

ANTI-SPY METHODS VEX CANADIAN M.P.'S

Protests Hit Departure From Habeas Corpus—Court Gets Papers Involving Suspects

By P. J. PHILIP

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OTTAWA, March 23—While the investigation into the extent and activity of the alleged spy ring in Canada has been going on there has been during this week in Parliament strong and well received protests against the exceptional course taken in arresting and keeping incommunicado suspected persons without benefit of habeas corpus.

Though it defended the legality and necessity of this course, the Government invited rather than discouraged comment. In explaining some alleged incidents and correcting reports on others, such as the treatment of the prisoners, Justice Minister Louis St. Laurent himself declared that he thought it would be a salutary thing if his actions should be criticized so that either an example or a warning should be provided that would govern future action in similar circumstances.

That invitation resulted in the clear view being expressed by members of all parties in the House of Commons that the course taken must not become a precedent and that there must be no exception made to the liberty and rights of the individual as established in Magna Carta and habeas corpus.

John Bracken, Progressive Conservative leader, asked whether in their efforts to search out the guilty the Government had preserved inviolate the rights of individuals that British justice has not denied for generations past.

M. J. Coldwell, Cooperative Commonwealth Federation leader, took up the same theme.

One of the most approved speeches came from C. G. Power, a former member of the Liberal Government and still its strong supporter in general policy.

Mr. Power said he did not wish to turn back the pages of history seven hundred years and repeal Magna Carta. He could not by his silence appear to approve even tactically what he believed to have been a great mistake on the part of the Government.

A writ of habeas corpus on behalf of Squadron Leader Fred Poland, was upheld today in an Ottawa court and made returnable one week from today.

Documents Reveal Tactics

MONTREAL, March 23 (AP)—Soviet agents were on the trail of Canada's atomic energy secrets at

least five months before the world first heard of the atomic bomb last August, according to evidence submitted by the Government in its spy trials today.

Special Prosecutor F. Philippe Brais submitted for the first time documents purportedly stolen from the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa, documents that form the backbone of the Government's case against its employees and others accused of conspiring to give Russia scientific and other wartime secrets to the detriment of the safety of their own country.

According to these documents Soviet agents as early as March 28, 1945, knew of Canada's work on atomic energy and were instructing their Canadian cooperators to report on it. Among the inventions sought was "a radar device for use in the Pacific" and a new explosive propellant, Algonite, in which "the Americans are said to be very interested."

Fred Rose, Labor Progressive Member of Parliament, accused as a conspirator and the man directly on trial in today's hearing, "obtained data from conversations with officers on the Western Front."

Lunan Role Explained

The documents submitted today dealt chiefly with Capt. Gordon Lunan of the Canadian Army, who was on loan to the Government Wartime Information Board, and whom Rose is alleged to have "recruited" for the spy ring.

Captain Lunan, in turn, according to the testimony, directed the operations of Edward Mazerall, an engineer on the National Research Council, Government scientific body; Isidor Halperin, a mathematics professor at Queens University in Kingston, Ontario, and one Durford Smith, described only as a Government "war scientist."

Most of the documents read today were letters allegedly exchanged between Captain Lunan and two assistant military attachés of the Ottawa Embassy, Lieutenant Colonels Rogov and Motinov.

Captain Lunan allegedly wrote Colonel Rogov on March 28, 1945, that the scientist Smith "informs me that the most secret work at present is on nuclear physics (study of the nucleus of the atom). This is more hush hush than radar and is being carried on at Montreal and at McMaster University at Hamilton."

Later, in July, Colonel Motinov wrote Captain Lunan saying that Smith had been "asked to get Uranium 235," but that he had been told to "be very careful." Uranium 235 is used in producing the atomic bomb.

A biographical sketch on Captain Lunan from Colonel Rogov's files said he "receives \$200 a month" — without saying from whom—and added "and needs additional help occasionally."

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