The four delegates elected were BEN MARGOLIS, IGNACIO LOPEZ, DAVID GRUTMAN, a businessman at the present time and former president of the Southland Jewish Organizations, and DAVID BROWN, head of the Los Angeles Rosenberg Committee.

"At this meeting, IRWIN EDELMAN was present distributing flyers attacking the Rosenberg Committee for mistakes made by defense attorney EMANUEL BLOCH, and giving full credit for Justice Douglas' stay or execution to himself and FYKE FARMER of Nashville, Tennessee. At this meeting, there were the following whom I recall by name:

RS:cla

100-41648

cc: 10 - New York REG.

2 - Memphis REG. (100-

2 - Cleveland REG. (100-

2 - Washington Field REG. (100-

FYKE FARMER)

DON SCHWARTZ)

Rosenberg Committee)

b7D

100-24350 (Religion) 100-37158-1484

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 13 1953	
FBI - NEW YORK	

*Handwritten signature*

b7D

100-37158-

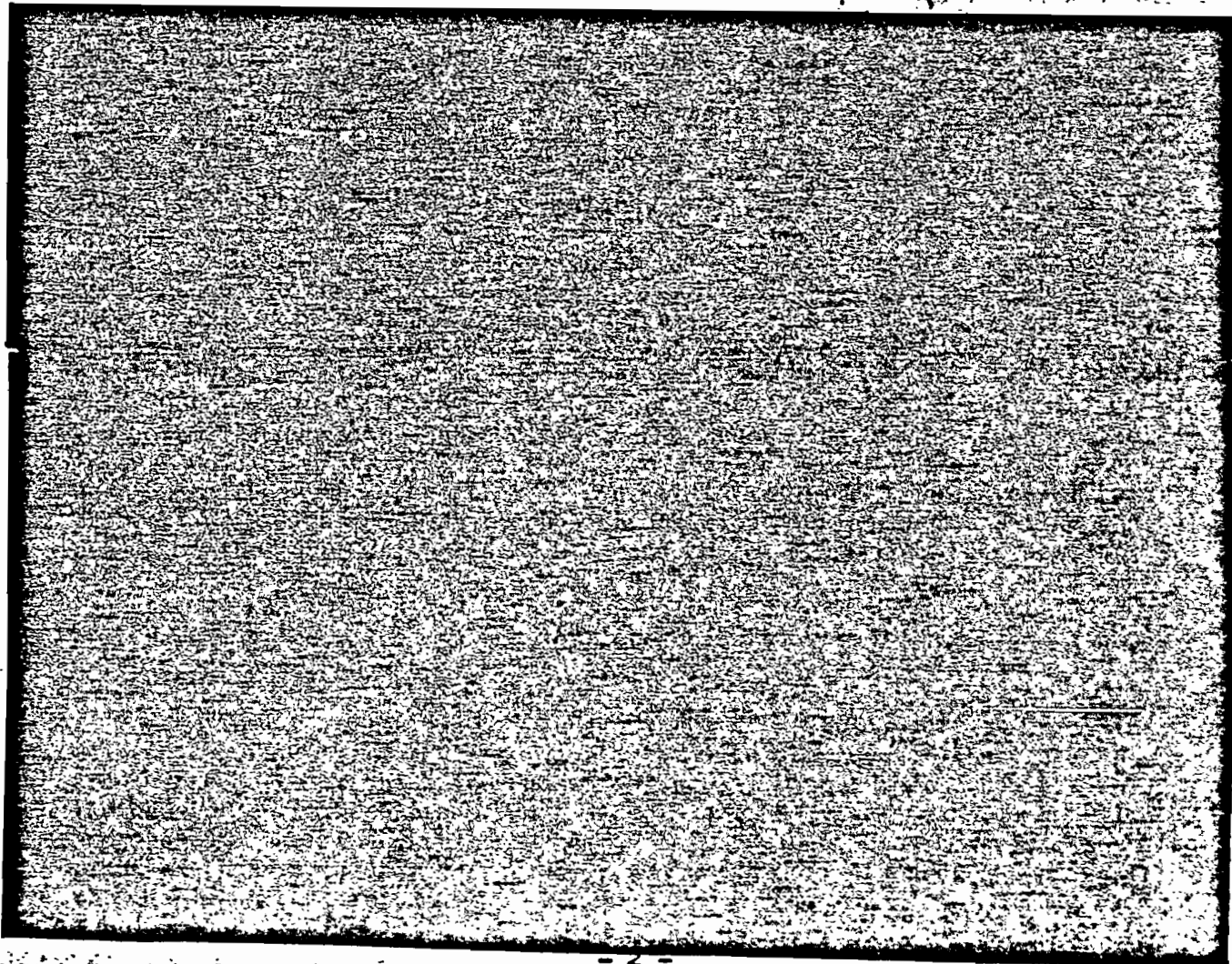


LA 100-41648

The meeting, upon adjournment, then proceeded to the Federal Building in Los Angeles, at which a vigil was set up comprising 638 people, which wound its way through downtown Los Angeles, past Republican Party headquarters and other points of congested traffic in order to attract the attention of the people. They were carrying placards which had slogans on them in substance as follows:

"Pope Pius XII urges clemency. ALFRED EHSTEIN, Dr. HAROLD C. UREY, Rabbi CROBACH and dozens of others, each stating that the individual named was for clemency.

"After about an hour of picketing, the vigil settled down to about 20 which stayed through the night in front of the Federal Building and reformed on a mass scale so that by 9:00 A., June 16, the ranks had swelled to several hundred persons and throughout the day the line kept increasing. This vigil was maintained until the hour of the execution, which was 4:00 PM PDT, June 19.



SAC, NY

July 31, 1953

HYMAN N. RABINOWITZ, SE (100-21)

"MORNING FREIHEIT" INC.  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

The following editorial appeared in the "Morning Freiheit" of June 27, 1953, on page 4, column 1-2:

Exonerate The Names Of The Rosenbergs -  
And New Trial For Morton Sobell

All those in our country, and the millions throughout the world who did everything in their power to stop the legal lynching of the Rosenbergs, - they will certainly approve the decision of the Rosenberg Committee to continue its work to exonerate the names of the two martyrs.

The "National Committee To Secure Justice In The Rosenberg Case" has just issued a statement about its future plans which include, as stated above, the exonerating of the names of the Rosenbergs. The Committee is also to start a broad fight for a new trial for MORTON SOBELL, who was tried with the Rosenbergs in the same frame-up.

Morton Sobell received the cruel sentence of 30 years jail. He is incarcerated at the Alcatraz Prison fortress, where he is never permitted to see his children. His unjust sentence cries to the skies, just as the whole indictment which was fabricated against him and the Rosenbergs' cries to the skies. While there was the slightest hope to arrest the hand of the executioner from extinguishing the lives of the two young people - all those who want to see justice devoted all their energy to the fight for the Rosenbergs. But before the eyes of every honest person, - and, most certainly, the Committee which is trying to win justice in this affair - there always stood the fate of Morton Sobell, who is in a living tomb. The fight for his liberation is part of the fight to exonerate the names of the Rosenbergs. The feelings of pain and anger, which dominated such broad masses as a result of the cold-blooded act of burning the Rosenbergs, will not disappear - they dare not disappear - until justice is achieved... America has to cleanse itself of the stain which gave birth to these feelings which dominate millions. That is why the decision by the Rosenberg Committee on its future activity is so important...

In the fight to win justice by exonerating the names of the Rosenbergs and in obtaining a new trial for Morton Sobell the Committee should receive the broadest support from all those who love justice.

Translated by SE HYMAN N. RABINOWITZ

1 - NY 100-107111 (NCTSJTRC)  
1 - NY 100-37153 (Morton Sobell)

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
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SAC, NY

July 31, 1953

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Translated by SE HYMAN N. RABINOWITZ

1 - NY 100-107111 (NCTSJITRC) ✓  
1 - NY 100-37158

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
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JUL 31 1953	
FBI - NEW YORK	



SAC, New York

8/11/53

JOHN L. PAGAN, SA (100-109774)

WILLIAM ADDISON PRICE  
SM-C

NY 826-S\* advised on 8/6/53 that JANE SOMERS, employed at the Civil Rights Congress told WILLIAM ADDISON PRICE that there is to be an "Eastern Seaboard Conference of the Rosenberg Committee" on August 14 and 15, 1953, at which time there would be a legal analysis of the SOBELL case.

According to informant, JANE tried to interest PRICE in participating in the Conference. He demurred but indicated he would be able to accommodate a married couple and a single person in his apartment over the week end of the conference.

