

Sen. Walsh Named as Sen. X Linked to Nazi Spy Nest

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Senator X is Senator David I. Walsh, senior Senator from Massachusetts and chairman of the Senate Naval Affairs Committee.

Walsh is the man whom witnesses have named in official investigations conducted simultaneously by the FBI, Naval Intelligence and the Brooklyn district attorney's office as a visitor to a "house of degradation," gathering place of suspected Nazi agents.

Senate leadership has asked the Dept. of Justice to make a thorough investigation of the entire case. Concern has been expressed by senators over rumors that had placed a number of them in the role of Senator X. Both in Washington and New York there have been countless conjectures. Sentiment in Washington has been that the man named to the authorities should be identified, thus putting an end to gossip that may be harmful to senators in no way involved.

It also was felt by those who were aware of the identity of the senator named that the gravity of the situation was increased because of Walsh's position as chairman of the Senate Naval Affairs Committee. This post is important in normal times, is of vast importance now that the U. S. is at war.

In view of these circumstances the name of the man who heretofore has been called Senator X is made public.

Coincidentally, the identity of the mysterious "Mr. E.," who frequented the "house of degradation" and who has been described by authorities as a Nazi agent or sympathizer, can now be revealed.

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ator was especially interested in the sailors who frequented the place. The sailors, said Beekman, often referred to the Senator as "a very nice man."

In July, 1941, according to Beekman, he saw Walsh and Elberfeld conversing in the garden in the rear of the Pacific St. house. "Mr. Elberfeld was an officer in the German army, and very proud of it," Beekman said in an affidavit. "He said that Hitler was his God."



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"Mr. E." is William Elberfeld. The FBI took him into custody Friday night. He is now held at Ellis Island. A second German sympathizer involved in luring sailors and soldiers to the Brooklyn house to obtain military information likewise has been sent to the Island, indicating a roundup of all those suspected in the case.

Vehevent Denial

Senator Walsh, 69, former Governor of Massachusetts, first Democrat to be elected to the Senate from that state in almost a century, an active worker for social reforms, a campaigning isolationist before we entered the war, issued a brief but vehement denial in Washington of the statements made to the authorities.

Two important witnesses questioned in this case are Gustave Beekman, convicted on a morals charge, and Charles Zuber, a merchant seaman, who named a "Mr. Walsh" at Beekman's trial. Later Zuber identified photographs of Senator Walsh as those of "Mr. Walsh."

Beekman, who operated the "house of degradation" at 329 Pacific St., Brooklyn, also identified pictures of Senator Walsh. Beekman is in the Raymond St. Jail awaiting sentence. It is understood that Zuber is cooperating with Federal agencies in their investigation.

German Army Officer

In his statements Beekman has said that Senator Walsh first came to his house about two years ago, that the senator was introduced to him as "Mr. Walsh."

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ator was especially interested in the sailors who frequented the place. The sailors, said Beekman, often referred to the Senator as "a very nice man."

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Questioned Service Men

Beekman made it plain that he did not overhear the conversation and had no idea what the two men were discussing.

Beekman was insistent, however, in talking to the authorities, that certain "pro-Germans" spent hours in questioning sailors and soldiers at his house. Of Elberfeld he said: "I would hear him questioning them concerning the ships they were stationed on, when they arrived and when they would leave, where they were going and, particularly, whether they were going to Iceland."

The Senator's visits were usually brief, two hours at the most, Beekman said, adding that the senator often referred to himself as "a very busy man."

The Best Time

"On one occasion," Beekman asserted, "Senator Walsh was invited to stay for Sunday dinner. He said he couldn't. He had to go to Boston. I never knew when he would come to my home. He would just arrive. He always wanted to know when was the best time to come, when I expected a lot of sailors to be present."

Beekman said that to the best of his recollection the last visit the Senator paid was late in January, about the time the FBI and Naval Intelligence began watching "the house of degradation."

Investigation of the house was begun as a routine matter after neighbors had reported that soldiers and sailors were frequent-



THIS IS ONE of the photographs of Sen. David I. Walsh identified by Gustave Beekman, keeper of Brooklyn's "house of degradation." And, at right is what Beekman wrote on the opposite side of the photograph.

ing the place. Some weeks before FBI agents, members of the Navy and Army Intelligence and Brooklyn detectives raided the house on Mar. 14, they took over a room on the fifth floor of the Holy Family Hospital, across the street, and watched those entering and leaving. They noted the license numbers of automobiles and cabs which took visitors—some of them well known men from out of town—to the bordello.

