

Fourth in a series of important articles about the activities of the Fifth Column in America

SPIES AND THE UNDERWORLD

The spy menace that threatens America's security is made immeasurably more dangerous because of the vast army of criminals within our gates. For the spy and the criminal are directly related to each other. Both are lawless; both hold that the ends justify the means. And the underworld, with its total lack of common decency, of patriotism, love of country or any interest in the public good, forms a ready-made recruiting ground where espionage agents can enlist recruits to swell the ranks of the Fifth Column.

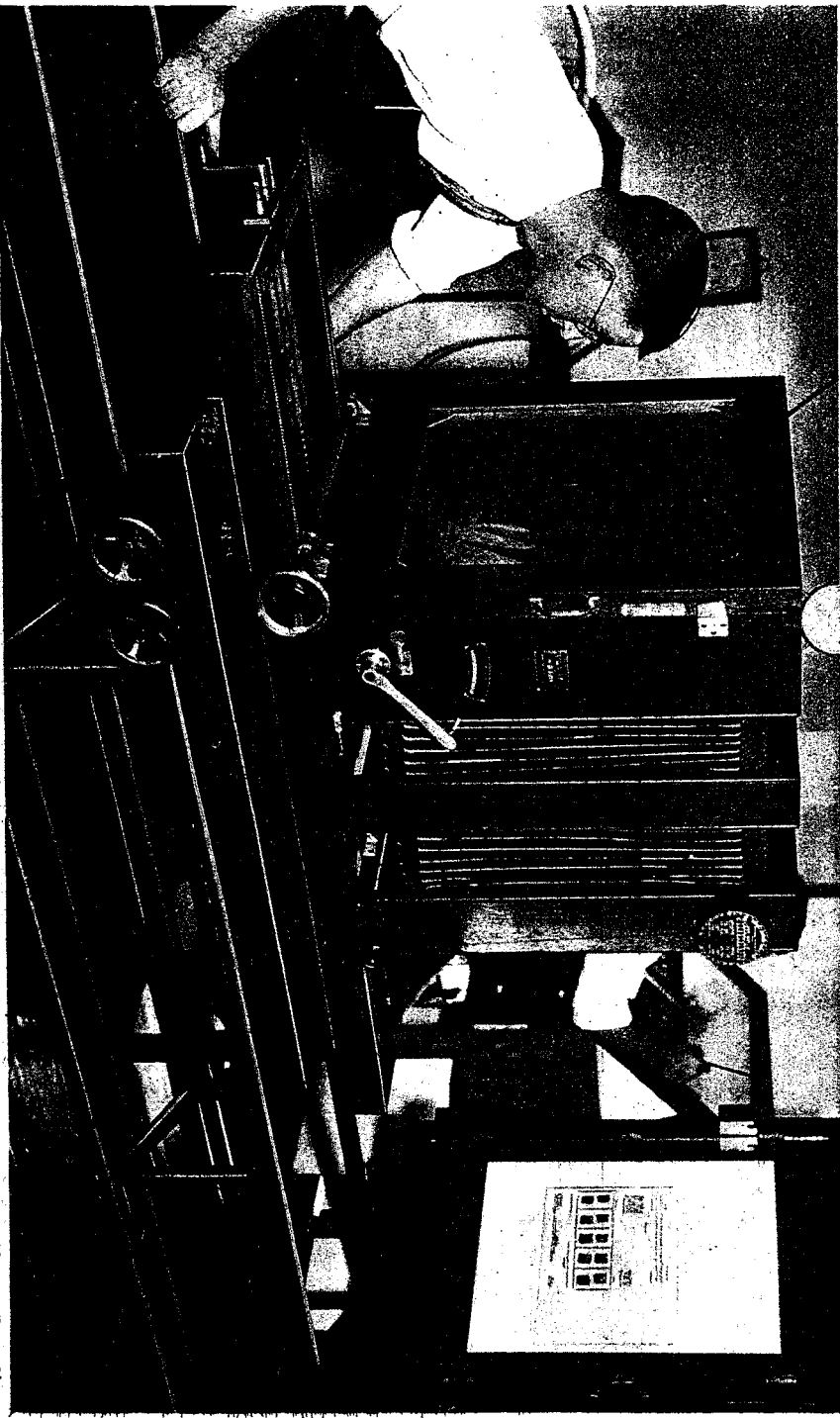
In the ranks of criminality, major spies can find individuals who will give them information on conditions that exist in industrial plants and elsewhere. More important still, they can find men and women who will not hesitate to carry out their orders to cripple or destroy our industrial efficiency. The minions of the underworld are not trusted leaders in the espionage field; they are menials, chosen to commit destruction.

Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation already have observed indications in various parts of the country of the fact that spies recognize the tremendous help that the criminal element can give them.

Having faced the power of the underworld for twenty-three years, I view with grave concern the overtures which already have been made to the depravity of criminally-minded persons — and I shudder at what might happen when espionage agents are able to work themselves into positions of intimate contact with the vast army of criminals who will stop at nothing — not even the honor of their native land — so long as they get their price.

Crime's Common Denominator

NO FORCE in America could be so disastrous as a public attitude which would sell America



Keeping check on the army of the lawless — a fugitive's fingerprints are photographed for nation-wide distribution

Harris & Ewing Photos

To defeat the enemy agent we must redouble our war on crime — for America's four million known criminals are easy recruits for the dirty work of espionage

short. Yet day after day there are evidences of such an attitude — and when we analyze the cause we are taken back to the principles which motivate the underworld. The one common denominator is dishonesty.