1 - 100-107111  
1 - 100-37158  
1 - 100-112264

JLF:DLO

100-37158-1458

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NEW YORK	

*[Handwritten signature]*



## N. Y. meetings on Sobell case

• At New York City's Manhattan Towers, 77th St. and Broadway on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 15-16, the Natl. Comm. to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case will conduct an Eastern Seaboard Conference "to plan steps to vindicate Ethel and Julius Rosenberg and to win justice for their co-defendant Morton Sobell (see pp. 4-5, natl. edition), now serving a living death of 30 years in dreaded Alcatraz." Part of the sessions will be devoted to a review of the world-wide battle for the lives of the Rosenbergs; the bulk of the two days will be given over to reports and discussions on a campaign in behalf of Sobell. Sessions both days will begin at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.; there will be a buffet supper and entertainment Saturday evening. Registration is \$1.

• On Wed., Aug. 19 at 8:30 p.m. the Bronx Rosenberg Committee will hold a meeting at Hunts Point Palace, Southern Boulevard and 163d St., Bronx. Speakers will include Mrs. Helen Sobell, the GUARDIAN's John T. McManus and Emily Alman of the national Rosenberg committee.

• A great outdoor rally will be held at Randall's Island Stadium on Wed., Sept. 16 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets (\$1. and \$1.50) can be obtained from the Natl. Comm. to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case, 1050 Sixth Av., N. Y. C. 18.

CLIPPING FROM

*The National Guardian*

AUG 17 1953

100-37158-1459

34-11-10-11

**BULKY EXHIBIT - INVENTORY OF PROPERTY ACQUIRED AS EVIDENCE**

Bufile: ~~100~~ 101-2483

~~New York~~ Field Division

~~3/1/53~~ Date

Title and Character of Case: **MORTON SOBELL, was  
ESP-R**

Date Property Acquired: **3/29/50**

Source From Which Property Acquired: **Search of subject's person incidental  
to arrest**

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit: **Exhibit vault  
200 Broadway, NYC**

Reason for Retention of Property and  
Efforts Made to Dispose of Same: **Pending final disposition of case**

Description of Property or Exhibit and  
Identity of Agent Submitting Same:

**1 American Airlines ticket #012A 121896. Return trip portion of ticket  
Mexico City to NYC unused**

Submitted by SA Rex I. Shroder

1 - NY 65-6649

100-37158-1461

Field File #: 100-37158

Sec. 6

BULKY EXHIBIT - INVENTORY OF PROPERTY ACQUIRED AS EVIDENCE

Bufile: 101-2483

New York

Field Division

8/1/53

Date

Title and Character of Case: MORTON SOBELL, was  
ESP-R

Date Property Acquired: 10/10/50

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit: Exhibit vault  
290 Broadway, NYC

Reason for Retention of Property and  
Efforts Made to Dispose of Same: Pending final disposition of case

Description of Property or Exhibit and  
Identity of Agent Submitting Same:

Submitted to Bureau by Legat, Mexico City

1 - NY 66-6649

Field File #: 100-37158

Sec. 6

100-37158-1462

SAC, New York

8/17/53

JOHN W. DOOLEY, SA (100-107111)

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE  
JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE  
IS - C

Attached hereto is a copy of a report of [REDACTED] of known reliability, dated 7/17/53. The original report was furnished to SA JOHN W. DOOLEY on 8/4/53. In this report, informant discussed the activities of the Rosenberg Committee [REDACTED]

The information contained in this report should not be disseminated outside the Bureau unless it is sufficiently paraphrased to protect informant.

The original report is filed as serial [REDACTED]

- 1 - [REDACTED]
- 1 - [REDACTED]
- 4 - NY 100-37158 (HAROLD SOBELL)
- 1 - NY 100-80675 (CARIC)

JWD:MG

100-37158-1464

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
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FBI - NEW YORK	



July 17, 1953  
New York

Report

"French Committee for the Rehabilitation  
of the Rosenbergs Activities"

[REDACTED] that the Committee (American) to secure justice for the ROSENBERGS was informed by the French Committee from Paris that the Committee changed its name to "French Committee for the Rehabilitation of the Rosenbergs". [REDACTED] that this French Committee is going to be "the center of anti-American propaganda (in connection with the Rosenberg case) in Europe". [REDACTED] the French Committee for the Rehabilitation of the Rosenbergs has adopted the following program of work:

1. To unite into one organization all of the Committees which were working for the ROSENBERGS into one national (French) Committee to work for the Rehabilitation of the ROSENBERGS.
2. To issue a pamphlet on the history of the ROSENBERGS case which will include "all documents and facts showing that the ROSENBERGS were innocent" and to give this pamphlet a wide national and international (in Europe) distribution.
3. To start immediately the campaign for the rehabilitation of the ROSENBERGS.
4. To appeal to artists, writers, etc., "to immortalize the heroic stands of the ROSENBERGS".
5. To ask all city administrations of France to name streets for ETHEL and JULIUS ROSENBERG.
6. To prepare a "court-r-process" of the ROSENBERGS on a national and international scale.
7. To raise a large fund for the rehabilitation campaign.

8. To issue a poster with the poem written by ETHEL ROSENBERG.
9. To receive all information about the ROSENBERG children from the U.S. for the purpose of distributing this information all over France and Europe.
10. To appeal to organizations and individuals in France urging them to write letters "of approval to EMANUEL BLOCK on his heroic fight to save the lives of the ROSENBERGS".

[REDACTED] that the American Committee to secure justice for the ROSENBERGS decided to work hand-in-hand with the French and all other Committees in the world in the fight for the rehabilitation of ROSENBERGS. The American Committee will furnish to the above mentioned committees all the "propaganda material".

The French Committee, [REDACTED] also decided to raise a "national fund for the ROSENBERGS Orphans".

[REDACTED] in the U.S. the fight for the rehabilitation of the ROSENBERGS will be conducted in conjunction with the fight "to secure justice for MORTON SOBELL".

The opening of this fight will be launched by the National Committee to secure Justice for the Rosenbergs at a mass rally at Randalls Island Stadium on 9/10/53.

[REDACTED] the civil Rights Congress will cooperate with the National Committee to secure Justice for the ROSENBERGS in all of its activities.

## OFFICE MEMORANDUM - UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, NY

DATE: 8/27/53

FROM : SA V. J. CAVILL

SUBJECT: CP - USA, DISTRICT #4  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
(NAVY C. P. CELL)  
IS - C

By letter of 8/7/53, the Bureau advised that MAX ELITCHER testified before the House Committee on Un-American Activities in New York on July 20, 1953. A photostatic copy of his testimony was enclosed to New York.

MAX ELITCHER is an admitted former member of the C. P. in Washington, D. C. from 1939 until 1948. He also testified as a government witness in the ROSENBERG-SOBELL espionage-conspiracy trial and in the perjury trial of WILLIAM PERL.

His testimony before the Committee related to the existence and formation of C. P. cell groups within Government agencies in Washington from 1939 to 1948. He named 18 individuals as members of the Communist Party, whom he knew through association and attendance with them at C. P. meetings.

A transcript of his testimony is presently located in the exhibits of NY 65-14873.

The 18 individuals named by ELITCHER include the following:

MORTON SOBELL (NY File 100-37158), HENRY BEITCHER, (NY File 100-97695), SARAH SILVERMAN (NY File 121-2017), SHIRLEY MICLOV TAYLOR (NY File 100-0, LA: Angeles File 100-30553), FRANCES JACOBSON (NY File 121-7242), ESTHER SUROWELL (NY File 100-104125), ABRAHAM SUROWELL (NY File 100-104125), HARRY GRIER (NY File 100-0, WFO File 100-14126), SAMUEL MEYER (NY File 100-103837),

- 1 - NY 100-37158
- 1 - NY 100-97695
- 1 - NY 121-2017
- 1 - NY 100-104125
- 1 - NY 100-103837
- 1 - NY 121-1168
- 1 - NY 121-9734
- 1 - NY 100-110093
- 1 - NY 121-2977
- 1 - NY 100-78672
- 1 - NY 65-15396
- 1 - NY 100-97287
- 1 - NY 77-6220
- 1 - NY 100-109186
- 1 - NY 65-14873

100-37158-1466

VJC:JP  
100-79449



MEMO To SAC, NY  
100-79449

IRA KLAFTER (NY File 121-1168), MARY HARRIS (NY File 121-9734), FVELYN HARRIS (NY File 100-110093), PAULINE GCLVAN (NY File 121-2977), JEANETTE KAPLAN (NY File 100-78672), WILLIAM DANZIGER (NY 65-15396), MILTON ADELSON (NY File 100-97237), WILLIAM SHONICK (NY File 77-6220), HELEN SHONICK (NY File 100-109186).

