

Post 2/2/67

# Capitol Punishment . . .

## Where Have All the Spies Gone?

By Art Buchwald

AS ONE OF J. Edgar Hoover's most ardent admirers, I was very surprised to read of the FBI Director's

stand on a proposed U.S. Soviet consular treaty. It seems the Administration wants the treaty because it would mean that we could



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have consulates in several cities throughout the Soviet Union. In exchange the Soviet Union could set up consulates in U.S. cities on a quid pro quo basis.

The treaty has had tough going in the Senate because Hoover is said to be against it on the grounds that it would only give the Russians a chance to set up more spy cells in the United States, and that it would give the FBI more work to do. Hoover raised the question of whether the G-men could control the new threat of espionage.

This attitude about spies and espionage came as a surprise to those of us who have been raised on movies and magazine articles about Hoover and the FBI. The one thing we could always be certain of, until Hoover started writing letters to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, was that the FBI could catch any spy a foreign power tried to plant in the United States. The impression that has always been given is that the more spies the Communists sent to this country, the better the FBI liked it. And every time the FBI rounded up a Soviet spy ring the Nation cheered and the President gave Hoover another medal.

IF THE TRUTH be known, Hoover's Department thrived on Soviet

spies. It was the stuff FBI legends were made of, and there wasn't a man, woman or child in this Nation who didn't sleep better at night, knowing that as hard as the Commies would try to penetrate our secrets, Hoover and his gallant agents would stop them.

But now for the first time Hoover has indicated that he would be hard put to keep track of Soviet spies if we permitted the Russians to open consulates in our major cities. He has said in effect that the FBI could no longer guarantee us protection against those who would be sent to this country to steal our blueprints and to microfilm our defenses. Hoover unknowingly sent shudders of fear down our backs, because if he can't protect us against the dastardly Soviet spy system, then who can?

OBVIOUSLY it isn't a question of manpower, because all Hoover has to do is go before the Senate and explain the new spy threat to them. In exchange he would get all the men he needs.

Money is also no problem, because the greater the espionage, the more funds Congress will give him to fight it.

So the only thing one can guess is that Hoover is getting tired of catching spies. A man who has caught as many as he has probably wants to take it easy, and there is nobody in this country who would begrudge him this.

It would be unfair for the Government to burden the FBI with new problems, just because the Administration wants to work out a detente with the Soviet Union.

If the Senate turns down the consular treaty for no other reason than to give Hoover a much needed rest, I would be the last to criticize them.

The only thing that worries me is that without fresh spies, where will the FBI get new plots for its television series?