

Britain's Long Delay In Admitting Role Of Spies Pointed Up

By CHARLES M. McCANN
United Press Correspondent

The British Foreign Office certainly waited a long time before it admitted that its missing diplomats Donald D. MacLean and Guy De M. Burgess were spies for Soviet Russia. For more than four years, the Foreign Office denied or brushed off as mere rumor or circumstantial reports that the two men had fled behind the Iron Curtain.

Now it admits that they were under investigation as security risks—and knew it—at the time of the disappearance.

The remaining mystery is why the Foreign Office suppressed the news so long. The Secret

lery officer wrote in a Paris newspaper that he personally had seen MacLean and Burgess in Moscow. Similar reports were published from time to time.

On April 3, 1954, Vladimir Petrov, Russia's chief spy in Australia, turned himself over to the Australian Secret Service.

It was disclosed that Petrov had given the facts on MacLean and Burgess to the Australians.

The Foreign Office dismissed the information as "hearsay."

Commission Publishes Report

But an Australian royal commission, which for 11 months had gone through the voluminous spy information Petrov gave, published its report last Wednesday.

Petrov himself gave his story of the MacLean-Burgess case in a London newspaper Sunday,

and the Foreign Office couldn't deny it.

He asserted that they had been recruited as spies for Russia while they were students at Cambridge University 25 years ago.

It had been disclosed, after their disappearance, that they had been members of the "left wing circle" at Cambridge. But the Foreign Office didn't make

the disclosure. It came from men who had known MacLean and Burgess.

It was brought out that both men were heavy drinkers, and sometimes were ugly in their cups.

So one mystery is how MacLean and Burgess got into the Foreign Office in the first place and how they stayed there so long.

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In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

Graham Dean, in his "Editor's Notebook" in his Ashland Tidings, has been doing some speculating about a fortunate real estate investment made in Portland back in the late 1860s by our old Uncle Samuel. He says: "Uncle Sam is going to make a handy piece of change when he sells the Portland downtown block of property on which the 80-year-old Pioneer post office is located. The structure and site, no longer needed for postal services, is a desirable business location and will soon be offered at public sale."

The block of land was purchased by the government in 1869 for \$15,000 and the three-story building was erected in 1875 at a cost of \$365,000. The building has repaid its cost many times through the years and will have no value to a buyer today since it will have to be wrecked.

"On the basis of the original land investment of \$15,000, Uncle Sam is likely to get as much as half a million dollars, which is pretty good increase in values."

IT WOULD be interesting to figure out what would have happened in the case of a private investor who might have bought the land in question back in 1869 and had held it ever since and PAID TAXES ON IT.

I have no way of knowing what the taxes would have been in these 80-odd years. But if some private citizen anticipating that Portland was going to be quite a town some day, had bought that block of land and had kept it vacant all these years, seeking only the land profit without risking a cash money investment in a building, or other improvements, I imagine that taxes would have taken quite a bite out of his half million dollar profit.

THE fact that the federal government owns a lot of property around over the country but PAYS NO TAXES is too little understood in our scheme of things. A good thing to remember in areas where the government owns a lot of property (and runs a lot of businesses) is that what the government DOESN'T pay in the way of taxes the citizens HAVE TO PAY.

THE American Meat Institute—which has probably done more for the livestock industry than ALL the politicians put together—relates in a recent bulletin that the number of retail food stores having 100 per cent self-service meat departments has jumped since 1952 from 178 to 11,500. It adds that of the approximate \$9,000,000,000 spent for meat in retail stores last year

about 40 per cent was handled by self-service departments.

THAT brings up an interesting subject.

These self-service departments enable the stores to get along with less help—and, of course, by enabling them to get along with less help they make it possible to pay the higher wages of recent years.

When self-service stores first came in, it was generally feared that they would result in large UNEMPLOYMENT. That hasn't come about. Labor is considerably scarcer now than it was back in 1952. And employment is considerably greater.

WHEN power looms first came into use in England long, long ago, there was DESPERATE FEAR that mass unemployment and actual starvation of displaced workers would follow.

It didn't happen.

DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS, labor-saving machinery has considerably increased employment instead of decreasing it. It has done so by lowering the costs of production and thus enabling people to consume more of the products of industry.

AUTOMATION (meaning machines that run by themselves) is the latest bugaboo. It has a lot of people shivering in their boots.

History teaches us rather clearly that if we have the good sense not to crowd our booms TOO FAR and TOO HARD, thus bringing on a bust, automation will increase employment rather than decreasing it.

IN THE bulletin just quoted, the American Meat Institute offers the interesting statement that backyard grills have certainly helped meat consumption this year.

They have helped to set a record of 8,000,000,000 hot dogs and some 200,000,000 pounds of hamburger. Last year the hamburger figure was 180,500,000 pounds and in 1952 (when there were far fewer backyard grills) it was only 76,000,000 pounds.

Sunday School Planned In Griffin Creek Area

A Griffin Creek area Sunday school will open at the Griffin Creek Grange hall on Sept. 25 under sponsorship of the American Sunday school union, a non-denominational organization.

The weekly services will be at 10 a.m. Sundays.

Allen W. Hill, Central Point, district Sunday school missionary for the ASSU, is supervisor of the new school and is in charge of its organization.

Hill said that all interested are welcome to attend.

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