

FILE DESCRIPTION

BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT Thomas L. Black

FILE NO. 65-59181

SECTION NO. Sub. A-1

SERIALS 1
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36

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File No: 65-59181Re: Thomas Llesino BlackDate: 3/2/78
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
NR 1	5/15/56	Wash City News Service	2	2	
NR 2	5/10/56	Wash Post Times Herald	1	1	
NR 3	5/10/56	Wash STAR	1	1	
NR 4	5/10/56	Wash NEWS	2	2	
NR 5	5/17/56	Wash STAR	1	1	
NR 6	5/17/56	Wash STAR	1	1	Dup. of ser 5 - 1 pg.
NR 7	5/18/56	N.Y. DAILY NEWS	2	2	
NR 8	5/18/56	N.Y. Times	2	2	
NR 9	5/20/56	Wash. STAR	1	1	
NR 10	5/21/56	Wash STAR	1	1	
NR 11	5/24/56	Wash City News Service	1	1	
NR 12	5/21/56	Wash STAR	1	1	

File No: 15-59181Re: Thomas Lessing BlackDate: 3/2/78
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
NR 13	5/31/56	Washington City News Service	2	2	
NR 14	5/21/56	Newark Star Ledger	2	2	
NR 15	5/22/56	Wash Post Times Herald	1	1	
NR 16	5/22/56	NY DAILY NEWS	1	1	
NR 17	5/22/56	NY MIRROR	1	1	
NR 18	5/22/56	JOURNAL-AMERICAN	1	1	
NR 19	6/11/56	Newark Eve News	1	1	
NR 20	6/11/56	SF Call Bulletin	1	1	
NR 21	6/11/56	NY Journal American	1	1	
NR 22	6/12/56	NY MIRROR	3	3	
NR 23	6/10/56	NY MIRROR	3	3	
NR 24	6/11/56	NY MIRROR	4	4	

File No: 65-59181

Re: Thomas Lessino Black

Date: 3/2/78
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
NR 25	6/13/56	NY MIRROR	3	3	
NR 26	6/19/56	NY MIRROR	1	1	
NR 27	6/15/56	NY MIRROR	2	2	

U. S. Department of Justice

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FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

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USE CARE IN HANDLING THIS FILE

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- Mr. Tolson ✓
- Mr. Nichols ✓
- Mr. Boardman ✓
- Mr. Belmont ✓
- Mr. Mason ✓
- Mr. Mohr ✓
- Mr. Parsons ✓
- Mr. Rosen ✓
- Mr. Tamm ✓
- Mr. Nease ✓
- Mr. Winterrowd ✓
- Tele. Room ✓
- Mr. Holloman ✓
- Miss Gandy ✓

MR. BEANIGAN
1/6

Water

(CHEMIST)

AN AMERICAN CHEMIST HAS CONFESSED TO THE SENATE INTERNAL SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE THAT HE STOLE U.S. INDUSTRIAL SECRETS FOR A RUSSIAN SPY RING FROM 1933 UNTIL 1940, IT WAS DISCLOSED.

SUBCOMMITTEE SOURCES DECLINED TO IDENTIFY THE SCIENTIST FOR THE TIME BEING. BUT THEY PREDICTED THAT HE WOULD BE ASKED TO TESTIFY PUBLICLY SOMETIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

THEY SAID THE CHEMIST TOLD THE SUBCOMMITTEE IN RECENT CLOSED-DOOR TESTIMONY THAT AFTER HIS BREAK WITH THE SOVIET APPARATUS IN 1940, HE WAS CONTACTED TWO OR THREE TIMES BY RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES, THE LAST TIME IN 1950.

THESE SOURCES EMPHASIZED THAT THE SCIENTIST NEVER WAS EMPLOYED BY THE GOVERNMENT. THEY SAID THE DATA HE SLIPPED TO THE RUSSIANS WAS NOT GOVERNMENT-CLASSIFIED INFORMATION BUT INDUSTRIAL TECHNIQUES AND SECRETS THEN UNKNOWN TO THE RUSSIANS.

ONE SOURCE SAID THE SCIENTIST TOLD THE SUBCOMMITTEE HE WAS ONCE GIVEN AN ASSIGNMENT THAT "INVOLVED VIOLENCE." BUT THIS SOURCE SAID THE SCIENTIST REFUSED TO CARRY OUT HIS INSTRUCTIONS.

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File in 65-59181

65-59181-A

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Mr. Tolson _____
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Mr. Boardman _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Mason _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Parsons _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Mr. Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Miss Gandy _____

ADD 1 CHEMIST

SUBCOMMITTEE SOURCES SAID THE CHEMIST WAS NOT PART OF AN AMERICAN SPY RINGS SUCH AS THOSE DESCRIBED BY ELIZABETH BENTLEY, CONFESSED COURIER FOR A WARTIME APPARATUS. THEY SAID HE OPERATED AS A "LONE WOLF" ON BEHALF OF THE RUSSIANS.

THE INDUSTRIAL DATA WAS SLIPPED TO THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES, THEY SAID THROUGH THE AMTORG TRADING COMPANY, THE FORMER SOVIET PURCHASING AGENCY IN THIS COUNTRY, THE RUSSIAN RED CROSS AND AN UNIDENTIFIED RUSSIAN OFFICIAL.

THE CHEMIST WAS SAID TO HAVE REQUESTED THAT HIS NAME BE WITHHELD BECAUSE HE WAS AFRAID THAT THE RESULTANT PUBLICITY WOULD HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT UPON HIS CAREER IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY.

SUBCOMMITTEE SOURCES SAID THE CHEMIST HAS NEVER APPEARED PREVIOUSLY BEFORE ANY CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING COMMUNIST AND RUSSIAN ESPIONAGE.

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Chemist Says He Sold Reds Trade Secrets

United Press
An American chemist has confessed to the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee that he stole United States industrial secrets for a Russian spy ring from 1933 until 1940, it was disclosed yesterday.

Subcommittee sources declined to identify the scientist but they predicted he would be asked to testify publicly sometime in the near future.

They said the chemist told the Subcommittee in recent closed-door testimony that after his break with the Soviet apparatus in 1940, he was contacted two or three times by Russian authorities, the last time in 1950.

These sources emphasized that the scientist never was employed by the Government. They said the data he slipped to the Russians was not Government-classified information but industrial techniques and secrets then unknown to the Russians.

One source said the scientist told the Subcommittee he was once given an assignment that "involved violence." But this source said the scientist refused to carry out his instructions.

Subcommittee sources said the chemist was not part of an American spy ring such as those described by Elizabeth Bentley, confessed courier for a wartime apparatus. They said he operated as a "lone wolf" on behalf of the Russians.

The industrial data was slipped to the Soviet authorities, they said, through the Amtorg Trading Company, the former Soviet purchasing agency in this country, the Russian Red Cross, and an unidentified Russian official.

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*MR. BARNETT
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191 MAY 16 1956

- Wash. Post and Times Herald
- Wash. News
- Wash. Star
- N. Y. Herald Tribune
- N. Y. Mirror
- N. Y. Daily News
- Daily Worker
- The Worker
- New Leader

Date MAY 10 1956

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Helped Soviet, Chemist Says

By the Associated Press

The Senate Internal Security Subcommittee today studied testimony from an unidentified American chemist that he had supplied technical industrial information to the Russians over a 17-year period.

"He said he worked for the Russians (from 1933) until 1940," Robert Morris, subcommittee counsel, told newsmen. "His contacts through the 1940s were spotty and his last contact was in 1950."

Mr. Morris said the witness, who was questioned in closed session, "answered questions apparently with great candor and directness." The subcommittee will decide later whether to hear him further.

Beyond saying the chemist lived in "the New York area, broadly speaking," Mr. Morris declined to identify him, saying, "He was afraid of his job and afraid of what the Russians

might do." He said the man was employed for the entire time by a private concern.

Mr. Morris declined to discuss in detail the nature of the information turned over to the Russians, or to say whether any official secrets were involved. He said the witness has been in contact with the FBI.

Mr. Morris said the chemist was one of a number of persons called for questioning as a follow-up to testimony last month by Harry Gold, a one-time Philadelphia chemist now serving a 30-year prison term for espionage which included both industrial and atomic secrets.

The witness was quoted as saying he first supplied information to a man working under cover of the Amtorg Corp., the Russian state trading organization. Then, in 1937, he changed to "another contact with the cover of the Soviet Red Cross," Mr. Morris said.

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U.S. News

Wash. Post and Times Herald _____
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 The Worker _____
 New Leader _____

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Espionage

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- Tolson
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- Gandy

Russian Red Cross Implicated

Chemist Gave Reds Industrial Secrets 3

An American chemist has told the Senate Internal Security sub-committee he slipped U. S. industrial secrets to Soviet spies from 1933 to 1940.