A copy of this memo is being placed in each of the aforementioned files. However, any reference to his testimony in a communication which may be disseminated outside the Bureau should be protected by a T symbol. The Bureau has also furnished New York with a photostatic copy of a memorandum dated 7/27/53 from the Assistant Attorney General WARREN OLNEY III. In this memorandum, he requests, with respect to each of the aforementioned C. P. members, that the Bureau ascertain whether any of the people whom ELITCHER identified, are employed by the Federal Government at the present time, and secondly, whether any of these same individuals have within the past three years had occasion to submit forms either directly or indirectly to the Federal Government in which C. P. membership was denied, or in which Communist Party membership was not admitted in response to a specific question thereon. The Bureau was requested to conduct an immediate investigation along the lines suggested, and submit results of investigations under individual captions.

The only subjects of the above eighteen known to live within the jurisdiction of the NYO are WILLIAM DANZIGER and SARAH SILVERMAN POWELL.

It is suggested that these two files relating to DANZIGER and SARAH SILVERMAN POWELL be reviewed as well as office indices, and that the information desired by the Bureau, be furnished.



PC

FACTS TO FIGHT WITH—TO SAVE A LIFE FROM ALCATRAZ AND VINDICATE THE ROSENBERGS

How the 'atom spy' hoax caught and railroaded

Morton Sobell

100-37158-1467

CLIPPING FROM THE

N. Y. *The National Guardian*  
AUG 7 1953

By Lawrence Emery

MORTON SOBELL, now 36, grew up in New York City. He had a bright mind, was always fascinated by electronics, ran his own radio station under a "ham" operator's license while still in Stuyvesant High School, graduated as an electrical engineer from the City College of N. Y. in 1938. In December of that year he went to work in Washington, D. C., for the Bureau of Ordnance of the Navy Dept., where he stayed for two years.

In the fall of 1941 he quit his government job, went to the U. of Michigan for a year of graduate study to acquire his degree of Master of Scientific Engineering. His marks there were so high that in April, 1942, the university offered him a fellowship. But the U. S. was in the war against the Axis and Sobell for two months had been registered on the Natl. Roster of Scientific and Specialized Personnel for the War Manpower Commission; for him the war came first. He declined the fellowship:

"Perhaps sometime in the not too distant future I will return to the University, sometime when the country does not need its men as sorely as it does at this moment."

**THE MEXICO TRIP:** Throughout the war Sobell did top-level work in his field and was steadily promoted. In 1944 he cooperated with the Senate Comm. Investigating the Natl. Defense Program (the Truman Committee) to eliminate waste in the General Electric plant in Schenectady where he was employed. He was a regular blood donor to the Red Cross and was a member of its so-called "Gallon Club." After the war he continued his studies and took graduate courses in the winter of 1949-50 at N. Y. University.

For years the Sobell family—there are two children, Mark, 4, and Sydney, 13—had planned a vacation trip to Mexico. As early as 1948 Sobell wrote Pan-American World Airways about excursion fares. But not until June 21, 1950, were the Sobells able to make the trip.

Sobell obtained a leave of absence from his employer, bought tickets from the American Airlines in his own name, rented an apartment in Mexico City under his own name, arranged for diaper service there to be charged to the "Sobell baby" account. At the border he registered two expensive cameras with the U. S. Customs Office so he wouldn't have to pay duty on them when he returned.

**THE "ATOM SPY":** In mid-August the Sobells were planning to come home; they had already obtained vaccination certificates necessary to re-enter the U.S. But on Aug. 16 the Sobell apartment was invaded by armed men who represented themselves as Mexican police. They slugged him into unconsciousness, dragged him into an automobile and for three days and nights drove him to the border at Laredo, Tex., where FBI agents were waiting for him. On Aug. 25 Sobell was arraigned in New York and held on \$100,000 bail.

Somehow Morton Sobell had become involved in the Rosenberg case. From the start he was tagged as an atom spy. In statements and announcements to the press, even though at the defense pointed out later—the prosecution "must have known that such characterizations were false, had no evidence to support them, produced none at the trial, and [was] seeking thereby wrongfully to insure" a conviction. In its brief replying to this argument, the government conceded "possible prejudicial effects resulting from newspaper treatment of [Sobell] as an 'atom spy'" but held that

... whatever confusion [sic] existed in the newspapers, the jury could not have listened to the evidence or followed its instructions without realizing that [Sobell's] physical participation in a theft of atom bomb data was not in the case.

### Enter Max Elitcher

Since he had gone to Stuyvesant High Sobell had known Max Elitcher; in fact, for years Sobell had been Elitcher's closest friend. They had gone through CCNY together; shared an apartment in Washington when both worked for the Navy Dept. Elitcher attended Sobell's wedding. When Elitcher had occasion to go to Schenectady while Sobell was working there, he was Sobell's house guest.

After Sobell transferred to New York, Elitcher stayed at his home when he was in the city. In 1947 Sobell went to work for the Reeves Instrument Co. in New York; a year later Elitcher joined the firm and rented a house in Flushing, L.I., adjoining Sobell's; they drove to and from work together in the same car.

**THE HAUNTED MAN:** On July 30 Elitcher was questioned continuously for 12 hours by FBI agents; three days earlier Julius Rosenberg, who had attended CCNY at the same time as Sobell and Elitcher, and knew both men, had been arrested. Elitcher gave the FBI a signed statement implicating Rosenberg in "espionage." (Later in court Elitcher was to confess that for some time he had been obsessed with



MAX ELITCHER  
Haunted by the FBI



**HELEN SOBELL**

*She'll fight from here to eternity*

a haunting fear that he might be prosecuted for perjury for denying Communist Party membership in signing a government loyalty oath.)

Next day, July 21, he hurried to the law firm of O. John Rogge—who was already engaged as the attorney for David Greenglass, principal witness against the Rosenbergs. That same afternoon Elitcher gave the FBI another signed statement. Later he was a witness before the grand jury which handed up the indictments in the Rosenberg case: in the first indictment Sobell was not even mentioned.

**NO OVERT ACT:** Sobell was held on a charge by the FBI that he had had five conversations with Julius Rosenberg over a period of two and a half years. While in custody he was invited to "cooperate" with the FBI; he rejected the offer. Early in October, 53 days after Sobell's arrest, Elitcher signed a third statement for the FBI; on Oct. 10 the grand jury handed up a new and "superceding" indictment in which Sobell was named for the first time. No overt act was charged against him directly.

## The trial

As the case went to trial, Sobell's attorneys, Harold M. Phillips and Edward Kuntz, were under an impossible handicap: they had no inkling of what the government would seek to prove against their client. They fought for a bill of particulars specifying the accusations against Sobell, but all they ever got from the prosecution was a statement of the date of the start of the alleged conspiracy and the "five conversations" with Rosenberg, which were listed as "overt acts" to be proved in court; they never were.

Until the government rested its case, Sobell's lawyers never knew where they stood. Compelled to sit and wait for evidence which was never forthcoming, they were effectively deprived of the opportunity to represent their client properly.

**ONE WITNESS:** At the conclusion of the government's case, Phillips argued that, according to the government's own showing, if any conspiracy existed at all, there were two, not one; that Sobell was in no way implicated in the government's charge that atom secrets had been stolen and should not have been tried with the Rosenbergs. Tried alone, he could never have been convicted. He was a victim of the broad net of a general conspiracy charge. (The Philadelphia branch of the American Civil Liberties Union undertook a separate study of the trial after ACLU's national office ruled that civil liberties were not an issue in the case; it found that Sobell's trial was "a dangerous extension of the concept of 'conspiracy,' whereby a defendant does not,





**MORTON SOBELL**  
Atomless "atom-spy"

have to be linked with any specific conspiracy.")

Sole witness against Sobell was Max Elitcher; the government's witnesses against the Rosenbergs had never even heard of him. In his charge to the jury, Judge Irving Kaufman said:

"If you do not believe the testimony of Max Elitcher as it pertains to Sobell, then you must acquit the defendant Sobell."

Later in its appeal brief the defense said:

We may not argue—so we are told (according to the niceties of the law)—that the jury could not believe Elitcher's story, that it was inherently incredible. But we do argue that it was nonsense, even if believed; so devoid of facts as to prove nothing.

