

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **New York City**

FILE NO. **100-25417**

REPORT MADE AT <b>San Francisco</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>4/15/49</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>3/28,29/49</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>DAVID E. TODD - blw</b>
TITLE <b>JAY DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>PERJURY, ESPIONAGE - R INTERNAL SECURITY - R</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

*Handwritten:*  
Burt  
J...

RAYMOND W. JEWELL first met ABRAHAM GEORGE SILVERMAN about 1936 in Washington, D.C., at which time SILVERMAN interviewed JEWELL for a position with the Railroad Retirement Board and subsequently JEWELL was hired to work with SILVERMAN. He was associated with SILVERMAN from about 1936 to 1939. He denies any knowledge of Communist or espionage activities on the part of SILVERMAN but described SILVERMAN as an unorthodox thinker. He states that the most intimate friend of SILVERMAN was JOSEPH SENTURIA, also an employee of the Railroad Retirement Board who later was employed with SILVERMAN by the Army Air Forces. He said SENTURIA would be the person most likely to know SILVERMAN's activities but expressed the opinion that SENTURIA might be reluctant to talk due to his close friendship with SILVERMAN.

- RUC -

REFERENCE: Bureau file 74-1333  
Chicago letter dated March 22, 1949

DETAILS: RAYMOND W. JEWELL, who resides at 2000 Virginia Avenue, Richmond, California, and who is employed by the California State Employment Offices, 153 Kearny Street, San Francisco, California, was interviewed March 29, 1949, by SAs CHARLES F. BRUSCH and the writer. Mr. JEWELL said that he first met ABRAHAM GEORGE SILVERMAN about 1936 at the offices of the Railroad Retirement Board in Washington, D.C., at which time he was applying for a position with the Railroad Retirement Board and he was interviewed in connection with this application, by SILVERMAN. SILVERMAN

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>Harry M. Kimball</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <b>11 11 - 3052</b>	RECORDED - 25
COPIES DESTROYED <b>169</b>	COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 - Bureau 3 - New York (65-14920) (1 - T.G. DONAGAN, Special Assistant to the Attorney General) 2 - Washington Field 2 - San Francisco	INDEXED - 25

*J...*  
*4/25/49*  
*10*

RECEIVED  
APR 25 3 07 PM '49  
REC'D ESPIONAGE  
FBI  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Kisseloff-7077



later hired him as a junior economist on the Railroad Retirement Board and he was associated with SILVERMAN as a fellow employee from about 1936 to 1939. At the time he was first hired, Mr. JEWELL said there were only approximately ten or eleven employees in the office and that there was a close association among them; however, he stated he had never visited SILVERMAN's home nor had SILVERMAN visited his home, and that they had never been closely associated socially. Soon after he was employed at the Railroad Retirement Board, the size of the organization was greatly expanded and the close association among the employees was lost. He stated that those individuals employed at the Railroad Retirement Board who would know more concerning SILVERMAN than himself were MURRAY LATIMER, Chairman of the Board; JOSEPH SENTURIA, an intimate friend of SILVERMAN, and also an official of the Railroad Retirement Board; GEORGE GUSSMAN, believed to be in Arlington, Virginia, at present; HELEN PEINSOD ROBISON, believed to be in Washington, D.C.; CHARLES BRIGHTMAN. JEWELL stated that SILVERMAN for a man trained in economics, was certainly familiar with Marxist doctrines but that he had always impressed him as being more the type of person who would follow the theory of LASKY and the British Socialist Economists. He described him as an unorthodox thinker but said he knew of no instances where SILVERMAN had discussed Communism or Marxism with him and it had always been his impression that SILVERMAN would have been reluctant to discuss such subjects with him inasmuch as he was not a close enough personal friend of SILVERMAN to enjoy his confidence.

He said he knew of no organizations to which SILVERMAN had belonged and specifically he had no knowledge whatever of any association on the part of SILVERMAN with the Communist Party. Mr. JEWELL stated that he himself had been a member of the Government Employees Ambulance Committee which had collected money for the purchase of ambulances for the Loyalist Army during the Spanish Civil War, and stated he believed SILVERMAN had contributed money toward the purchase of the ambulances but that SILVERMAN himself, had not been a member of the Committee inasmuch as SILVERMAN felt that as a supervisor he had no right to join such an organization. Mr. JEWELL said it had never occurred to him that SILVERMAN might have been a Communist Party member although such a thing would certainly have been possible. He recalled SILVERMAN favored the Loyalists during the Spanish Civil War, he recalled him having spoken favorably concerning Russia, but JEWELL had the impression that SILVERMAN was wary of speaking about such subjects at least with JEWELL.

Mr. JEWELL stated that information on file at the Railroad Retirement Board was regarded as confidential but was not confidential to the extent that it affected the security of the U.S. He said the information in general dealt with business transactions of railroads, the number of persons employed on individual railroads, salaries and benefits of employees on railroads, and other related data of an economic nature, such as wages, hours, hospitalization, and unemployment.

Kisseloff-7078

Mr. JEWELL said that he knew of no time when SILVERMAN was loaned to the Treasury Department but believed that both SILVERMAN and SENTURIA had done some work on the International Trade Treaties for the Tariff Commission during 1935 and 1936 and he recalled SILVERMAN having discussed this work. He believes it was of an economic nature relating to a survey to determine the types of goods and services on which tariffs could be reduced. He believed that SILVERMAN had sat in on international conferences at the sides of the negotiators and given advice to advisors of the President in what he termed a semi-policy forming matter. Mr. JEWELL said that he has learned through discussion with his friends that after SILVERMAN left the Railroad Retirement Board that he was employed with the Army Air Forces of Washington, D.C., and it is his impression that SILVERMAN took his close friend JOSEPH SENTURIA to the Army Air Forces as his assistant. He believes he may have received this information from Mr. J. E. ELY of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. In addition to SENTURIA, JEWELL said that JOSEPH GILMAN, a consulting economist with the Railroad Retirement Board had also been an intimate friend of SILVERMAN. He said that during 1937 and 1938 SILVERMAN had acted as a supervisor of employees of the National Research Project and that GILMAN had also been assigned to assist in this supervision of the work of the National Research Project but that as such they retained their employment by the Railroad Retirement Board.

Mr. JEWELL said that SENTURIA is a close friend of SILVERMAN and would probably be the person most likely to know of SILVERMAN's activity but he suggested that SENTURIA might be reluctant about them due to his close friendship with SILVERMAN.

Mr. JEWELL said that he had never heard of ELIZABETH BENTLEY, WHITTAKER CHAMBERS or ALGER HISS prior to the recent newspaper publicity concerning them. He said that he had never heard SILVERMAN mention that he had received any Persian rugs as a gift and that he felt that SILVERMAN probably would have mentioned such a thing around the office if he had inasmuch as he usually mentioned matters of this nature. Mr. JEWELL said that he had never heard the name of HELEN RINGE mentioned and was entirely unfamiliar with any country home located at Accokeek, Maryland. He did not recall having met SILVERMAN's wife. He said that he was aware that HARRY DEXTER WHITE was an acquaintance of SILVERMAN but that he, himself, did not know WHITE and he believed that SILVERMAN and WHITE had worked together on the Tariff Commission. He said that GEORGE GUSSMAN had married HARRY DEXTER WHITE's daughter, GUSSMAN originally having come to the Railroad Retirement Board from the City College of New York and he had known WHITE's daughter there. Mr. JEWELL said that he was acquainted with NATHAN GREGORY SILVERMASTER. He said SILVERMASTER had previously taught in the University of California but he, JEWELL, did not know him there but was later introduced to him at Washington, D.C. He could not recall the circumstances. JEWELL stated that it was his impression that he recalled seeing SILVERMASTER and SILVERMAN at lunch together in Washington, D.C., and he recalled having seen SILVERMASTER at the offices of the Railroad

SF 100-25417

Retirement Board and also of having seen SILVERMAN and SILVERMASTER together at the Agricultural Adjustment Agency where SILVERMASTER was employed.

Mr. JEWELL said that the Railroad Retirement Board Offices were located at 14th and K Streets in 1936 and that SILVERMAN's duties were to collect, compile, and interpret economic and social data relating to the administration of the railroads and to prepare information having a bearing on legislation relating to the railroads and Railroad Retirement Board. He said that SILVERMAN was a strange person, that he considered himself very efficient and often spoke of his own importance and his effectiveness. He considered himself an authority on the theories of Freud and the interpretations of dreams. He said he was never satisfied with the work being done and was a hard task master. Mr. JEWELL said that he himself had been active in the American Federation of Government Employees and the United Federal Workers of America Unions but that SILVERMAN had never offered him any advice concerning Union business except where activities on the part of the Union might embarrass SILVERMAN. He said that the social life of the employees at the Railroad Retirement Board did not include SILVERMAN nor SENTURIA. He said SILVERMAN's avocations so far as he knew were softball, bowling and music and he knew of no special clubs to which SILVERMAN belonged.

Mr. JEWELL denied that he himself had ever been a member of the Communist Party and he denied that he had any knowledge whatsoever of any Communist or Russian underground activities.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

Kisseloff-7080

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **New York City**

FILE NO. **100-25417**

REPORT MADE AT <b>San Francisco</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>4/15/49</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>3/28,29/49</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>DAVID E. TODD - blw</b>
TITLE <b>JAY DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>PERJURY, ESPIONAGE - R INTERNAL SECURITY - R</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

RAYMOND W. JEWELL, first met ABRAHAM GEORGE SILVERMAN about 1936 in Washington, D.C., at which time SILVERMAN interviewed JEWELL for a position with the Railroad Retirement Board and subsequently JEWELL was hired to work with SILVERMAN. He was associated with SILVERMAN from about 1936 to 1939. He denies any knowledge of Communist or espionage activities on the part of SILVERMAN but described SILVERMAN as an unorthodox thinker. He states that the most intimate friend of SILVERMAN was JOSEPH SENTURIA, also an employee of the Railroad Retirement Board who later was employed with SILVERMAN by the Army Air Forces. He said SENTURIA would be the person most likely to know SILVERMAN's activities but expressed the opinion that SENTURIA might be reluctant to talk due to his close friendship with SILVERMAN.

- RUC -

**REFERENCE:** Bureau file 74-1333  
Chicago letter dated March 22, 1949

**DETAILS:** RAYMOND W. JEWELL, who resides at 2000 Virginia Avenue, Richmond, California, and who is employed by the California State Employment Offices, 153 Kearny Street, San Francisco, California, was interviewed March 29, 1949, by SAS CHARLES F. BRUSCH and the writer. Mr. JEWELL said that he first met ABRAHAM GEORGE SILVERMAN about 1936 at the offices of the Railroad Retirement Board in Washington, D.C., at which time he was applying for a position with the Railroad Retirement Board and he was interviewed in connection with this application, by SILVERMAN. SILVERMAN

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 3 - New York (65-14920) (1 - T.G. DUFFEY, Special Assistant to the Attorney General) 2 - Washington Field 2 - San Francisco		74   1333   3052	
		Kisseloff-7081	

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

New York

FILE NO. 65-658

REPORT MADE AT Denver, Colorado	DATE WHEN MADE 3-28-49	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 3/14-18, 23, 24/49	REPORT MADE BY EDWIN O. JOHNSON <span style="float: right;">jl</span>
TITLE <b>JAY DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, was.;</b> <b>ALGER HISS, was.</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE PERJURY ESPIONAGE - R INTERNAL SECURITY - R

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

FRANKLIN VICTOR RENO states he first became acquainted with STANLEY BLUMBERG in 1935 or 1936 in connection with the activities of either the National Student League or American League Against War & Fascism. He also knew BLUMBERG's ex-wife, HENRIETTA, and the latter's girl friend TASCA (MARY ANN TASCA). RENO claims acquaintanceship with BLUMBERG was social and to some extent political in that RENO states BLUMBERG was a "radical" and engaged in mass movement activities and might have been a Communist, although RENO does not know this as a fact. RENO maintains BLUMBERG had no connection with espionage activity nor did BLUMBERG, to RENO's knowledge, know of RENO's espionage activity. RENO denies that following last contact with CHAMBERS in 1938 he was ever in contact with anyone in connection with espionage activity. RENO explains that he may have drawn a gear on the end of the bar on the "schematic drawing of range trail diagram with bar across the top," which he gave CHAMBERS and he may have orally told CHAMBERS about the electrical device controlling release of bomb from bomb bay. Mrs. HENRIETTA SIRKIN denies ever knowing FRANKLIN VICTOR RENO under this name or aliases or anyone fitting his description, but she did know MARY ANN TASCA, mentioned by RENO.

