

PM

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# Bus Driver Seized as Spy

By LEO J. MARGOLIN

Workers in Long Island airplane plants "talk too damned much," the Federal Bureau of Investigation ((FBI) reported yesterday, after arresting Johannes Kroeger, 44-year-old bus driver and **ex-Bund leader** on a charge of being a Nazi spy.

Kroeger denied the charge when held in \$25,000 bail in Brooklyn Federal Court.

Kroeger, the FBI charges, absorbed vital information about plane production while he drove hundreds of aircraft workers in his bus to and from their jobs.

Kroeger is a German-born naturalized citizen whose wife and son still live in Germany.

The FBI said he was an old hand at spying for the Nazis and then sending the information to Germany by short wave radio and spy drops in South America. His bus job was just another assignment, the FBI charges.

## Secret Inks

P. E. Foxworth, FBI director in New York, called Kroeger "an adept user of secret inks." He said Kroeger had been driving the bus to the Republic Aviation Co. in Farmingdale, L. I., for two months, and had picked up facts about plane production.

Kroeger came to the U. S. A. in 1926 and was naturalized in 1933. Soon thereafter he joined the Friends of New Germany, predecessor of the Nazi Bund. He organized the German War Veterans Assn. in Nassau County in 1935.

Kroeger suffered a back injury while driving a milk wagon and he has been receiving \$25 weekly ever since. He returned to Germany in 1937 and again in 1939.

In 1941, he tried to get a passport to return to Germany for a third time, but the State Dept. refused to issue one. He went to Guatemala, arriving there in July. He tried to get a visá there to Germany, but again failed.

## Moved to Rio

From there Kroeger moved to Rio de Janeiro, where, the FBI reports, he talked to German agents, who persuaded him to return to the U. S. A.

En route he saw ships in Trinidad harbor and sent the information to Nazi agents, who short-waved it to Germany, according to FBI evidence.

Kroeger had bought \$2600 worth of Reuckwanderer Marks, the FBI said. When he was arrested, Kroeger asked to be denaturalized and returned to Germany. But he may never reach there, because, if convicted, he faces 30 years in prison or death.



Johannes Kroeger