**KAUFMAN'S COURT:** Against furious defense objections, Judge Kaufman permitted Elitcher to testify at the start that Sobell had recruited him into the Communist Party in 1939. Such testimony obviously had nothing to do with the charge, but the Judge from the beginning accepted the government's contention that proof of Communist Party membership was proof of "intent" to reveal government military secrets for the Soviet Union. In his opening address U.S. Atty. Irving Saypol said:

"The evidence will show that the loyalty and the allegiance of the Rosenbergs and Sobell was not to our country, but that it was to communism, communism in this country and communism throughout the world." Throughout the trial he made declarations like these:

"The primary allegiance of these defendants was not to our country . . . loyalty to and worship of the Soviet Union . . . their rank disloyalty to our country. . . ."

**BENTLEY'S BURDEN:** This refrain was the burden of the testimony of Elizabeth Bentley who has made a profitable profession of selling her "confessions" as a one-time courier for a spy ring. She knew none of the defendants on trial.

On direct examination Elitcher was asked a total of 177 questions relating to Sobell; half of these, as the defense noted later, related "allegedly to 'intent,' as supposed to be manifested by prior Communist Party membership. . . ."

On cross-examination Elitcher admitted perjury:

Q. So you have lied under oath?

A. Yes.

Q. Were you worried about it?

A. Yes.

He swore on the stand that the government had made no promise to him concerning prosecution for this admitted perjury, but he confessed that, as a result of working with the FBI, he had high hopes that nothing would happen to him. Nothing has; in fact, the FBI has helped him get employ-

ment even though on the stand he stubbornly maintained that he was "guilty" because of his association with Sobell and Rosenberg.

**"NO, NO, NO":** On the main charge against Sobell, he had this to say:

**Q** During all that time, Mr. Elitcher, '39 to '41, did Sobell ever ask you for any document belonging to the U. S. government?

**A.** No.

**Q** During all that time, Mr. Elitcher, did Sobell in any way offer you any documents belonging to the U. S. government?

**A.** No.

**Q** Did Sobell, by word or action or intimation of any kind suggest to you that you take U. S. government material?

**A.** No.

### Catherine Slip

For the crux of his testimony, Elitcher told this story:

In 1948 he quit his government job in Washington and drove his family to New York. On the way he noticed he was being followed; his assumption was that the FBI was after him. Reaching the city he stopped briefly at his mother's home, then drove directly to Sobell's home in Flushing where he planned to live till he found a place of his own. Sobell, learning that Elitcher had been followed, suggested that he not stay there. Elitcher insisted on staying and Sobell gave in. The Sobells put the Elitcher child to bed. Later that same night, Elitcher testified,

"... he came over to me and said he had some valuable information in the house, something that he should have given to Julius Rosenberg some time ago and had not done so: it was too valuable to be destroyed and yet too dangerous to keep around. He said he wanted to deliver it to Rosenberg that night. ... Upon leaving I saw him take what I identified then as a 35 millimeter film can."

**CONVERSATION PIECE:** According to Elitcher, Sobell insisted that he go along; it was a ten-mile drive to Rosenberg's home. Arriving, Sobell left Elitcher in the car to drive it around the block and park it on Catherine Slip. Upon Sobell's return, Elitcher relates this conversation:

"As we drove off I turned to him and said, 'Well, what does Julie think about this, my being followed?'"

"He said, 'It is all right; don't be concerned about it; it is O. K.' He then said Rosenberg had told him that he once talked to Elizabeth Bentley on the phone but he was pretty sure she didn't know who he was and therefore everything was all right. We proceeded back to the house."

This was the first mention of Bentley in the trial; it helped lay the basis for her eventual appearance as an "expert" witness.

Of this tale, the defense brief later noted:

"This story . . . enters the area where we feel free to contend that the number of 'incongruous details and circumstances' leaves one 'utterly incredulous.'"

**"ALL RIGHT, I LIED":** On cross-examination it was brought out that Elitcher had not told this story at all during his first exhaustive interrogation by the FBI; he did not tell it at his first appearance before the grand jury; when he eventually did tell the story, he did not mention the name Bentley the first time. This courtroom colloquy occurred:

**Q** In other words, you were trying to lie to the FBI, weren't you?

**A.** No. I omitted it, but I didn't—all right, I lied.

**Q** Now answer my question, did you lie to the FBI?

**A.** Yes.

**Q** And in other respects you continued to lie, did you not, by not reporting fully, is that it?

**A.** Yes.

Later the defense brief had this to say:

Elitcher was a self-confessed liar, apprehensive in the extreme as to the possibility of prosecution himself; the only part of his testimony which could be dignified as 'evidence' of anything (in that it dealt with facts and not ultimate conclusions) was the story of the trip to Catherine Slip; this he admitted was at least a belated recollection, if indeed it was not invented.

**"DEPORTED":** In his summation, defense attorney Kuntz said:

"Elitcher was not a psychotic liar; he was a miserable liar, a man who will involve, who will kill another man to save his own miserable skin."

Elitcher testified to a number of meetings and conversations with Sobell, but in every instance, according to Elitcher's own words, it was he who sought out Sobell, usually traveling a great distance to see him, uninvited.

For the rest, the prosecution depended upon the forcible abduction of Sobell from Mexico to prove "consciousness of guilt" by "flight." They brought several witnesses from Mexico to testify that Sobell on visits to Tampico and Vera Cruz had used names other than his own but they didn't even try to disprove that throughout their stay, the Sobells maintained an apartment in Mexico City in their own name and had complied with all government procedures for their return to the U.S.

For their own purposes, the prosecution put on the stand a government official who had interrogated Sobell at the border and had filled out a routine



**JUDGE KAUFMAN**  
Held three lies in his hands

card, at the bottom of which he had written, "Deported." Actually, Sobell had been kidnapped, and U.S. Atty. Saypol inadvertently admitted as much in the heat of his summation to the jury:

"The FBI caught up with him and brought him back, and you have him here."

**WHY HE KEPT SILENT:** Even with the damaging "deportation" card allowed as evidence—which the defense bitterly fought—and the judge's ruling that testimony concerning Communist Party membership was relevant to the charge, it seemed impossible that a jury could convict Sobell on the "proof" offered. Sobell himself did not take the stand, and no witnesses were called in his behalf. The defense brief later made this comment:

The course adopted by the court made it impossible for Sobell to defend himself, he was obliged to refrain from taking the stand because to have done so would have made it possible for the prosecutor to accentuate and enhance the prejudice against him. It is a poor choice to have to make, whether to suffer in silence such accusations as Elitcher made, or to have one's denials overshadowed by the attack of a prosecu-

tor who finds himself able to prove espionage by a collection can to "Save a Spanish Republican Child."

### The sentence

But the jury, in the overcharged atmosphere of war hysteria, did convict. Before sentence was passed, defense attorney Phillips pleaded:

"I ask your Honor to note that there is no testimony in the case that Sobell did actually transmit any information to be transmitted to any foreign power. . . . In the indictment no overt act is charged against him. . . ."

The judge, speaking to Sobell, said:

"The evidence in the case did not point to any activity on your part in connection with the atom bomb project."

But he continued, in the same breath:

"I must recognize the lesser degree of your implication in this offense. I, therefore, sentence you to the maximum prison term provided by statute, to wit, 30 years. While it may be gratuitous on my part, I at this point note my recommendation against parole."

In effect, this was a life sentence.

The Appellate Court upheld the Sobell conviction 2 to 1; Judge Jerome N. Frank voted to reverse.

**THE ROCK:** On Nov. 27, 1952, while attorney Howard N. Meyer, of the law firm of Abzug & Meyer, who is conducting the appeals in the case, was preparing motions and papers requiring constant consultation with his client, Sobell was transferred to the federal prison on Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay. Alcatraz—The Rock—is traditionally reserved for the most troublesome offenders, "incurables," escapees, men of violence. While there he can never see his children; youngsters are not permitted on the island. He can see his wife only at rare intervals and at great expense; visitors are separated from inmates by a thick block of glass and must talk with each other through telephones. Sobell's defense is greatly hampered by the difficulty of consultation with his lawyer. In January this year Meyer unsuc-

cessfully argued before Judge Kaufman for a reduction of sentence; he cited Sobell's conviction as

"... an instance of an oppressive use of the charge of conspiracy to bring about a result which was inhumanly unfair and prejudicial."

Meyer vainly cited other sentences in espionage cases where persons convicted of wartime spying for a wartime enemy got as little as 1½ years; top sentence in all the wartime espionage cases was 16 years for a man named as leader of an enemy spy ring.

