

Without Faltering

(Continued from page one)

The party of official witnesses entered the death chamber a few moments before 7 p. m. (EST). It is a square room. Behind the electric chair was a white, wheeled table. In front were four rows of benches, like pews in a church. The room was heavy with silence. From overhead, the lights beamed on the electric chair.

A moment later, a voice was heard in the corridor leading in from the death chamber. It was low but distinct.

Then Rabbi Irving Kossow entered. He wore black robes with a white praying shawl around his shoulders and the rabbinical hat. As he came in, he was intoning the words of the 23rd psalm. "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."

Rosenberg was a step behind him. It was about 7:02 (EST). NEITHER WOULD HE KNOW

The executions were so arranged that husband and wife would not know when the other went down the corridor. Had Ethel Rosenberg gone first, she would have passed her husband's cell.

Rosenberg, 35, wore dark brown trousers, a white undershirt with short sleeves, and low slippers without heels.

His mustache had been shaved off. His glasses were removed.

His face was a blank. His eyes appeared not to see any of the people in the room nor any of its details.

But he turned, without guidance, to the electric chair and sat down quietly.

RABBI AND THE BOOK

Rabbi Kossow moved to the left of the chair, beside the witness benches. He kept his eyes on the prayer book. His voice dropped to a whisper. He prayed steadily, and twice kissed the book.

The black helmet was placed on Rosenberg's head. Then the black straps were fixed around his chest, and the other electrode was set against his right leg. The trousseau had been left, so that the leg was bare from the knee down.

The guards stepped away. A signal was given to the executioner Joseph Francini, in an alcove to the left of the room.

MARBLE'S ROLL

A metallic rattle sounded. It sounded like marbles rolling down a metal washboard. Then it stopped. The room was filled with a humming buzz.

Rosenberg's chest bulged, straining against the straps. His fists clenched in tight knots. His neck and shoulders turned crimson.

There were three massive charges of electricity. The first lasted three seconds, the second and third 57 seconds each. He was dead in two and three-quarters minutes.

HUMMING STOPS

The humming stopped. It was 7:06 and three quarters (EST).

Two guards stepped to the chair and swiftly unbuckled the straps. Two physicians, Dr. H. W. Kipp and Dr. G. A. McCracken, approached with stethoscopes. McCracken ripped the undershirt, exposing Rosenberg's chest.

They listened for a long moment. Then Dr. Kipp said, "I pronounce this man dead."

The body was lifted onto the white table and wheeled out of the room.

A guard moved to the door leading to the corridor. He left it open an inch or two and stood there listening.

About three minutes later, Rabbi Kossow's voice again came from beyond the door. The guard pulled it open.

AGAIN THE RABBI

The rabbi entered, holding the prayer book almost on a level with his eyes. He read both the 15th and 31st Psalms. "Who shall sojourn in Thy tabernacle."

Ethel Rosenberg, 37, walked behind him.

She wore a shapeless green dress with a small white pattern. It had no belt. The sleeves were short and the neckline was high and round. She also wore slipper-type shoes.

Unlike her husband, she looked around the room. Her eyes flickered from face to face, across the row of witnesses and down the line of guards.

She had stopped in front of the electric chair, and she started to turn toward it. Suddenly, she stopped.

Two women had followed her into the chamber. One was Mrs. Helen Evans, prison matron, and the other Mrs. Lucy Mary, former matron and now a telephone operator.

ETHEL WHIRLS

Ethel Rosenberg whirled back

from the chair and extended her arm toward Mrs. Evans. Her hand was outstretched.

Mrs. Evans took it between both of hers. Mrs. Rosenberg pulled the short, white-haired matron toward her, and the two women kissed.

Each murmured, but the words were unintelligible to the witnesses. Later, Mrs. Evans said she only recalled saying "Goodbye."

Again, the black helmet, straps and leg contacts were set in place. Just before the gear was placed on her head and face, Mrs. Rosenberg closed her eyes.

