

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.

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

She was overwhelmed today when Mr. Vogeler arrived at their Vienna home and could utter only a long, drawn out "ohh". 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.

Gazes 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 subsidy 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 Sander's footsteps," he said. "I knew he had crept 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 a 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 me 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 wait before taking pictures and went into the house. He was examined there by his doctor, who said he had suffered no lasting damage to his health despite the obvious toll of 17 months in a Communist prison.

Mr. Vogeler spent almost a hour in the house, pulling himself together before facing newsmen in the rain-drenched garden of his home.

EVEN THEN, when he came out, his voice trembled badly and he talked only in half-finished sentences.

When answering questions he worked his mouth several times before speaking.

He was pale and gaunt. There were dark circles under his eyes. His shock of black hair was thinned in front.

"I am very happy to be home," he said in a trembling voice.

WHEN OTHER questions were asked he turned away. "I can't collect my thoughts right now," he said. "Just give me a little break."

Mr. Vogeler leaned her head on her husband's shoulder for photographers. When photographers asked for "just one more clinch," she grinned and said:

"It's a pleasure. Let's do it again."

Truman Tax Hike Proposals Seen Getting Cold Shoulder

WASHINGTON, Apr. 28—President Truman will have to settle for half to three-quarters of the \$10 billion tax increase program he wants, congressional tax framers said today.

As the House Ways and Means Committee prepared to start voting next week on specific points of Mr. Truman's tax-raising proposals, there was general agreement among Democrats and Republicans that Congress will not raise more than \$5 billion to \$7.5 billion.

The president proposed that individual income taxes be raised \$4 billion, corporation income taxes \$3 billion and excises \$3 billion. In addition, Mr. Truman

wants some of the so-called "loopholes" in present tax laws closed. The first voting does next week probably will be on various loophole-plugging proposals. One the committee is expected to approve deals with a new method of collecting the taxes due from dividend payments. At present, a taxpayer is required to compute the taxes he owes on dividends when he is filing his annual income tax return.

Under the plan before the committee, a withholding system on dividends would be instituted similar to that now ineffect for salaried workers. Corporations would be directed to withhold 20 per cent of each dividend and turn it over to the federal government for taxes.

Then at the end of the year the taxpayer would determine whether he was due a refund or whether he owed still more money, just as salaried workers now do under the withholding system.

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State to Step Up Civil Defense

Governor to Name Council Soon

Indiana civil defense activities now moving slowly, will be speeded shortly with the appointment of the Civil Defense Council by Gov. Schricker.

The Governor yesterday said he expects to name the 13 members of the Council as soon as Lt. Frederick Cretors, acting director, returns from Washington, D. C.

Lt. Cretors will go to Washington next week for indoctrination at a special civil defense school, and return during the week of May 6-14.

"I expect to have the members all selected next week, and announce them the week after that," the Governor said.

Slowness in organizing civil defense on a state-wide scale drew the criticism of Charles Broderick, Marion County civil defense director, after Friday's test red alert in Indianapolis was, at best, partially successful.

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 Elmer Kefauver (D., Tenn.) announced that the touching-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.

Associated 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 deploring 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 actual 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

MARYVILLE, Mo., Apr. 28 (UP)—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 "dozens of heroic rescues." He said men 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 lighted the scene. Other rescuers carried or led scores of the women to safety through the smoke.

More Mouths to Feed

COLUMBUS, O. (UP)—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.

From One Letter-Writer to Another—OSU Student Is Charged With Threatening Truman

COLUMBUS, O., Apr. 28—A 22-year-old Ohio State University graduate student, described by a classmate as shy and quiet, was under arrest here today and charged with threatening the life of President Truman.

Secret Service agents arrested Robert T. Gauditz, a research fellow in the university's engineering experiment station. Agents traced him through two letters, on which he placed his return address, threatening the life of the President.

He is also charged with mailing a letter containing obscene matter by U. S. Attorney Ray J. O'Donnell. U. S. Commissioner Robert W. Newton set Mr. Gauditz's bond at \$2000.

Picked Up Quickly
Two letters, mailed in Columbus, were picked up almost immediately because of the way they were addressed. Mr. Gauditz signed one of the letters.

One was addressed: "To that who lives in the White House, Washington, D. C."

It read: "You traitor! This is what I think of you."

It was written on toilet tissue. "The real effort has been made to stabilize prices," Those responsible for the control or stabilization of prices have themselves contributed most to the upward spiral."

People Demanding Action
Mr. Thompson said the American people are demonstrating "a unity of demand for clearing out the gang now in control of our national government." He said the people have seen this "familiar pattern" of government before in houses controlled by machines of Memphis, Chicago, Jersey City, Philadelphia, New York and Kansas City.

"The Kefauver and Fulbright Committees," he continued, "have given us more than a glimpse of its ugly shape. It thrives on a

Hard-hitting M. E. Thompson, the determined Georgian who fought and lost the "battle of the governors" in 1945-46, asserted that machine politicians are running the price stabilization program in Washington.

Mr. Thompson, the former acting governor of Georgia, who recently quit his position as consultant to the Office of Price convention of the Property Owners of America, Inc., at the Severin Hotel.

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Mrs. Doug's Town Gets Carnival Air

Pop Stands Are Going Up

MURFREESBORO, Tenn., Apr. 28 (UP)—The General's lady gets HER homecoming tribute here Monday.

On their 14th wedding anniversary, Gen. and Mrs. Douglas MacArthur will come to the little town in the Cumberland hills which Mrs. MacArthur hasn't visited since her marriage.

The couple will fly to the atmosphere of a country fair. Small boys are hammering together hamburger and pop stands. The General's platform of honor is being set up in a small football field which will seat only 8000 but can "stand" 17,000 more. Gen. MacArthur will speak there briefly.

A crowd of 50,000 to 75,000 is expected to swarm into the city which is accustomed only to its own 11,000.

Visitors will include a group of Korean, Japanese and Filipino students from George Peabody College at Nashville, who will pay their respects to the General in their native dress.

Gen. MacArthur had informed the Chamber of Commerce at Knoxville he would be unable to visit that city so, the Chamber of Commerce will come to Murfreesboro to welcome him.

The MacArthurs, their son, Arthur and their entourage will land in the General's plane, the Bataan, at nearby Stewart Air Force base about 11 a. m., Indianapolis time, Monday.

2 From City Given DePauw Scholarships

GREENCASTLE, Apr. 28—Two high school seniors from Indianapolis have been awarded President's Scholarships at DePauw University.

They are Joann McKenzie, Arsenal Technical and Thomas F. Johnson, Broad Ripple.

The scholarships, valued at \$200 each and applied to first-year tuition, were granted following competitive examinations on the campus April 21.

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