### The job ahead

Sobell, like the Rosenbergs, has from the start maintained his innocence; but in opposing a reduction of sentence government attorneys argued:

"There has been on Sobell's part absolutely no cooperation, no showing of any remorse for the crime of which he was convicted. The defendant has stood mute and without any attempt to assist the prosecution or tell the prosecution what he does know about the crime charged."

For extra measure, the government attorneys denounced Sobell's wife and mother for pleading for a reduced sentence:

"Both Sobell's wife and his mother were most uncooperative before the grand jury, and they have still manifested the same steadfastness and have not in any way offered to tell what they do know. Therefore I think it comes with poor grace from them to seek mercy from the court when they have not attempted in any way to help expiate the crime which Sobell has committed."

**HE CAN BE SAVED:** The Rosenbergs were subjected to this type of third-degree by electrocution; Sobell is getting it now by isolation in the nation's toughest prison with a life sentence to contemplate.

Ethel and Julius Rosenberg died rather than "cooperate." But Sobell still lives and can still be saved.

The Sobell case will be fought to the Supreme Court which, as Justice Hugo Black has said, "has never reviewed this record and has never affirmed the fairness of the trial."



The case against Morton Sobell did not warrant submission to the jury no matter how favorably Elitcher's testimony may be viewed from the government's point of view. Conjecture and speculation may not masquerade as "inference." The procedures employed to convict him were indefensible. The vague and tricky indictment and the denial of particulars; the acceptance as evidence of the one-word ultimate conclusion; the use of the "deported" card and injection of testimony as to Communist Party membership, all conspired to deprive him of procedural safeguards, absence of which makes a verdict worthless. The errors of the court and his intervention, and the misconduct of the prosecutor, made the verdict inevitable. The manner in which Sobell was assaulted and dragged from Mexico is no less outrageous than the manner in which he was dragged into a trial of issues filled with emotional dynamite, with respect to which judge and prosecutor agreed he had not the least culpability. We respectfully urge that the judgment of conviction must be reversed and the indictment dismissed.

—From the defense brief appealing the conviction of Morton Sobell.

### **The Present Crisis**

Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide,  
In the strife of Truth with Falsehood, for the good or evil side;

Careless seems the great Avenger; history's pages but record  
One death-grapple in the darkness 'twixt old systems and the Word;  
Truth forever on the scaffold, Wrong forever on the throne,—  
Yet that scaffold sways the future, and, behind the dim unknown,  
Standeth God within the shadow, keeping watch above his own.

For Humanity sweeps onward: where today the martyr stands,  
On the morrow crouches Judas with the silver in his hands;  
Far in front the cross stands ready and the crackling fagots burn,  
While the hooting mob of yesterday in silent awe return  
To glean up the scattered ashes into History's golden urn.

James Russell Lowell (1844)

## The fight must go on

The historic struggle to win justice for Ethel and Julius Rosenberg and Morton Sobell was initiated by the NATIONAL GUARDIAN two years ago. We shall continue to devote every available resource to assure vindication for the Rosenbergs, freedom for Morton Sobell and security for the children orphaned by the savagery of cold-war injustice.

You can best help the GUARDIAN in these continuing tasks by bringing into the GUARDIAN readership everyone you know who is in this fight to win.

Will you start today?

NAME (Please print) .....

STREET .....

CITY, ..... ZONE ..... STATE .....

Mail with \$3 for 52 weeks to  
NATIONAL GUARDIAN, 17 Murray Street, New York 7, N. Y.

**New Trial  
for  
MORTON  
SOBELL**

**Did the Rosenberg  
Execution Silence  
Demands for Justice?**

**America Answers**

**"NO!"**

**You Must Answer Too!**

**Attend the**

**ROSENBERG-  
SOBELL  
DEDICATION  
RALLY**

**WED., SEPT. 16**

**7:30 P.M.**

**Randall's  
Island  
Stadium**

**Tickets: \$1.00 plus tax  
Field seats: \$1.50 plus tax  
Persons under 16 free**

**Tickets available at  
National Committee to  
Secure Justice in the  
Rosenberg Case**

**1050 Sixth Ave., N.Y. 18**

**CLIPPING FROM  
THE WORKER**

**DATED 9/2/53**

**Pg. 8 Col. 5**

101-37158-1469

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SEP 15 1953	
FBI - NEW YORK	

*[Signature]*



ALL-TEL

NEW YORK, NY 9/17/53

BUREAU

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE, N-G. DAVID.

[REDACTED] ADVISED THAT HE ATTENDED THE RALLY HELD BY CAPTIONED ORGANIZATION AT PENNALLS ISLAND STATION, NYC, ON THE 16th LAST. HE ADVISED THAT ABOUT 7,000 WERE IN ATTENDANCE. THE MEETING WAS SCHEDULED FOR 7:30 P.M. BUT BECAUSE OF LACK OF TRANSPORTATION THE MEETING DID NOT GET UNDERWAY UNTIL 8:15 P.M.

ONE BUS LINE THAT RAN FROM 125th ST., NYC, TO THE STATION REFUSED TO PUT ANY EXTRA BUSES ON THE LINE. AS A RESULT THOSE IN THE AUDIENCE WHO HAD AUTOS WERE REQUESTED (OVER THE LOUDSPEAKER) TO PROCEED TO 125th ST. AND PICK UP ADDITIONAL PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO ATTEND THE RALLY. THE SPEAKER STATED THAT ABOUT 7,000 PEOPLE WERE PRESENT. [REDACTED] OF BSCI, NYC, ADVISED

5500-6,000 WERE IN ATTENDANCE. DAVID ALLEN WAS CHAIRMAN IN PLACE OF JOSEPH BRAUNIN WHO WAS ILL. ALLEN OPENED THE RALLY, STATED THAT PRESIDENTS AND JUDGES IN THE U.S. HAD BECOME MURDEROUS. HIS TALK WAS CIVIL IN THE LINE OF QUESTIONS ASKED. HE ASKED WHY ARE WE HERE AND HE ANSWERED TO FIGHT FOR FREEDOM FOR ROSENBERG. PROFESSOR EPHRAIM CROSS STATED THAT HE BROUGHT A MESSAGE TO THE RALLY, NAMING, TO FIGHT FOR THE TRUTH BECAUSE THE ROSENBERGS AND ROSENBERG WERE INNOCENT. HE WAS FOLLOWED BY AN UNIDENTIFIED MAN, PROBABLY NAMED ROYFORD WHO HAD WORKED FOR THE COMMITTEE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. HE STATED

2-BUREAU  
1-NY 100-65576  
1-NY 100-65577  
1-NY 100-37153

100-37158-14701

PAGE 2

THAT WHILE WORKING FOR THE COMMITTEE IN WASHINGTON HE HAD MET 75 SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN. HE ADVISED THAT THEY ALL KNEW ABOUT THE ROSENBERG CASE BUT WERE AFRAID TO SPEAK OUT. HE STATED ONE SENATOR, OTHERWISE UNIDENTIFIED, TOLD HIM THAT THE CASE WAS AN OPEN FRATCUP. HE STATED THAT WHEN THE VOICE OF AMERICA TRIED TO EXPLAIN THE CASE IN EUROPE THE WHOLE WORLD STARTED TO INTERVENE AND ASKED TO SPORE THE LIVES OF THE ROSENBERGS. HE STATED THAT AFTER THE STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUED A PAMPHLET EXPLAINING THE ROSENBERG CASE THE POPE HAD ASKED FOR CLARITY FOR THE ROSENBERGS. HELEN LOVELL WAS THE NEXT SPEAKER AND GAVE THE USUAL TALK EXPLAINING THE CASE AND ASSESSING THE INNOCENCE OF HER HUSBAND AND THE ROSENBERGS. SHE READ PART OF A DEDICATION AS IT APPEARS IN A BOOK ENTITLED "MY FATHER LOVED FAITH". THIS BOOK IS A COLLECTION OF BOOKS OF VARIOUS WRITERS AND INCLUDES LETTERS OF THE ROSENBERGS AND GREETINGS FROM VARIOUS ROSENBERG COMMITTEES. A COPY OF THIS BOOK WAS OBTAINED. H. LEE SCHELL READ PART OF A LETTER FROM MARY IN WHICH HE ASSESSES HIS INNOCENCE, HIS FAITH IN THE PEOPLE AND THE FACT THAT HE WILL NEVER BREAK UP. SHE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FIGHT TO FREE SCHELL AND SAID THAT MARY HAD REQUESTED AND ASKED THE AUDIENCE TO BUY THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED BOOK FOR 50¢ A COPY. THE EMPLOYMENT ADVISER THAT 1,000 OR SO OF THESE BOOKS WERE SOLD AT THE MEETING AND THAT HE SAW MANY PEOPLE GIVE \$5 FOR ONE OR TWO COPIES OF THE BOOK, STATED THAT WAS THEIR WAY OF HELPING THE CAUSE. IN BETWEEN THE VARIOUS SPEAKERS, A CHORAL CHOIR RENDERED A FEW SELECT NUMBERS. RUTH ALLEN WAS THE MAIN SPEAKER IN PLACE OF JOSEPH BEATIN WHO WAS ILL. SHE