*ASB.  
RIPENT*

*George*

*cc AAG Campbell  
4-5-49  
ASBent*

- RUC -

Reference:

Bufile: 74-1333.

Denver teletype to Bureau and SACs, New York City and Baltimore dated 3-18-49, and 3-29-49.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES DESTROYED 169 - DEC 16 1964 5 - Bureau (AMSD) 1 - New York (1-THOMAS J. DONEGAN, Special Asst. to Atty. General NYC) (65-14920) (AMSD) 2 - Baltimore (65-1642) (AMSD) 2 - Richmond (Inf.) (AMSD) 2 - Washington Field (Inf.) (74-94) (AMSD) 2 - Denver	74-1333-3053  MAY 13 1949  EX-133
	RECORDED - 25
	INDEXED - 25
	EX-133



DN 65-658

Details: AT DENVER, COLORADO

By teletype dated March 9, 1949, Baltimore advised that STANLEY BLUMBERG upon interview admitted having known PADDY WHALEI, FRANKLIN VICTOR RENO and PHIL RENO and that FRANKLIN VICTOR RENO knew BLUMBERG in the early 30's; that Colonel LESLIE SIMON, Director B.R.L., advises that RENO's explanation of the Norden Bombsight as "schematic drawing of range trail diagram with bar across the top" was very elementary even at that time.

El Paso was requested to reinterview PHILIP RENO re his acquaintanceship with BLUMBERGS and re the sketch of the bombsight furnished to CHAMBERS and also any participation by FRANKLIN VICTOR RENO in espionage activities subsequent to 1937 or 1938.

By teletype dated March 14, 1949, El Paso advised that FRANKLIN VICTOR RENO had departed from Albuquerque, New Mexico for Colorado and could be reached through his mother.

Contact with RENO's mother, Mrs. EVELYN RENO, 4428 South Bannock Street, Englewood, Colorado, on March 14, 15, 16 and 17 reflected that FRANKLIN VICTOR and his brother PHIL RENO had not yet arrived in Denver as they are driving a car with a trailer and also a truck to Denver and possibly stayed over in Pueblo, Colorado to visit friends.

INTERVIEW WITH FRANKLIN VICTOR RENO

(1) Re: STANLEY BLUMBERG

RENO was interviewed in the forenoon of March 18, 1949 by SA JOSEPH C. LEARNED and the writer.

At the beginning of the interview, RENO was reluctant to admit that he had been acquainted with STANLEY BLUMBERG prior to 1941, explaining that BLUMBERG is a very close friend of his and he does not desire to talk about friends when they have not been involved in espionage activities. He explained he had consulted his attorney, EDWARD SCHEUNEMAN of Denver, who had advised RENO that he had no legal reason to refuse to discuss with the FBI his acquaintanceship with STANLEY BLUMBERG. Nevertheless, he, RENO, sometimes feels he would rather go to jail than to talk about his friend STANLEY BLUMBERG.

On continuing the questioning of RENO, he finally admitted he may have met STANLEY BLUMBERG as early as 1935 or 1936; that BLUMBERG had a radio shop in Baltimore and that the meeting may have been in connection with the activity of the American League Against War and Fascism. RENO also stated that since he does not remember the details of the first meeting with BLUMBERG, it could have been in connection with the activity of the National Student League while RENO was at the University of Virginia. RENO knows that STANLEY

Kisseloff-7083

DN 65-658

BLUMBERG had been a student at Johns Hopkins University, but he doubts that he met BLUMBERG while he was a student.

RENO explains that his acquaintanceship with BLUMBERG was social and that he had met BLUMBERG's ex-wife in about 1936 or 1937; that her name is HENRIETTA. He recalls visiting the BLUMBERGs once or twice at two different addresses but he does not remember these addresses, explaining that one of the apartments was small and rather el-shaped;

He also recalls that he met a friend of HENRIETTA BLUMBERG, who was a nurse, and that he was in her company on one or two occasions. He could not remember this nurse's name.

He reiterated that STANLEY BLUMBERG was in no way connected with his, RENO's, espionage activity nor did he ever tell BLUMBERG about such activity. He also denied knowledge of BLUMBERG's membership in the Communist Party but did state that BLUMBERG was a "radical."

With respect to other friends of STANLEY BLUMBERG in the period of about 1936-1937, RENO denied recalling the names of any, but does indicate that subsequent to BLUMBERG's divorce from HENRIETTA, he had a girl friend by the name of EVA LEVINSON.

FRANKLIN VICTOR RENO was reinterviewed on March 23, 1949 by SA GERALD E. GOTSCHALL and the writer, at which time he reiterated statements previously made concerning STANLEY BLUMBERG, but on this occasion he recalled that HENRIETTA BLUMBERG's girl friend who was a nurse was named TASCA. He was not sure but thought this was her first name and that she was of Polish descent. He recalled that on one occasion STANLEY BLUMBERG, his wife HENRIETTA, TASCA and himself planned to go to a play. However, in a discussion someone mentioned that the play was being picketed and therefore STANLEY BLUMBERG suggested that they not go to the play as they would have to cross the picket line and the rest of them agreed with STANLEY BLUMBERG. At first, FRANKLIN VICTOR RENO stated this incident was in 1946. He couldn't be sure of this date, stating then that his acquaintance with TASCA was around 1937.

RENO states that this girl TASCA was not one of the "radicals" whom he knew and recalls that she once told him she couldn't understand why he was interested in the American League Against War & Fascism.

RENO stated upon questioning that he may have been in STANLEY BLUMBERG's company on one occasion in Washington, D. C. about 1936, but does not recall that BLUMBERG and he have been together more than on possibly one occasion during that period of time and recalls that BLUMBERG had a girl friend in Washington whose last name began with "GOLD" and whose mother was a gentile but he could furnish no further information about this girl friend.

Kisseloff-7084

DN 65-658

RENO also had girl friends in Washington, but he does not remember the names of any of them. However, he had two or three dates with one TENA BRANCE, who is actually from Richmond, Virginia and was taught at the University of Virginia. He explained that this Miss BRANCE was not one of the "radicals" and he doubts that she knew even of his activity with the National Student League.

RENO explained that after he began his employment at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in 1937 he seldom saw STANLEY BLUMBERG until about 1941. He did go so far as to say he could not remember seeing BLUMBERG during the years 1938, 1939 and 1940, explaining that he was living very much to himself with the exception of the Aberdeen Proving Ground acquaintances because of his concern over the espionage activities in which he had engaged during the latter part of 1937 and possibly first part of 1938.

He believed it was in 1941 that he began seeing STANLEY BLUMBERG again and met girl friends of BLUMBERG by the names of JEANNE GRIER and HELENE METZLER. As he recalls it was about 1947 when he met the above-mentioned girl friends.

RENO recalls that STANLEY BLUMBERG had attended the Weem's School of Navigation about 1941, prior to BLUMBERG's becoming a member of the armed forces. As he recalls, BLUMBERG communicated with him once by telephone in 1941 about a certain navigation instrument which he stated BLUMBERG was using or learning in his school work. RENO could not elaborate on this conversation as his recollection of it is not clear. At any rate, this is about the first time that he and BLUMBERG had been in communication since about 1938.

RENO stated that to his knowledge, STANLEY BLUMBERG did not know PADDY WHALEN or his brother PHIL RENO. However, he explained that BLUMBERG may have met PHIL RENO in 1944 when PHIL was living in Baltimore.

RENO is not certain whether he used the name "LANCE CLARK" in connection with his activities with the American League Against War & Fascism and if the former Mrs. BLUMBERG, HENRIETTA SIRKIN, remembered him, RENO wouldn't know what name he was using and the same applies to the TASCÁ girl.

RENO was still reluctant to talk about the sympathies and activities of STANLEY BLUMBERG in the 1936-1937 period.

RENO admitted that he had endeavored to call STANLEY BLUMBERG by long distance telephone about December 1948, but since BLUMBERG was not at home he did not make any further efforts to communicate with him. He explained that he intended to tell BLUMBERG about certain of his difficulties and of the possibility that BLUMBERG might be contacted since they had been friends in 1937.

Kisseloff-7085



FRANKLIN VICTOR RENO was reinterviewed on March 24, 1949 by SA JOSEPH C. LEARNED and the writer, at which time he again stated he was not desirous of talking about STANLEY BLUMBERG but felt he may be throwing suspicion on BLUMBERG by not talking about his activities. He then went on to explain that BLUMBERG had been active in the American League Against War & Fascism and had been active in the National Student League, and that both organizations were following the line of the Communist Party. He explained that BLUMBERG was interested in mass movement organizations to the extent of the two organizations mentioned previously. He explained that although he was a close friend of BLUMBERG he could not say that BLUMBERG is or was at that time a member of the Communist Party, but admitted that he could have been such a member. RENO again categorically denied that BLUMBERG had had any connection with the espionage activity and that to his, RENO's knowledge BLUMBERG never knew of RENO's connection with the espionage activity.

Mrs. NATHAN SIRKIN or HENRIETTA SIRKIN, who was previously interviewed by the writer and SA GERALD E. GOTSCHALL, was again interviewed at the National Jewish Hospital, East Colfax and Colorado Boulevard, on March 23, 1949. Mrs. SIRKIN is recovering from a tubercular condition and expects to return to Baltimore in about one month.

Mrs. SIRKIN stated that her memory is not good and that she cannot remember names of her ex-husband, STANLEY BLUMBERG's, friends and associates in 1936, 1937 and 1938. It will be recalled that she divorced STANLEY BLUMBERG in about the early part of 1939.

When questioned concerning her acquaintance with FRANKLIN VICTOR RENO, alias LANCE CLARK, et al., she was furnished with an oral description of him but stated she could not remember ever having been in RENO's company or that RENO had been a friend of her ex-husband STANLEY BLUMBERG or MARY ANN TASCA, who had also been a nurse and a friend of Mrs. SIRKIN.

Mrs. SIRKIN stated she had seen her ex-husband, STANLEY BLUMBERG, on several occasions subsequent to their divorce and that they were still actually friends. She mentioned that she had seen STANLEY BLUMBERG as late as 1947 or even January 1948 in Baltimore; that at one time a HELENE METZLER, STAN and a certain doctor called to see her and that also she had met BLUMBERG on the street once and he had invited her to have a coke with him. She is certain that there was no occasion when STANLEY BLUMBERG, her friend MARY ANN TASCA and RENO were going to attend a play. She has absolutely no recollection of any such occasion and does not associate RENO with her nurse friend, MARY ANN TASCA.

Mrs. SIRKIN recalls that MARY ANN TASCA had a boy friend by the name of ANGELO BIZON in about 1937 and this man was an interior decorator, was a "party type" individual who after earning a little money would promote a big party. She described him as a very heavy-set individual, rather short, dark, who wore thick-lensed glasses.

Kisseloff-7086

Mrs. SIRKIN mentioned that MARY ANN TASCA attended school with her when training for the occupation of a nurse at the Sinai Hospital in Baltimore; in fact, they roomed together in about 1929-1930. Her recollection that MARY ANN TASCA was around Baltimore in 1936-1937 is rather hazy, but she might have been. She does recall that MARY ANN TASCA had a boy friend who was a British writer, much older, possibly 40 to 50 years of age, who was also heavy set, dark-complexioned, dark brown hair and a broad face. She believes he was married at that time and recalls he went to New York City in about 1936. In mentioning these two individuals, Mrs. SIRKIN wanted to point out she could not associate FRANKLIN VICTOR RENO with a MARY ANN TASCA.

At one time during the interview concerning her recollection of FRANKLIN VICTOR RENO, Mrs. SIRKIN mentioned the name "Cumberland," then immediately stated that no, that was not right, and explained that Cumberland had no connection with her acquaintance with anybody. It will be noted that FRANKLIN VICTOR RENO had been an organizer for the Communist Party in Cumberland for a short period of time in 1936 under the name of LANCE CLARK.

