

# Stammering Vogeler Tells Of Imprisonment

## Testimony at Trial Partly True, He Says

VIENNA, Apr. 28—Shaken and exhausted, American businessman Robert A. Vogeler was reunited with his joyful, tearful wife here today after 17 months as a prisoner of Hungarian Communists.

He told the story of his imprisonment, apologizing that his experiences made it difficult for him to talk plainly, or think clearly.

He said he had confessed what the Communists had wanted him to confess—that he was a spy. He couldn't resist. But he said "some" of the testimony he gave at his trial was true.

"There are two possible methods of inducement, physical and mental," he said in speaking of his "preparation for trial" by the secret police. "Both methods are used in Hungary."

"I feel like a man who has a bad case of jitters. I suppose this wears off, but there were certain experiences with a more lasting effect than this nervousness."

Mr. Vogeler was told about the Korean War by Arthur F. Tower, the American Consul General in Vienna.

Mr. Tower went to the Hungarian-American border to meet Mr. Vogeler, who was released by the Hungarian secret police at a price of four concessions from the United States government.

### Guarded By Wife

Mr. Vogeler, a shattered, twitching wreck, arrived in Vienna two hours later. He was greeted by his beautiful blonde wife, Lucille, and their two sons.

She was overwhelmed today when Mr. Vogeler arrived at their Vienna home and could utter only a long, drawn out "oooh." Then she cried "Bob, Bob" and fell into his arms.

Both wept with joy while Bobby, 11, and Billy, nine, ran about the rain-soaked garden laughing and calling "Daddy, Daddy."

His wife, Lucille, sat at his left during the press conference today, holding an ash tray for him.

In his first meeting with newsmen he was unable to discuss his

trial on espionage charged by the Hungarian government. He had pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Later, however, he recovered his composure sufficient to tell something of his prison life.

He said he was placed in solitary confinement after his sentencing in February, 1950.

### Gazed at Shoe Tips

It was difficult for Mr. Vogeler to find words to express himself properly. He apologized for his slowness in speech, saying "I haven't spoken to anyone for a long time."

His jaw muscles jerked constantly during the interview and he spent much of the time looking down at his shoe tips.

"I was notified at only 6:30 this morning of my release at a private conference with Gen. Peter Gabor, chief of the Hungarian State Security Police," he said.

"He said negotiations had been completed only last night. Until this morning I had been hoping against hope that it wouldn't be years before I was released."

### Arrested in 1949

Mr. Vogeler was arrested in November, 1949. He said there were three phases to his imprisonment.

"There was the preliminary investigation, during the first 15 days, then the 'preparation for trial, during the next 2 1/2 months, then the serving of the sentence," he said.

"Treatment was different during each period, and after the trial it was considerably better."

He said he was taken to Budapest police headquarters Nov. 18, 1949, and held there until after his trial.

After the sentencing he was moved to a second prison, a new one, somewhere in Budapest. He said he believed the second prison had been especially prepared for him and his fellow defendants.

### Headed Phone Branch

"During my entire period in prison I could only determine by the sound of footsteps in other cells that there were only six or eight other prisoners," he said.

Mr. Vogeler was head of the Hungarian subsidiary of the International Telephone and Telegraph Co. The ITT manager for Hungary was Edgar Sanders, a British citizen who was tried with Mr. Vogeler and sentenced to 13 years. Mr. Vogeler said he was sure that Mr. Sanders was among the prisoners in the new prison.

"I recognized Sanders' footstep," he said. "I knew he had crepe rubber soles on his shoes, and he was the only person in the two prisons who had them."

### Withheld Details

Mr. Vogeler refused to disclose full details of the reported torture methods used by the Hungarians for his "preparation for trial."

"There are two possible manners of inducement, physical and mental," he said. "Both methods are used in Hungary."

"It is difficult to determine if one is drugged. If one is kept awake artificially for sufficient time, you don't know whether you are being drugged or if your mind has just ceased to function."

"I was given stimulants to keep awake, and coffee and cigarettes were forced on me. But no injections were given me."

"I feel like a man who has a bad case of jitters. I suppose this wears off, but there were certain



ROBERT A. VOGELER—As he appeared yesterday following his release from Red custody.

To make things even we did most of it in German," he said. "I can't be positive, but I suspect that two other interested countries, Czechoslovakia, and the Soviet Union, were represented among the questioners."

Right after the trial, he said, he was questioned by security police officers a couple of times a week. Then the questioning slackened off and he was interrogated only a half-hour every 10 weeks.