She winced, slightly, as the electrode was fixed on her head. Her hair was black and short-cropped. The chamber was hot. There was no sound except the half-whispered words of the rabbi. He kept his eyes on the prayer book, and his head was partly bowed.

Then, the switch was thrown and the metallic rattle sounded again. AGAIN THE SWITCH

Mrs. Rosenberg had stretched her arms along the arms of the chair, with the palms of her hands turned upward. Now, her hands clenched.

Then, before the straps were taken from her chest and the doctors examined her. This time, the decision was not immediate. They moved the stethoscopes several times, and there was a brief consultation in whispers.

They stepped away, murmured to Warden Danno, and the warden signaled the guards to replace the straps. Twice more, the switch was thrown and a buzzing hum, more vibration than sound, filled the chamber.

DEAD

Then it was finished with the second examination. Dr. Kipp looked up and said, "I pronounce this woman dead."

The second execution had begun at 7:11½ and ended at 7:16. So closed the story of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg which began more than three years ago with the atomic bomb.

The black helmet was placed on Rosenberg's head. Then the black straps were fixed around his chest, and the other electrode was set against his right leg. The trousseau had been left, so that the leg was bare from the knee down.

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Mothers, Orphans

Are Left Behind

By MARTIN POST

NEW YORK (AP) — Flickering candles, age-old symbols of Jewish Sabbath piety—and of mourning—cast shadows over the bent form of a bewildered, grieving old woman.

The woman, Mrs. Tessie Greenglass, collapsed last night as she learned her daughter, Ethel, and son-in-law, Julius Rosenberg, had been executed as atom spies.

The candles' rays shone dimly through the neat, lace-work curtains of Mrs. Greenglass' humble Lower East Side tenement home.

Far uptown, in Washington Heights, another aged mother, Mrs. Sophie Rosenberg, was told that her son had paid the supreme penalty for betraying his country.

A doctor came here, too, to spend the night with the shaken, 71-year-old woman.

ORPHANS AT HOME

In Toms River, N. J., two youngsters, Michael and Robert Rosenberg, aged 10 and 6, played on a farm that has been their home for a year and a half.

Michael reportedly learned from a news bulletin broadcast while he watched a baseball game on television, that his parents were to die before sundown.

In Washington, New York and elsewhere, officials and judges maintained a vigil. There was always the possibility, though slim, that the Rosenbergs might have talked at the last moment to save themselves.

And in New York's famed Union Square, a throng of more than 5,000 demonstrated in the Rosenbergs' behalf, acting out the end of a scene that had become almost commonplace in the two years since Dr. Klaus Fuchs, German-born atomic scientist, who was working in an atomic laboratory in Great Britain.

That was in February, 1950. BOTH DENIED SPYING

On June 16 of that year, David Greenglass was arrested in New York. He was the younger brother of Ethel Rosenberg. The trail followed by detectives on both sides of the Atlantic led from Fuchs, through several other men, to Greenglass and from him to Julius and Ethel Rosenberg.

Julius was arrested July 17, his wife August 11, 1950.

Each denied "before God and man" the story that Greenglass told, that he had been units of an espionage network, designed to ferret out the secrets of atomic energy, and relay the information to the Russians.

Greenglass testified that his sister, Rosenberg's wife, told him, "Julius finally got to the point where he was doing what he always wanted to do—give information to the Soviet Union."

The Rosenbergs called it "a monstrous frameup."

They were convicted in March, 1951, and sentenced to death on April 5, 1951. In sentencing them Federal Judge Irving Kaufman called their action "a crime worse than murder."

KOREA BLAMED ON THEM

He said, "I believe your conduct in putting into the hands of the Russians the A-bomb years before our best scientists predicted Russia would perfect the bomb already has caused the Communist aggression in Korea with the resulting casualties exceeding 90,000 Americans."

That was the casualty figure at the time.

Then began an immense legal battle to set aside Kaufman's sentence. It went through the courts, up to the U. S. Supreme Court, and to the White House, finally, in plea for clemency directed to President Eisenhower.

THE REFUSAL

Refusing, Eisenhower said: "By their act, these two individuals have in fact betrayed the cause of freedom for which free men are dying at this very hour."

