



FCC HEAD—George McCaughey, of Columbus, Ohio, is the new chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. He replaces Rosel H. Hyde, who will remain a member of the FCC.

U. S. Grand Jury Probes Petersen Disloyalty Case

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP)—A federal grand jury went in session Monday to consider espionage charges against Joseph S. Petersen Jr., a long-time employee of the supersecret National Security Agency.

U. S. District Judge Albert V. Bryan told the grand jurors to inquire diligently into all matters placed before them, but he did not specifically mention the Petersen case. He admonished them not to disclose anything that went on in the grand jury room.

The grand jurors, who sat last June, were recalled to hear government charges that Petersen obtained government secrets "with intent or reason to believe" they would be used to the injury of this country and to the aid of a foreign nation.

Petersen, 40, was an employee of the security agency and its predecessors for 13 years until he was discharged the first of this month. FBI agents arrested him at his nearby Arlington, Va., home nine days later. He was charged with improperly obtaining secret documents in 1948-52 "with intent or reason to believe that the information was to be used to the injury of the United States or to the advantage of a foreign nation."

The foreign nation was not named.

The National Security Agency is primarily a far-flung communications monitoring service, but its exact functions have never been disclosed. Its operations are so secret, in fact, that its employees are not even supposed to tell anyone they work for it.

Judge Doesn't Heed Request For Death Penalty

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A 28-year-old World War II hero who had pleaded guilty to murder of his half-sister, asked a panel of judges for mercy—"the mercy of oblivion."

Andre L. Paschedag stood before the three-member panel in Quarter Sessions Court and said that "against the advice" of his counsel "I would like to ask for mercy. That is, the mercy of oblivion, by awarding the death penalty. That is the only thing."

But Judge Peter F. Hagan leaned forward and told the defendant:

"You will be confined to the Eastern State Penitentiary for the rest of your life."

The defendant, who received the Bronze Star in World War II, was tried by the three-man court as required by state law since he had pleaded guilty to the April 9 strangulation of Sonia Nieborster, 22. In the one-day trial he offered no defense nor explanation of the crime.

The jurists found him guilty of first-degree murder.

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