Mrs. SIRKIN recalls a labor organizer whom she described as having been red-headed and believes he was connected with either the tomato or strawberry pickers' union on the eastern shore. His wife taught school and they had two children. She does not recall the name but does not tie this individual up with FRANKLIN VICTOR RENO.

Mrs. SIRKIN also mentioned what she recalled a "seedy looking man," whom she remembers STANLEY BLUMBERG contacting at the radio store. On one or two occasions she remembers that this man borrowed money from STANLEY BLUMBERG and that she did not like him. She described him as being of medium height, heavy set, with a Latin appearance, having dark hair and pitted skin. He was then about 25 years of age. She does not recall his name and would not tie this individual up with the description of FRANKLIN VICTOR RENO.

Mrs. SIRKIN mentioned that STANLEY BLUMBERG would have undoubtedly been acquainted with the wife of DONALD KIRKLEY, who was a movie critic for the BALTIMORE SUN in about 1937. Mrs. KIRKLEY was a good friend of DOROTHY ROSE BLUMBERG, the wife of ALBERT BLUMBERG. At that time they lived in Dickeyville, a suburb of Baltimore. She recalls seeing Mrs. KIRKLEY around STANLEY BLUMBERG's radio store on several occasions.

With respect to MARY ANN TASCA, Mrs. SIRKIN recalls that MARY ANN TASCA lived at about 4 or 6 Mount Vernon Place and that this would have been probably around 1936-1937. She also recalls that she did introduce MARY ANN TASCA to her ex-husband STANLEY BLUMBERG and she believes this took place in her apartment which was located over the flower shop. However, she does not recall any other man being present or in any way associating FRANKLIN VICTOR RENO with MARY ANN TASCA or STANLEY BLUMBERG.

With respect to STANLEY BLUMBERG's activities, Mrs. SIRKIN stated she had nothing to add to what she had previously stated, but did mention that with respect to BLUMBERG's interest on the waterfront she recalls that he once took some sandwiches to strikers and she admonished against his taking any interest in the seamen and their labor affairs.

It was noted during the interview that Mrs. SIRKIN states she is still on friendly terms with STANLEY BLUMBERG and she frequently pleaded poor memory.

(2) Re: ESPIONAGE ACTIVITY SUBSEQUENT  
TO LAST CONTACT WITH CHAMBERS

During the interview on March 18, 1949, FRANKLIN VICTOR RENO stated that he did not engage in any espionage activities subsequent to his last contact with CHAMBERS, which he believed was about early 1938. He furthermore stated that no one to his knowledge connected with espionage activities endeavored to contact him.

On March 23, 1949, RENO reiterated the statements mentioned above.

RENO was asked to explain the possible identity of the third party which he had mentioned in his original interview in Denver at the time of his admitting espionage activity; the individual on the train from Baltimore to Philadelphia, who was with "BERNIE." It is noted that such an individual is not mentioned in the statement which RENO furnished the New York office at the time of the Grand Jury hearing.

At this time FRANKLIN VICTOR RENO stated that he was wrong when he even mentioned a third party in connection with his original trip from Baltimore to Philadelphia to meet "CARL." He went on to explain that in thinking about the initial contact of CHAMBERS he now does not believe he left from Baltimore, rather that he left from Washington; that he was to meet "BERNIE" on the train in Washington under the arrangement that "BERNIE" was to get on the train thirty seconds before it left. As he recalls, "BERNIE" was not on the train, at least he did not see him and they therefore met at a prearranged moving picture house in Philadelphia, a certain number of rows from the back. RENO recalls that he saw BERNIE across the street at the time he bought his ticket and that subsequently BERNIE entered the theatre and located him near the back of the theatre. He recalls that a JEAN HARLOW picture was being shown.

On March 24, 1949, during the interview, FRANKLIN VICTOR RENO explained at length his mental attitude subsequent to the last meeting with CHAMBERS which he believes was in the early part of 1938. He explained that he was very frightened; that he felt "walled-in;" he did not desire to meet people and he stayed away from friends because of the fear of throwing suspicion on them in the event that his activities were uncovered. He not

only feared the U. S. Federal Government officials, but he also had some fear of reprisal. In the latter connection, he mentioned that he recalls CHAMBERS having once referred to the "POYNIS Case," which involved the disappearance of an employee of the Government. He received the impression from CHAMBERS that the mentioning of this case was a veiled threat against him but he admits that CHAMBERS did not threaten him in so many words and it was merely his conclusion from the way in which CHAMBERS brought up the "POYNIS" Case. RENO termed this "individual terror," which he did not think was part of the Communist teachings.

RENO mentioned that his state of mind was at a low ebb in the summer of 1938 and that he spent a vacation in Denver, Colorado and Leadville, Colorado, explaining he had a girl friend in Leadville whom he wanted to marry and he made a second trip to Leadville in the summer of 1938, but the girl had other interests. Upon returning to Aberdeen Proving Ground, he again felt walled-in and did not make new friends and did not visit Washington, Baltimore or New York very much. However, somewhat later, possibly in 1941, he began occasionally going to New York City to visit, particularly FRANCIS FRANKLIN and occasionally PALMER WEBER. He explained these contacts with FRANCIS FRANKLIN as being sub-rosa in view of the fact that he was employed by the Government and he did not want it to be publicly known that he was on friendly terms with a known Communist of some importance and that FRANKLIN was teaching at the Jefferson School. RENO denied that FRANKLIN was engaged in any espionage activity and he, RENO, never did tell FRANKLIN about his previous espionage activity.

As to why RENO was never contacted after the CHAMBERS defection, he cannot give any specific reason but states that had he known of CHAMBERS defection in the 1939 period, he would have been even more frightened, but he labored under the impression that CHAMBERS had probably gone abroad and it was not until this investigation started that he became aware of the fact that CHAMBERS was "CARL," to whom he had furnished espionage data.

(3) Re: FURNISHING OF BOMBSIGHT  
INFORMATION

On March 18, 1949, FRANKLIN VICTOR RENO explained that his previous statement to the effect that he had furnished CHAMBERS with a "schematic drawing of the range trail diagram with a bar across the top" is correct. However, he explained he may have drawn a gear on the end of the bar across the top, but he does not recall putting any more in the drawing which he furnished CHAMBERS. He explained that a gear on the end of the bar was his imagination of what should be there and feels that he had the old D-2 bombsight in mind, which he explains was a fixed angle, non-synchronizing bombsight. He knew nothing about a rotating mirror until 1942 and explained that the Zeiss bombsight was more similar to the Norden bombsight.

RENO further explained that he may have orally discussed with CHAMBERS the electrical devices controlling the release of the bomb from the bomb-bay, because he, RENO, had worked on the problem of delay between the control contact and the actual release of the bomb. He mentioned that he may also have

65-658

discussed with CHAMBERS time flight and trail which went in to the make-up of the bombsight. He felt at the time that CHAMBERS wasn't understanding what he was talking about and that he was doing some guess work because he had no knowledge of how the time flight and trail were synchronized in the mechanism. He may also have mentioned or remarked on the measurement of the experimental ranges and the time flight of bombs.

RENO, in this connection, wanted to state that in mentioning what he might have discussed with CHAMBERS in 1937 and 1938 concerning the bombsight, he <sup>may</sup> be <sup>in</sup> error because of the lapse of time, but feels certain that his knowledge of a complete, efficient bombsight was limited.

MISCELLANEOUS

RENO advised that he intends <sup>ed</sup> to visit his younger brother, DUANE H. RENO, 3408 South Yorktown Road, who works <sup>ed</sup> for an oil company in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He expects to remain there about ten days and does not desire to be contacted by the FBI because this brother's wife is nervous and would become upset if she knew that FRANKLIN was involved in any kind of trouble. FRANKLIN RENO suggests <sup>ed</sup> that if it is <sup>is</sup> urgent to see him that the FBI communicate with him through his mother, Mrs. EVELYN RENO, Englewood, Colorado, who in turn <sup>will</sup> get in touch with him and he <sup>will</sup> then return to Denver for interview.

Kisseloff-7090

- RUC -

- 9 -

DN 65-658

L E A D S

THE BALTIMORE DIVISION

At Baltimore, Maryland

Copies of this report are being furnished the Baltimore office for its information and in the event the Bureau and office of origin desire that the following individuals be interviewed:

*Not believed necessary*

MARY ANN TASCA - address unknown  
Mrs. DONALD KIRKLEY -- address unknown  
ANGELO BIZON - address unknown

Will consider the advisability of reinterviewing STANLEY BLUMBERG for the purpose of determining the identity of the labor organizer for the tomato or strawberry pickers union, the "seedy" looking, Latin appearing man who contacted STANLEY BLUMBERG at his radio store and the British writer who was a friend of MARY ANN TASCA. Reference to the above individuals is made in the interview with Mrs. NATHAN SIRKIN.

THE RICHMOND DIVISION

At Richmond, Virginia

Copies of this report are being furnished the Richmond office in the event the office of origin and the Bureau would desire that TENA BRANCH, a former teacher at the University of Virginia from Richmond, be interviewed.

THE WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION

Two copies of this report are being furnished the Washington Field Division for its information.

Kisseloff-7091



DN 65-658

L E A D S

THE BALTIMORE DIVISION

At Baltimore, Maryland

Copies of this report are being furnished the Baltimore office for its information and in the event the Bureau and office of origin desire that the following individuals be interviewed:

MARY ANN TASCA - address unknown  
Mrs. DONALD KIRKLEY - address unknown  
ANGELO BIZON - address unknown

Will consider the advisability of reinterviewing STANLEY BLUMBERG for the purpose of determining the identity of the labor organizer for the tomato or strawberry pickers union, the "seedy" looking, Latin appearing man who contacted STANLEY BLUMBERG at his radio store and the British writer who was a friend of MARY ANN TASCA. Reference to the above individuals is made in the interview with Mrs. NATHAN SIRKIN.

THE RICHMOND DIVISION

At Richmond, Virginia

Copies of this report are being furnished the Richmond office in the event the office of origin and the Bureau would desire that TENA BRANCH, a former teacher at the University of Virginia from Richmond, be interviewed.

THE WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION

Two copies of this report are being furnished the Washington Field Division for its information.

Kisseloff-7092

- R U C -

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

New York

FILE NO. 65-658

REPORT MADE AT Denver, Colorado	DATE WHEN MADE 3-28-49	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 3/14-18, 23, 24/49	REPORT MADE BY EDWIN O. JOHNSON jl
TITLE <b>JAY DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, was.;</b> <b>ALGER HISS, was.</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE PERJURY ESPIONAGE - R INTERNAL SECURITY - R	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

FRANKLIN VICTOR RENO states he first became acquainted with STANLEY BLUMBERG in 1935 or 1936 in connection with the activities of either the National Student League or American League Against War & Fascism. He also knew BLUMBERG's ex-wife, HENRIETTA, and the latter's girl friend TASCA (MARY ANN TASCA). RENO claims acquaintanceship with BLUMBERG was social and to some extent political in that RENO states BLUMBERG was a "radical" and engaged in mass movement activities and might have been a Communist, although RENO does not know this as a fact. RENO maintains BLUMBERG had no connection with espionage activity nor did BLUMBERG, to RENO's knowledge, know of RENO's espionage activity. RENO denies that following last contact with CHAMBERS in 1938 he was ever in contact with anyone in connection with espionage activity. RENO explains that he may have drawn a gear on the end of the bar on the "schematic drawing of range trail diagram with bar across the top," which he gave CHAMBERS and he may have orally told CHAMBERS about the electrical device controlling release of bomb from bomb bay. Mrs. HENRIETTA SIRKIN denies ever knowing FRANKLIN VICTOR RENO under this name or aliases or anyone fitting his description, but she did know MARY ANN TASCA, mentioned by RENO.

- RUC -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Kisseloff-7093

Reference:

Bufile: 74-1333.