Consider the case of twenty-one-year-old Karl Allen Drummond, for instance. When he was seventeen he was arrested for forgery in Wichita, Kansas, and given a two-year probationary sentence. Two years later, he was again arrested, this time for burglary, and given an additional probationary sentence. Then, in June, 1938, he was charged with stealing books and tools from the plant where he was employed. The thirty-day jail sentence he received on the charge was suspended and again he was placed on probation. In the meantime, he had been employed as an inspector in an aircraft factory. Confidential blueprints and photographs came into his possession and with inconceivable disloyalty he sought to peddle these vitally valuable items to foreign forces. The patriotism of his brother,

to whom he went for aid in disposing of the secret documents, proved Karl Drummond's undoing. The brother turned the plans over to the Naval Intelligence Service, and Karl Drummond received a two-year penitentiary sentence.

I have previously stated that the real bulwark against the machinations of spies and saboteurs of all kinds and types is the morale which can be relied upon to repel all attempts at corruption and subversion. But this morale exists only when there is a definite, widespread respect for law and order.

The real danger to democratic institutions is always within a country's own borders — and this danger lies in a possible breakdown of moral fiber among its citizens. Such a breakdown comes from a lack of respect for the processes of law and order upon which the well-being of any community is founded. History proclaims the cause of the downfall of nations that have risen, flourished and then decayed. The reason lies in the growing weakness of the rulers of these nations and their consequent inability to enforce their laws.

The rulers of a democracy are the citizens of a democracy. We believe fervently in our democratic system of government. For this reason, we should view with great alarm any development of widespread criminality among the people of our country. This should be a source of particular concern to us if evidences of moral corruption appear among the youth of our land. In recent years such evidences of moral corruption have appeared among our youth — and I have called attention many times to this highly disturbing development. I feel that it is not out of place to refer to it again in considering the menace of a Fifth Column.

My reason is that not only do spies and saboteurs menace our national security, but that they also are used simultaneously as subversive agents by many countries. In other words, spies are trained not only in the science of espionage and sabotage; they are also trained in the science of subversive propaganda, which has been brought to a high scale of effectiveness in several European countries.

by J. EDGAR HOOVER

Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation

It may well be that this is the most serious phase of our problem. Striking at arsenals, at navy yards, at industrial plants, at power lines, at lines of communication and transportation, constitutes of course a serious menace. But more serious still is the threat to the moral stamina and patriotic idealism of any people. We may rest assured that this condition and its possibilities are well known to those abroad who envy our prosperity and resent our democratic institutions.

We must efficiently protect our battleships, our arms, our shipyards and our far-flung fortifications. But the enemy that infiltrates through our gates and into our current life to teach the doctrines of dictatorial power — and thus poison our democratic idealism at its source — is a far greater menace than the armed forces that might confront us in declared war. We must protect ourselves against this greater enemy, too.

A War We Must Win

THE war on crime is a defensive war. It is one which must be won or America will take its place in the ranks of those countries of ancient and modern times that flourished, decayed and fell.

The underworld in any country is allied with the forces of destruction, both within and without that country. For this reason the support of the citizens of every community should be given without stint to all law-enforcement agencies so that criminality may be controlled and this natural recruiting ground for enemy agents reduced to a minimum.

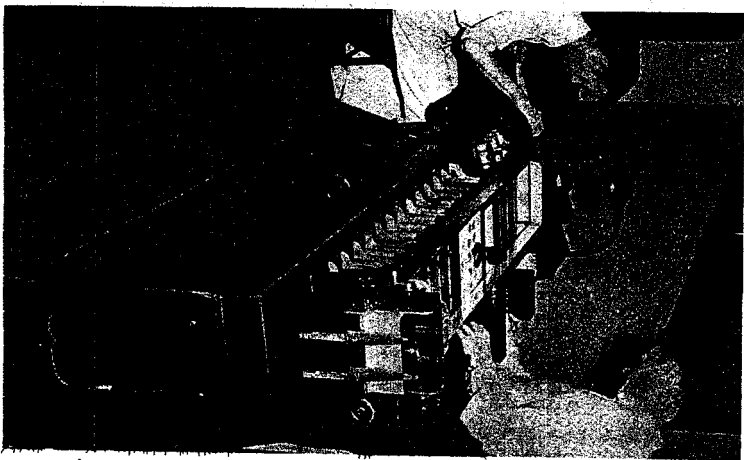
The youth of our country should be taught not only to hate foreign spies, but to despise domestic criminality. One is as dangerous as the other. The youth of America should be afforded appropriate protection against airplanes that might drop desolation and death from the skies at night; they also should be adequately protected against the no less dangerous efforts of foreign enemies to undermine our American ideals of democracy and freedom. America must be kept at any cost. There is no place in our ranks for the "isms" of

destruction, born on alien soil, nurtured by alien hate and brought to maturity by alien ambition to dominate the world, and to crush democratic institutions and free peoples.

Foreign nations recognize the desirability of training their youth and certain of them are inculcating their evil political doctrines into the minds of their young so as to create destructive military machines. Let us learn from them the necessity for training our own youth. Let us train them so that they may effectively meet this menace, and also let us teach the Americans of tomorrow the glory of American institutions, the priceless heritage of our past, and the hope of our future.

If we do this, we shall conquer both foreign spies and our own underworld.

Next Week: M-Day for the FBI



This sorting machine never fails to select the right fingerprints



In these vast files are records of millions of public enemies