Sub-committee sources disclosed the chemist, whom they declined to identify, at a recent secret hearing, told about his tie-up with a Soviet spy ring.

They indicated he would be asked to testify publicly in the near future.

They said the chemist never was employed by the Government. The data he stole and slipped to the Russians was not Government-classified information but industrial secrets, they said.

PRISONER

Sub-committee counsel Robert Morris said the chemist lives in the New York area. He said atomic spy Harry Gold, now serving a 30-year prison term for espionage, supplied the sub-committee with information which led to the chemist.

Gold recently testified before the sub-committee in closed and public sessions.

- Wash. Post and Times Herald 3
- Wash. News
- Wash. Star
- N. Y. Herald Tribune
- N. Y. Mirror
- N. Y. Daily News
- Daily Worker
- The Worker
- New Leader

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DISCLOSURE

Sub-committee sources also disclosed the chemist testified:

- He was not part of an American spy ring. He operated as a "lone wolf" for the Russians.

- The industrial data was slipped to the Soviet authorities thru the Amtorg Trading Co., the former Soviet purchasing agency in this country, the Russian Red Cross and an unidentified Russian official. (U)

Elsewhere on the Hill:

✓ DEFENSE

The new defense budget came up for a vote today in the House. House leaders forecast easy passage of the \$33.6 billion program. (U)

✓ INSURANCE

The Senate called up for debate legislation to establish a \$5 billion, Federally-subsidized program of flood insurance for property and home owners. (U)

✓ SCHOOLS

A House source said the house is considering the possibility of bringing the Administration's civil rights bill up for action ahead of the \$1.6 billion school construction bill. (U)

✓ FARM

Senate Democrats and Republicans agreed a compromise farm bill approved by the Senate Agriculture Committee will be acceptable to President Eisenhower. (U)

✓ FOREIGN AID

Secretary of State J. F. Dulles was called before the House Foreign Affairs Committee to argue for the Administration's \$4.9 billion foreign aid program. (U)

✓ COURT

Sen. Russell B. Long (D., La.) introduced a bill to limit Supreme Court justices to 12-year terms. (U)

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Chemist Named by Gold Admits Spying for Soviet

By the Associated Press

Thomas L. Black, the Newark, N. J., chemist, who allegedly recruited Harry Gold into atomic spying, confessed publicly today to his own career of espionage for Russia.

Black swore he spied first because he wanted to, and for nearly 10 years afterward "because of fear that he would be killed if he didn't." He told of having ducked a Communist assignment to participate in the 1940 assassination of Leon Trotsky in Mexico.

Black said he still fears he may meet a fate similar to that of Carlo Tresca, a radical he said was slain in an office building in New York in January, 1943. He said Tresca was "tried in Moscow," found to be an "enemy of the working class" and was "executed" by Soviet agents.

Portly, sandy-haired Black was the only witness at a public hearing before the Senate Internal Security subcommittee.

The subcommittee, however, placed in evidence the transcript of testimony by another witness who told of having helped to handle in Moscow "thousands" of secret United States documents delivered to him by Soviet secret police during World War II.

This witness, a Russian whose identity was discussed under the false name of "E. Andriyev," testified behind closed doors yesterday. He said the secret police had told him it was none of his business how they obtained the "great numbers" of documents, some apparently coming from the Army's Fort Monmouth radar laboratories.



THOMAS L. BLACK
—AP Photo

Robert Morris, subcommittee counsel, said earlier that Black is the chemist who testified at a closed hearing last week that he had supplied technical industrial information to the Russians for a number of years.

Gold, a former Philadelphia chemist, who is serving a 30-year prison sentence as an atomic spy, told the subcommittee on April 26 that while he was working for the Pennsylvania Sugar Co. in Philadelphia in 1934 Black had asked him to obtain information for the Russians on company processes.

He quoted Black as telling him that if he would obtain details of these processes, "I'll see they are turned over to the Soviet Union." Gold said he agreed to the request and later went on to serve as an atomic spy.

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- Wash. Post and Times Herald _____
- Wash. News _____
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- The Worker _____
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Chemist Named by Gold Admits Spying for Soviet

By the Associated Press

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THOMAS L. BLACK

—AP Photo

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MR. BRANIG

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- Wash. Post and Times Herald
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- Wash. Star
- N. Y. Herald Tribune
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File 5-H
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Chemist Bares Years As Top Soviet Agent

By JACK DOHERTY
of THE NEWS Bureau

Washington, May 17.—A mild-mannered chemist from Newark, N. J., confessed publicly before Senate Red probers today that he served as a Russian espionage agent from 1933 to 1946, that he brought atomic spy Harry Gold into contact with the Russians, and that he talked himself out of an assignment to arrange for the assassination of Leon Trotsky in Mexico.

The chemist, Thomas L. Black, 48, of 708 High St., Newark, told the Senate Internal Security subcommittee he wanted to break away from the Communists as early as 1940, but continued to accept spy tasks from his secret police bosses out of fear for his life. Black said he was still afraid of assassins. He said he joined the Communist Party in 1931 but dropped his membership in 1933 when he was told he could not go to Russia.

Told to Prove Himself

Then Black said, he went to Amtorg, the Soviet trading agency in New York, and met Gaik Ovakimian, earlier identified as chief of the Soviet secret police in the U. S. from 1932 to 1941.

Ovakimian demanded that Black prove his "usefulness" to the USSR by stealing technical data and Black gave him chemical information from his own knowledge and from the Holbrook Manufacturing Co., where he worked, Black said.

He was later passed along to other Soviet contact men, one of whom assigned him to join Leon Trotsky's household staff on the outskirts of Mexico City, where he was to help plot the assassination of Trotsky. Trotsky was murdered in 1940. Black said he avoided the Trotsky job by saying it would look "auspicious" if he left the U. S. at a time when he was due to collect work-



(Associated Press Wirephoto)
Chemist Thomas L. Black at security hearing yesterday.

man's compensation following an accident.

Black also told the Senate group he was instrumental in introducing atomic spy Harry Gold to the Russians.

The subcommittee also released testimony of a Russian refugee who said he saw "thousands" of

(Continued on page 6, col. 1)

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MR. BRANIGAN

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Wash Post

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- Wash. Post and Times Herald
- Wash. News
- Wash. Star
- N. Y. Herald Tribune
- N. Y. Mirror
- N. Y. Daily News & Sun
- Daily Worker
- The Worker
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Date MAY 18 1956

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U. S. top-secret documents in a military research institute in Moscow during World War II.

The Russian, who uses the assumed name of E. Andriyve, was afraid to testify in public, according to subcommittee counsel Robert Morris. He said 90% of the foreign documents delivered to

him from the Russian secret police were of U. S. origin, and the "vast majority" bore official government secret classifications.

He recalled that he "quite often" got documents "in quantity" originating from RCA and from Fort Monmouth, headquarters of the Signal Corps laboratories.

Andriyve said most of the documents were highly technical descriptions of U. S. radar devices, electronic tubes, telephone equipment, ground control approach systems and "artillery devices."

The documents were "sometimes very fresh" in reaching Moscow from Fort Monmouth, but he said he was not sure how they got into Russian hands. Another Senate committee earlier developed testimony that thousands of highly secret documents disappeared from the Fort Monmouth laboratories.

Black is employed by the P. F. Helie Co. of Worcester, Mass., manufacturers of textile chemicals. He is assigned as a consultant at a Newark company that does work for the Helie firm. Acquaintances described him as "very quiet." They said he earns about \$78 a week.

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Book

Ex-Spy Tells of Work for Soviet; Says He Dodged Trotsky Slaying

Chemist, at Senate Hearing,
Describes Contacts and
Passing of Secrets

Special to The New York Times.
 WASHINGTON, May 17—
 Thomas L. Black, Newark chemist, told the Senate Internal Security subcommittee today he was a Communist spy from 1933 to 1940.

He had been named by Harry Gold as the one who recruited him to get atomic secrets for the Soviet Union. Gold is serving a thirty-year sentence. Black said he introduced Gold to a Soviet agent in the early Nineteen Thirties.

The subcommittee is continuing a study of Soviet espionage in the United States. It also made public testimony by a Russian refugee who said he saw "thousands" of classified American documents obtained by the Soviet secret police when he worked for the Red Army Signal Corps in Moscow in 1944-45.



Associated Press Wirephoto
 Thomas L. Black, Newark chemist, giving testimony.

MR. BRANIGAN

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CLIPPING FROM THE
 N. Y. TIMES

DATED MAY 18 1956
 FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION
 P. 6 LATE CITY

RE: THOMAS L. BLACK
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Feared for Life

Black testified he had begun his espionage activities because he wanted to, but had continued later because he feared the Communists would kill him if he quit.

He said he had refused one major assignment—to help arrange the assassination of Leon Trotsky. But he suffered no reprisals from the party as a result, he added.

