



REPORT

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ERI Launches Security Website

The Education and Research Institute

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The Education and Research Institute is a tax-exempt, educational organization devoted to advancing greater awareness and understanding of America's traditional values. Founded in 1974, ERI has been researching and publishing studies on public policy issues for more than 30 years.

The range of studies undertaken by ERI researchers has been broad--from tax and budget matters, to health care topics, to foreign policy and defense-related issues. Also included in the mix have been in-depth studies of the role of religion in the American system. A further emphasis throughout has been the question of internal security in America's long-running struggle with the Soviet Union. To aid in these studies ERI in 1988 founded its Center for Security Research as a collection point for Cold War historical data.

ERI Headquarters on Capitol Hill

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Home page of the new ERI/Center for Security Research Website, education-research.org, chiefly focused on official records concerning Cold War and terrorism issues

Beginning in June 2007, the Education and Research Institute will launch a new Website, chiefly devoted to security issues and ERI's collection of Cold War data obtained from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

While the site will cover all aspects of our activities, including publications, seminars, and key personnel, the main feature will be the work of ERI's Center for Security Research, which over the past two decades has assembled large quantities of materials on Cold War and contemporary security issues, including the current war on terror.

The most voluminous aspect of the site is ERI's archive of formerly secret data compiled by the FBI on scores of important security cases while the Cold War

was in progress. The Center for Security Research has well over 100,000 pages of such material in its possession, and is constantly adding to the total.

These data are of great significance as they tell the backstage story of what was actually happening in America's domestic Cold War, a story strikingly different in many ways from accepted versions of the conflict. Most notably, they reveal the extent to which suspected Soviet agents, Communists and fellow travelers penetrated U.S. institutions, and the degree to which the FBI was cognizant of the problem and reported it to top officials. (See chart, page 3.)

Included in these files are tens of thousands of pages of once-secret records on such important cases and War figures as J. Robert Oppenheimer, Alger Hiss, Owen

Lattimore, Harry Dexter White, Lauchlin Currie, Kim Philby, John Stewart Service and the *Amerasia* case, the Institute of Pacific Relations, and scores of others.

While these records are revealing and often of sensational nature, their vast extent and cumbersome format make them difficult for researchers to obtain and work with. The object of the ERI/Security Center Website is to ensure that these historical data are accessible to journalists and scholars.

The creation and launching of the site have been made possible by the generous support of the W.H. Bowen Educational Charitable Trust, and by other backers of our program. Supervision and updating of the site are handled by Mark LaRochelle, ERI's Manager of Information Services.

The FOIA Archive

Formerly secret FBI data on Cold War security cases are available under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). While not all such files are open to inspection, large quantities of useful information can be obtained through FOIA actions. A good deal of this material may be found in the FBI/FOIA Reading Room, while still other files have been obtained on specific request by ERI researchers.

In certain cases, only portions of the relevant files have been declassified. In still others, while the files have been made public, many pages have been held back or "redacted" (blacked out). ERI continues to work at getting access to these data. (See below.)

Also, the FBI itself has a Website featuring some of this material, which is a useful resource. However, this site generally speaking offers only selections from the records, rather than complete files about the cases. As some of the most significant details are in out-of-the-way corners of the archive, access to the complete file as provided by ERI is essential to researchers.

The FBI Project

A further difficulty in working with these data is that the files are in many cases not indexed (though reports and summaries usually are). The main organizational principle used by the FBI was chronological sequence, and even this wasn't strictly adhered to. Also, the Bureau for its own purposes used a "serial" numbering system difficult for the lay researcher to fathom.

To help cope with these problems, the ERI/Security Center site will comprise three main components: (1) the raw FBI file, or as much of it as we are able to obtain under FOIA; (2) volume-by-volume or section-by-section summaries highlighting key names and cases; and (3) an index to the summaries, permitting researchers to check for specific data on particular issues, groups, or individuals, and the context in which these are mentioned.

Using this system, researchers will be able to scan the site for names and cases, check out summaries in which they appear, and if these prove of interest explore in greater depth the files that these pertain to.