Denver teletype to Bureau and SACs New York City and Baltimore dated 3-18-49, and 3-22-49.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES		
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau (AMSD) 4 - New York (1-THOMAS J. DONEGAN, Special Asst. to Atty. General NYC) (65-14920) (AMSD) 2 - Baltimore (65-1642) (AMSD) 2 - Richmond (Inf.) (AMSD) 2 - Washington Field (Inf.) (74-94) (AMSD) 2 - Denver				



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK**

FILE NO. 65-487

REPORT MADE AT <b>NORFOLK, VIRGINIA</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>4-8-49</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>4-7-49</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>LEMUEL W. KERR</b> <span style="float: right;">cla</span>
TITLE <b>JAHAM</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>PERJURY; ESPIONAGE - R INTERNAL SECURITY - R</b>	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** DONALD F. FRITCH, Brigadier General retired, Virginia Beach, Virginia, advised that he recalled that ABRAHAM GEORGE SILVERMAN was a highly placed civilian employee under his supervision in 1942 and part of 1943 at the Air Forces Material Command, Washington, D.C. General FRITCH claimed that he knew nothing of SILVERMAN's activities away from the place of employment and also stated that he did not know the identity of SILVERMAN's associates. He stated that there was "some talk" concerning SILVERMAN's affiliations at the time he was employed for the Air Force. He stated that SILVERMAN's loyalty was not questioned, although there was an investigation conducted to ascertain the affiliation of one of the employees in SILVERMAN's section.

*ASL  
Bent*  
*J. J. J.*

*cc AAG Campbell  
4-21-49  
FLJ:am*

- R U C -

~~EXPERIMENTAL~~

**REFERENCE:** Bureau File No. 74-1333.  
Washington Field letter to the Bureau dated April 1, 1949.

**DETAILS:** This is a joint investigation of Special Agent WALTER L. HEYER and the writer.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>G. C. Robinson</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
<b>COPIES DESTROYED</b> <b>169</b> DEC 16 1964 COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5-Bureau 2-Norfolk 1-Thomas J. Donegan, Sp. Asst. to Attorney General, N.Y. 3-New York (65-14920) 2-Washington Field (74-94)	74-1333-3054 RECORDED - 25 INDEXED - 25

The referenced letter from Washington Field to the Bureau dated April 1, 1949, stated that efforts were being made to ascertain the identity of the associates and activities of ABRAHAM GEORGE SILVERMAN, who had been mentioned by ELIZABETH TERRILL BENTLY in recent HCUA Hearings as one of the persons who was supplying confidential information to unauthorized sources when SILVERMAN was employed by the War Department from 1943 to 1945.

DONALD F. FRITCH, Brigadier General retired, was interviewed by Special Agent WALTER L. HEYER and the writer at his place of residence 209 - 36th Street, Virginia Beach, Virginia, at which time he stated that he had served in the capacity as Assistant Chief of Staff in the Army Air Forces Material Command under General BENNETT MYERS, during 1942 and part of 1943.

According to General FRITCH, ABRAHAM GEORGE SILVERMAN was a highly placed civilian employee under his supervision. General FRITCH recalled that he had the responsibility of rating SILVERMAN's services during this period and undoubtedly that was the reason that he had signed SILVERMAN's efficiency rating. General FRITCH also recalled that General MYERS had been desirous of obtaining the services of a competent statistician for certain analytical work in connection with aircraft production, that is predicting and analyzing daily production. General FRITCH said that through the efforts of General MYERS the services of SILVERMAN had been obtained. He said that SILVERMAN at that time had gathered around him people that he, SILVERMAN, had personally recommended and desired to be in his section to aid in this type of work.

According to General FRITCH, SILVERMAN had been employed either at the Railroad Retirement Board or with the Labor Department prior to transferring to the War Department.

General FRITCH was certain that SILVERMAN had been instrumental in securing the services of the other employees in his section. At that time General FRITCH recalled that there had been some question as to the reliability of some of the employees in this section. He stated that there was "some talk" about the possibility of affiliations of both SILVERMAN and other employees in organizations of questionable background.

During the interview General FRITCH stated that SILVERMAN had been regarded by many as a liberal and was often referred to as a Socialist. General FRITCH stated that he knew nothing of SILVERMAN's activities out of the office, nor did he know the identity of SILVERMAN's associates. General FRITCH advised that he had never been associated with SILVERMAN socially and recalled that on one occasion he had been invited by SILVERMAN to attend a social function at his home but had declined the invitation.

Kisseloff-7095

He furnished this information concerning one of the persons who SILVERMAN had gathered around him to make up the section; he recalled that one of the female employees, believed to be SILVERMAN's secretary, a Jewish girl in her twenties had been the subject of an investigation by either the F.B.I. or Army Intelligence. This investigation was instigated by the department Brigadier General FRITCH headed because there was some question at that time of the affiliations of this employee. General FRITCH stated that efforts were made to ascertain this employee's associates and the organizations with which she was affiliated. He stated that nothing came of the investigation and apparently she was cleared.

General FRITCH said that the data compiled by SILVERMAN's section as well as the data that came in possession of those in SILVERMAN's section was classified as being restricted and confidential. General FRITCH said that as head of a section SILVERMAN had access to all documents, data and factual information which was entrusted to this section. He could not recall any security measure employed by his command to prevent any highly placed civilian employee from removing restricted and confidential documents from the files or the section. General FRITCH said that Mr. SILVERMAN was considered a trusted and loyal person and that as such could remove any of these documents from the files or even take them from the building. Because of SILVERMAN's position General FRITCH stated that he was not made accountable for any of this classified material which was at his disposal.

It is pointed out here that General FRITCH supplied information to the effect that there was a similar section performing almost identical functions as SILVERMAN's section which was headed by an officer believed to be a colonel in rank. General FRITCH was unable to furnish the name of this officer. It was the opinion of General FRITCH that this unidentified officer was more closely associated with SILVERMAN than either he or General MYERS. He also stated that there was some friction between the sections headed by the unidentified colonel and SILVERMAN and that General MYERS seemed to be the stabilizing force between the two individuals.

General FRITCH stated that he was re-assigned to duty in Italy in about August 1943 and was replaced by Colonel JOHN SESSUMS. General FRITCH stated that Colonel SESSUMS acted in the capacity as Assistant Chief of Staff to General MYERS until about 1945, at which time he was assigned to the European theater of war.

General FRITCH said that possibly Colonel SESSUMS could furnish information in connection with this investigation as well as furnish the name and address of the unidentified Army officer who headed the section similar to SILVERMAN's section.

NF 65-487

General FRITCH concluded by saying that he did not know either ALGER HISS or WHITTAKER CHAMBERS and has not known SILVERMAN to have been associated with either. General FRITCH also stated that if he had ever suspected or knew of SILVERMAN supplying confidential information to unauthorized persons that he would have taken appropriate action to have him investigated.

General FRITCH was emphatic in stating that SILVERMAN's loyalty was not questioned at that time.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

Kisseloff-7097

L E A D S

THE WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

Will ascertain from the Department of the Air Force the present whereabouts of Colonel JOHN SESSUMS and set out appropriate leads to have Colonel SESSUMS interviewed concerning the facts of this investigation.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

Kisseloff-7098

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK**

FILE NO. **65-487**

REPORT MADE AT <b>NORFOLK, VIRGINIA</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>4-8-49</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>4-7-49</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>LEMUEL W. KERR</b> <span style="float: right;">cla</span>
TITLE <b>JAHAM</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>PERJURY; ESPIONAGE - R INTERNAL SECURITY - R</b>	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** DONALD F. FRITCH, Brigadier General retired, Virginia Beach, Virginia, advised that he recalled that ABRAHAM GEORGE SILVERMAN was a highly placed civilian employee under his supervision in 1942 and part of 1943 at the Air Forces Material Command, Washington, D.C. General FRITCH claimed that he knew nothing of SILVERMAN's activities away from the place of employment and also stated that he did not know the identity of SILVERMAN's associates. He stated that there was "some talk" concerning SILVERMAN's affiliations at the time he was employed for the Air Force. He stated that SILVERMAN's loyalty was not questioned, although there was an investigation conducted to ascertain the affiliation of one of the employees in SILVERMAN's section.

- R U C -

**REFERENCE:** Bureau File No. 74-1333.  
Washington Field letter to the Bureau dated April 1, 1949.

**DETAILS:** This is a joint investigation of Special Agent WALTER L. HEYER and the writer.

<b>APPROVED AND FORWARDED:</b>	<b>SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE</b>	<b>DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES</b>	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT (5) Bureau 1-Thomas J. Donegan, Sp. Asst. to Attorney General, N.Y. 3-New York (65-14920) 2-Washington Field (74-94)		Kisseloff-7099	

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK

FILE NO.

74-94

REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D. C.	DATE WHEN MADE 4/8/49	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2/8, 16, 24, 25; 3/1, 2, 9, 10, 15-18, 21- 23, 28, 31/49	REPORT MADE BY LUDWIG W. R. OBERNDORF: MFL
TITLE JAY DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, was., et al			CHARACTER OF CASE PERJURY ESPIONAGE - R INTERNAL SECURITY - R

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Colonel SIDNEY F. GIFFIN; LEO PASVOLSKY; RICHARD W. FLOURNOY; HOWARD C. JOHNSON; RILLA R. SCHWARTZ, nee RESNICK; Brigadier General TELFORD TAYLOR, interviewed. No information of Communist activities on part of ALGER HISS developed. Neighborhood investigation equally negative. Investigation to locate pertinent Woodstock typewriter set out. File review of HISS' financial transactions set out. Information re WILLIAM EDWARD CRANE obtained from MRS. PEYTON KERR set out. PAUL C. DANIELS, GEORGE H. BUTLER, associates of LAURENCE DUGGAN, interviewed. Information from INS re ERWIN S. GELSEY, aka ERWIN GELSKY, set out. PAUL R. PORTER, former husband of ELEANOR NELSON, interviewed. Inquiry re DAVID ZIMMERMAN with aliases. WEBSTER CLAY POWELL knew HAROLD WARE, ALGER HISS, ELEANOR NELSON, ROBERT COE; denies knowledge of Communist affiliations.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7/20/87 BY SP-2/MLC/BJ  
# 266,586

cc AAG Campbell  
4-21-49  
FLT:cm

ENCLOSURE  
ENCLOSURE BEING RETURNED  
ENCLOSURE BEING RETURNED

~~DATE RECEIVED PROCEEDING~~

- P -

**REFERENCES:**

Bureau File No. 74-1333  
Bureau letter dated January 3, 1949  
Bureau letter dated December 13, 1948  
Report of Special Agent JOSEPH M. KELLY, dated February 8, 1949, at Washington, D. C.  
*New York City* Kisseloff-7100

*Brant ASB*  
*JAF*

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>Guy Hottel</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES DESTROYED 169 DEC 16 1964	74-1333-3055
5 - Bureau COPIES OF THIS REPORT (Encl) 3 - New York (65-14920 - 1 THOMAS J. DONEGAN, SAAG, NY) Encl) 1 - Baltimore (65-1642) (Info) 1 - Los Angeles (100-30409) (Info) 3 - Washington Field	RECORDED - 118 INDEXED - 118 EX-133
	MAY 13 1949

MAY 26 1949

161

*[Handwritten initials]*

RECEIVED

APR 11 11 39 AM '49

DEPT. OF JUSTICE

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

*James  
Hill  
5*

Kisseloff-7101



WFO 74-94

DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

ALGER HISS

Interviews with Friends, Associates,  
Neighbors, and Acquaintances

New York teletype of January 28, 1949, requested this office to interview LEO PASVOLSKY, of the Brookings Institute, and Colonel SIDNEY F. GIFFIN, U. S. Air Force.

Colonel SIDNEY F. GIFFIN, Chief, World Survey Branch, Air Forces Operations, Room 4C-1082, Pentagon, advised Special Agent JACK S. TURTON on March 31, 1949, that he has known ALGER HISS since January 1946. GIFFIN had been a member of a joint committee composed of Army and Navy officers and State Department representatives, the purpose of which was the study and the development of security measures for the United States and an analysis of world affairs reflecting on United States security.