He said he had dropped his membership because he wanted to go to the Soviet Union, but a Communist organizer told him he could not work as a party member there. The reason for this was not brought out.

Instead, Black said, he went to Jersey City, where he soon began passing industrial secrets to Communist contacts.

Trotsky was assassinated in 1940. Three years later, Carlo Tresca, identified by the witness as "an anti-Communist radical," was murdered in New York. This further alienated him, Black said, and he told his new Communist contact, Jack Katz, that "that sort of thing gave communism a very bad name, and I didn't approve of it."

He said Katz had told him Mr. Tresca was "an enemy of the working class."

Black reported that he did not hear from Katz again until 1946, when the contact urged him to get more industrial information. Black said he had refused.

The next time he heard from

the Communists, he went on, was in 1950, when he received a telephone call asking him to meet an agent. He said he had not done so.

That year, he said, he went to the Federal Bureau of Investigation with his story. He is now employed as a chemist. He asked the subcommittee not to release the name of the company.

The Russian refugee who told of having seen classified American documents in Moscow was identified only by the pseudonym "Andriyue." He said the documents had dealt principally with electronic tubes used in radar research and with phone communications.

He said many of them had come from Fort Monmouth, N. J., site of the United States Signal Corps radar laboratories. Others were from the Radio Corporation of America, he disclosed.

An Army spokesman noted today that there was a free interchange of information among the Allies during the war. This was promptly challenged by Senator Joseph R. McCarthy, Republican of Wisconsin, who conducted a controversial investigation of Fort Monmouth in 1954.

"There was no free interchange of things marked 'secret,'" the Senator said. "Those had to be stolen."

- Mr. Tolson ✓
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- Mr. Boardman ✓
- Mr. Belmont ✓
- Mr. Mason _____
- Mr. Mohr _____
- Mr. Parsons ✓
- Mr. Rosen ✓
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- Mr. Sizoo _____
- Mr. Winterrowd ✓
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- Mr. Holloman _____
- Miss Gandy _____

Free

Black, Ex-Russian Spy, Dismissed From Plant

NEWARK, N. J., May 19 (AP).—Thomas L. Black, who testified he worked for the FBI after spying for Russia, has been dismissed from the Atlas Refining Co. plant where he was working on assignment as a chemist.

Arthur P. Schroeder, Jr., president of the Atlas firm, said today Black was ordered out of the Newark factory yesterday, 24 hours after he divulged to the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee he had spied for the Soviets.

Mr. Schroeder, whose firm is a refiner and presser of marine and animal oils, said, "We asked Mr. Black to go home and said we would communicate with him later."

Employed as Chemist

Black, 48, who testified he recruited imprisoned atomic spy Harry Gold into a Soviet spy ring, actually is employed as a chemist by the P. H. Hellie Co., sales representatives, of Worcester, Mass., and has been assigned to work at Atlas Refining Co. Hellie Co. has a sales contract with Atlas.

"We called Mr. Hellie," Mr. Schroeder said, "and told him we would have to take the position that Black could no longer work with our facilities."

"Atlas had no knowledge of Black's Communist background. We feel there has been a breach of confidence. There is a question whether our personnel can work with him in an every day sense."

"I have no use for Communists, whether they're reformed or not. I think most Americans feel that way."

Mr. Hellie said he wanted to get all the facts before deciding

what to do about Black. "However," he said, "I am not the kind of man to strike another below the belt. If Tom Black was honorable enough to go down to Washington and testify for the good of the country, I wouldn't do him any harm."

On Thursday, Black testified before the Senate subcommittee he spied first because he wanted to, and for nearly 10 years afterward "because of fear" that he would be killed if he didn't. He told of having ducked a Communist assignment to participate in the 1940 assassination of Leon Trotzky in Mexico.

He returned to Newark Thursday night.

May Subpoena Schroeder

In Washington, Robert Morris, counsel for the subcommittee, said the group "is thinking in terms" of subpoenaing Mr. Schroeder in connection with the Black dismissal, and that a decision might be reached Monday.

Mr. Morris added:

"We are trying to determine the circumstances surrounding the fact that a man has been fired because he testified against the Communist organization."

"We feel action like this is a great Soviet victory. It would tend to seal the lips of others."

The subcommittee must do something about this."

MR. BRADY

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- N. Y. Herald Tribune _____
- N. Y. Mirror _____
- N. Y. Daily News _____
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- New Leader _____

Date MAY 20

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Eastland Seeks Black's Rehiring

By the Associated Press

The Senate Internal Security subcommittee is checking to see what it can do toward reinstating a man removed from his job after testifying he was a former Communist spy.

Thomas L. Black of Newark, N. J., told the subcommittee Thursday he had spied for Russia over a period of years but later co-operated with the FBI. Arthur F. Schroeder, Jr., president of the Atlas Refining Co. where Black worked, said he ordered Black out of the plant the following day.

Chairman Eastland, Democrat of Mississippi, announcing the subcommittee has sent an investigator to look into the situation, said in a statement that Black's removal "can only aid the Communist cause and discourage other witnesses from coming forward."

Black's work in the Atlas plant was done under the P. H. Hellie Co. of Worcester, Mass., which has a sales contract with Atlas. The head of the Hellie firm said he will study all the facts before deciding Black's status, but added:

"If Tom Black is honorable enough to go down to Washington and testify for the good of the country, I wouldn't do him any harm."

Senator Eastland said the group views Mr. Schroeder's action "with grave concern."

Mr. Schroeder had said, "I have no use for Communists, whether they're reformed or not. I think most Americans feel that way."

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~~DE W. B. GANDY~~

(BLACK)
 COUNSEL ROBERT MORRIS OF THE SENATE INTERNAL SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE SAID CHEMIST THOMAS L. BLACK, FIRED LAST WEEK AFTER TESTIFYING HE HAD BEEN A SOVIET SPY IN THE 1930'S, WILL NOT LOSE HIS JOB AFTER ALL.

MORRIS TOLD A REPORTER PERCY HELLIE, BLACK'S EMPLOYER, TOLD HIM TODAY, "BLACK IS ON THE PAYROLL AND HE'S GOING TO STAY THERE."

HELLIE HEADS A WORCESTER, MASS., FIRM OF SALES REPRESENTATIVES WHICH HAS A CONTRACT WITH ATLAS REFINING CO., NEWARK, N.J. BLACK IS EMPLOYED BY HELLIE BUT WAS STATIONED AT THE REFINERY UNTIL HE WAS SENT HOME THE DAY AFTER HE TESTIFIED BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE LAST WEEK.

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W. B. Gandy
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58 MAY 28 1956

WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

Eastland Seeks Black's Rehiring

By the Associated Press

The Senate Internal Security subcommittee is checking to see what it can do toward reinstating a man removed from his job after testifying he was a former Communist spy.

Thomas L. Black of Newark, N. J., told the subcommittee Thursday he had spied for Russia over a period of years but later co-operated with the FBI. Arthur F. Schroeder, jr., president of the Atlas Refining Co. where Black worked, said he ordered Black out of the plant the following day.

Chairman Eastland, Democrat of Mississippi, announcing the subcommittee has sent an investigator to look into the situation, said in a statement that Black's removal "can only aid the Communist cause and discourage other witnesses from coming forward."

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"If Tom Black is honorable enough to go down to Washington and testify for the good of the country, I wouldn't do him any harm."

Senator Eastland said the group views Mr. Schroeder's action "with grave concern."

Mr. Schroeder had said, "I have no use for Communists, whether they're reformed or not. I think most Americans feel that way."

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(BLACK)

NEWARK, N.J.--THE PRESIDENT OF ATLAS REFINERY CO. PROMISED TO REHIRE FORMER COMMUNIST THOMAS L. BLACK IF THE ONE-TIME COMMUNIST PASSED A BATTERY OF SECURITY CHECKS BY THE ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE.

BLACK WAS FIRED BY FIRM PRESIDENT ARTHUR F. SCHROEDER, JR., FRIDAY AFTER THE FORMER COMMUNIST TESTIFIED ABOUT SOVIET SPY ACTIVITIES BEFORE THE SENATE INTERNAL SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE.

SCHROEDER SAID AT A NEWS CONFERENCE THAT BLACK'S FUTURE AS A COMPANY CHEMIST WOULD DEPEND ON THE OUTCOME OF THE SECURITY CHECKS AND STUDY OF HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE.

ATLAS...HAS NO INTENTION OF PENALIZING THOMAS L. BLACK FOR HIS COOPERATION WITH THE SENATE INTERNAL SECURITY COMMITTEE, SCHROEDER SAID. OUR CONCERN WAS AND IS FOR THE SECURITY OF OUR PLANT AND OUR COUNTRY.