PAGE 3

GAVE HER USUAL TALK IS EXPLAINED THE CASE, TOUCHED ON THE "KIDNAPPING" OF  
SORELL IN MEXICO, AND CLAIMED THAT THE WHOLE THING WAS A FRAMEUP BY THE  
FBI. SHE REFERRED TO THE PERSONS OF MAX ELITCHER. SHE STATED "IT IS TIME  
TO TAKE A STAND AND FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY IN OUR BELOVED AMERICA AND IT IS  
TIME TO FREE SORELL AND TEACH THE CASE AGAINST THE ROSENBERGS." SHE STATED  
THE ROSENBERGS DIED FOR DEMOCRACY AS DID SOCRATES. SHE STATED THAT OVER  
THE MILLION LEAFLETS EXPLAINING THE ROSENBERG CASE HAD BEEN DISTRIBUTED  
AND THAT IT WAS PLANNED TO DISTRIBUTE TEN MILLION MORE LEAFLETS. SHE ADVISED  
THAT THE AIM OF THE COMMITTEE WAS TO EFFECT THE TRANSFER OF SORELL FROM  
ALCATRAZ TO A PENITENTIARY IN THE EAST WHERE HIS CHILDREN AND HIS FAMILY  
COULD VISIT HIM AND WHERE HE COULD CONSULT WITH HIS LAWYER. DAVID ALMAN  
THEN ANNOUNCED A NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE TO BE HELD IN CHICAGO  
ON OCTOBER 16 AND 17 AND A YOUTH CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT AN UNSPECIFIED  
PLACE OCTOBER 19 AND 20. MARTHA SCHLANSKY SANG A FEW OF HER USUAL SONGS.  
DAVID ALMAN INTRODUCED SOPHIE ROSENBERG AND ROSE SORELL. THEY BOTH TOOK A  
BOW AND RECEIVED A STANDING OVATION. THE INFORMANT ADVISED THAT BILLY ALMAN  
HAD SPOKE FOR ONE HOUR AND FIFTEEN MINUTES AND THE CROWD BECAME VERY UNEASY  
AND SOME OF THE PEOPLE LEFT DURING HER TALK. THE INFORMANT ADVISED HER SPOKE  
TO SEVERAL PEOPLE AND THEY WERE DISAPPOINTED IN THE SIZE OF THE CROWD, TELLING  
HER THAT THEY HAD EXPECTED TWELVE TO FIFTEEN THOUSAND IN ATTENDANCE. THE  
INFORMANT STATED THAT THIS WAS TRULY A PARTY AFFAIR AND THE PARTY WORKED  
HARD TO BRING THE CROWD TO THE STADIUM. THE INFORMANT STATED THAT THERE WAS



PAGE 1

NO TALK OF FORMING A SEPARATE SOBELL COMMITTEE, NOR HAS HE HEARD OF ANY  
PLANS TO FORM SUCH A COMMITTEE. HE STATED HE BELIEVES THAT THE CAPTIONED  
COMMITTEE WILL CONTINUE AND THAT ONE OF ITS MAIN PURPOSES WILL BE TO FREE  
SOBELL.

DOANISAN



## OFFICE MEMORANDUM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: SAC, New York

FROM: SAC, Philadelphia (100-37337)

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE  
IN THE ROSENBERG CASE  
IS - C

DATE: SEP 9 1953

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

On 8/18/53, [redacted] of known reliability, orally advised SA ALBERT E. FALLER [redacted] had attended the "Eastern Seaboard Conference" of the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case, which was held on Sunday, 8/18/53, at the Hotel Ansonia, 75th Street and Broadway, New York, N. Y. [redacted]

[redacted] stated that approximately 125 people had been in attendance, three of whom were Negroes. The lack of Negro attendance was later discussed at the conference. [redacted]

[redacted] and that the meeting was very slow in coming to order. EMILY ALMAN, New York Executive Secretary, chaired the meeting. DAVID LERNER, Executive Secretary of the National Committee, and JOHN T. McMINUS, National Guardian, New York, were also speakers at this affair.

[redacted] stated that the discussions centered around the "Resolution on Policy and Program" as had been previously adopted. According to the informant, it became a "hair splitting" matter. It was stated that there was not enough "anger and passion" in the resolution.

AEF:jag  
REGISTERED MAIL  
Enclosures (7)

cc: 8 New York

Ph [redacted]

100-37158-1471

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*Ja Harrington*

PH 100-37667  
SAC, New York

Numerous amendments were submitted on how to carry on the case of MORTON SOBELL and the fund raising for that purpose. They were undecided as to whether they should continue to use the name of the Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case or to adopt the name of MORTON SOBELL for the Committee. Another approach, which they were undecided on, was whether to continue to use the Rosenberg children to gain sympathy or to drop them and use the Sobell children. After so many amendments were submitted, it was decided that an entirely new resolution would have to be drawn up.

The informant stated that towards the latter part of the conference, Mrs. MORTON SOBELL made a plea for her husband.

[REDACTED] in addition to the above speakers, identified the following individuals as having been present at the Sunday session of the conference:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] mentioned that there was to be a meeting of the Rosenberg Committee in [REDACTED] on either Friday, 8/21 or 8/22. [REDACTED] was not too certain as to the date, but it was mentioned that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PH 100-37637  
SAC, New York

[REDACTED]

The informant stated that the committee had planned a rally at Randall's Island Stadium, New York, N. Y., for Wednesday, 8/26/53. [REDACTED] numerous objections had been raised to the holding of this affair during the week, inasmuch as the out-of-town people would not be able to attend it.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has visited the home of SOPHIE and DAVE DAVIS in the past.

[REDACTED] furnished SA ALBERT E. FALLER with the following items, which are enclosed for the New York Office:

1. "A Call to the Eastern Seaboard Conference of the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case," Saturday, 8/15, and Sunday, 8/16/53, New York City.
2. "Resolution on Policy and Program" distributed at the above conference.
3. Invitation to Welcome Home Party for HENRY SOBELL and EVELYN and DAVID ALLEN on 8/15/53, 8:30 p.m., at the home of ANNETTE RUBENSTEIN, 55 West 71st, New York City.

PH 100-37667  
S.C., New York

4. Pamphlet "Did the Rosenbergs Have Full Measure of Justice?" issued by National CSJRC.
5. Leaflet publicizing "Bronx Rosenberg Rally," on 8/19/53 at Hunts Point Palaco, Bronx N. Y., sponsored by Bronx Rosenberg Committee.
6. Open letter of WILLIAM A. REUBEN to the publishing of his book "The Atom Spy Myth - From Hiroshima to the Rosenbergs."
7. Book cover of the above-captioned book, the Proof of its Contents and Introduction.



# **'I Am Innocent, I Must Walk Free,' Morton Sobell Writes from Alcatraz**

The most recent letter sent by Morton Sobell to his wife, Helen, was read aloud by his wife, Helen, before the large Randall's Island gathering Wednesday night. Sobell is now in Alcatraz serving the 30-year frameup sentence imposed on him at the same trial that sent Julius and Ethel Rosenberg to their death.

Following is Sobell's letter to Helen Sobell:

"Ten months in Alcatraz, more than three years in prisons, has not broken me, nor will it ever. Here, where I cannot see my children, I think of them constantly. What did I want for the children? Nothing different from what most parents want. That they should grow up in a world at peace, in a land without fear, hysteria or discrimination.

"I always hope that they would grow up unafraid. Unafraid to give voice to their ideas, even if they should be unpopular ones. Fear never moved the world ahead, nor will it ever. Those who know this truth

are helping us now.

"The whole story of what has happened to us is too incredible. Even today few have any idea of what exactly took place in the courtroom. Such meaningless lies made up the story which was told against me. Need I protest my innocence against this evidence? Can't everyone see the big lie which has been compounded out of all the little ones?

"I am not brave, or heroic, but with every barb they aim at me I can feel my inner strength grow. I am innocent. I must walk free. And with your devotion, and spirit, my love, I must not fail; and with so many people working for my vindication I will not. Even with my limited means of information I feel through your letters the sea of human energy which swells around us, which holds us up and does not let us fall to destruction."