The Silvermaster File

The largest component of the ERI security archive is the "Silvermaster" file compiled by the Bureau, running to some 50,000 pages of declassified FOIA pages.

The file takes its name from the case of Nathan Gregory Silvermaster, a top security suspect in one of the most sweeping investigations ever conducted by the FBI. The title is somewhat misleading, as the file actually deals with dozens of other suspects, threaded throughout and around the U.S. government when the investigation started.

This massive inquest was triggered by former Soviet espionage courier Elizabeth Bentley, who began telling her story to the FBI in November 1945. She had worked as a main contact between the Soviet/Communist operation and Communists and fellow travelers in offices of the U.S. government. From her disclosures, the FBI developed and followed up leads on scores of cases and hundreds of individuals.

The Silvermaster file is the real-time story of this investigation. Among the many cases dealt with are those of Silvermaster himself, Hiss, White and Currie, Robert Miller, William Remington, Maurice Halperin, Solomon Adler, V. Frank Coe, and numerous others who were on the Federal payroll when Bentley told her story to the Bureau. Also revealed by these records is the extent to which the FBI made its findings available to top officials in the latter 1940s.

In a nutshell, these files show quite clearly that Communist and pro-Soviet penetration of the U.S. government was extensive—far more so than was imagined at the time, and also considerably greater than has been suggested in numerous histories of the Cold War era. Conversely, the files and the updates they contain concerning the wide distribution of the FBI's reports run counter to the oft-repeated thesis that Washington's top officials knew nothing of the matter and were kept in the dark by FBI Director Hoover.

While the preparation of such summaries/indices is still in progress on other components of the site, all raw



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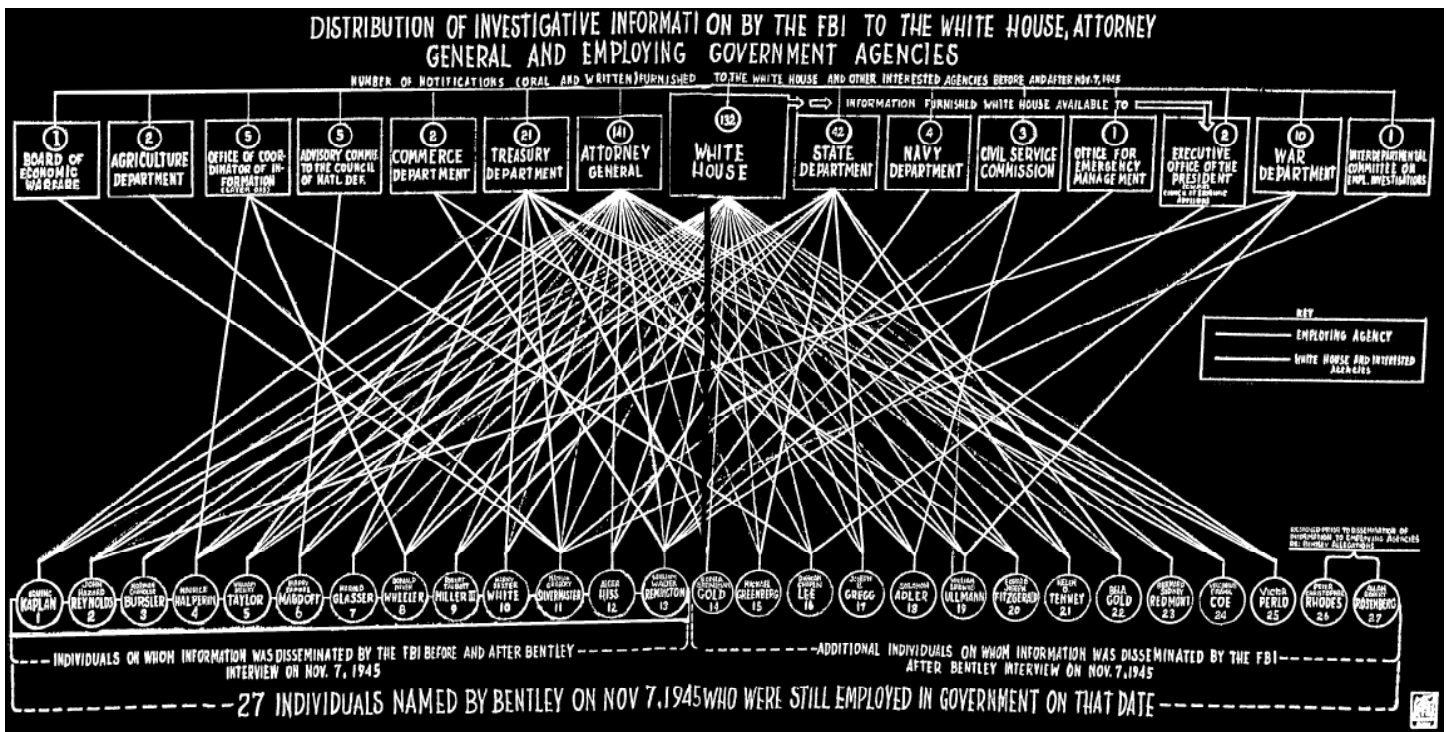
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The Education and Research Institute is a tax-exempt, educational organization devoted to advancing greater awareness and understanding of America's traditional values. The Center for Security Research is its major program.