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ADD 1 BLACK (129P)

MORRIS SAID THE ARTHUR SCHROEDER, PRESIDENT OF ATLAS REFINING CO., TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD NO INTENTION OF "PENALIZING" BLACK FOR HIS TESTIMONY BUT WAS CONCERNED WITH THE SECURITY OF HIS PLANT.

MORRIS SAID THE SUBCOMMITTEE, AT SCHROEDER'S REQUEST, WOULD SEEK A SECURITY CLEARANCE FOR BLACK FROM THE ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE, WHICH HAVE CONTRACTS WITH ATLAS.

HE QUOTED SCHROEDER AS SAYING, "IF THIS CLEARANCE IS OBTAINED AND IF YOUR STUDY OF THE HEARING TRANSCRIPT SATISFIES US, WE WILL ALLOW BLACK TO ENTER THE PLANT."

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Ex-Red's firing to be probed

Frank

By RALPH MAHONEY

Robert Morris, chief counsel to the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, told The Star-Ledger yesterday a committee representative will come to Newark to investigate the "ignoble decision" of a Newark firm to discharge a repentant ex-Communist who recently testified for the government.

Morris, speaking in Washington in behalf of the committee chairman, Sen. Eastland (D-Miss.), said the company's ban on Thomas L. Black, 48, of 408 High St., "can only aid the Communist cause and discourage other witnesses from coming forward."

FEARED FOR LIFE

Black, who has lived in fear of his life since deserting the Communist party, testified before the committee recently that he recruited imprisoned atomic spy Harry Gold into the Red espionage network. He almost became a part of the plot to assassinate Leon Trotsky in Mexico, he said.

He is employed by the P.H. Hellie Co. of Worcester, Mass., as a chemist and, until late last week, was assigned to work in the plant of the Atlas Refining Co., 142 Lockwood Ave., with which Hellie has a contract.

REVEALED SECRETS

Black revealed his secrets to the Senate committee Thursday. When he reported for work at Atlas Friday, he was ordered out of the plant by Arthur F. Schroeder Jr., president and treasurer, who said:

"I have no use for Communists whether they're reformed or not."

Schroeder said Atlas officials had taken a vote and decided "Black had to go whether the company lost its account with Hellie Co. or not." He said the company felt there had been a breach of contract because Atlas had no previous knowledge

MR. B...

as per file

NEWARK STAR LEDGER
 Newark, New Jersey

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(Continued from Page One)

of Black's Communist background.

Percy H. Hellie, president of the Hellie firm, said, however, that he wanted to get all the facts, adding:

"If Tom Black was honorable enough to go down to Washington and testify for the good of the country, I wouldn't do him any harm."

Hellie is due in Newark today to discuss the Black case with Atlas officials.

'EASTLAND CONCERNED'

In his statement yesterday, Morris quoted Eastland as saying:

"The Internal Security Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate views with great concern the statement of Arthur Schroeder that he plans to ban Thomas L. Black from employment in the Atlas Refining Co. of Newark.

"At the same time it commends the tolerant and charitable viewpoint of Percy Hellie.

"Black was a witness before the Internal Security Subcommittee and reprisals against him or his courageous testimony against conspiracy can only aid the Communist cause and discourage other witnesses from coming forward.

TO INVESTIGATE HERE

"We are sending a staff member to Newark to investigate fully all the circumstances surrounding this ignoble decision."

Black, who lived in English-town before coming to Newark April 1, joined the Hellie Co. in 1954 and has worked at the Atlas factory since then.

Hellie said he knew Black revealed his former involvement in the Communist Party to the FBI but was not aware how deeply Black was implicated.

WON'T COMMENT

Reached at his home in Summit last night, Schroeder refused to comment on the Eastland statement.

Asked if he thought his views on Black represented an "ignoble decision," he said:

"I'm not sure I know what the term means, do you?"

He again said "no comment" when asked his reaction to an Eastland committee representa-

tive coming to Newark to investigate the case.

In the past, high government officials, including FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover and William F. Tompkins of Maplewood, assistant U.S. Attorney General, have criticized firms that have discharged ex-Communists who have testified for the government.

Tompkins has said that any Communist who has honestly renounced communism and de-

sires to rehabilitate himself and cooperate with his government as a good American citizen should not be penalized for giving help to the government.

NEWARK STAR LEDGER
Newark, New Jersey

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Clearance Is Expected For Confessed Red Spy

Associated Press

The Senate Internal Security Subcommittee said yesterday (6) expects that Thomas L. Black, now cooperating with the FBI after a confessed career of spying for Russia, will not be barred as a Security risk from work he has been doing in Newark, N. J.



Black

The Subcommittee, headed by Sen. James O. Eastland (D-Miss.), had expressed concern lest Black's dismissal discourage former Communists from coming forward to tell their stories.

Robert F. Morris, Subcommittee counsel, said the Atlas Refining Co. of Newark, which had ordered Black off its premises last week the day after he told the Subcommittee his story of espionage, has just agreed to let him return on two conditions:

1. If the Armed Forces clear him, and
2. If its own study of the testimony he gave the Subcommittee in a public hearing Thursday "satisfies us."

Black is employed by the P. A. Helle Co. of Worcester, Mass., which has a sales contract with Atlas, and which had assigned him to the Atlas plant.

In a statement Morris said: "We have just been assured that Thomas L. Black, who testified before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee on May 17, will not be dismissed from his employment, as was reported last week.

"Percy Helle, president of the Percy Helle Co. of Worcester, Mass., after conferring with a staff member of the Subcommittee, stated: 'Black is on our payroll and is going to stay.'

"Arthur Schroeder, president of the Atlas Refining Co., where Black works on the Percy Helle contract, has assured the Subcommittee as follows:

"The Atlas Refining Co. has no intention of penalizing Thomas L. Black for his cooperation with the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee. Our concern is with the security of our plant and of our country. We wish to cooperate fully and we have asked the Subcommittee to assist us in obtaining whatever clearance may be necessary for Black from the Army, Navy and Air Force, with which we have contracts. If this clearance is obtained, and if our study of the hearing transcript satisfies us, we will allow Black to enter the plant."

Morris said the Subcommittee will help the Atlas Co. to obtain "whatever security clearance Black's job requires."

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MR. BRANIGA

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Reformed Spy Might Have Old Job—Maybe

Washington, May 21 (AP).—The Senate Internal Security subcommittee said today that it expects Thomas L. Black, now cooperating with the FBI after a confessed career of spying for Russia, will not be barred as a security risk from work he has been doing in Newark, N. J.

Robert F. Morris, subcommittee counsel, said the Atlas Refining Co. of Newark, which had ordered Black off its premises last week after he told the subcommittee of his espionage, has just agreed to let him return on two conditions:

If the armed forces clear him, and if its own study of the testimony he gave the subcommittee in a public hearing Thursday "satisfies us."

Black is employed by the P. H. Hellie Co. of Worcester, Mass., which has a sales contract with Atlas, and which had assigned him to the Atlas plant.

The subcommittee, headed by Sen. Eastland (D-Miss.), had expressed concern lest Black's dismissal discourage former Communists from coming forward to tell their stories.

of 151st St. on Sunday. The hearing will be on the 7th floor at 80 Lafayette St. One woman died in the mishap.

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Backed by His Real Boss

Ex-Spy Is Assured He Won't Lose Job

By **RODNEY STAHL** and **LYNN LEONARD**

Thomas L. Black, confessed former Communist spy who was barred from his job by one firm, was assured by his actual employer Monday that he still has a job.

The assurance was given just before announcement that Black, once security clearance is obtained for him, will be reinstated in his position as business representative at the Atlas Refining Co. plant in Newark for the P. H. Hellie Co., of Worcester, Mass.

BLACK, WHO HAS become an informant for the FBI, was removed from the post with Atlas last Friday after telling the Senate Security subcommittee on Thursday that he had spied for Russia over a period of years.

The ouster was attacked by subcommittee chairman Sen. Eastland (D-Miss.), who said it could "only aid the Communist cause and discourage other witnesses from coming forward." The Senate group moved immediately to see Black's reinstatement and announced in Washington that it will help the Atlas Co. to obtain "whatever security clearance Black's job requires."

Atlas president Arthur F. Schroeder, who had ordered Black's suspension, said at conferences in Newark with subcommittee investigator Nelson Frank and Percy Hellie, president of the Worcester chemical firm, which is Black's actual employer, that his plant has contracts with the

Army, Navy and Air Force. Schroeder said reinstatement will be granted on two conditions: that the armed forces clear him; and that Atlas Refinery Co. itself is "satisfied" after it makes its own study of the testimony he gave the subcommittee.

BEFORE the announcement of the Atlas stand, Black's boss, Hellie, declared Black would remain in his employ.

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Righting an Error

IT IS a good thing for the anti-Communist fight in this country that Atlas Refinery, Inc., of Newark, has moved to rectify its mistake in removing Thomas L. Black from his chemist's job.