CLIPPING FROM THE

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SAC, New York

9/27/53

JOHN W. DOOLEY, SA (100-107111)

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE  
JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE  
IS - C

Attached hereto is a copy of a report of [redacted] of known reliability, dated 8/21/53. The original report was furnished to SA RICHARD H. BLASSER on 8/31/53. In this report informant described the mass memorial meeting for ETHEL and JULIUS ROSENBERG at Hunts Point Palace, NYC, on 8/19/53.

The information contained in this report should not be disseminated outside the Bureau unless it is sufficiently paraphrased to protect informant.

[redacted]

1 - 100-108754

1 - 100-66772

1 - 100-7664

① - 100-37158

1 - 105-4445

1 - 100-93572

1 - 100-89673

(LILLIAN GOODMAN)

(EMILY ALMAN)

(JOHN ROMANUS)

(MORTON and HELEN SOBELL)

(WILLIAM A. REUBEN)

(NATIONAL GUARDIAN)

(JOSEPH BRAININ)

JWD:MG

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FBI - NEW YORK	

*H. Thurner*



8/21/53

New York, New York

Report

Bronx Committee to Secure Justice  
in the Rosenberg Case Activities

The Bronx Committee to secure Justice in the ROSENBERG Case held a mass memorial meeting for the executed a-bomb spies ETHEL and JULIUS ROSENBERG at Hunts Point Palace, Bronx, NY on 8/19/53. Over 1,200 people came to this meeting. The audience consisted mostly of Jews. There were a few Gentiles and about 40 negroes and a sprinkle of Spanish type people. About 1/3 of the audience was composed of young people. Women were in the majority. The Chairman of the meeting was a negro man. I asked a few people if they know who he is and no one knew. Some thought that he is an ALP's. The chairman opened the meeting with a statement that "tonight we assembled here to honor the memory of the two great American martyrs, ETHEL and JULIUS ROSENBERG". He stated that "The ROSENBERGS died as great American patriots. They died for the cause of world peace. They died so freedom should live. We know, everyone knows that ETHEL and JULIUS ROSENBERG were not atom bomb spies. They couldn't give away the secret of the a-bomb to a country who had the a-bomb, possible at the same time that the Pentagon had. As a matter of fact the ROSENBERGS weren't even charged of giving away this secret. They were charged that they conspired to hand over to a-bomb secret to a foreign power and for this-for conspiracy-they were executed. From now on we must fight for the vindication of their name and at the same time we must fight for the freeing of MORTON SOBELL who is condemned to a living death in Alcatraz on the same charge of conspiring to give away the a-bomb secret to a foreign power". He read to the meeting the program of the meeting and introduced Rev. WILIAMSON who "prayed" for the ROSENBERGS by telling that he is proud of the fact that he was on the delegation of ministers which visited President EISENHOWER urging the President to spare the lives of the ROSENBERGS. He underlined that "The fight for the vindication of ETHEL and JULIUS ROSENBERG is a fight for the honor of America. The ROSENBERGS were our martyrs in the fight for freedom and peace".

Report (cont.)

A blind cantor was introduced. The name sounded something like "CATIS". He was a tall man in the 70's. Before starting the hebrew ceremony he stated that he "believes in the innocence of the departed JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG. In a Jewish state; in a Jewish community; among Jewish people such a thing couldn't have happened. Jewish people would always give the accused the benefit of doubt. The ROSENBERGS are "Kdoisheem". (Saints). They are our marteers". The cantor performed 3 different religious ceremonies. Some people were crying during these ceremonies.

HELLEN SOBELL spoke mostly on the importance of freeing MORTON SOBELL. Her speech was dramatic, slow, calculated: "The fight for freeing MORTON is your fight. It's you that should be afraid of what's going on.1... We can not loose any more....but you can....". She told the meeting about her recent visit to Alcatraz; how she had to talk to her husband through the medium of a telephone. She related how the prison warden refused her request about her husband seeing his children; how she could see her husband "through a little window. I couldn't even touch him. But in spite of everything MORTON'S spirit is not broken. MORTON will never break. MORTON is strong because he is innocent. They purposely send MORTON to Alcatraz. They think that MORTON will break up and that he will confess, confess to a crime he did not committ....".

She said that before the trial of MORTON SOBELL began she was "visited by an FBI Agent who asked me to cooperate with the government. I told him that I don't know a thing. The FBI Agent told me 'You'll be surprised how much you can remember when you work with us' (disapproving sounds from the audience) MORTON will never confess to a crime he did not committ...But you are in danger: it is no accident that the government started building concentration camps right after the arrest of the ROSENBERGS. You must fight for the freedom of MORTON as you have never fought before... You must give for the fight of freeing MORTON as you have never given before. MORTON is innocent but still he is at the Levil's Island. The ROSENBERGS



## Report (cont.)

were innocent, but they are dead...Fight for your lives. The concentration camps are being prepared for you. Crematoriums too..The freeing of MORTON will also vindicate the name of the great American martyrs ETHEL and JULIUS... It will save you from the crematoriums". As she finished her speech she went over to SOPHIA ROSENBERG, who was sitting on the speakers platform, and kissed her. The audience given them a standing ovation.

LILLIAN GOODMAN (a member of the CP in the Kingsbridge Section, Bronx, NY) sang a few songs. EMILY ALMAN was introduced as the Secretary-Treasurer of the national Committee to Secure Justice on the ROSENBERG Case. She made the collection speech. She stated that "our government committed a monstrous crime by executing ETHEL and JULIUS ROSENBERG. Our two American martyrs will live forever in the hearts of peace loving humanity". She asked that because "the ROSENBERGS refused to buy their lives by "confessing to a crime they didn't commit and give out names of innocent people for further persecutions, they gave inspiration to patriotic Americans to fight against injustice". She stated that 90% of the American people were against the execution of the ROSENBERGS. "We know that the ROSENBERGS were innocent but even those who believed them to be guilty were against their execution. In this case we found common ground to work together in a unified front for justice and peace". She said that "the White House received 3 million telegrams, letters, postcards" in which the President was asked to spare their lives.

"If we will take in consideration that in Washington they figure that each telegram counts for 30 names, each letter for 25 names and each postal card for 15 names, we could easily deduct what 3 million communications to the white House asking to spare the lives of the ROSENBERGS meant and still, the ROSENBERGS were executed. It seems that the will

Report (cont.)

of the American people didn't count. The will of 10's of millions of people throughout the world didn't count either. I'm going to tell you something which I'm sure you don't know; The Pope sent to EISENHOWER a radiogram on the day of their execution asking him to spare the lives of the ROSENBERGS. But ETHEL and JULIUS were executed and in their death they became a living example of Americans fight for freedom and peace". She stated that with this meeting the National Committee to Secure Justice in the ROSENBERG Case is starting the National campaign for the freeing of MORTON SOBELL which will at the same time vindicate the name of the ROSENBERGS. She said that the National Committee to S.J. in the R.C. already put on the case special investigators and that the National Committee is planning to put out 6,000,000 leaflets in which this case will be explained to the American people. She asked people to donate money" for the campaign to free SOBELL and to vindicate the ROSENBERGS."

According to the announcement of the Chairman at the end of the meeting the collection brought in \$833.40, JOHN ROMANUS, Manager of the National Guardian told the meeting that "credit should be given" in the fight to save the lives of the ROSENBERGS "to the great mother of JULIUS, SOPHIA ROSENBERG. She put up a great fight to save the lives of her daughter ETHEL and of her son JULIUS and those fought for all of U.S.". He called out the names of DAVE and EMILY ALMAN, JOSEPH PRADININ and "all the small committees and BILL REUBEN who was the first one to expose the frame up in the ROSENBERG Case". He asked REUBEN to get up (REUBEN was sitting in the hall) REUBEN received a standing ovation. He said that credit should also be given to the National Guardian for opening it's pages for the fight for the ROSENBERGS. He promised that "the National Guardian will continue its fight in a modest way, on a national scale" for the freeing of MORTON SOBELL and for the vindication of the name of the ROSENBERGS. He asked the people to try and read the new book of REUBEN "The Atom Spy Myth" which will shortly be out. He also asked the people to buy and to read the new book of Howard Fast "The Passion of Sacco and Vanzetti" in which "You will learn a lesson on how frame up cases are made and



Report (cont.)

how progressive people die so freedom could live". He concluded with: I can't say more about the SOBELL-ROSENBERG Case than what the previous speakers said. I will only once more state that the ROSENBERGS died for our freedom and for peace of the world. They are our martyrs. Now we must fight for the freedom of MORTON SOBELL and for the vindication of the names of ETHEL and JULIUS.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM - UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC

DATE: September 24, 1953

FROM: SA J. J. FREEHELEY

SUBJECT: NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE  
JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

CSNY 48, of known reliability, made available to the New York Office information concerning the above-captioned subject, obtained from the building located at 23 West 26 Street, New York City. This building is occupied by the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born, Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee and Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, all of which have been declared by the Attorney General of the United States to fall within the purview of Executive Order 9835. In addition, other Communist Party front groups and individual Communist Party members or sympathizers occupy offices at this address. Prior to 2/1/53 the State and National Offices of the Civil Rights Congress were located at this address. Subsequent to that date space in the building has been occupied by SRT Publications, Inc., publishers of "New World Review" formerly known as "Soviet Russia Today" which has been cited as a Communist Front by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, House of Representatives, 6/25/42 and 3/29/44.