Found Guilty

Beekman was arrested in the raid, along with one Edward Fazzone, who later became the complaining witness against Beekman.

At a two-day trial last week in Kings County Judge Samuel Leibowitz's court, Beekman was found guilty. The court warned Beekman not to expect leniency unless he cooperated with state and national authorities. This Beekman later agreed to do. He

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This is the picture of the man that came to my house on many occasions. He is Senator Walsh.
Gustave Beekman

Diabolical Lie—Walsh

Special to The Post

Washington, May 6—Informed that he had been identified by witnesses as Senator X who frequented a "house of degradation" in Brooklyn, Sen. David I. Walsh said:

"It's a diabolical lie, absolutely without any foundation whatever. I have never in my life been to such a place."

Walsh Named As Senator X

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signed two affidavits naming Senator Walsh and also informed Judge Leibowitz last Monday he was ready to go before the grand jury and "tell all I know."

stood about six feet, height, I would say."

Identifies Photographs

Q.—What is your height?
Zuber: About five and a half or 11 inches about the same height. very feeble in his v could hardly get at house. . . . usually see most of the time."

Zuber was not a further identification Walsh. However he

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... reported that soldiers were frequent visitors to the house.

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... had been identified a "house of degradation" as Madame Fox said, was introduced to him by Beekman also identified photographs of the Senator, who, he said, "That's the man."

... It was while warning Beekman that Judge Leibowitz said of Eiberfeld: "I am told by the prosecutor that one of Hitler's chief espionage agents in getting the soldiers, sailors and marines in going to this place."

... The court also said: "The truth is that various people came to these premises, one of whom has been described minutely by a witness."

... This witness was Zuber, the merchant seaman, who was questioned about a "Mr. Walsh" whom he had met at the house. Zuber testified: "Mr. Walsh was a man about 60 or 65 years old. He had a very red complexion, his face was very red, sort of a booze blossom appearance; but very heavy, very stout—got a good-sized belly on him."

... "He had a good-sized jaw—riple of fat around his face. His hair was very thin, almost to the point of baldness. The remaining hair that was there was of white, gray color. He

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... Long Watched So far as "Mr. E." was concerned his identity remained a mystery to the public until today. But the FBI had been watching him, even before Beekman's trial, and two weeks ago agents raided his rooming house at 143 W. 44th St.

... They ripped bricks out of the fireplace in his room, examined all his papers, opened seams of a mattress and sofa pillows and removed the cardboard backs from paintings on the wall.

... Eiberfeld, who had told acquaintances that he was in trouble, was taken into custody last Friday night. He was sent to Ellis Island the following day, where he is now being held.

... According to Michael McHale, who is acting caretaker of the rooming house, the FBI agents took with them a short-wave radio set found in Eiberfeld's room.

... "Eiberfeld told me that he had turned in the short-wave set when the government ordered all enemy aliens to do so," McHale said.

... How important are the German sympathizers who frequented the Beekman house is probably known only to the Federal authorities. In his affidavit Beekman did not profess to know, limiting himself to saying that Eiberfeld and others closely questioned sailors and soldiers who were their "guests."

... At Beekman's arraignment, however, Judge Leibowitz asked Assistant District Attorney Louis Aidino: "Am I to infer that espionage is involved, and that this man (Beekman) may be part of a spy ring giving information to enemies of our country?"

... "Information about this hook-up with subversive elements strongly indicates as much," Aidino replied. Therefore Judge Leibowitz set the unusually high bail of \$50,000.

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... identified photographs of "Mr. Zuber: About five foot ten and a half or 11 inches. We are about the same height. He was very feeble in his walk. He could hardly get around the house. . . usually sat around most of the time."

... Zuber was not asked for further identification of "Mr. Walsh." However, he was shown photographs in the judge's chambers of Senator Walsh, and said, "That's the man."

... Beekman also identified photographs of the Senator, who, he said, was introduced to him by a man known in the "house of degradation" as Madame Fox.

... Madame Fox has been questioned by the authorities.

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