The action against him was taken after the chemist testified before the Senate Internal Security subcommittee that he had been a spy for Russia from 1933 to '40, but later came clean and named names to the FBI.

Both Senator Eastland, chairman of the subcommittee, and Robert Morris, its able counsel, said the decision of the Newark company, which amounted in effect to dismissal, could "only aid the Communist cause and discourage other witnesses from coming forward." We are informed by George Sokolsky, a foremost anti-Communist expert, that about 90 per cent of information about subversive intrigue has come from former Communists.

Now Arthur F. Schroeder Jr., president of the firm, has announced the chemist will continue to receive his salary, and will be permitted to return to the plant if he gets security clearance. Mr. Schroeder has taken the right course.

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Ex-Red Gets His Job Back

**Black Reinstated by
Atlas After Parley
With FBI**

Thomas L. Black of Newark, chemist who was barred May 18 from working in a Newark plant after testifying before a Senate committee about former activities as a Communist agent, will be permitted to return to his job there tomorrow.

Arthur P. Schroeder Jr., president of Atlas Refinery, Inc., said in a statement yesterday that his concern decided to readmit Black after a study of a transcript of his testimony and after a "very satisfactory conference held with the FBI." Black, who lives at 708 High St., had been assigned to work at Atlas by his employer, P. H. Helie Co., of Worcester, Mass., under a special service contract.

Atlas' original decision to bar Black brought protests from the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee and its counsel, Robert Morris. A committee aide and Black's employer, Percy Helie, came to Newark to intercede for Black. Schroeder then said he would reconsider if he got satisfactory security clearance on Black.

In announcing that Black would be readmitted, Schroeder said the company had accepted an offer of Morris to speak to the employes, "since many of the employes of the company have expressed real concern about work-

ing with Mr. Black under the circumstances." He said Morris is expected to attend a meeting at the Atlas plant tomorrow.

On May 17, Black testified before the committee that he had been a Communist agent and had recruited convicted atom spy Harry Gold. He said he withdrew from the party in 1946.

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Newark, New Jersey

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THE RED LETTER

Fired Because He Fingered Commies

By LEON RACHT

NO MORE valuable assistance has been given the formidable task of exposing the Communist conspiracy in the U. S. than by former Reds who repent and tell what they know of Kremlin intrigue within our borders.

They know that the very moment they reveal themselves they face the loss of livelihood and maybe their lives by vengeful ex-colleagues.

The very least they can expect is a ceaseless character-assassination campaign by Communist and fellow-traveler smear artists.

The list of those who have tried to remedy their mistakes and perform their duty to their country is long.

Among the most notable are Whittaker Chambers, Elizabeth Bentley, Louis Budenz and Dr. Herbert Fuchs.

In forcing Alger Hiss to crawl out from under his rock, Chambers had to leave his \$30,000 a year job as senior editor of Time magazine.



W. CHAMBERS

Budenz and Miss Bentley are even now being hounded and harried.

Fuchs has been on his uppers since he was fired from his faculty post at American University in Washington, D. C., after he identified 48 persons he had known as Reds in government jobs.

LATEST REPRISAL victim is Thomas L. Black, who last week testified before the Senate Internal Security subcommittee that newspaper editor Carlo Tresca was "tried" in absentia in Moscow and executed in New York.

He frankly told how he had been neck-deep in Communist espionage until 1940 and how he had recruited atom spy Harry Gold into his apparatus.

As a reward, Black was suspended from his chemist's job in a Newark, N. J., plant by an employer who said he has "no use for Communists, reformed or not."

It is conceivable that Black could be fired if he had been exposed as a Communist while on the job on the suspicion that, as a chemist, he might slip some poison into his capitalist boss' chowder.

But his employer knew all along of his Communist background since Black told his story to the FBI in 1950 and his name had come out in the trial of the Rosenberg atom spies.

IT NOW APPEARS that Black might get his job back. His employer has promised to reinstate him if he gets government "security clearance."

The point is he should never have been suspended in the first place.

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- Mr. Parsons
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Nease
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- Tele. Room
- Mr. Holloman
- Miss Gandy

MR. BRANTON

BAUMGARDNER

SAN FRANCISCO
CALL BULLETIN
May 26, 1956
Final Home Edition

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GT-6

Says Spies Get 'Higher-up' Aid

A research chemist who nearly lost his job after testifying before the Senate Internal Security subcommittee said today Soviet spies are still getting "protection" from high government officials.

Thomas L. Black, 48, a self-admitted former Communist agent, got his job back yesterday with the Atlas Refinery Co., Newark, after a Senate investigator personally intervened with the company.

"We would never have been able to do half what we set out to do as Communist party members without the help of people in high places," Black said.

Robert [unclear] subcommittee's [unclear] hinted that [unclear] and many [unclear] of his [unclear] "rs." He [unclear] spied [unclear] for [unclear] years for [unclear]

MR. BRANIGAN

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N. Y. *Journal-American*

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'I WAS A RED SPY!' Novice Meets His 'Trainer,' Walks Into Sinister Web of Espionage

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MR. BRANNAN

Behind the affable mask of a minor purchasing agent was the ruthless, crafty master of a Soviet spy net, to whom technological espionage and murder were alike parts of the daily job. How he drew an ingenuous American into betraying his country for the Reds is told here, in the third article of a series confessing Thomas L. Black's dozen years in the Communist service.

By THOMAS L. BLACK with EUGENE LYONS

Gaik Ovakimian, generalissimo of Stalin's spies in America, phoned me several weeks after our initial acquaintance and we dined at a good restaurant in the Times Square area. We made small talk in a cordial, chatty spirit. I took it for granted he was sizing me up, that the business could not be rushed.

At a second dinner meeting he took me, as it were, into his confidence. He hesitated to recommend me to Moscow, he said, until he was sure I could contribute to Soviet technology. So why didn't I, by way of a test, make reports on some aspects of American industrial chemistry?

The suggestion seemed entirely reasonable. At the next meeting, while taking a friendly walk, I handed him several reports. I was proud of them, having dug up a lot of published information and added data available in my plant on tanning procedures which might not be known in Russia. He wanted more and I came through.

"NOT ESPECIALLY valuable," he told me sadly later. "We are already receiving this type of information from other sources."

Still, he thought, the reports were competently drawn. Unfortunately he was too busy to pursue the matter and must turn the negotiations over to a colleague whom I could trust implicitly. Just then, sure enough, the "colleague" appeared and Ovakimian left us abruptly. I never saw him again.

'Drift' to Espionage

The newcomer, my second and most durable "contact," introduced himself as Paul Peterson. Later the surname was tacitly dropped. He was simply Paul—one of the short code names favored by Soviet espionage.

Harry Gold in due time testified he had known this agent as Paul Smith and that, apparently,

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the Smith part was quickly forgotten. Though Paul indicated he was in the U. S. on a Danish passport, I judged from his accent and manner that he was a Bavarian German.

PAUL AND I thereafter met frequently. For a while I still broached my wish to go to Soviet Russia, but in time this was pushed aside. The real question, he convinced me, was how and where I could be "of most value" to that country. There was work of the highest importance to be done right here—the kind of work Ovakimian and he were doing.

Beyond that he didn't specify. Subtly, with a skill that amazes me when I think back to that time, he put our relations on a conspiratorial basis, in which prying questions were ruled out. Our meetings were now carefully prearranged, timed to the minute and surrounded with elaborate precautions.

I began to understand that what was involved was espionage of some sort. Before long this was a definite conviction, though it was never mentioned in so many words. Why did I go along? Part of the answer was inertia. I had allowed myself to drift into the relationship. For the rest, I could at that time see no moral wrong in espionage. To a Com-

munist anything that supports his cause seems not merely permissible but a matter of duty and honor.

FLATTERY WAS PAUL'S long suit. He assured me that I had the intelligence and personality to take over his own responsibilities. After all, a native American rather than a foreigner should be doing his job. Why, come to think of it, couldn't I succeed him when he returned home? All I needed was training—yes, a lot of arduous training—and he intended to give it to me.

As a starter, I must stop reading Communist publications, stop seeing Communists, and refrain from political discussion. Any Red literature I had at home must be immediately destroyed—not by burning, which might attract notice, but by tearing into pieces and flushing down the toilet. A breach of these orders would be regarded as gross disloyalty.

At one time, probably near the end of 1934, Paul asked whether I knew any other friend of the Soviet Union who would like to go there. "Yes," I said, "another chemist—a fellow by the name of Harry Gold." We arranged that I bring him to the next rendezvous if possible.

