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**PACIFIC FLEET (FHTNC)**—Rear Admiral Robert E. Bick, Commander Carrier Division Three and Commander Task Force 77, fastens the shoulder boards of a Navy Lieutenant (junior grade) on John F. Foley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry M. Foley, 888 Madison. Lt. (jg) Foley was recently promoted to his present rank. He is assistant communications officer on Rear Admiral Bick's staff. (U.S. Navy Photo)

**Vogeler to Recount  
Story of His 17  
Months in Prison**

"What happened to me could happen to any American." This is the warning of Robert A. Vogeler, vice president of American Telephone and Telegraph Co., who will tell the dramatic story of his 17 months imprisonment by Hungarian Reits at the Michigan Education Assn. Region 7 conference Oct. 16 and 17 at Birmingham high school.

Other notable speakers will be M. P. Anderson, MEA president from Berkeley, and Robert A. Skaife, field secretary for the National commission for the defense of democracy through education.

**AN ASSISTANT** vice-president of I. T. & T., Vogeler was serving as its European representative in Austria-Hungary and Czechoslovakia when, on November 18, 1949, he was summarily arrested and charged with "espionage, sabotage and conspiracy against the Hungarian Government."

For three months he was held incommunicado at Budapest's dreaded secret police headquarters, Andrássy Ut 60. Vogeler has revealed little of the powerful psychological and physical pressures brought to bear on him. It has been reported that there were two inches of water on the floor of his cell; that he slept on a board just above the water. A bright light flooded his cell day and night, and when he tried to sleep someone kept banging against the wall.

He had neither socks, underclothes nor shirt. There were periods when the diet was not sufficient; if he was to make an appearance before a high official he was "fattened up a little."

**VOGELER TOLD** the whole sordid story in his book "I Was Stalin's Prisoner," which he wrote in collaboration with veteran correspondent Leigh White. Published first in serial form in the Saturday Evening Post, the book won a wide audience.

Vogeler's arrest inflamed the freedom-loving world. It spurred the State Department into several retaliatory steps. Travel for Americans in Hungary was banned in December, 1949 and in the following January the Hungarian consulate in New York and Cleveland were closed.

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New York and Cleveland would be reopened.  
2) United States citizens would again be permitted to travel in Hungary.  
3) Hungarian property looted by the Nazis during World War II and then in the United States zone of Germany would be returned to Hungary under the terms of the Hungarian peace treaty.

**THE PRICE WAS HIGH** but on April 22, 1951 Vogeler, a pale, nervous man, walked across the border of Hungary into Austria.

To reporters in Vienna he said: "I can't believe I'm here. I'm afraid to wake up."  
Then he spoke hesitantly of the thing that seemed to be uppermost in his mind—the confession of espionage he had made in court. "I am very sorry that... I feel badly that... That I didn't perhaps live up to American tradition under the pressure... His wife prompted: "... that you were under."

Vogeler was flown back immediately to the United States to recover from his ordeal. After

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months of rest, he took to the lecture platforms of the nation to "make every American realize that what happened to me could happen to anyone."  
Says Vogeler: "God has given us the mission to destroy the Communist enemies of freedom."  
"Because he hollored, 'Hello! Hello! Hello! Good Lord! What's the matter up there? Can't anyone hear?'"  
—JCC Future

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