THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 25, 1935.

MEMO FOR MAC

Find out about this from
the State Department this morning.

F. D. R.

Lawrence B. Simpson
Another American Citizen in a Nazi Prison

With full knowledge of what is going on the American State Department is permitting an American seaman, kidnapped from an American ship, to lie in a Nazi prison at the mercy of Hitler torturers.

Every effort to make the State Department take action in the case of Lawrence B. Simpson, snapped from the United States Liner Manhattan on June 23, comes up against a stone wall.

No protest has been made to Germany. No request has been made by our Consul at Hamburg that Simpson be released on bail. No report was even returned to this country by the Consul at Hamburg until twelve American organizations had protested our lack of action.

Simpson is charged with possessing "hostile literature" and with taking part in an organized conspiracy against the Nazi Government.

As far as the first charge goes, that might mean possession of a copy of any American newspaper, and a seaman working on regular schedule does not have much spare time for international conspiracies.

But, guilty or innocent, Simpson is an American citizen, and entitled to the protection of the American flag. The indirect assurance relayed here that he will receive the rights of any German is distinctly not enough. Those rights include the "rights" to secret trial without jury, summary sentence and the headman's ax. Shipmates of Simpson's charge that they were beaten on shipboard before being taken off, and his condition now can perhaps better be imagined than described.

We do not understand Secretary Hull's attitude, his reluctance to give an American national the protection to which he has a right.

The least this Government can do is to win immediate release for Simpson, either on bail or on the promise of the American Consul that he will be produced for trial. He must be kept under the protection of Americans and released from the shadow of the torture chamber. There must be an American investigation of the charges, and insistence that he be freed unconditionally if they are as flimsy as they seem to be.

What does Secretary Hull intend to do?

Freshman Course in Jitters

Two hundred American college freshmen are somewhat puzzled about Russia.

After traveling all the way to Moscow to attend the summer school at the Moscow University, the school term has been canceled. Lieutenant Colonel John Marquart, W. H., head of the course, left for Georgia after the school term opened.

"I'm sure they were not playing polo. I'm sure they weren't shooting. I'm sure they were not playing golf. I have no idea what they were doing."
September 23, 1936

Respectfully referred to the officials of the State Department.

STEPHEN EARLY
Assistant Secretary
to the President

Telegram from J. Walter Ruben, Beverly Hills, California, September 22, 1936 to the President. Sends President same message he sent the Secretary of State in regard to the trial of "Simpson" by the Nazi Govt. of Germany.
September 22, 1936

Respectfully referred to the State Department for consideration and appropriate action.

STEPHEN EARLY
Assistant Secretary to the President

DAWSON, Mrs. George, 37 Myrtle Ave., Spring Valley, N. Y., 9/19. Asks Presidential release of Simpson, giving conditions causing his arrest.

HARRIS, May Harper (Mrs. W. B.), Worton, Md., 9/17. Asks that Miss Dorothy Detzer be sent as a delegate to Buenos Ayres for maintenance of peace conference.
R. Emerson, Sec'y., Seamen's Defense Committee, 9/6/36 tel.
New York, N.Y.

Meeting of 100 members of the International Seamen's Union of America 9/6/36 go on record as protesting the incarceration of Lawrence Simpson, an American seaman, in Germany. Asks Pres take immediate action in this case.

STATE
er 9/8/36