

Oppenheimer Said Fired To Head Off Congress Probe

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congressional sources said today one reason the administration decided to conduct a security review of atomic scientist J. Robert Oppenheimer was to head off a possible congressional probe.

William L. Borden wrote the FBI Nov. 7, 1953, after resigning as executive director of the Senate-House Atomic Energy Committee, that his study convinced him Oppenheimer "more probably than not... is an agent of the Soviet Union." The letter was made public Tuesday night in the transcript of the Oppenheimer hearings before a special three-man review board. Many scientists who testified called Oppenheimer, a principal developer of the atomic bomb, both loyal and an excellent security risk.

Informed congressional sources, who declined to be quoted by name, said copies of Borden's letter came into possession of investigating committees headed by Senators McCarthy (R-Wis.) and Jenner (R-Ind.). McCarthy has spoken of looking into Oppenheimer's past record and, before the security review was announced, mentioned an 18-month "delay" in development of the hydrogen bomb.

The informants said some congressmen feared any Capitol Hill probe might throw the case into public "partisan politics" and that they led a backstage move to place it before a special board.

The Atomic Energy Commission set up a three-man panel headed by Gordon Gray, president of the University of North Carolina, which held extensive hearings. It voted 2-1 not to lift Oppenheimer's present denial of access to secret material, while holding unanimously that he is loyal and discreet.

The board's findings are subject to final review by the five-man AEC, which has promised to rule sometime this month.

The apparently unprecedented publication of the full security panel hearings, meanwhile, showed that atomic scientist I. I. Rabi of Columbia University voiced fear that controversy over the Oppenheimer case may result in free tips to the Russians on how to perfect the H-bomb.

Dr. Rabi, chairman of the AEC's post Oppenheimer held in the post-war years—made it plain he does not think the Russians have perfected an H-bomb.

AEC Chairman Lewis L. Strauss has said the Russians have exploded "a weapon or device" involving fusion, the hydrogen bomb process. His use of the word "device" suggested it might be only a laboratory-type model.

Rabi testified in the Oppenheimer hearings he was "pretty certain" the Russians would perfect the H-bomb "in time," and he added:

"What I am afraid of is this controversy over this case may hasten the day because of the sort of attrition of the security of technical information—all sorts of stuff appearing in the newspapers and magazines and so on that sort of skirts around it (the H-bomb)."

"You know you have a filter system for information. You put bits and pieces together. They (the Russians) already know something..."

When Borden, now with Westinghouse Electric Corp., sent his letter about Oppenheimer to the FBI, members of the congressional atomic committee were informed of it. Those who could be reached declined comment today.

"It represented his own thinking," said Rep. Price (D-Ill.).

Meanwhile, Rep. Hinshaw (R-Calif.) said the committee was informed officially that AEC Commissioner Eugene M. Zuckert had lost a semisecret 100-page summary of the Oppenheimer testimony and that this was one reason for releasing the full transcript.

Hinshaw said Zuckert took the summary with him Friday to Stamford, Conn., then noticed it was missing when he left the train. He said the summary was located Sunday in the lost-and-found department of an unspecified railroad station.

It contained excerpts from the then unpublished Oppenheimer testimony and some FBI documents that still have not been released, Hinshaw said in an interview.

The congressman said the AEC

Robbery Suspect Shooting Victim

BOSTON (AP)—George D. O'Brien, 44, a man with a lengthy police record who two months ago was acquitted of participating in one of the country's major unsolved thefts — \$481,700 from an untended armored truck in 1952 — was found shot through the head Thursday.

City Hospital doctors held little hope for his recovery.

Police indicated belief the wound was self-inflicted.

Lt. Joseph Z. Fallon of the homicide squad said a pistol was found beneath O'Brien in his car and a spent bullet, possibly the one which smashed through his head, was found on the floor of the car. The car was in a parking lot.

O'Brien was facing indictment on charges of receiving stolen money and the threat of income tax troubles with both state and nation hung over him.

Movie Planned Of Famed Book

HOLLYWOOD (AP)—David O. Selznick says he will return to film production with a movie version of Tolstoy's "War and Peace."

The producer made "Gone With The Wind", greatest money grosser of all time.