Contributions to ERI are tax deductible under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and corporate donations to the work of the Institute are permitted. Further information about the tax status and financing of the Institute may be obtained by writing: Education and Research Institute, 800 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, DC 20002. Phone: (202) 546-1710. E-mail: info@education-research.org. Chairman: M. Stanton Evans.

FBI Subversion Warnings To Top Officials



FBI master chart reflecting the number and distribution of secret reports distributed to top officials in 1945-46 concerning suspected Communist agents in the Federal government. This chart appears in the Bureau's "Silvermaster" file, along with more than two dozen charts concerning individual suspects such as Alger Hiss, William Remington, Harry Dexter White, and others.

files in the possession of ERI and Center for Security Research are being posted for the benefit of researchers.

* * *

As above noted, large portions of many FBI records pertaining to the Cold War and the issue of Communist infiltration are heavily "redacted" (blacked out). This practice persists despite an executive order that *prima facie* seems to forbid it, and the further fact that the records in question are 50 years of age and counting.

Under Executive Order 13292, issued by President George W. Bush, historical records in the possession of Federal agencies were to have been automatically declassified on December 31, 2006, subject to certain provisos. Most relevant to our research concerns, the outer time limit for the release of such data is 25 years from the time of compilation. The main exceptions in the order concern material that might compromise the security interests of the nation.

Self-evidently, the data we seek are well beyond the time limits set forth in this executive order. It's by the same token hard to imagine any security interest of the present day that could be affected by these records. Yet FBI materials obtained by our researchers since December 31, 2006, relating to events of the 1940s and early '50s, continue to be heavily redacted. We accordingly are pressing forward with efforts to work with Congress to have these materials made public.

State Department Project

Collateral to its FBI researches, ERI has been actively pursuing historical information on security issues relating to the U.S. Department of State.

Of particular interest in this study is the manner in which identified Soviet agents such as Alger Hiss, Mary Jane Keeney, Robert Miller, Maurice Halperin and others were able to penetrate the department and in many instances stay there for years despite security data provided by the FBI.

Crucial in this respect were events at the close of World War II, when thousands of unscreened employees from the war-time Office of Strategic Services, Office of War Information, and other temporary units were merged into the State Department. As OSS, OWI and other war-time bureaus were heavily penetrated by Communists and Soviet agents, this merger created countless security problems at State.

Equally important for security and policy battles of the era was the near-simultaneous exit from the department of veteran Under Secretary of State Joseph C. Grew and like-minded officials at odds with so-called progressives of the day, both in and out of government. Grew had frequently crossed swords with the "progressives," and in the summer of 1945 there were numerous calls from radical forces for his ouster. His depart-

ERI Security Center

The Education and Research Institute is a tax-exempt, educational organization devoted to advancing greater awareness of significant public issues.

