

## Jersey 'Red Plot'

### Has New Twists

PM 7/3/40

### Rand Stevens, Under Arrest, Says He Is Nephew of Head of Federal Tariff Commission

A new twist, which annoyed Mayor Frank Hague's police, came into Jersey City's "Communist plot" case today. Tall, handsome Rand Stevens, 41, held in \$10,000 bail with Ruth Freeman, 28, brunette school-teacher, identified himself as the nephew of Raymond B. Stevens, Chairman of the Federal Tariff Commission.

Rand Stevens and Miss Freeman were arrested in Jersey City Monday night when they asked Lieut. Edward Keating the way to the Pennsylvania Railroad Manhattan ferry.

Lieut. Keating made them get out of the car and searched it. The first version from Chief Harry Walsh said he had found in a hidden compartment "Communist membership cards, secret fifth column documents, photos of plane factories, powerhouses, and bridges." The couple were locked up and FBI espionage men were notified.

### It Isn't Illegal

Chief Walsh conferred with the county prosecutor and told Lieut. Keating that Communism is not illegal, so a disorderly conduct charge with unprecedented high bail, was lodged against the couple on the grounds that they "failed to give satisfactory reasons for being in Jersey City."

The FBI, after studying the "plot documents" taken from the car, seemed disposed to drop the case. But the couple remain in their dingy police headquarters cells, and Solomon Golat, retained by the International Labor Defense, was trying vainly this morning to get them out on habeas corpus writs. Union, liberal and radical organizations said they were interested in the case; some called it a "result of the nation-wide witch hunt for fifth columnists."

Sideline mystery: The whereabouts of Miss Freeman's spaniel puppy, Willie, seized with them. She wasn't allowed to take it to her cell, and police said they didn't have it. Chief Walsh will ask Keating.—L. W.