Selznick said yesterday he considers "War and Peace" similar in scope to "Gone With The Wind" and that he intends to produce it as such.

His last production was "Duel in the Sun" in 1946 which starred his wife, Jennifer Jones.

Anti-Reds Said Massing For Assault On Guatemala

By SAM SUMMERLIN

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Guatemala called on Honduras last night to stop anti-Red Guatemalan exiles reported massing on the border for an assault against President Jacobo Arbenz Guzman's Communist-influenced regime.

The appeal was made by Guatemalan Ambassador Amadeo Chinchilla to Honduran Foreign Minister J. Edgardo Valenzuela as reports here and in other Central American nations indicated a showdown might be imminent between the Arbenz government and its anti-Communist opposition at home and abroad.

"We have reports that well-equipped soldiers carrying guns are being flown and driven by car to points near our border," Chinchilla told newsmen. "They are being flown in chartered planes."

The Guatemalan envoy said Valenzuela had given him assurances that Honduras "will prevent any incidents at the border and has given orders for seizure of any arms there."

Reports here and abroad indicated the anti-Arbenz forces were pushing their preparations for a try at unseating the Guatemalan regime. Among these were:

1. Dispatches from Belize, Brit-

ish Honduras, quoted Guatemalan exile sources there as saying anti-Communist parachute troops already have been dropped into Guatemala. The sources gave no details.

2. Usually reliable sources here said Guatemala exiles are being dressed in khaki reportedly were flown out of Tegucigalpa yesterday and an unknown number earlier. The sources also said a well-armed boat left the Honduran port of La Ceiba yesterday, apparently for a strike at Puerto Barrios in Guatemala.

3. A close aide to Carlos Castillo

Armas, head of the Guatemalan exile movement here, claimed 5,000 anti-Arbenz men stand ready along the frontiers of El Salvador and Honduras and "at least 50,000 supporters inside Guatemala will rise up to fight with us when the moment comes."

4. Castillo Armas, in a message to his Guatemalan "compatriots," said he would be with them "very shortly." The exile leader called on the Guatemalan people to prevent Arbenz and his aides from fleeing.

Chinchilla told newsmen it was

rumored the Castillo Armas forces would "start fighting Friday."

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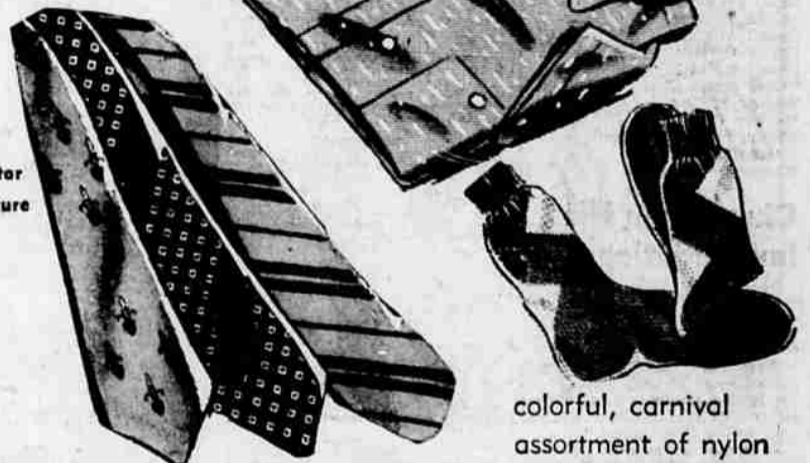
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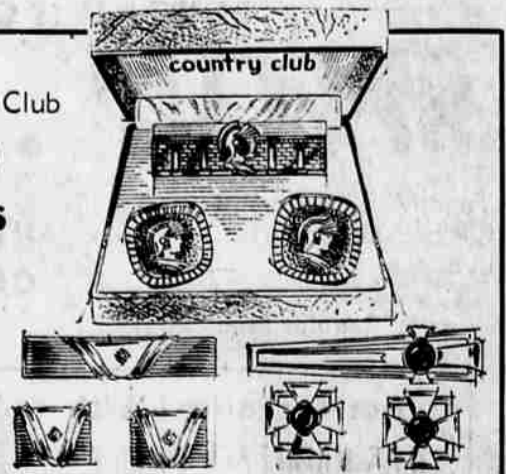
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