In 1988, concerned that important historical documents on the conduct of the Cold War and nature of the Soviet/Communist challenge were in danger of being lost, ERI established its Center for Security Research. The object of the Center was to gather and conserve, for scholarly and journalistic purposes, official records pertaining to these matters.

Over the years the Center has acquired complete collections of congressional hearings and reports on Communism, espionage, terrorism, front groups, attempts to penetrate the U.S. government, and numerous related issues. Sources of relevant documents include House and Senate committees, the Subversive Activities Control Board, reports from the intelligence community, the State Department, Department of Defense, and others.

More recently, with the release of secret records from the former USSR and its satellite countries, as well as from the vaults of our own intelligence/security agencies, the Center has been engaged in collecting documents from these sources.

ture, together with the influx of new personnel from the war-time bureaus, drastically transformed the nature of the State Department at the threshold of the Cold War. Security and policy issues alike stemmed from these internal changes.

Accordingly, ERI has been gathering archival data on State Department personnel, OSS and OWI, the steps by which the post-war merger was effected, and the circumstances of Grew's departure. As Grew was a pivotal figure in numerous policy conflicts of the time, our project also focuses on his role as a mainstay of the older diplomatic culture previous to the transformation. As these data come on line, ERI will publish its research findings, which will also be available on our Website.

ERI vs. ACLU

ERI research and policy concerns extend beyond historical aspects of the East-West conflict to the contemporary war on terror.

In particular, ERI and its Security Center have delved into the many overlaps between policy stances that produced grave security problems in the Cold War and those that led to the disaster of 9/11. Among these linkages are civil libertarian conceptions arguing that Communist Party membership on the one hand, and terrorist connections on the other, are protected freedoms immune from official monitoring or sanction.

In keeping with our concerns about these matters, ERI has filed an *amicus* brief before the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *ACLU v. NSA*, which involves the power of the National Security Agency to conduct warrantless interception of communications between terrorist elements overseas and their contacts in the United States.

While the brief involves questions of standing by certain plaintiffs and other procedural issues, the substantive core of ERI's position is that such monitoring is not only constitutional and lawful, but essential to the security of the nation. (A subject addressed, along with others, in the ERI monograph, "The Untold Story of 9/11," examining steps taken to prevent U.S. intelligence agencies from carrying out their protective functions.)

As indicated by the title of the case, the main legal force arguing to the contrary, as was true in many Cold War disputes, is the American Civil Liberties Union. Arguing the case for ERI is attorney Richard M. Corn of New York.

Romerstein Heads Center

The Director of ERI's Center for Security Research is Herbert Romerstein, generally recognized as one of the nation's leading experts on the intricate details of Cold War subversion and the war on terror. As director of the Center, Romerstein guides the research efforts of ERI on security matters, while maintaining an active schedule of speaking and writing about such issues both in the United States and Europe.

Romerstein retired in 1989 after 25 years service with the United States government. He served as head of the office to Counter Soviet Disinformation at the United States Information Agency from 1983 to 1989. From 1965 to 1983, he was a Professional Staff Member for the U.S. House of Representatives. This service included tours of duty as investigator for the House Committee on Un-American Activities, minority chief investigator for the House Committee on Internal Security and professional staff member for the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

He is the author of a number of books and monographs on the subjects of espionage and propaganda. His books include: *The Venona Secrets: Exposing Soviet Espionage and America's Traitors* (2000), *Heroic Victims: Stalin's Foreign Legion in the Spanish Civil War* (1994) and *The KGB Against the "Main Enemy"* (1989). Since retiring from the government, Romerstein has done extensive research in both U.S. and foreign archives. In 1992, he did research in archives in the Ukrainian republic. In 1993, he did research in the archives of the Communist International in Moscow, Russia.

In 2004, Romerstein visited Poland representing ERI, speaking at conferences in various Polish cities. One of the meetings was held in the Polish Parliament where he supported Polish scholars who urged the opening of the Polish Communist archives.