GIFFIN attended a number of committee meetings at which HISS was present in his capacity of Chief of the Special Political Affairs Division of the Department of State. In addition, GIFFIN spent two weeks in August 1947, at a seminar conducted by the Brookings Institute at Dartmouth College. He has also had contacts with HISS since the latter assumed the presidency of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. He considered HISS to be a friend, even though he has known him only professionally and has never visited HISS' home, nor has HISS visited the GIFFIN home. GIFFIN stated that he had been in London at the time the HISS-CHAMBERS case broke in the newspapers in the Fall of 1948. Upon reading of the hearings and of HISS' subsequent involvement, GIFFIN had written HISS a letter. In this letter, he told HISS of his regret that as a result of the "mud slinging" some of the dirt had splattered on HISS' coat. He received a short acknowledgment from HISS, but was unable to locate that piece of correspondence. GIFFIN stated that he was unable to justify in his own mind the allegation made against HISS. He realized that his contact occurred a number of years after HISS' alleged activities, but in his opinion, there was no activity on HISS' part that would lead GIFFIN to believe in the accusations against HISS. GIFFIN had had numerous differences of opinions in conversations with HISS, but none of the ideas propounded by HISS led GIFFIN to believe that HISS displayed pro-Soviet tendencies in any way.

With further reference to the meeting of the Brookings Institute at Dartmouth College, GIFFIN stated that he had become quite friendly with HISS, and that they had worked closely on a number of projects at that meeting. GIFFIN described the purpose of the seminar as making available the combined state-military views toward the security measures of the United States. GIFFIN did not attend the Brookings seminar held at Stanford University in June and July 1947, but was aware of the fact that HISS had

Kisseloff-7102

attended this conference. He made available a letter written to him by HISS at the time that HISS returned an original document to GIFFIN. GIFFIN stated that this document was a paper on American security which he had written and had sent to HISS in order to obtain HISS' ideas on the paper. This letter has been submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory for appropriate typewriter examination.

LEO PASVOLSKY, Brookings Institute, Washington, D. C., advised Special Agent JACK S. TURTON, on February 8, 1949, that he has been employed by the Institute since 1922, and was on leave of absence from Brookings Institute during the period he was employed by the State Department. PASVOLSKY stated that ALGER HISS entered the State Department to work for FRANCIS B. SAYRE, inasmuch as SAYRE desired an attorney as an assistant in the Trade Agreements Division of the State Department. PASVOLSKY advised that when SAYRE left the State Department to go to the Philippine Islands, HISS transferred to work for STANLEY HORNBECK. As far as he could remember, HISS stayed with HORNBECK until approximately 1944.

PASVOLSKY stated that HISS was appointed to the Staff that attended the Yalta Conference by the Secretary of State. He was further appointed as Secretary General at the San Francisco Conference by Secretary of State STETTINIUS, and this appointment had the approval of the late President ROOSEVELT.

PASVOLSKY stated he is not aware of any person or persons who may have been behind HISS in HISS' government employment, and knows of no one who was sponsoring him. He did not know HISS at all well socially; his family had never exchanged visits with the HISS family, and he knows of none of HISS' friends.

PASVOLSKY has never been closely associated with the Carnegie Endowment and did not discuss HISS' appointment to the position as President with JOHN FOSTER DULLES. PASVOLSKY advised HISS' appointment to the Carnegie Institute position was considered a very good one by a number of people, inasmuch as HISS had turned out to be an excellent administrator. PASVOLSKY stated no one had ever given much thought to HISS' ability along this line, but that he had turned out to be an excellent administrator at the Dumbarton Oaks Conference.

He was unable to locate any typewritten correspondence from ALGER HISS. He has been advised by JOSEPH VALLENTINE that HISS had had no correspondence with the business office of the Brookings Institute, Washington, D. C.

Bureau letter dated March 18, 1949, instructed this office to interview RICHARD B. FLOURNEY. On March 23, 1949, RICHARD W. FLOURNOY, 111 West Leland Street, Chevy Chase, Maryland, was interviewed at his home by Special Agent JOHN B. VAN ETTEN. MR. FLOURNOY, who is presently retired

after serving as a Legal Advisor with the State Department for a considerable number of years, furnished the following information:

He first became acquainted with ALGER HISS in approximately 1940, at which time, FLOURNOY, in his capacity as Legal Advisor, was working on various trade agreements and had some business contact with ALGER HISS. FLOURNOY was never other than casually acquainted with ALGER HISS and, to his knowledge, they had never met socially in the same social circle. He has, to his knowledge, never received any correspondence from ALGER HISS either in typewriting or in longhand and he knows nobody who might be of aid in this regard.

Although the City Directory reflects that FLOURNOY resided only one block from ALGER HISS on P Street, Northwest, FLOURNOY was unaware of this fact and stated that his entire contact with ALGER HISS had been limited to matters of business at the State Department. He was unable to identify the photograph of ~~WHELTAKER CHAMBERS~~, although he thought the photograph used by ~~WHELTAKER CHAMBERS~~ as ~~DAVID GREEN~~, to obtain a passport in 1935, was familiar. He could not identify this photograph with any particular individual.

In view of the fact the referenced Bureau letter requests that a RICHARD B. FLOURNEY be interviewed, it was considered advisable to determine whether the above FLOURNOY was identical with the person referred to in the Bureau's letter. FLOURNOY advised that he was well acquainted with ALBERT LEVITT, who had formerly been with the Department of Justice, and it is presumed that RICHARD B. FLOURNEY and RICHARD W. FLOURNOY are actually one and the same person.

By teletype dated March 22, 1949, New York Office requested that HOWARD C. JOHNSON, Chief of the Division for United Nations Security Affairs, U. S. Department of State, be interviewed. On March 28, 1949, JOHNSON was interviewed at his office, Room 609, 2145 C Street, Northwest, Annex No. 5, U. S. Department of State, by Special Agent DONALD D. CONNORS.

JOHNSON advised he resides at 4731 Fulton Street, Northwest, and that he was first employed by the State Department in October, 1945. He stated it was some time after that when he first met HISS. JOHNSON advised that although he was a member of the Secretariat at the San Francisco United Nations Conference, he did not know HISS until after the conference. He pointed out that he knew HISS only for a very short time and that he did not know him socially. He said that his acquaintance with HISS on all counts was extremely slight. JOHNSON did not recognize pictures of CHAMBERS, advised that he had never met CHAMBERS, and that he had no correspondence from HISS. He advised that in view of his slight acquaintance with HISS, he had no reason or occasion to doubt HISS' loyalty.

New York teletype dated February 24, 1949, requested this office to interview MRS. RELLA R. SCHWARTZ, a former employee of the Agriculture Adjustment Administration.

MRS. RELLA R. SCHWARTZ, nee L. RELLA RESNICK, was interviewed at her office, Room 800, Hibbs Building on March 16, 1949, by Special Agent FRANCIS R. MCGINTY. MRS. SCHWARTZ advised she was appointed a Junior Attorney in 1934, and was employed at the Litigation Section, Agriculture Adjustment Administration. Her work in the capacity of a Junior Attorney consisted mostly of briefing cases, and doing considerable research work in the library. As a result, she did not come in contact with the more prominent attorneys in the Agriculture Adjustment Administration. While working at the AAA, she was studying hard for the bar examinations and as a result, had little time for social activities which would have brought her in contact with other attorneys in the AAA. She did, however, have an initial interview with LEE PRESSMAN, who was one of the most prominent attorneys, but does not recall meeting or seeing ALGER HISS. The nature of her work did not bring her in contact with the head attorneys at the AAA and as a result, she was never acquainted with ALGER HISS, nor would she know him or his acquaintances. MRS. SCHWARTZ advised she had no reason to receive any correspondence from ALGER HISS, nor was she acquainted socially with him.

MRS. SCHWARTZ stated she was not aware of the fact that ALGER HISS had been employed by the AAA during the period she was employed with them until she read the recent news releases concerning MR. HISS' activities in government employment. To the best of her knowledge, MRS. SCHWARTZ recalls she left the AAA the latter part of 1935, and has forgotten most of the people who were employed there in 1934 - 1935, and as a result, could not recall any specific names.

Referenced New York report requested this office to interview General TELFORD TAYLOR, who had been associated with ALGER HISS in the Agriculture Adjustment Administration.

Brigadier General TELFORD TAYLOR, Head of the War Crimes Section, U. S. Army, was interviewed in his office in the Pentagon Building by Special Agent THOMAS J. BARRY on March 2, 1949, and advised as follows:

TAYLOR first met HISS in 1934, when TAYLOR had gone to work for the AAA in the Agriculture Department. He was somewhat younger than HISS and never considered himself to be a very close friend. After the "purge" in the Agriculture Department, in which JEROME FRANK, LEE PRESSMAN, and others, had lost their jobs, while ALGER HISS was not one of those purged, HISS made a statement to the effect that he was in favor of those people who had been purged and it was shortly thereafter that HISS resigned. TAYLOR took over part of HISS' duties and, therefore, worked closely with HISS for a few weeks in order to become acquainted with his duties. After HISS resigned,



TAYLOR only saw him a few times on the occasion of cocktail parties and the like. TAYLOR entered the Justice Department in about September 1939, and in 1943, entered the U. S. Army and went overseas. From that time, until May 1948, he had not seen or heard of ALGER HISS. When he returned from overseas, in May 1948, he contacted HISS in connection with his work with the War Crimes Trial, since he wanted HISS to publish some information concerning the trial, the arrangements for which were to be made by the Carnegie Endowment Fund for Peace, with which HISS was by then connected.

About October 1948, after the charges against HISS had appeared in the newspapers, but before the "pumpkin papers" had been exposed, HISS got in touch with TAYLOR. According to TAYLOR, the reason for this was that HISS told him he wanted to go over some of the things that had happened during the period of their joint employment in the Agriculture Department in order to refresh HISS' memory. TAYLOR was shown pictures of WHITTAKER CHAMBERS and failed to identify him. He stated he had never seen or heard of CHAMBERS. During TAYLOR's employment at the Agriculture Department, he believes that he may have been in the HISS home about six times, and that HISS and his wife came to the TAYLOR home about the same number of times. He did not recall seeing a typewriter in the HISS home. He commented that when the matter broke in the newspapers, it was a complete shock to him, as he had never had any indication that HISS was a Communist, or in any way involved in a conspiracy to obtain Government secrets. At the present time, his feelings are akin to those of DEAN ACHESON and he is waiting until the court action to see whether HISS is proven guilty or not before coming to any conclusion with regard to HISS' guilt.

By letter dated March 4, 1949, the Bureau suggested that former neighbors of ALGER HISS be interviewed.

MRS. ERNEST I. LEWIS, 3099 Q Street, Northwest, advised Special Agent WILLIAM H. ATKINSON on March 9, 1949, that she met PRISCILLA HISS sometime around 1941. She could not fix the exact time, but stated that PRISCILLA's child, TONY, was still kept in his play pen. She advised that she was never an intimate friend of PRISCILLA HISS, but that she was a social acquaintance until PRISCILLA HISS left Washington, D. C., in 1947. She visited the HISS home on Volta Place on one occasion and visited their home in the 3200 block of P Street on two or three occasions. She could not furnish the names of baby sitters, maids, or other employees of the HISS household. She could not recall any typewriter in the home and advised that she has had no correspondence with PRISCILLA HISS, except a letter to PRISCILLA sympathizing with her after ALGER HISS was charged before the House Committee on Un-American Activities. PRISCILLA answered her letter, but MRS. LEWIS advised that that letter has since been destroyed.

MRS. LEWIS advised that she attended several hearings of the House Committee on Un-American Activities and that she was present when HISS and

CHAMBERS first confronted each other. She could not recall ever having seen WHITTAKER CHAMBERS prior to that time. She also examined the photographs of WHITTAKER CHAMBERS which were taken in the middle thirties and advised that she could not identify that individual.

She could not recall any acquaintances of PRISCILLA HISS who were known by the name of CARL CARLSON, GEORGE CROSLY, or WHITTAKER CHAMBERS. She emphasized that PRISCILLA was much younger than she, and that her only contact with her was at teas, parties, and other social affairs in Washington. She believes that she met ALGER on one occasion. She knew of nothing which would indicate that the HISS' were engaged in subversive activities.

MRS. HUGHES CALL, 1675 35th Street, Northwest, advised that she was active as one of the Co-Directors of the Foxhall Nursery School, which was conducted in the Parish Hall at Foxhall and Reservoir Road, Northwest, from 1945 through 1947. During that time, PRISCILLA HISS enrolled her child, TONY HISS, in the nursery school. Through this relationship, MRS. CALL became acquainted with PRISCILLA HISS. She also indicated that she met PRISCILLA HISS at teas given by her mother, MRS. ERNEST I. LEWIS, and at social affairs given by other residents in Georgetown. MRS. CALL advised that she is much younger than PRISCILLA HISS and that she never became a good friend. She believes that she was in the HISS home on one or two occasions, but could furnish no information concerning a typewriter, household employees, or baby sitters. She has never corresponded with either ALGER or PRISCILLA HISS.