Still the fight went on. Almost at the 11th hour, lawyers working for the Rosenbergs obtained from Supreme Court Justice William Douglas a stay of execution.

The Supreme Court reconvened in extraordinary session last Thursday, resumed deliberations yesterday, and then overturned Douglas' action. The Justice Department

ordered that the executions take place immediately.

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tee has said it accepted members as individuals and assumed many were not connected with such organizations.

The Rosenberg boys, innocent victims of forces they will not understand for years, were to have been told of their parents' fate by Bernard Bach, at whose farm they have been staying "at an opportune time."

But the older boy, Michael, heard the news bulletin.

"That's it, that's it," he cried. "Goodbye. Goodbye."

State AFL Picks Officers

COOS BAY (AP) — Officers were elected and Astoria was selected for 1954's meeting as the Oregon Federation of Labor ended its annual convention here Friday.

Officers include James D. McDonald, Portland, president; Cecil W. Jones, Portland, first vice president; and James T. Marr, Portland, executive secretary. All were elected without opposition.

Dean Smith and Alice Vestling, both Portland, were nominated for second vice president.

Nominations to the executive board: First district, M. E. Steele, Portland; second, Eli McConkey, Astoria; third, Frank Boehring, Salem; fourth, Ray A. McNis, Eugene; and Dale Atkins, Sweet Home; fifth, Tom J. Cruickshank, and Clarence Glass, both Coos Bay; sixth, G. D. Long, Klamath Falls; seventh, J. L. Ross, Bend; eighth, Verna Coffinberry, Pendleton; and Leslie Davies, La Grande; ninth, Tom Swift, Milwaukie; tenth, Charles W. Cray, Medford.

Delegates adopted resolutions urging:

A survey of school textbooks to find out if they contain anti-union material.

School classes of not more than 25 pupils per teacher.

Establishment of a graduate school for social workers at the University of Oregon.

Continued federal control of atomic energy.

A unified program of political activity so that candidates favorable to labor will be elected to the Legislature.

They rejected resolutions that asked:

The federation take a neutral stand on daylight saving.

A boycott of the Salem hotel operated by State Rep. W. W. Chadwick who supported the anti-picketing bill at the last Legislature.

A labor float in the Portland Rose Festival parade next year.

Trapped Sightseers

Saved From Drifts

DENVER (AP) — Twenty-eight sightseers and two bus drivers, trapped for hours by snowdrifts atop Mt. Evans, reached safety early Saturday.

Two rescues by a Highway Department snowplow and other equipment were necessary before the tourists finally got down from near the top of the 14,260-foot peak, about 50 miles west of Denver.

None suffered ill effects.

Drifts up to four feet deep, dumped by an unseasonable snowstorm, Friday stalled a Gray Line bus tour vehicle carrying 21 passengers, a limousine carrying seven others and at least two cars on the mountain.

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World's Red Press Protests Execution Of Rosenbergs

LONDON (AP) — Communists on both sides of the Iron Curtain fully exploited Saturday the execution of U. S. atom spies Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. Even some pro-American newspapers in Western Europe criticized the executions.

Demonstrations of protest were staged in London, Paris and some other West European capitals Friday night. In Paris, riot police arrested more than 1,000 persons who were attempting to march on the U. S. embassy. At least one man was shot and wounded. Two news photographers and several policemen were reported injured.

Communists in Paris denounced the executions as "murder," and a "defiance of world opinion." The Communist newspaper in Paris, L'Humanite, published a special four-page Rosenberg edition.

Most of the West European press made no editorial comment. In most cases because the executions occurred after editions went to press. But the Danish Social-Demokraten in Copenhagen, a pro-American paper, said "the majority of America's friends in Europe will regret that the United States, which can afford to show mercy, has acted unwisely by not doing so. As far as the Communists are concerned they will hardly be sorry that they have got two new martyrs."

Paris-Press in Paris said Communism had "lost face" in the East Berlin rioting and asked, "Why was it necessary for the United States to make the same psychological mistake only two days later?"