Two-Year Training

GOLD, WHEN I PROPOSED the idea, readily consented. Paul met us at an agreed spot near Pennsylvania Station and motioned me to leave them alone, which I did. What transpired at that meeting I could not know. Though we were both ordered never to see one another again, Gold and I continued to meet at long intervals. But the weight of our involvement was like a muzzle on both of us, so that we avoided mention of Paul and his schemes.

I met Paul continually, sometimes weekly, other times with long breaks, in the years that followed.

The assumption that I was slated to succeed him in his "important" but still undefined post became the foundation stone of our relationship. Our every meeting became a lesson in the course of "training" that went on for about two years.

A fantastic "trade school" in the tricks of the espionage trade, as operated by the Red apparatus in America, is described in the fourth article of this series, in Wednesday's **MIRROK**.



"Our meetings were now carefully prearranged, timed to the minute
and surrounded with elaborate precautions."

(Illustration by Don Sheward)

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- Tele. Room
- Holloman
- Gandy

MR. BRANIGAN
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Blair

I WAS A RED SPY!

First Step Taken on Road Leading To Lifetime of Agonized Remorse

By **THOMAS L. BLACK**

For a dozen years—until the blessed day in 1950 when I made a clean breast of it to the FBI—I was tangled in the web of Soviet spying in the United States.

I took orders meekly from a succession of mysterious foreign agents whom I knew only under code names like Paul or Jack. Though they were familiar with the most intimate details of my life, I was never allowed to know anything about them. What is more, I could only guess at the real purposes of the assignments and the intensive training they gave me.

At first I served them willingly, even with a sense of pride in being part of something big, omnipotent and noble. Then, as my doubts about the Soviet paradise gradually turned into disillusion and hatred of communism, I felt myself trapped, held fast by sheer animal fear.

NOT ONCE in those years did the sinister word "espionage" cross our lips. We talked instead about "working for the cause" and "helping the Soviet Union." Such phrases had a hypnotic effect on the true Communist believer. After I ceased to believe, however, they became bitter ashes on my tongue. I suffered the humiliations of a helpless puppet and the agonies of remorse which will be my lot for the rest of my life.

My only consolation today is that, through circumstances which I shall recount, I gave little if any tangible help to the spymasters who manipulated me. Thus I did little if any tangible harm to my own country.

The only important contribution I made to Soviet espionage, I suppose, was that I pulled Harry Gold into the net—the same atomic spy case involving Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. But Gold, after all, was a very minor cog in a vast machine.

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Misdirected Idealism

ALL THE SAME, I consider it my duty to tell the whole story, as accurately as I can after the passage of so much time, to my fellow-Americans. My hope is that I may help them comprehend the scope and menace of the Red conspiracy in our midst.

How does a native American like myself, with a middle-class background and a good education, become fouled up in Red spy operations?

The answer is not easy. It involves so many elements that cannot readily be made convincing to people who have not been through it. The main ingredient, certainly in my own case, was misdirected idealism. But it was mixed up, I must admit in retrospect, with an itch to bolster my ego by playing a bigger role in the world.

WHATEVER MY MOTIVES, greed was not one of them. On the contrary, out of my modest earning as a chemist I contributed money "to the cause." Personally I knew of only one instance where an American worked in Soviet espionage just for pay—and his superiors did not trust him. As one of them explained to me, a mercenary will crack too easily or sell out to "the enemy" for a higher price.

Normal Childhood

It is primarily by their heartstrings that confused Americans are pulled into the quagmires of Red treason.

But let me reconstruct my unhappy career from the beginning.

I WAS BORN in Bloomsburg, Pa., on July 5, 1907, of British stock with a dash of Pennsylvania Dutch through a grandmother. My father was a teacher, a fine scholarly man proud of his all-American background. Because my mother died when I was three, he raised me with the aid of a string of housekeepers



"This time the woman actually smiled. 'Well, comrade, we've decided to take you in,' she announced."

(Illustration by Don Sherwood)



until he remarried ten years later.

My childhood and young manhood were normal, almost typical. I attended the local high school, then specialized in chemistry at college. If I differed from most small town boys, it was in my love of serious reading in economics, sociology, philosophy. At an early age I was familiar with the writing of Marx, Engels and Lenin, as well as crusaders like Henry George.

I began to earn my own living in 1929, when I was 22. My first job was at a plant near Linden, N. J. About a year later I moved to a better job with the Holbrook Manufacturing Co. in Jersey City. The firm made industrial soaps. Though my wages were modest, I was pleased to be on my own in a small but pleasant apartment.

THE DEPRESSION did not affect me directly. Yet the awareness of distress and despair could not be avoided. I began reading the Communist press, especially the more serious theoretical

journals. I joined the Friends of the Soviet Union, in New York, and then literary outfits like the John Reed Club and Pen and Hammer. Incredible as it now seems, I was too naive to recognize them as Communist fronts.

Who recruited me into the Communist Party? That question comes up repeatedly. The truthful answer is that I recruited myself.

A series of articles in a party-line magazine clinched the decision that had been shaping up in my mind. The articles lashed out at "intellectuals" who stood aside from the great struggle for a better world and urged them to join the Communist vanguard of humanity. I took the bait.

One weekend in early 1931, I betook me to the national headquarters of the party on E. 13th St., N. Y. The woman who talked to me hardly concealed her astonishment when I said I wished to join up. Her eyes narrowed in suspicion, she took down my name, address and place of em-

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Ex-Spy Tells How It Started

(Continued from Page 5)

ployment and indicated that perhaps I would hear from them.

Long Investigation

I DID, SEVERAL months later. In the meantime, as I later realized, I was being carefully investigated. On a Saturday afternoon a girl of about my own age came up to my apartment and introduced herself as a Communist. As a sample of Red femininity, she was far from enticing. Austerity was then the "line"—cosmetics and attractive clothes were taboo.

My caller didn't approve of me either. After a long discussion she informed me that I lacked understanding of the movement and was crawling with "petit-bourgeois prejudices." But again, maybe I would hear from them, by postcard this time.

A couple of months passed. Then the card arrived instructing me to appear at headquarters. This time the woman actually smiled. "Well, Comrade, we've decided to take you in," she announced.

I was assigned to District 2, Section 2, Unit 2-B, on the lower East Side of Manhattan. There, she explained, I would have the best chance of being properly "proletarianized." The unit organizer, Comrade Brandt, was expecting me and would take me in hand.

From the chrysalis of a small town American there emerges "Comrade Jones" under the tutelage of a Red master. His first meeting with the top Soviet spymaster here is described in the next article of this series, in Monday's

—

How Could It Happen?

What could turn an ordinary American youth with a typical

small-town background into a Soviet spy, a cog in the vast sinister apparatus that sought to pervert our scientists and siphon off our secrets? For 12 long years, Thomas L. Black served



Thomas L. Black Red masters—until revulsion sent him to the FBI. Here, in a series of articles of which this is the first, he tells of the shining lure which drew him in—and the nightmare reality that held him.

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Ask

'I WAS A RED SPY!'

'Comrade Jones,' in an Attempt To Get to Russia, Meets Boss Spy

Misguided to begin with, then carefully nurtured by Red masters, an ordinary American emerges as "Comrade Jones," ready to help the Communists in all their aims, and trained to ask no questions. His first fatal step over the line from party hackwork to the secret net of the Soviet spymaster is detailed here by Thomas L. Black, who served the Reds for a dozen years before the bitter awakening. This is the second of a series of articles on his experience.

By THOMAS L. BLACK, with Eugene Lyons
(Copyright 1956 N. Y. Mirror)

My first meeting of a party "neighborhood unit" was rather an anticlimax. It didn't match my romantic notions of the revolution in action. The 15 or 20 men and women in the shabby room were working people, with whom I did not feel entirely at ease; and the evening's business concerned petty matters like finances and subscriptions to the Daily Worker.

But I emerged from the session as "Comrade Jones," the first of several aliases inscribed in my dues-book. I selected the name myself—almost the only act of free choice allowed by party discipline.

Comrade Brandt, a former merchant sailor, evidently was well briefed about me. He was sympathetic with regard to my "political backwardness" and gave a lot of time to curing it. Part of his method was to test my devotion by loading me down with routine and often disagreeable chores, like distributing "party literature" and ringing doorbells.

ONCE, FOR INSTANCE, he assigned another comrade and me to visit a list of Italian Fascists in the area, under the pretext of soliciting signatures on a Communist nominating petition. Our task was to engage the Italians in political argument and show them the error of their ways. We made no converts and collected plenty of abuse, including threats of a beating if we didn't scam.

FIRST installment
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"fraction meeting" (caucus) of the Friends of the Soviet Union I now discovered who pulled the strings, and how. I was now one of their dedicated company. Perhaps a dozen of us managed to steer the activities of some 250 members, without their quite knowing it. The pattern held true in the other Red fronts to which I was attached.

