

## Austrian at Capitol Quizzed as Suspect Fifth Columnist

*Jan 8/2/40*  
Representative Asks  
For Detention After  
He Took Photograph

An alien who had fled Austria only five months ago was questioned yesterday in Capitol Hill's first Fifth Column scare after he accompanied a peace group from Boston to lobby against military conscription and took an unauthorized photograph.

Capitol police said the man gave his name as Leo Safran. He was taken into custody and his camera confiscated after Representative Bates, Republican, of Massachusetts, complained that he had taken a picture in violation of Capitol regulations.

The man was released, but Mr. Bates indicated the F. B. I. might investigate further. Safran told police he came to the United States through France after fleeing Austria.

Explaining why he called police, Mr. Bates said:

"I had in mind the many subversive activities in the country in which the Fifth Column was working through peace organizations."

"That people are not here very long before they want to run the country," Mr. Bates declared. "I warned the peace group later against associating with any one they do not know who is trying to force his views on a Congressman about important legislation."

Mr. Bates was unable to recall the name of the peace organization which the eight men and women who visited him had represented.

Capitol police said one of the members of the group calling on Mr. Bates "admitted they had brought Safran along to swell the group." Safran, they added, said he had been invited to go along "just to see Washington."

Safran, police reported, said he came to the United States February 20, 1940, on the S. S. Degrasse from France, and resided in New York for three months. For the past two months he had been living in Boston, they added.

They described Safran as being between 25 and 30 years old.