

SPIES

L.T.-Delco. Wed. Apr. 10 - '57.

In the big spy case - a plea of guilty by Jack and Myra Sobel. Husband and wife - charged with doing espionage work for Soviet Russia.

Yesterday, Federal Judge Richard Levet ruled that fifty-two year old Jack Sobel, who had been under psychiatric treatment - was fit to stand trial. Which was followed quickly, today - with a plea of guilty, from both husband and wife. There's a third defendant in the case, named Albam - still to be heard from.

Today's action, presumably, will save the Sobels from the danger of the death penalty. They pleaded guilty to one count out of six in the indictment - a count that carries a maximum of ten years in prison. Possibly, the government may not press the other counts - one of which could carry capital punishment.

Their lawyer says they were "unwilling tools" of Soviet espionage. Harried by the experience - of being compelled for years to do Red spy work. So now, they are

RETAKE

not only pleading guilty, but agreed to "cooperate" in an investigation of the international espionage ring, of which they were members.

After their appearance before Judge Levet, today, the Sobels went voluntarily before a Special Grand Jury. Spending forty minutes - in what, presumably, was a disclosure of the doings of the conspiracy. Their lawyer, George Levet, says the Sobels told him, what he calls - "an amazing tale, which borders on the fantastic." The story - of their part in the international spy ring.

SOVIET THREATS

Moscow threats are continuing - against countries that have American bases on their soil. Or - might have.

In recent weeks, messages of menace have gone to European countries - like the nations of Scandinavia.

Telling them - that, if they have American bases, they'll be liable to Soviet atomic attack in the event of war.

So now - the same line of talk to countries of the Middle

East. Like Saudi Arabia - where the lease on the great

American air base at Dharam has been extended for another

five years. Moscow adding - that there are reports that

American bases may be established in Israel and Lebanon.

Today's Moscow menace declares that, in case of war, such bases would be hit by Russian hydrogen bombs.

With havoc - for large surrounding areas.

~~As stated by the Moscow Radio today:~~

The atomic energy commission announces that Soviet Russia has exploded another atomic weapon. "Some what larger" than the preceding ones. Number three in the current series of atomic explosions in Soviet Russia.

SOVIET FINANCE

A fiscal shake-up - in Soviet Russia. Something like a financial revolution - proposed by Khrushchev.

One angle - a drastic reduction of the annual Soviet loan; which is theoretically a voluntary thing. But no worker or peasant has ever dreamed of not subscribing to the loan - and on schedule.

In previous years, everybody making more than fifty dollars a month, was called upon to hand over a month's pay. Subscribing - to the loan. But this year - only two weeks wages. This according to an offer - made by Khrushchev, who says - the Soviet government will be willing to reduce the loan from two billion, six hundred million dollars, to one billion, two hundred thousand.

But there's an - "if". A mighty big - "if". workers and peasants to contribute only half as much as in the past - if they'll agree to a moratorium on the loans to which they subscribed in the past. Not to get any return on these - for twenty-five years.

~~You won't have to lend Khrushchev and Company as much this year if you'll agree that you won't get anything back - of the money you loaned in the past. Financial magic, sleight of hand - in the workers' utopia.~~

Khrushchev is touring the Russian provinces - talking up this new dizzy scheme. Asking - gatherings of workers and peasants to vote their agreement. Which they do, unanimously. (Today's Moscow dispatch telling of proceedings - at the city of Gorky. Where the workers and peasants gave a unanimous vote of - "yes". Khrushchev then telling the crowd, "The capitalists will never believe you are doing this voluntarily. They will read the newspaper and say - 'the workers and peasants were frightened into agreement.'"

Right you are, Comrade Khrushchev. That's exactly what ^{most of my} ~~this~~ ^{will} ~~most~~ radio audience ^{will} be thinking - at this moment.) Because those Russian peasants are given no choice.

JORDAN

The Left Wing Premier of Jordan - out of office.

Suleiman Nabulsi - resigning today, at the request of young King Hussein. Which follows months of disagreement - between the Premier and the monarch. Nabulsi - tying Jordan in with Egyptian Premier Nasser. Part of a policy - which was also pro-Communist.

Today's resignation was followed by an announcement - of a full scale shake-up in the internal security organization of Jordan. A new Director of Police - appointed. Which is all the more to the point - because of the possibility of trouble. Following - the ousting of the Left Wing Premier.

Late reports tell of military precautions - throughout the kingdom of Jordan.

EGYPT

Cairo reports - Arab indignation, because an American tanker navigated through the Gulf of Aqaba, with a cargo of oil for Israel. Arab newspapers declaring - the American tanker violated Arab "territorial waters". Which, we hear, may complicate American efforts for a Near Eastern settlement.

CANADIAN DIPLOMAT

The State Department in Washington made a reply, today, to the Canadian protest - in the case of the suicide of the Canadian Ambassador to Egypt, E. Herbert Norman.

Which is attributed, in part at least - to charges of Communism made by the ^{U.S.} Senate Internal Security Sub-Committee.

Canada stating - that the Communist allegations had been long since disproved.

The State Department replies - that the executive branch of the United States government has no jurisdiction over Congress. No control, of what a Congressional Committee may say.

At his news conference, today, President Eisenhower made a similar reference. Saying - "It is a great sorrow, to all of us, that misunderstanding should occur." He *too* pointed out - that Congress is not controlled by the Administration.