Suddenly I was neck-deep in activities: meetings, assignments, indoctrination sessions with Brandt, money-raising parties, lectures. The very memory of a private life, of a free evening or weekend, began to fade out. There was, at first at least, a kind of intoxication in this furious round of activity in the company of other dedicated souls.

Gets 'Teaching' Post

WITHIN A YEAR I was apparently considered "proletarianized" enough to leave Brandt's supervision. One of the party bigwigs, a member of the national Central Committee, herself instructed me to transfer to a party unit in Jersey City.

"It's a unit of intellectuals," she told me. "You can help educate them, just as Comrade Brandt helped you."

It seemed to me a promotion. I was no longer a newsboy or signature collector. My unit comrades included an unemployed pharmacist, several dentists, a woman concert pianist, several writers. Few of them seemed to know what it was all about, but all were enthusiastic, keyed up to save the world.

MEANWHILE, at the Holbrook plant, my fellow-workers did not know that I was a Communist. I had gotten the knack of talking communism without ever using the word. In the Spring of 1933, in the depth of the depression, I was offered a better-paying job in Harrison, N. J. Someone suggested that I recommend a young chemist—unemployed and in desperate need—to take my place.

It was how Harry Gold

came into my life, and vice versa. He came to see me, introduced him to the plant manager, and he was hired. Gold was pathetically grateful.

Actually he held the job only briefly, returning soon to his previous job with a Philadelphia sugar company. We met from time to time. At this point he called himself merely a Socialist, though he was sympathetic to the "great experiment" in Soviet Russia.

MY NEW WORK involved moving to Newark and a transfer to Newark unit of the party. By

this time, however, I was becoming more and more bored with the party treadmill. It all seemed so tame and futile compared with what was happening over there, in the "workers' fatherland." As a chemist, it occurred to me, I should be in Russia doing my bit for the Five Year Plan.

The idea of going to the Soviet Union began to obsess my mind. I talked about it to Harry Gold, among others. Finally I went to see Comrade Rebecca Grecht, sure that she would help me.

Longs to Visit Soviet

To my surprise, she treated my proposal as if it were a desertion. Our Soviet comrades, she stormed, don't need American Communists; they have plenty of their own. If my yen for foreign adventure was that strong, I could

be assigned to fighting fronts in Europe or Asia. But my duty was here at home. I left her, depressed but not convinced.

VAGUELY I FELT my chances of getting to Russia would be better if I cut loose from the party. So I simply stopped attending meetings. No one, strangely, came to inquire about my disappearance. Possibly the party was used to sudden exits.

My party membership had taken more than two years out of my life. I had to become accustomed again to being master of my own time. I did not cease to be a Communist—one does not cast off a deep political faith overnight.

But the focus of my allegiance

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(Continued from page 5)

was now Soviet Russia where, as the Red press put it, a bright new world was in construction.

IN NOVEMBER of 1933, about six months after dropping out of the party, I applied for a Soviet job through regular channels. At the Amtorg Trading Corp. on Fifth Ave., I told the receptionist my problem. Soon a stocky, dark-complexioned man came out. He was immaculately dressed, soft-spoken and affable.

I asked whether they could use a first-class chemist, and a good Communist, in the Soviet Union. He smiled understandingly. We must discuss it at leisure, he said. How about dinner some time? He would phone me.

"My name," he said, "is Galk Ovakimian, and I'm purchasing representative of a Soviet chemical trust."

Meets Spymaster

NOT UNTIL YEARS LATER did I realize that I had met one of the top Soviet spymasters: the Chief Resident Agent of Soviet Intelligence in America. Among the teeming agents under his command were Julius Rosenberg and the notorious Jacob Golos, under whose direction Elizabeth Bentley worked. He also took part, according to ample evidence, in the preparations for Trotsky's murder.

From 1932 to 1941 Ovakimian was boss-spy over a whole galaxy of apparatuses. In May, 1941, he was arrested. But he was never brought to trial.

The State Department allowed him to depart in exchange for a promise by Moscow to release six American citizens being held in the USSR. A good deal — only Moscow didn't keep its promise!

But of all this, of course, I knew nothing. To me he was an attractive Amtorg official not unfriendly to my plan. I left him feeling happy. That was how casually I met my first espionage "contact" and embraced my tragic destiny.

The spy "contact" who artfully makes a conspirator of Black, is described in the third article of this series, in Tuesday's MIRROR.



THOMAS L. BLACK



"We made no converts and collected plenty of abuse, including threats of a beating if we didn't scam."

(Illustration by Dorward)

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'I WAS A RED SPY!'

'36 Purge Trial Shakes His Faith, But Trainee Finds It's Too Late

How a Soviet spymaster trains his American dupe—with threats and promises, tips on the FBI, tricks of the trade—is detailed here in the fourth of a series of articles by Thomas L. Black, who served the Reds for a dozen years. Was it their plan to make him a cat's-paw in the murder of Trotsky? He tells how he fell into this sinister assignment.

By **THOMAS L. BLACK** with **EUGENE LYONS**

For about two years—until May, 1936, when the first of the blood-purge trials in Moscow gave my life a new twist—I was the object of a sort of slow-motion training course in the tricks of the espionage trade as perfected by the Soviets.

Never before, I am sure, had there been such a fantastic "trade school." One professor, one pupil, with the sidewalks of New York as classroom and lessons conducted while walking! Pedestrians saw two ordinary men strolling along, engaged in earnest conversation. But the conversation was of microfilming stolen secrets, the science of meeting new "contacts."

To sum up the course would require a fat textbook. Here I can only give a few random samplings. Once I remarked about the dangers of being caught. "It's counter-revolutionary even to think of being caught!" Paul snapped. "Our methods have been tried all over the world. They're foolproof." Then he added pointedly, "Only those who violate instructions are caught. Remember that!"

THE RENDEZVOUS or secret meeting was, of course, basic in the course. The precise day, time and place are set in advance—but not the week. It might be Thursday, at 6:47 in front of the Public Library. This did not mean next Thursday, but the Thursday following a phone call by the superior agent.

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The call might not come ~~through~~ for a month or a year, but when it did, the prearranged time and place still held good. The caller, naturally, talked of trivial things like your health. He might even ask you to get together on Saturday—but it still meant next Thursday.

When the agents ordered to get together are strangers to one another, the procedures are more complicated. They must go about their roles like ordinary people doing ordinary things. A tie of a certain color, a current magazine under the right arm, might be the initial identification.

Learns FBI Methods

THE SECOND STEP might be an innocent question—like "What time is it, please?"—and an equally innocent answer, like "Sorry, I don't have a watch." The technique amounted to a series of simple, inconspicuous acts in a prescribed sequence to rule out the remotest chance of coincidence.

Normally, when two agents met, a third unknown to both of them was "accidentally" around. By means of some simple action, such as dropping a newspaper into a trash can or honking his horn a certain way if he were in a car, he warned of danger.

I was taught to detect surveillance and shadows, and how to elude them. That Paul had an intimate knowledge of FBI methods was evident in the countermeasures he explained to me. The typical FBI observer, I recall his saying, was a well-dressed young man reading a newspaper in a parked car.

MY LONG-STANDING interest in photography gave us common ground for interesting sessions on microfilming and, even more important, the swift spoiling of such films at the first sign of danger. I practiced the duplication of keys, with the help of soft wax, until I could get a perfect impression in my pocket or in

the palm of my hand in 10 seconds.

I feel certain to this day that I was being prepared for a vital espionage post. Paul, a subordinate of the great Ovakinian, would hardly have invested some 50 meetings without a good reason.

The other half of my training, to which Paul brought no less zeal, was political. Patiently he expounded the party line of the moment, analyzing events in Moscow and elsewhere. The picture he drew was of ruthless Fascists, Nazis and capitalists plotting to destroy the Soviet land. The moral was that we must be no less ruthless in our work for the cause.

First Nagging Doubts

THE TRUTH IS the temperature of my communism was falling, so slowly that I was scarcely conscious of it. In defiance of orders I had read a few "anti-Soviet" books, and I could not avoid some awareness of slave labor and other horrors in the "workers' paradise."

I suspect now that Paul detected tremors of doubt in me even before I was myself aware of them. Certainly, as time went on, the overtones of threats in his attitude became louder, less subtle. They were never expressed — yet always there, in hints and looks. It might be a casual reference to the fate "deserters" deserved, or a chuckling allusion to what happened to someone who "sold out to the enemy."

Once I allowed myself a joking remark that "this business hasn't much of a future." In the same kidding vein Paul cracked: "If you don't follow

instructions you won't have any future to worry about. The hint stuck to my mind like a burr.