"These appearances were ostensibly to answer questions," he said. "But they were really inspections to see how I was being treated."

"I was entirely without outside news of any kind. There were no letters. I was told my family probably were writing, but that American censorship prevented the letters arriving in Hungary. I was given permission to write two letters a month, which Lucille never received."

"That, again, was probably American censorship," Mr. Vogeler laughed.

Kept Under Observation

Mr. Vogeler said he kept under observation in his cell all the time and was taken out for exercise "whenever security conditions permitted."

"I had my own suit of clothes but the suit was not important," he said. "Part of the time I had no socks, underwear or shirt. You never got your own from the laundry. They destroyed any type of identification on the garments. A perfectly good handkerchief would have the initial in the corner destroyed."

In Washington, the U. S. State Department disclosed Mr. Vogeler was released only after an American ultimatum was issued to the Hungarian government.

The United States threatened to sell all Hungarian property in the United States zone of Germany unless Mr. Vogeler was released by Apr. 30. This included the Hungarian crown jewels and the 1000-year-old crown of St. Stephen, both looted from Hungary by the Nazis and recovered by American troops in Germany.

Hungary demanded return of the crown as part of the price for Mr. Vogeler's release but the United States refused.

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## Crime Report Revised, 'Not Toned Down'

### Filing Delayed Until Tuesday

By JOHN A. GOLDSMITH  
United Press Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Apr. 28—Senate investigators worked over their explosive crime report today, but insisted that revisions and corrections will not "tone it down" in any way.

Chairman E. Kefauver (D. Tenn.) announced that the touch-up process will delay filing of the report until Tuesday. It was to have been made public Monday.

Mr. Kefauver deplored the fact that some newspapers and columnists had published accounts based on an early draft. "Extensive revision," he said, will make those versions inaccurate.

Cites O'Dwyer Criticism

One such account said the report will be sharply critical of the way former Mayor William O'Dwyer handled crime investigations in New York. Mr. O'Dwyer, now ambassador to Mexico, testified at the committee's hearings in Manhattan.

Associate committee counsel Alfred M. Klein said the New York section of the committee report is being "revised" and "tightened up" because it is too long. He denied any attempt to "tone it down."

Chief Counsel Rudolph Halley assured reporters that the committee's final comments on Mr. O'Dwyer's law enforcement activities may be "even tougher than in previous versions."

Correcting Errors

In his statement deplored premature publication of "what purports to be" the report, Mr. Kefauver said the committee staff is "making some changes in emphasis and correcting inadvertent errors in fact."

"These errors could, if published, result in libel actions," Mr. Kefauver said.

"We hope the press will await the release of the committee's final report before making any statements about persons supposed to have been mentioned in a purported draft of the report."

College Dormitory Wrecked by Blast

20 Are Injured In Missouri City

By United Press

MARYVILLE, Mo., Apr. 28 (UPI)—Explosion of a large gas storage tank near the campus of Northwest Missouri State College early today wrecked a woman's dormitory and sent 20 persons to the hospital for treatment.

Three students were listed for several hours as critically burned, but late today attendants at the St. Francis Hospital here said two were then listed as "fair" and the third as "satisfactory."

The tank, with a capacity of

210,000 cubic feet of gas, contained about 80,000 cubic feet

when it blew up. An investigation

was to be launched to seek the cause of the blast. The tank was about 100 yards from the dormitory.

Dean W. A. Brandenburg credited men students with the heroic rescue. "They were running into the building three minutes after the explosion."

Several of the injured girls were pinned by timbers. Men students freed them while flames lit the scene. Other rescuers carried or led scores of the women to safety through the smoke.

More Mouth to Feed

COLUMBUS, O. (UPI)—Mrs. Marguerite Spicer told a television program master of ceremonies she had three dogs and was given a can of dog food for each one by the sponsor. When she returned home, she found her English setter, Lady, had given birth to 15 pups.

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Buchanan Chosen for two-year terms

as directors were John T. Sutton, John A. Wallace, Lyle O. Taylor, Menden O. McCarty, Jack J. Romine, Philip S. Kappes and Richard H. Stackhouse.

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"They were running into the building three minutes after the explosion."

Officials of Mr. Murray's

United Steelworkers Union said their 64-year-old chief took

liquid for the first time yesterday, and was making strong

progress on the road to recovery.

Mr. Murray entered Mercy

Hospital last Sunday with severe

stomach cramps and his ailment

was diagnosed as acute pancreatitis.

For two days he hovered

between life and death and then

slowly he began to respond to

treatment.

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