Strict care must be exercised so that the existence of this important source of evidence will not become known to any outside agency. It is also to be noted that because of the nature of this source of information it will be impossible to recontact the source regarding information furnished.

Date information received: September 21, 1953

Identity of employee who can testify as to the receipt of the exhibit \_\_\_\_\_

SA J. J. FREEHELEY AND SA R. W. THOMSON

The following disposition is being made of the original exhibit:

( XX ) Placed in NY file 100-107111 Serial \_\_\_\_\_  
Exhibit# \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Forwarded to you for your information and whatever action you deem appropriate.

Description of exhibit:

100-37158-1475

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FBI - NEW YORK	

100-107111



NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE  
JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE  
1050 Sixth Avenue  
New York City

FOR RELEASE AFTER 8 p.m. Wednesday, SEPT 16

EXERPTS FROM A LETTER OF MORTON SOBELL TO HIS WIFE, HELEN SOBELL,  
AS REPORTED BY MRS. SOBELL TO THE RANDALL'S ISLAND MEETING,  
SEPT. 16.

"Ten months in Alcatraz, more than three years in prisons, has not broken me, nor will it ever. Here, where I cannot see my children, I think of them constantly. What did I want for the children? Nothing different from what most parents want. That they should grow up in a world at peace, in a land without fear, hysteria or discrimination.

"I always hoped that they would grow up unafraid. Unafraid to give voice to their ideas, even if they should be unpopular ones. Fear never moved the world ahead, nor will it ever. Those who know this truth are helping us now.

"The whole story of what has happened to us is too incredible. Even today few have any idea of what exactly took place in the courtroom. Such meaningless lies made up the story which was told against me. Need I protest my innocence against this evidence? Can't everyone see the big lie which has been compounded out of all the little ones?

"I am not brave, or heroic, but with every barb they aim at me I can feel my inner strength grow. I am innocent. I must walk free. And with your devotion, and spirit, my love, I must not fail; and with so many people working for my vindication I will not. Even with my limited means of information I feel through your letters the sea of human energy which swells around us, which holds us up and does not let us fall to destruction."

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: SAC

DATE: August 31, 1953

FROM: SA ROMNEY STEWART

RE: LOS ANGELES COMMITTEE TO  
SECURE JUSTICE IN THE  
ROSENBERG CASE  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

On August 18, 1953, [REDACTED] signed a typewritten report and furnished same to the writer on the same date [REDACTED] in which he reports the following:

"A meeting of the Rosenberg Committee was held Monday evening, August 10, 1953, at the Park Manor, Los Angeles, and was attended by about 60 people. REID ROBINSON was the Chairman, JUDY DUBOFF was the Secretary, and DAVE BROWN made the report. There was a lengthy discussion on the recommendations of the Steering Committee. Participating in the discussion were the following people:

"LORRAINE BINDER, JUDY DUBOFF, HARRY PIERCE, MAE PIERCE, MINNA BERLOW, PAUL PAISNER, and ESTHER HELFRICK.

RS:jmp  
100-41648  
cc: [REDACTED]

2 - New York City (M. SOBELL, P/G.  
Rosenberg Committee)

100-37158-1476

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"The following people were elected to office:

"HARRY PIERCE was elected Chairman after DAVE BROWN and REID ROBINSON had declined the nomination. ROBINSON declined because, as he put it, he is at this time interested in getting himself a position in trade union work and wants to devote most of his time working in the trade unions. BROWN declined because he needs to occupy his time with finding work.

"Elected Vice Chairmen were DAVE BROWN and LORRAINE BINDER; Recording Secretary - JUDY DUBOFF; Financial Secretary - SOL ROSENTHAL; part-time office secretary to replace MAE PIERCE - JESSIE BURNS.

"The Steering Committee will be composed of members who will be chosen by the area committee. The officers will comprise the Executive Committee.

"All the other proposals of the Steering Committee were adopted unanimously. Mrs. ROSE SOBELL, mother of MORTON SOBELL, spoke for a few minutes about her son, whom she had visited at Alcatraz, and pled with those present to continue to fight for his liberation from life imprisonment.

"Also among those present whom I recognized were the following:

[REDACTED]

b7D

Attention—Los Angeles

## Morton Sobell Defense Rally

Third Defendant in the  
Rosenberg Trial must be  
delivered from the living  
death of 30 yrs. in Alcatraz.

Join the fight for a new  
trial—for his transfer  
from Alcatraz.

- Benjamin Dreyfus  
Defense lawyer for Sobell.
- Daniel G. Marshall  
Catholic layman, attorney,  
and valiant fighter to save  
the Rosenbergs.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5—8 P.M.

CHANNING MALL  
1st Unitarian Church, 2936 W. 8th

ADMISSION: 60c

Ausp: Comm. to Secure Justice  
in the Rosenberg Case

100-37158-7477

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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SEP 30 1953	
FBI - NEW YORK	

*National Guardian*  
*Sept. 28, 1953*



Attention—Los Angeles

## Morton Sobell Defense Rally

Third Defendant in the  
Rosenberg Trial must be  
delivered from the living  
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MONDAY, OCTOBER 5—8 P.M.

CHANNING HALL  
1st Unitarian Church, 2936 W. 8th

ADMISSION: 60c

Ausp: Comm. to Secure Justice  
in the Rosenberg Case

100-37158-1478

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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SEP 30 1953	
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*National Guardian*  
*Sept. 28, 1953*

# Court Action Begun to Pry Gov't Lid Off Evidence of Sobell's Innocence

A government attempt to suppress the new evidence introduced in the Rosenberg - Sobell case will be argued Monday in the Circuit Court of Appeals in connection with an appeal by Morton Sobell from his 30-year sentence in Alcatraz. The case is scheduled to be heard at 10:30 a.m. on the 17th floor of the Federal Court House at Foley Square.

Sobell is appealing on the basis of new evidence presented last June in the legal battle to save the lives of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. The appeal by the Rosenbergs and Sobell on these grounds was rejected in District Court. While counsel for the Rosenbergs rushed further appeals with little time for preparation, counsel for Sobell postponed his appeals to the higher courts.

On Monday the court will hear a motion made by U. S. Attorney Kilsheimer to dismiss the Sobell appeal on a claim that the new evidence already has been disposed of by the courts in connection with the Rosenberg motions.

The court will also hear a motion made by Howard N. Meyer, counsel for Sobell, calling for additional time to prepare argument on the appeal.

The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case condemned the government's move as an attempt to "hide the evidence that has convinced millions that Ethel and Julius Rosenberg and Morton Sobell are innocent and left grave doubts in the minds of additional millions."

The committee said: "The Attorney General's office has blocked every attempt to examine the new evidence. Now it presents the shocking and unprecedented haste with which the Rosenbergs were rushed to their deaths as an excuse to deny justice to Sobell. It is appalling that the Rosenbergs died without the Supreme Court ever having passed on the new evidence."

There is the affidavit proving that the Rosenbergs bought their console table at Mary's Department Store in New York and did not get it from the Russians as the prosecution had claimed; there is the document in prosecution witness David Greenglass' own handwriting revealing that he perjured himself; and there is an affidavit proving that Greenglass stole uranium from the government but covered this up at the trial.

While the major portion of the new evidence deals with testimony against the Rosenbergs, it is applicable to Sobell because of the "conspiracy" charge.

The new evidence must be examined. It is the job of the prosecution to see that the truth is found, not to try to cover up the truth. The American people must see that the case of Morton Sobell gets the fullest hearing and that attempts to suppress important evidence are thwarted.

100-37158-1481

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FBI - NEW YORK	

*Harington*

CLIPPING FROM THE

DAILY WORKER

DATED Oct 4, 1953