MRS. BENNETT PHELPS STILES, 403 South Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia, advised that she was a sister of MRS. FERDINAND AUGUSTUS SILCOX. She stated that MR. SILCOX was called to Washington, D. C., in 1936, to become Chief Forester of the United States. At that time, he rented a house in Georgetown and resided in this home from three to nine months. He soon obtained permanent quarters and moved to Alexandria, Virginia. She could furnish no information regarding the address of the house which was leased in Georgetown, nor could she furnish the name of the person who owned that house. She advised that her brother-in-law died in 1939, and that her sister died in Alexandria, Virginia, in November of 1948. She advised that they had no children.

Colonel and MRS. FREDERICK W. BOYE, 4511 Cathedral Avenue, Northwest, advised Special Agent WILLIAM H. ATKINSON on March 9, 1949, that from March 1938, through September 1939, they rented a home at 1545 35th Street, from Admiral SHARP. They advised that they were not acquainted with the people who resided at 3415 Volta Place; however, they frequently looked over the high board fence which separated their back yards and admired the roses in the yard at that address. They knew none of the employees at that address and did not recognize the name of ALGER or PRISCILLA HISS, WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, GEORGE CROSLY, or CARL CARLSON. They also examined photographs of WHITTAKER CHAMBERS and ALGER HISS, but were unable to identify either of these men.

MRS. ELINOR T. DONALDSON, 2234 Decatur Place, Northwest, advised Special Agent WILLIAM H. ATKINSON on March 10, 1949, that she met KATHERINE HISS around 1939 or 1940, as they were both serving in the American Women's Volunteer Service in Washington, D. C. She also met KATHERINE HISS at various social functions in Washington, D. C. She recalls that KATHERINE and DONALD HISS were very close friends of an old friend of hers, MRS. L. CORRIN STRONG. She advised that she has probably met ALGER and PRISCILLA HISS, but she cannot recall it at this time. She has never corresponded with ALGER or PRISCILLA HISS and has never visited their home. She examined the photographs of ALGER HISS and WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, but was unable to identify either of these individuals.

By teletype dated March 11, 1949, the New York Office requested that GARDNER JACKSON be re-interviewed in connection with the Twentieth Anniversary Petition of the SACCO and VANZETTI case. On March 17, 1949, JACKSON was interviewed at his office, the Cooperative League of the United States of America, 726 Jackson Place, Northwest, by Special Agent DONALD D. CONNORS. JACKSON recalled that he had sent a copy of the afore-mentioned petition to ALGER HISS in 1947, when this petition was published. HISS returned the petition with a letter in which HISS indicated that he felt he could not sign the petition because his position as President of the Carnegie Peace Foundation precluded his taking so positive a stand in any highly controversial matter. JACKSON advised that although he is unable to find HISS' letter, and has not read it for a year or so, there is nothing in this letter to indicate that HISS was sympathetic to the Communist Party or to Soviet Russia. He recalled that a number of individuals did refuse to sign this petition on the grounds that it was "Red baiting" and added to the "anti-Soviet hysteria" sweeping the country.

MR. THOMAS B. NOLAN, Assistant Chief Geologist, U. S. Geological Survey, Department of Interior, was interviewed on March 17, 1949, by Special Agent EDWARD F. HUMMER at his office in the Old Interior Building, concerning his knowledge as to whether ALGER HISS visited Longview, Accokeek, Maryland, on or about July 4, 1937.

MR. NOLAN stated that prior to 1937, he was frequently a week-end guest at the estate of MR. and MRS. HENRY G. FERGUSON at Accokeek, Maryland, but after 1937, the year his son was born, his visits there were more or less infrequent. Inasmuch as he was the guest of the FERGUSONS, he did not know the identity of the persons who visited SALLY RINGE and LENORE THOMAS at Longview, the adjoining property which was owned by the FERGUSONS and rented to the two girls. NOLAN stated that it was customary for the THOMAS and RINGE guests to come over to the FERGUSON property and use the volley ball court.

NOLAN stated that he never met ALGER HISS and only knows him through the publicity of this case and, therefore, he cannot say whether

HISS was a visitor at Longview. He was shown a picture of ALGER HISS taken in 1934, and stated that he had no recollection of HISS ever being there. FERGUSON characterized the two girls, LENORE THOMAS and SALLY RINGE, as well as most of their guests, as being "ultra liberals or new dealers." By this, he meant that they invariably, in their discussions, advocated the extreme left wing views at the time, but he had no discussions with the two girls or the guests indicating their membership in the Communist Party. NOLAN stated that he recalls a red-headed man there, but he did not know his name. In recent conversations with the FERGUSONS, the latter have identified him to NOLAN as being CHARLES KRAMER.

Investigation to Locate  
Woodstock Typewriter

The report of Special Agent DANIEL F. X. CALLAHAN in this matter, dated February 17, 1949, at Baltimore, Maryland, requested this office to recontact the Arlington Typewriter Company in an effort to locate SYLVIA STEVENS.

MRS. SYLVIA STEPHENS, Lakeland, Maryland, advised Special Agent WILLIAM H. ATKINSON that in January or February of 1942, she purchased a typewriter from the MacDONALD's Typewriter Company, 818 Fourteenth Street, Northwest. It is to be noted that this typewriter company is associated with the Arlington Typewriter Company and the District Typewriter Company, and all the records of these companies are maintained by the District Typewriter Company at 818 Fourteenth Street, Northwest.

Typewriter specimens obtained by Agent ATKINSON on March 9, 1949, from Woodstock typewriter No. 162202, which is presently owned by MRS. STEPHENS, were forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory on March 10, 1949. The Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory advised in letter dated March 11, 1949, that Woodstock typewriter No. 162202 was not the machine that was used to type the documents turned over by CHAMBERS.

By letter dated March 16, 1949, the Bureau requested the re-interview of HARRY C. FELDSTONE, 1531 Wisconsin Avenue, Northwest.

FELDSTONE was reinterviewed on March 22, 1949, at his home, 1531 Wisconsin Avenue, Northwest, on business by Special Agents JOHN E. HOWARD and CHARLES W. PEASINGER. He advised that since his previous interview by Agents on February 4, 1949, he had located his book of sales and purchases covering dates up to 1935. The only record book not located was for the period 1935 through 1943. FELDSTONE advised that when he moved from 1516 Wisconsin Avenue, Northwest, about a year ago, he had destroyed a lot of old papers and misplaced a lot of others and he believes that instant book has been thrown away.

Previous statements made by FELDSTONE were gone over with him carefully but no additional data pertaining to instant typewriter was obtained.



He continues to state that he can recall no purchases of Woodstock typewriters nor can he recall any dealings with ALGER or PRISCILLA HISS or TIMOTHY HOBSON.

FELDSTONE was advised concerning his notarization of HOBSON's naval papers and asked for his comment. He stated he could not recall this notarization. He stated that he notarized many such navy papers during the war, but that he could not recall PRISCILLA or TIMOTHY. FELDSTONE stated that when someone asks him for a notarization that he requests that person to identify himself by some official or semi-official document, e.i., draft card, driver's license, etc. He cannot recall PRISCILLA HISS or what identification she may have used.

With FELDSTONE's permission, Agents examined his filing cabinet and desk, as well as old files he maintained in the basement, but no pertinent records were located. FELDSTONE, subsequently, advised that he rented an old garage in the rear of 1516 Wisconsin Avenue, Northwest, as a storage place and that possibly some old records might be there. FELDSTONE accompanied Agents to this garage and a search thereof located a quantity of check stubs and two old typewriters which were not Woodstocks. FELDSTONE advised that whenever he made a purchase that he paid for it by check. His check stubs were examined for the period 1937 through 1943, but no record of a typewriter purchase or any payment of interest was noted.

FELDSTONE advised that he would continue to make efforts to recall any information of interest to instant investigation and that though he could not think of anywhere else that instant purchase book might be located, he would continue to make efforts to locate it and would contact interviewing Agents in that event. FELDSTONE appeared to be entirely cooperative and concerned with emphasizing his desire to cooperate in any way possible. He stated that he could not positively affirm that he had not purchased instant typewriter, but, that if he had, he had no recollection thereof.

File Review, HISS' Financial Transactions

Reference is made to Bureau letter to the Washington Field dated March 4, 1949, which requested the Washington Field Office to determine if \$400 was redeposited in their bank account by either of the HISS' immediately subsequent to November 19, 1937, thus substantiating the allegation of CHAMBERS that the money was repaid to the HISS' by Colonel BYKOV. This letter also requested this office to check the case file for any information as to why the HISS' would withdraw \$400 from their savings account on November 19, 1937.

The report of Special Agent (A) J. BERNARD COOK, dated March 14, 1949, at Washington, D. C., reported that PRISCILLA HISS withdrew \$400 from the HISS joint savings account No. 10931, at the Farmers and Mechanics

Branch, Riggs National Bank, Washington, D. C., on November 19, 1937. This report contains a detailed analysis showing withdrawals, deposits, description of deposits when available, and balance of ALGER and PRISCILLA HISS' savings account from November 4, 1936, through October 1, 1948. This report also contains an analysis showing deposits, description of deposits when available, and balance for the HISS checking account at the same bank from June 6, 1934, through February 4, 1949.

Examination of the analysis of the HISS' savings account reflects that after the withdrawal of the above-mentioned \$400 on November 19, 1937, the balance remained under \$100 until May 8, 1939, when \$200 was deposited into the account. This brought the balance in the account up to \$202.29. The deposit of \$200 was unidentified in the analysis.

An analysis of the HISS' checking account for the year 1937, failed to list any material deposit that does not regularly appear month after month except for a deposit made on May 19, 1937, in the amount of \$657.42. The analysis reflects that the deposit slip for this deposit bore the notation "Heinold." On December 8, 1937, a \$300 deposit was made, the analysis reflecting that the source is unidentified. After December 8, 1937, the following deposits that have not appeared regularly each month were noted:

- (1) On February 5, 1938, a check for \$116 that was drawn on the Munsey Trust Company, Washington, D. C., was deposited.
- (2) On June 18, 1938, a deposit of \$400 was made. The checking account analysis reflects the source was unidentified.
- (3) On November 28, 1938, a deposit of \$400 was made. The checking account analysis reflects that the source was unidentified.

Offices covering the location of payments that were listed on deposit slips have been requested to attempt to determine the source of deposits to the HISS' accounts by contacting payments on which deposit checks were drawn.

#### Family Illness and Hospitalization

The review of the file revealed that TIMOTHY HOBSON, a stepson of ALGER HISS, was injured at 27th and P Streets, Northwest, by a car driven by GEORGE E. KILLEEN, 3117 N Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C., on February 19, 1937. TIMOTHY HOBSON was admitted to Georgetown University Hospital for treatment of a broken leg on February 19, 1937, and he was released from the hospital on February 27, 1937. He was treated by DR. PAUL O'CONNELL and DR. MARGARET NICHOLSON.

Doctors and dentists who have treated the HISS family and representatives of hospitals where members of the family have been patients, have been contacted by Agents of this office, but no data appears in the file that would indicate details regarding the financial relationship between them. Thus, there is no indication that unusual medical expenses arose around November 1937; however, interview with friends and associates did not reveal any known illness or operation during this period.

#### Purchase of Automobile

The files of the Credit Bureau, 1221 G Street, Northwest, reflect that ALGER HISS, 2905 P Street, Northwest, on October 7, 1935, purchased from the Smoot Motor Company, a Plymouth, Motor No. PJ 295368, for \$723.85. HISS made a cash down payment and the balance of \$621.35 was to be paid in two monthly installments of \$200 and one installment of \$221.35.

#### Furniture

MARTHA POPE advised that she was employed by the HISS' as a maid from 1930 to 1935, at 3411 O Street, Northwest; 2831 28th Street, Northwest, and for about a month after they moved to 2905 P Street, Northwest, around May 1, 1935. (The HISS' lived at 2905 P Street, Northwest, from May 1, 1935, to June 15, 1936). She stated that HISS rented the P Street house furnished, that she does not recall any furniture being removed from the apartment on 28th Street to P Street, and that the HISS' carried their personal belongings to P Street in their automobile.