My faith in Stalinism — what was happening in Russia, as distinct from communism in theory — was ebbing. With every month it was harder to batten down the inner turmoil of doubts and objections. This soul-searching came to a head with the shocking news of the first big purge trial in May, 1936. I simply couldn't swallow the story that so many of my Soviet heroes had been scoundrels, assassins, agents of Fascist countries.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, I then stood up to Paul. The bizarre charges against the Founding Fathers, I said, were undermining the revolution. We had a long and heated session, at the cost of a lot of shoe-leather. For once I did not pretend to be convinced. "If such things continue," I said, "they might make me a Trotskyist!"

Paul blew his top. I had committed the great sin of invoking the name of the official devil. We parted on such bad terms that I thought this was the end of the line.

When the familiar call for a rendezvous did not come through for a month, then a second and a third, I was filled with a glow of joy. A great weight seemed to lift from my spirits.

THEN THE CALL CAME, and once more I was pounding the pavements at Paul's side. Considering our last parting, he was strangely friendly. He got down to business quickly. That remark about becoming a Trotskyist, he

Continued on Page 22

Faith Shaken By 1936 Purge Trial

Continued from Page 3

said, packed a good idea. In fact, that was my immediate assignment: to join the Trotskyist movement.

"You mean to report on the American Trotskyists?"

"No, no, we don't care about those dogs," Paul replied. "Don't ask questions — you'll get your instructions when we're ready. Meanwhile your job is to ingratiate yourself with the Trotskyist leaders here, so that they value and trust you."

The tone of his voice left no room for argument. In short order, therefore, I enrolled in the Trotskyist wing of the Socialist Party, and then, when this wing seceded to form the Socialist Workers Party headed by James Cannon, I was among the seceders.

Why had I been ordered to infiltrate the Trotskyist movement? At this point I had not the slightest inkling.

A secret Communist worker in the Trotskyist camp, Black tells how he dodged a sinister, perhaps murderous, assignment, in the fifth article of this series. Read it in *The*

~~WINNER~~



"Normally, when two agents met, a third unknown to both of them was 'accidentally' around. By means of some simple action, such as dropping a newspaper into a trash can, he warned of danger."

(Illustration by Don Sherwood)

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'I WAS A RED SPY'

Tom Black, sponsor of Harry Gold in the infamous Dr. Fuchs case, tells his own story:

- How he was caught in the Red net.
- His years of servitude under nameless, faceless Red masters.
- His awakening to the truth.
- His escape to the FBI.

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I WAS A RED SPY!

The Nightmare Years Finally End, Tom Reveals Self to the FBI

The nightmare tightens its hold—no more pretense of idealistic service, but only terror of sudden death keeps a deeply entangled American in the service of the Red spy work here. Thomas L. Black, a Soviet puppet for 12 years, tells of his disillusionment with the "workers' paradise" and how he was freed at last—in the final article of a series.

By THOMAS BLACK with EUGENE LYONS

My spy superior of the final period, Jack, was not as demanding as Paul had been. He did give me more assignments than I had received in the past. They were trivial ones, but presumably essential.

On one occasion, for instance, I delivered a letter to someone in Philadelphia, which necessitated the use of those elaborate techniques for recognizing strangers. Another time I served as go-between in paying off an agent in another New Jersey factory.

Jack also reminded me of the beginnings of my servitude suddenly demanding that I furnish him with technical information in my field—on any subject I thought useful for Soviet strategy. I decided to concoct reports which would not contain a single line of "secret" data, and some satisfaction in sabotaging my tormentors.

MY METHOD WAS to search new things in technical publications and in recent U. S. reports. I still possess a carbon copy of one such "document." It is an impressive reading and I do not get complaints, but any one of a chemist could have dug its contents in the library.

This routine of amply spaced meetings came to an end early in 1943. Then, for about three years, I was a free man again. It was a freedom shot rough with bouts of panic. Whether right or wrongly, I felt I had known too many Kremlin agents and too much of their methods to be let off the hook. In addition to the Trotsky murder there had been the mysterious death, in a shabby Washington hotel room, of Walter Krivitsky, a high Soviet intelligence official who had defected. In January, 1943, Carlo Tresca, a famous Italian syndicalist and passionate enemy of communism, was shot in broad daylight on a New York street. I was aware of others—Julia Stuart Poyntz in the U. S., for instance, and Ignatz Weiss in Switzerland—who had been "liquidated."

THE TERROR IN my heart is real and deep. I want to emphasize this, though it reflects little glory on me. The urge to tell the authorities and tell all is never far from my mind. I won't dread of sudden death any more. I have won out over good intentions.

A conversation with Jack in the weeks of our last meetings, soon after the Tresca murder, remained fresh on my nerves. I remarked that Tresca's name would crop up only to forget my

Far from denying the allegation, my "contact" grabbed credit for the crime.

"Tresca was an enemy of the working class," he said in substance. "He was a serious obstacle to the Italian Communist movement. This was not a murder—it was an execution! Tresca received a fair trial—in Moscow!"

Did he make this up to frighten me, to suggest that I too might get a "fair trial" in Moscow? Or was there an element of truth in what he said? If his purpose was to intimidate me, he succeeded in full measure.

SOMETIME AT THE END of 1945 or the beginning of 1946, the phone call I dreaded came through. Jack was still on the job. We met. Merely a check-up after a long separation, his manner suggested. "You know how it is," he said. "Times change, people change. We want to know whether you've changed." I reassured him on this score.

This was after the war, when disillusionment with our late Soviet ally had set in. Congress was beginning to ask questions about Red spying. No doubt Jack was checking on me as part of a larger reconnaissance, to determine which of the former agents or "sleepers" might kick over their traces.

Net Closing on Gold

I heard nothing more for four years—until after the arrests of Dr. Klaus Fuchs in England and Harry Gold here. In the meantime I had dropped out of the Trotskyist fold, a sadder and wiser man. I had come to hate communism of any and all brands.

IN THE MEANTIME, too, the dramatic revelations about Soviet espionage by Whittaker Chambers, Elizabeth Bentley and others had been making headlines. Naturally I read every news item, afraid that my name would crop up only to forget my

past and live at long last a normal life.

Soon after the arrest of Dr. Fuchs, I received an excited phone call from Harry Gold. He insisted, in a frantic voice, that we meet that very evening. Gold was in a distraught condition.

"You've read about the arrest of Fuchs," he said, "and that the FBI is searching for his American contact." He paused for a long moment, then blurted: "Tom, I am that contact."

"I have only two courses," he went on. "I can try to flee the country, or commit suicide."

I TRIED TO DISSUADE him on both alternatives. Whether my arguments had any effect I could not know; I never saw him again. Some time later I read of Gold's arrest. Since I had recruited him, I realized my secret would soon be known to the authorities.

Within days after Gold's arrest, Soviet espionage contacted me again—for the last time. The code word set four years before was "Watkins." When a Miss Watkins phoned, I recalled the arrangement; a rendezvous under the marquee of the Translux Theatre on Broadway, between 7:15 and 7:18 p. m. next Tuesday.

I had no intention of obeying. But the decision was taken out of my hands in any case—several FBI agents called on me that very Tuesday.

They merely questioned me about Gold's activities, of which, of course, I knew little or nothing. I did not tell all at once, and the FBI understandingly did not press me. But I knew that I must find the courage to "come clean" without reservations. So far as treasonable acts were concerned, my conscience was clear—or nearly so. I had far more to fear from Stalin's executioners than from my own government.

- Tolson _____
- Nichols _____
- Boardman _____
- Belmont _____
- Mason _____
- Mohr _____
- Parsons _____
- Rosen _____
- Tamm _____
- Nease _____
- Winterrowd _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holloman _____
- Gandy _____

see ✓

W. B. BRANIGAN

W. B. BRANIGAN

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NOT RECORDED
117 JUN 20 1956

- Wash. Post and Times Herald _____
- Wash. News _____
- Wash. Star _____
- N. Y. Herald Tribune _____
- N. Y. Mirror 5
- N. Y. Daily News _____
- Daily Worker _____
- The Worker _____
- New Leader _____

Date JUN 15 1956

65-59181-27

I MADE UP MY MIND,
phoned the FBI and made an ap-
pointment at its Philadelphia of-
fice. At long last I had taken the
only step that could disentangle
me from the Red spy network
and still give me reasonable as-
surance of dying a natural death.
To any ex-Communists who may
read these words my advice is:
"Don't walk, run, to the nearest
office of the FBI. You will be
treated with understanding and
consideration, just as I was
treated. More important, you will
be doing your part to help keep
America free."

My long ordeal was over. It
was a relief to talk openly,
fully. I have cooperated with
the FBI ever since. Later I re-
peated my story to a Federal
grand jury, and again, this
year to the Senate Internal
Security Committee. Said Sen.
Jenner at the conclusion of the
hearings:

"I want to commend you and
to thank you for your coopera-
tion."

Let no American suppose the
disclosures about Soviet espion-
age have ended its menace. I am
convinced it is today more wide-
spread and deeply entrenched
than ever before. It must be
rooted out!

THE END