

By PETER KIHSS

Michael Meeropol, a son of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, who were executed as atomic spies in 1953, charged here yesterday that Federal agencies were "laundering" the Rosenberg files in a continuing "cover-up of the fraud and frame-up in our parents' cases."

Mr. Meeropol said he and his brother, Robert, who are suing to get data from files of six Federal agencies under the Freedom of Information Act intend to use information from the files to start a civil suit against a variety of individuals and agencies for "wrongful deeds" against their parents.

Marshall Perlin, the Meeropols' counsel, charged that the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Central Intelligence Agency were trying to make the act "ineffective" by denying access to "thousands" of pages on grounds of national security, individual privacy and investigative techniques and demanding "improper" search fees. He said they would be sued for "contempt of court."

In a news conference here, Walter Schneir, co-author of a 1965 book on the Rosenberg case, cited one newly disclosed document as contradicting what he called a main element in the case against Mrs. Rosenberg.

This, Mr. Schneir said, was a record from the files of the Department of Justice's Criminal Division in Washington in which Mrs. Rosenberg's brother, David Greenglass, later the star witness against her, was questioned by Myles J. Lane, then chief assistant United States attorney here on Aug. 1 or 2, 1950.

Sketches Allegedly Given

Mr. Greenglass had been a machinist foreman at the Los Alamos, N. M., atomic-bomb project. Questioned by Mr. Lane, the document said, he asserted as he did later in the trial that he gave Julius Rosenberg a complete description of "the bomb" in writing and sketches in the fall of 1945.

As displayed by Mr. Schneir, the 1950 document went on:

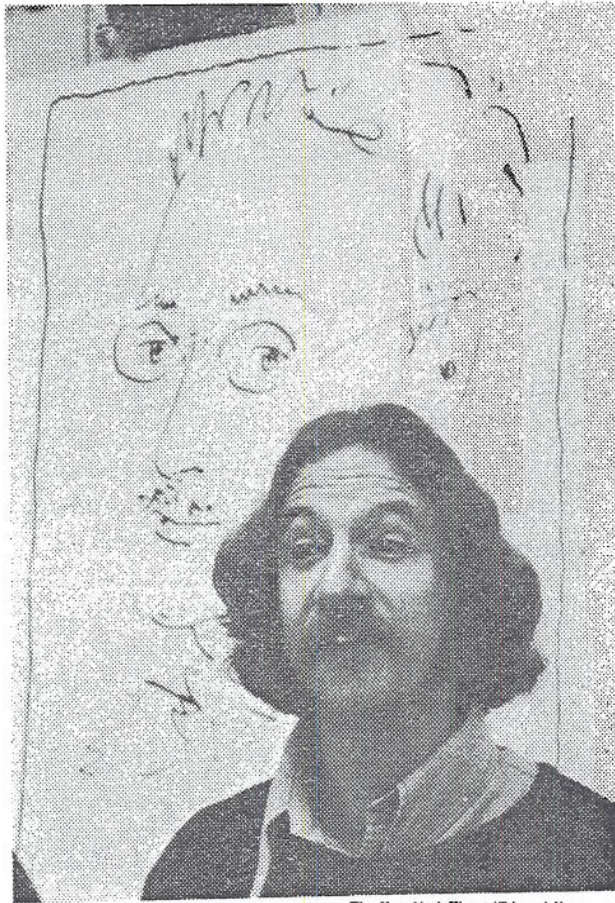
"Q. Was Ethel present in any of these occasions? A. Never. Q. Did Ethel talk to you about it? A. Never spoke about it to me, and that's a fact. Aside from trying to protect my sister, believe me, that's a fact."

At the Federal Court trial here, Mr. Greenglass testified on March 12, 1951, that Ethel Rosenberg and his own wife, Ruth, were present when he handed the material to Julius.

He quoted Julius Rosenberg as saying: "This is very good. We ought to have this typed up immediately." And he went on: "Ethel did the typing, and Ruth and Julius and Ethel did the correction of the grammar."

Mr. Schneir also reported yesterday a newly disclosed document recording Mr. Lane's August 1950 interrogation of another prosecution witness, Harry Gold. Mr. Gold testified at the trial that he received information from Mr. Greenglass in Albuquerque, N.M., on June 3, 1945, after announcing "I come from Julius" and displaying part of a Jell-O box as a recognition signal.

the 1950 document, Mr.



The New York Times/Edward Hausner

Michael Meeropol in front of a Picasso sketch of his father, Julius Rosenberg, at news conference here.

Schneir said, Mr. Gold told Mr. Lane he was to identify himself as "Ben in Brooklyn." Mr. Schneir commented, "That part of the script, 'I come from Julius,' was not yet written."

The same issue had been raised in the 1965 book by Mr. Schneir and his wife, Miriam, "Invitation to an Inquest," when they disclosed that in a taped pretrial conversation with his own lawyer, June 14, 1950, Mr. Gold said:

"While this is not the exact recognition sign, I believe that it involved the name of a man and was something on the order of Bob sent me or Benny sent me or John sent me or something like that."

When United States District Judge Edward Weinfeld on Feb. 14, 1967, rejected an appeal by the Rosenbergs' co-defendant, Morton Sobell, to set aside his conviction, the judge said that listening to the recording made it "clear that 'Bob, Benny or John' were offered to explain the nature of the recognition sign and that a man's name was involved."

Mr. Meeropol, an assistant professor of economics at Western New England College, and Mr. Perlin and Mr. Schneir addressed a news conference at the National Committee to Re-Open the Rosenberg Case, held at 250 West 57th Street.

Mr. Perlin said the F. B. I. was demanding \$20,458 and the C. I. A. \$14,060 for searches for documents. The agencies have also told him that copying would cost 10 cents a page for nearly 30,000 pages from the F. B. I. and 953 from the C. I. A.

Standing before copies of Pablo Picasso sketches of his parents, Mr. Meeropol said the committee had "raised and spent \$115,000" since it started in the spring of 1974.