CLAUDIE CATLETT, a maid employed by the HISS' about six months before the HISS' moved to the house on 30th Street, (HISS moved from 2905 P Street to 1245 30th Street, on June 15, 1936) until the Summer of 1938, advised that most of the furniture in the house at 2905 P Street, Northwest, was not the property of the HISS' and was left in the house when they moved to 1245 30th Street, Northwest. They did move several chairs, a secretary, a small table, their books and typewriter and their personal belongings by moving van. She stated that when the HISS' moved from 30th Street to 3415 Volta Place, Northwest, around January of 1938, their furniture and household effects were moved by van. In fact, she indicated in her signed statement that they moved everything from the 30th Street house to Volta Place, with the exception of a kitchen stove and other such fixtures. She reported that a red rug with a fringe was stored by the HISS' in a closet at 1245 30th Street, Northwest, but that after they moved to Volta Place, it was placed on the floor of TIM HOBSON's room.

#### Real Estate and House

The files of the Real Estate Tax Division reflect that on September 28, 1943, ALGER HISS purchased the residence at 3210 P Street, Northwest, from PRENTISS B. GILBERT and that he sold the residence on October 25, 1947, to BENTRAM and RUTH SORELS BENDICT. All other residences in Washington,

WFO 74-94

D. C., were rented by ALGER HISS and there was no information in the files pertaining to the amount of the monthly rent.

#### Insurance Premiums

On December 13, 1948, MR. LEO D. FITZGERALD, Associate Counsel for the Equitable Life Assurance Company of the United States, advised that ALGER HISS was an assured of that company. Information regarding monthly or annual premiums, etc., was not reported. The case files do not reflect any other insurance policies for the HISS'.

#### TIMOTHY HOBSON's Education

MR. FRANCIS THAYER HOBSON, 425 Fourth Avenue, New York City, advised on December 16, 1948, that he personally made arrangements for all of TIMOTHY HOBSON's schooling and had personally paid the bills for same by check.

#### PRISCILLA HISS' Schooling

The files reflect that PRISCILLA attended summer school in Chemistry at the University of Maryland, in 1937, and that she enrolled at Georgetown University on September 17, 1937, and withdrew December 13, 1937. Financial data regarding these studies is not available in the files.

#### Credit

Results of Credit Agency checks in Washington, D. C., were reported on pages 76 and 77, in the report of Special Agent COURTLAND J. JONES, dated January 28, 1949, at Washington, D. C.

Investigation reflects that the following accounts were opened by the HISS' subsequent to November 19, 1937:

<u>Business Establishment</u>	<u>Date Account Opened</u>
Julius Garfinckel and Company	September 21, 1940
B. Rich Sons Shoe Store	September 1936
Raleigh Haberdashery	October 1940
Standard Oil Company of New Jersey	October 1940

MISS JANET HELMFELD, Auditor, W & J SLOANE, 1217 Connecticut Avenue, Northwest, advised that when the office was moved from 709 21st Street, Northwest, that all old records were destroyed. Present records were reviewed and they revealed no account for ALGER or PRISCILLA HISS. (Credit

Kisseloff-7113

Bureau report dated October 23, 1940, indicates ALGER and PRISCILLA HISS opened an account with W & J SLOANE in September 1936). There is an account in the name of DONALD HISS and records indicated that he purchased a rug in May of 1947.

On page 121, in the report of Special Agent JOSEPH M. KELLY, dated February 8, 1949, at New York City, MARIAN KENNY, Assistant Credit Manager, Best and Company, 51st Street and Fifth Avenue, New York City, advised that MRS. ALGER (PRISCILLA) HISS opened an account at the Washington, D. C., store of Best and Company on September 26, 1938. This account represents a thirty-day charge account with a limitation of \$150. The account was settled in 1943.

MR. C. H. RAITT, Credit Manager, Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, 261 Constitution Avenue, Northwest, advised that ALGER HISS opened a fuel oil account in October of 1940, but that all records pertaining to the account are maintained in the Baltimore office.

A teletype to the Director from the Baltimore Office dated March 15, 1949, reflects that HISS opened a fuel oil account on October 30, 1940, and that no record of gasoline charge account in the name of ALGER and PRISCILLA HISS could be located in the credit records of the Shell Oil Company, Inc., Esso Standard Oil Company, Sinclair Oil Company, Sherwood Oil Company, or the American Oil Company, all Baltimore, Maryland.

MR. FRANK SCOTT, Credit Manager, Woodward and Lothrop Department Store, advised that an account in the name of ALGER and PRISCILLA HISS had been opened on September 18, 1935. MRS. THELMA BUCK, Credit Department, Woodward and Lothrop, advised that the credit account records are only kept for three years unless some unusual reason exists to keep an individual account. She stated that all ledger references pertaining to 1931 and 1938 credit accounts have been destroyed many years ago.

MRS. ROSE G. BREAUULT, Credit Manager, Brentano's Bookstore, 1322 F Street, Northwest, advised that an account for MRS. ALGER HISS was opened in October 1929, that the original credit application and old ledger sheets have been destroyed and that the current ledger card reflects the highest credit ever extended to the HISS' was \$38.50 in November - December, 1946.

MR. WILLIAM KING of the W. S. King and Son Coal Company, 2141 30th Street, Northwest, advised that his records show ALGER HISS purchased coal on credit during the Winter of 1930. No other information was available.

ELIZABETH L. JACKSON, 3112 Q Street, Northwest, advised that she was Secretary-Treasurer of Preece and Curtis, Inc., a woman's store formerly located at 1014 Connecticut Avenue, Northwest. She advised that this business was sold in July of 1947, and that all records were destroyed except for customer accounts that had not been settled. She does not have any records of the store pertaining to ALGER or PRISCILLA HISS. She reported



that she knew MRS. HISS in a business way, as she had been a regular customer since about 1936 or 1937. She recalled that MRS. HISS usually purchased sport clothes and suits that ran from \$19.95 to \$29.00. The HISS' settled their account promptly and she believes that the largest credit balance would be somewhere between \$50.00 and \$125.00.

Credit applications that were executed by either ALGER or PRISCILLA HISS in most of the foregoing business establishments have been destroyed. The credit application that was executed by MRS. HISS at B. Rich and Son Shoe Store lists credit references that have previously been contacted and explained above.

WILLIAM EDWARD CRANE

Interview with MRS. PEYTON KERR

By teletype dated March 9, 1949, the New York Office advised that in about 1936 or 1937, WILLIAM EDWARD CRANE attempted to develop MR. and MRS. PEYTON KERR as sources of information for a Soviet espionage apparatus, but that this attempt was unsuccessful. This office was requested to interview MR. and MRS. PEYTON KERR.

On March 18, 1949, MRS. PEYTON KERR was interviewed at her home, 421 Argyle Drive, Alexandria, by Special Agent DONALD D. CONNORS. She advised that her husband is now First Secretary of the United States Embassy at New Delhi, India, and that he has been in this position for approximately four months. She and the children intend to join him there and planned to leave the United States approximately April 5, 1949.

After a moment's hesitation, MRS. KERR recognized a picture of CRANE and correctly identified him. She stated that her husband had met CRANE at the University of California, at Berkeley, California, while MR. KERR was attending college there in about 1933 or 1934. According to MRS. KERR, her husband was well acquainted with one MARGARET GUTELIUS, a pre-medical student at Berkeley, and through her, met CRANE. CRANE and GUTELIUS were subsequently married. MRS. KERR stated that she and MR. KERR were married on July 10, 1934, in San Francisco, California, her maiden name being MARGARET WILSON. She recalls that she associates her first meeting with PEGGY GUTELIUS and WILLIAM CRANE with her own wedding. At that time, CRANE was a free-lance photographer and resided in Berkeley. In 1935, the KERRS left Berkeley and came to Washington, D. C. Sometime later that year, CRANE and his wife moved to New York City, where CRANE also operated as a free-lance photographer.

MRS. KERR advised that both she and her husband were extremely fond of CRANE's wife, but both regarded CRANE as a braggadocious egomaniac and both had an intense dislike for CRANE. MRS. KERR advised CRANE's wife to separate from him and she recalls that in 1936, MARGARET CRANE did, in

fact, leave WILLIAM CRANE, and following a brief and unsuccessful reconciliation, the CRANES were divorced. According to MRS. KERR, the former MARGARET GUTELIUS CRANE is now MRS. JAMES F. WATT, a practicing physician in Pharr, Texas.

Following the unsuccessful reconciliation between the CRANES, MARGARET CRANE told MRS. KERR that WILLIAM CRANE had made the remark that he was photographing national defense installations in New York City and was being paid for this work by another nation. MRS. KERR stated that there were no further details in regard to this statement, but that she and her husband, as well as MARGARET CRANE, could not believe this remark, and attributed it to CRANE's usual blustering manner.

She stated that she and her husband saw the CRANES probably no more than five or six times from 1935 through the early part of 1937, at which time the CRANES were divorced. She recalls that MARGARET CRANE, during this time, was studying medicine and in the Summer of 1936 or 1937, MRS. CRANE worked in the George Washington Hospital Clinic in Washington, D. C. She recalls that this employment lasted only about eight weeks and during this time, MARGARET CRANE lived at an apartment hotel in the Northwest section of Washington. She could not recall the exact location of this hotel, but stated that it was rather far out to the East of Connecticut Avenue.

MRS. KERR described MARGARET CRANE as follows:

Height:	5' 3"
Hair:	Light brown
Eyes:	Blue
Build:	Slender
Age in 1937:	28 - 30 years
Characteristics:	Excellent swimmer, formerly held summer employment as Counsel for girls' camps.

MRS. KERR recalled that while MARGARET CRANE lived in Washington, D. C., WILLIAM CRANE maintained their residence in New York City, and did not accompany his wife to Washington.

With regard to the unknown individual whom CRANE alleges he attempted to develop, MRS. KERR could recall no one of her acquaintances who would fit this description, and advised that she was rather sure that neither she nor her husband had ever introduced CRANE to any of their friends. She pointed out that CRANE had been in their home in Washington no more than two or three times, and because both she and her husband disliked him very much, they had made no effort to introduce CRANE to their circle of acquaintances. She also pointed out that CRANE had never urged her, or so far as she knew, had never urged her husband to introduce CRANE to anyone. She had never conversed with CRANE with respect to the Communist Party or Soviet Russia and advised that she had, as a matter of course, considered CRANE to be a loyal

American citizen, or as loyal as anyone with his neurotic tendencies could be. She has not seen CRANE since either 1936 or 1937, but has occasionally corresponded with his former wife.

By teletype dated March 3, 1949, the New York Office requested that the passport records be checked concerning IRENE PERLA GLAS, nee GOLDSTEIN, with aliases. The records of the Passport Division of the United States Department of State, contain no information concerning this individual. The New York Office was so advised by teletype on March 16, 1949.

By teletype dated March 2, 1949, the Los Angeles Office requested this office to check the records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, United States Department of Justice, concerning ANTOINETTE SANTUCE, nee BROGELLI. No record of this individual was located in the files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the Bureau and interested offices were so advised by teletype on March 15, 1949.

LAURENCE DUGGAN

By teletype dated March 9, 1949, the Baltimore Office requested this office to interview certain former associates of LAURENCE DUGGAN at the Department of State.

PAUL CLEMENT DANIELS, Director for American Republics Affairs, State Department, Room 3114, New State Department Building, 21st and C Streets, Northwest, advised Special Agent WILLIAM H. ATKINSON on March 10, 1949, that he was assigned to the Department of State in Washington, D. C., from December 1939, until the end of 1943, as a Desk Officer and Assistant Chief, both in the Latin American Division (now known as the American Republics Affairs Division). He advised that during this time, he served under the immediate supervision of LAURENCE DUGGAN and that he worked very closely with him. During this time, he knew ALGER HISS casually and he cannot, at this time, recall having had any professional contact with him. He believed that ALGER HISS was employed in another division within the Department of State, and that he was never assigned to the Latin American Division. In this connection, he stated that he did not know that ALGER HISS and LAURENCE DUGGAN ever shared office space at the Department of State and since they never served in the same division during this time, he could not think of any reason why they would share the same office. He advised that he did not know HISS socially; that he never visited his home; that he was not acquainted with his wife; and that he has never corresponded with either of the HISS'. He stated that his acquaintanceship with HISS was so casual that he was not in a position to furnish pertinent information. He had the impression that HISS and DUGGAN were very close friends, but he could offer nothing to substantiate this impression at this time.

