

Spy Hunters List 42 As Forming a Pipeline To Kremlin on A-Bomb

12 Reported as University Professors Who Tried to Lift Data in California

By TONY SMITH, Scripps-Howard Staff Writer
WASHINGTON, Aug. 16—Forty-two persons, 12 of them university professors, were named today by House spy hunters in connection with a Communist apparatus which the probe said succeeded in one of three attempts to get information on the atom bomb for Russia.

The group was called the Merriman Club. It operated in the Alameda County area of California during the war and was responsible for establishing the Communist cell inside the radiation laboratory at Berkeley, Calif., when it was engaged on the atomic bomb, according to Chief Investigator Louis J. Russell of the spy hunters.

A report by the Un-American Activities Committee blamed this cell for two attempts to obtain information and one "positive case of espionage" for Russia. The attempts weren't detailed.

The espionage case was the one involving "Scientist X" and Pittsburgh Communist Steve Nelson. Secret and public testimony on Communist infiltration attempts at the radiation laboratory revealed committee charges that the parent Communist organization met at the homes of Frank F. Oppenheimer, atomic physicist, and Dr. Frank J. Malina, presently an official of the United Nations Scientific and Experimental Commission in Paris.

Admitted Red Ties

Mr. Oppenheimer and his wife, Jacqueline, have admitted they once were members of the Communist Party. They told the House committee several weeks ago that they broke with the Communists late in 1940 or early in 1941.

Dr. Malina, former technical adviser to the air attack at the U. S. Embassy in London, never before has been publicly named in connection with the Berkeley ring. He once directed a secret project for the Army Air Corps, and was secretary-treasurer of the Aero-Jet Engineering Corp. of Pasadena, Calif.

Eight of the professors named worked for the Manhattan Engineering District at Berkeley during the war. Some of them were dismissed for "indiscretions." Others were inducted into the Army. Both procedures were recommended by Manhattan security officials.

Last spring committee investigators questioned witness after witness about the 43 persons.

Others on List

Besides Mr. and Mrs. Oppenheimer and Dr. Malina, the list includes:

Gregori Kheifets, former member of the Russian consulate staff at San Francisco; Peter Ivanov, Soviet Vice Consul at San Francisco; Steve Nelson, Communist Party chairman for western Pennsylvania; Bernadette Doyle, Mr. Nelson's secretary when he ran the Alameda branch of the Communist Party; Isaac Folkoff, financial director of the Communist boss of the Berkeley area (he broke with the party in 1942); Sylvia Crouch (Mrs. Paul Crouch), who assisted her husband as Communist organizer for college and universities.

Ora Edward Lair Sr., member of the central committee of the party in California; Louise Branson Berman, wealthy heiress of Berkeley and New York, accused as acting as a "leader" for the Communist spies by arranging social contacts with government scientists.

Kenneth May, formerly California University professor ousted for alleged Communist activities; Dr. Haskon Chevalier, also with California U. during the war years; Dr. Jacob Dubrov, with the California Institute of Technology during the war; Dr. Sidney Weinbaum, affiliation unknown.

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Corp was charged with advertising a lottery and gift enterprise. The baseball tickets were confiscated.

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