BUDGET

The battle of the budget goes on in Washington - with President Eisenhower strongly defending his recommendations to Congress. ~~The lawmakers making large motions of slashing the huge figures.~~ At his news conference, today, the President conceded that his budget involves, what he called - "a terrific amount of money." And Congress is right - in trying to trim it. But he said this country cannot go ~~back~~ back to the practices of Eighteen Ninety. We've got to adapt ourselves, in the President's words - "to the industrial and economic conditions of our time."

(A reporter called attention to the storm of criticism in Congress. Republican Senator Goldwater of Arizona, for example - calling that Eisenhower budget, "a betrayal of the peoples' trust." And the question was raised - maybe the President is losing some of his control - ~~because~~ because this is, definitely, his final term in the White House. Being prohibited, by Constitutional amendment - from running for President again. But Mr. Eisenhower rejected ~~that~~ that suggestion - saying that

there's sure to be a "clash of opinions and ideas."

There was also a suggestion - that the White House staff doesn't let him know ~~■~~ about the amount of criticism. Because - it might make him angry, and injure his health. But the President ~~laughed~~ laughed that off - saying that criticism of public figures is a good thing.)

In the House of Representatives, meanwhile, they're using the axe on those budget figures. The legislators - lopping off two hundred and twelve million dollars from the appropriation for the Department of Commerce. ~~The~~ Secretary of Commerce, Sinclair Weeks, doesn't like it. But, today, he agreed ^{that he would} ~~to~~ accept nearly two-thirds of the huge cut.

There are blasts, also, about the amount of money spent by the U.S. Information Agency. With the revelation - that a hundred thousand dollars was invested in an anti-Communist movie. Shown - in American motion picture theatres. ~~But~~ - a box office failure. A documentary - with Information Agency officials explaining that documentaries usually fail.

The Information people also financed a foreign tour made by Dizzy Gillespie - a jazz blowing trumpet player, who toodled on the trumpet in countries of the Middle East, giving bop concerts. The Information Agency paying him a larger weekly salary than the President of the United States receives. The trumpet player guaranteed, twenty-two hundred and fifty dollars a week for making the good-will tour. Eight weeks of which cost a total of more than a hundred thousand dollars. The bop concerts - taking in somewhat more than sixteen thousand dollars at the box office. The U.S. Government - making up the deficit ^{of} ~~eighty-four thousand dollars~~ eighty-four thousand ~~dollars~~.

The same sort of story - when Dizzy Gillespie played the trumpet on a Latin-American tour. Which cost the box office - forty thousand.

However, they say Dizzy played such a hot trumpet - it was great for good-will.

FOLLOW BUDGET

The budget controversy is accompanied by talk of a possible reduction of taxation. Today, Democratic leaders in the House decided - they will open a drive for a tax cut this year. If - the budget can be trimmed sufficiently. And - if federal revenues are sufficient.

AUTO UNION

At Atlantic City, New Jersey, today - it looked like a national political convention. All the shouting and hoopla

~~such as~~ ^{that} attends ~~the~~ ^a nomination of a presidential candidate.

Actually, they ~~are~~ ^{were} re-electing a President. The Auto Workers

Union giving Walter Reuther - another term as head of the

huge Union. Three thousand delegates - ^w ~~h~~ [^]ooping it up.

Reuther's victory - unanimous, by a standing vote.

GUNFIGHT

Texas - the stamping ground of the gunfighter of the Old WildWest. But things are ^{getting} modern down in the Lone Star State. Texas coming up with - a mechanical gunfighter. A Dallas inventor - bringing out an automatic two-gun man. Which draws, and gets the drop and shoots - in one and three-tenths seconds.

The purpose - target practice for police officers. Training them - with a target that shoots back. The robot - dressed like an ordinary character whom a cop might encounter. They stand six feet apart, and the signal is ~~given~~ given - to start shooting. If the cop fails to shoot in one and three-tenths seconds, or fails to hit a vital spot - the robot blazes away at him with two guns. Loaded - with blanks.

Inventor Arthur C. Ross says - the one and three-tenths seconds to get the drop is not so fast. Compared - with the speed of the old time gunfighter of the West.

In fact, there's a Texas law officer - who regularly out-shoots the robot. Bob Wade, of Garland, Texas - draws, and shoots with deadly aim. In - four-tenths of a second. Bob - a real Texan, as Texans used to come in the days of the Old Wild West.

SOUTH POLE

At South Pole Village - eighty-nine degrees below zero.

And it's not yet
~~which is not~~ winter weather, *down there,* Merely - an autumn day.

Mid-winter - not until July and August.

We've been hearing about the abysmal temperatures the scientists expect - in their camp at the South Pole.

The temperatures to sink below anything recorded by a thermometer hitherto on this earth. The lowest - ninety below, registered in northeastern Siberia, four years ago.

Which now has already been approached, eighty-nine below - on a mere autumn day in the ultimate South.

Based on this, we have a forecast from Dr. Paul Siple, scientific leader at the South Pole Village. Who

says the temperature is likely to hit - ~~one~~^a hundred and

twenty-nine below, During the long six months of Antarctic

night *that* ^{now} which they are entering. *Henry, how would you like to drop in at South Pole Village a few weeks from now when the mercury hits 100 below?*

END

Announcer: And now Lowell Thomas recalls.

L.T.: I recall some advice given to the ladies, a year ago today. Telling them - to go on gossiping. The more, the better - it makes them live longer. A psychiatrist explaining - that gossip relieves inner tensions and suppressed hostilities. One reason - why women live longer than men. And so, during the past year, ladies, have you been prolonging your lives?