DANIELS examined the photographs of WHITTAKER CHAMBERS which were taken in the middle thirties and advised that he was unable to identify them.

Kisseloff-7117



He could recall no visitors or friends of ALGER HISS or LAURENCE DUGGAN by the name of WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, CARL CARLSON, or GEORGE CROSLEY. He advised that from the end of 1943 until the Fall of 1947, he served as a Foreign Service Officer in the Department of State outside the continental limits of the United States. When he returned to the Department, ALGER HISS had resigned and accepted a position with the Carnegie Foundation.

GEORGE HOWLAND BUTLER, Deputy Director, Policy Planning Staff, Department of State, Room 5152, New State Department Building, 21st and C Streets, Northwest, advised Special Agent WILLIAM H. ATKINSON on March 10, 1949, that he served in the Department of State in Washington, D. C., from 1935 to 1939, as a Desk Officer and Assistant Chief, both in the Division of Latin American Affairs. During the greater part of this service in the State Department, LAURENCE DUGGAN was his immediate supervisor and close friend. In his opinion, LAURENCE DUGGAN was a thoroughly patriotic American, most intelligent, an outstanding public servant, a man of the highest integrity, and a person with a high sense of duty to the United States. He advised that he knew ALGER HISS casually and he had no social or professional contact with him. He has never visited his home and has never corresponded with ALGER or PRISCILLA HISS. He could offer no information as to whether or not HISS and DUGGAN were close friends, but advised that he is positive that they never shared an office at the Department of State during the time he was assigned in Washington, D. C. From 1939 to early in 1940, he served as Foreign Service Officer outside the continental limits of the United States. He was again called back to the Department in February 1945, and sometime between that time and September 1946, he was a dinner guest of one of the HISS' --- he believes that it was DONALD HISS. ✓

He examined photographs of WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, but was unable to identify that individual. He did not recognize the names of WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, GEORGE CROSLEY, or CARL CARLSON, and could not remember LAURENCE DUGGAN ever having mentioned these names.

ERWIN S. GELSEY, ALSO KNOWN AS  
ERWIN GELSKY, ISRAEL GELSKY

Referenced New York report requested this office to check the records of the Passport Division, United States Department of State, and of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, United States Department of Justice, for information concerning ERWIN GELSKY.

The records of the Passport Division, United States Department of State, were checked on February 16, 1949, by Special Agent CHESTER C. CRAWFORD, with negative results.

The records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, United States Department of Justice, were checked by the same Agent on February 24, and March 28, 1949, and reflected the following information:

Kisseloff-7118

By order of Supreme Court, Brooklyn, New York, dated April 10, 1934, ERWIN GELSKY's name was changed to ERWIN GELSEY.

In a declaration of intention, No. 72730, dated August 28, 1935, GELSEY furnished the following information. He gave his name as ERWIN S. GELSEY, residing at 1416 North Haverhurst Drive, Los Angeles, California. He listed his occupation as Scenario Writer, and reported that he had been born December 31, 1899, in Russia, and that that country had constituted his last foreign residence. He immigrated to the United States from Hamburg, Germany, under the name of ISRAEL GELSKY, and entered at the Port of New York, on October 27, 1904, on the S.S. PATRICIA. His description, as furnished in the declaration, is as follows:

Sex:	Male
Color:	White
Complexion:	Ruddy
Eyes:	Brown
Hair:	Red
Height:	5' 8"
Weight:	150 lbs.
Race:	Hebrew
Nationality:	Russian
Date and place of birth:	December 31, 1899, Russia

On June 13, 1940, he filed Petition for Naturalization No. 76024, at which time, his address was 1250 Hilldale, Los Angeles, California. In the petition, he gave his date and place of birth as Bialystok, Poland, on December 31, 1899. On June 13, 1937, he was married to LOUISE GELSKY at Denver, Colorado. His marital status at the time this petition was filed was divorced. This petition gave his last foreign residence as Vilna, Russia.

Naturalization Certificate No. 5188012, dated January 24, 1941, reflects that his residence at that time, was 8819 1/2 Haratt, Los Angeles, California. He was issued Alien Registration No. 5395023. The file contained no record of visa re-entry permit No. 1103447.

Photographs of GELSEY obtained from the afore-mentioned Immigration and Naturalization Service records are being furnished to the Bureau and to the New York Office with this report as enclosures.

ELEANOR NELSON

MR. PAUL R. PORTER, Department of State, was interviewed in his office in the New State Department Building, on March 21, 1949, by Special Agents EDWARD F. HUMMER and DONALD D. CONNORS, and stated the following:

Kisseloff-7119

PORTER recalled that he first met ELEANOR NELSON in late 1932, and that he was introduced to her by MARY DUBLIN, who is now the wife of LEON KEYERSLING. It is PORTER's recollection that he first met ELEANOR at a Socialist Party Banquet in Baltimore. He states that this may have been in the Spring of 1933, but believes it to be the latter part of 1932. It is noted that PORTER married ELEANOR NELSON in February 1933, and lived with her as man and wife until December 1933, although during most of this time, they maintained separate domiciles. PORTER stated that he was employed in New York City, and ELEANOR NELSON was employed in the Labor Department, Washington, D. C. She resided on Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest, in about the 2400 or 2500 block.

In May 1933, PORTER was sent to Philadelphia as a Socialist Party organizer, where he maintained an apartment over Party headquarters somewhere on 52nd Street. During this period, PORTER and NELSON spent most of their week ends together in Philadelphia or New York.

In the early part of 1934, PORTER, who had tuberculosis, was confined in a sanitarium in the Adirondack Mountains in New York State. In July 1934, NELSON visited him at the sanitarium, and arrangements were made at that time for the divorce. PORTER recalls that he saw NELSON again in October 1934, March 1937, and that the last time he saw her was in Pittsburgh in 1938. He stated that she arranged the divorce and procured it in the District of Columbia. He advised that one of the main reasons their marriage broke up was because shortly after he knew ELEANOR, she began to come under the influence of the Communist Party, whereas he was a staunch Socialist and believed ELEANOR NELSON to be one at the time of their marriage. PORTER advised that he had no idea that NELSON was involved in any espionage activities. In the latter states of their marriage, and after the divorce, he came to realize that ELEANOR NELSON was an active and fanatic member of the Communist Party.

With regard to HAROLD WARE, PORTER advised that he knew WARE to be an organizer of a farm group in Minnesota, and that he had heard NELSON speak of WARE. He also recalled that one WEBSTER CLAY POWELL was a close friend of WARE, and he had heard ELEANOR speak of POWELL. Although, he did not know POWELL to be a Communist, he said that he always felt "some misgivings" in connection with POWELL, because of his friendship with WARE.

PORTER did not know ALGER or DONALD HISS at this time, and advised that he has never met these individuals, although he is familiar with their names.

PORTER did not know the following individuals: JOHN ABE, HENRY HILL COLLINS; LEE PRESSMAN (PORTER stated that he later became acquainted with PRESSMAN); ABRAHAM GEORGE SILVERMAN; ROSE CLINTON; CHARLES COE; ROSE COE; VICTOR PERLO; NATHAN WITT; CHARLES KRAMER; ERMA RINGE; SALLY RINGE; BOB STRAUSS; LENORE THOMAS (now MRS. BOB STRAUSS); DR. BENJAMIN WEININGER.

With respect to WALTER SASSAMAN, PORTER advised that he had a faint recollection that he knew this individual, and connected him in a vague fashion with the Communist Party. PORTER advised that he knew ROB HALL slightly, and that while he, PORTER, was organizing a Socialist student's group at Columbia University, HALL was organizing a Communist Party National Students' League, also at Columbia. PORTER had no recollection whatsoever of DAVID CARPENTER, with aliases, HAROLD WILSON, DAVID ZIMMERMAN, and said further, that he knew of no HAROLD with whom ELEANOR NELSON was familiar just before or after their divorce, although PORTER indicated that he did not know a great deal of ELEANOR NELSON's life following the divorce. He was unaware that she had remarried, and was the mother of a child.

PORTER did not know WILLIAM EDWARD CRANE, WARD PIGMAN, FELIX INSLERMAN, HELEN MILLER, or ROBERT MARTIN WOHLFORTH.

PORTER advised that this last name was faintly familiar to him as one who served on the LaFollette Committee. PORTER also did not know ANDRE EMEREE under any of her aliases or THELMA OSTER, although, he did know by reputation ROY HUDSON, presently the husband of ANDRE EMEREE. PORTER advised that he knew STEPHEN RAUSHENBUSH as a Socialist, and indicated that he was acquainted with RAUSHENBUSH while RAUSHENBUSH worked for Governor MARTIN of Pennsylvania, at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He said that RAUSHENBUSH was a friend of NORMAN THOMAS.

PORTER stated that he was leaving for Europe on Thursday, March 24, 1949, and if his recollection is refreshed concerning ELEANOR NELSON, he would advise the Bureau by letter.

DAVID ZIMMERMAN, with aliases

On March 1, 1949, TANSEL BUTLER, 300 K Street, Northeast, was interviewed by Special Agent PHILIP H. WILSON and HARRY K. CLAYTON concerning any information BUTLER might be able to furnish with reference to DAVID ZIMMERMAN, with aliases, former Editor of "Work", official organ of the Workers Alliance of America.

BUTLER advised he was President of the District of Columbia Branch of the Workers Alliance of America from 1936 until he resigned during April 1939. He pointed out that this branch maintained a separate staff and headquarters from that of the national organization; therefore, his contacts were infrequent with members of the national staff.

He added, however, that he had occasion to confer with national officers DAVID LASSER and HERBERT BENJAMIN and knew both of them well. He stated that he knew ELEANOR NELSON and DAVID ZIMMERMAN, but was not well acquainted with either. He did not know ZIMMERMAN by any other name and he stated he did not know the address of ZIMMERMAN while the latter was in Washington, D. C.

With reference to investigation conducted to locate the apartment in Washington, D. C., utilized by CHAMBERS for the photographing of documents in 1936, BUTLER stated that he does not know of any Communist member who was residing in the area surrounding Eastern High School or Lincoln Park during 1935-1937 inclusive.

WEBSTER CLAY POWELL

By teletype dated January 28, 1949, the New York Office advised that WHITTAKER CHAMBERS had stated that HAROLD WARE organized a small apparatus in the agriculture field, and that WEBSTER CLAY POWELL had been a kind of personal deputy of WARE.

WEBSTER CLAY POWELL was interviewed by Special Agents DONALD D. CONNORS and THOMAS J. BARRY at this office on February 25, 1949. He advised that he is presently a Foreign Service Officer in the United States Department of State, and that he had just returned from three and a half years duty in Australia. He stated that he had been acquainted with ALGER HISS, but had had no close contact with him, and could not recall where he had met HISS, or who had introduced him. He thinks he possibly first met HISS in the agriculture field since he, POWELL was Director of Research in "Farm Research Incorporated" from about 1933 to 1938.

POWELL described "Farm Research Incorporated" as not a Government organization, but a private group which was formed to assist the farmer by obtaining helpful information and making it available to the farmers. He believed that the real founder of "Farm Research Incorporated" was HAROLD WARE. The organization was financed by contributions from interested people and farm organizations. He was acquainted with the fact that this organization had been cited by the House Committee on Un-American Activities as a Communist front, but could give no reason for this action other than the fact that HAROLD WARE had been connected with it and that WARE has been accused by many people of being a Communist.

With regard to ALGER HISS, POWELL believes he may have seen HISS a few times socially since their first meeting, and once or twice on the street, but he has never attended any kind of meeting with HISS. During the contacts with HISS, he never observed anything that would lead him to believe that HISS was a Communist or was in any way involved in a conspiracy to obtain Government documents. He stated that he had never heard of WHITTAKER CHAMBERS and failed to identify photographs of CHAMBERS and of MRS. CHAMBERS which were taken in the 1930's.

POWELL has also been acquainted with DONALD HISS, but could not recall the circumstances of their meeting and believes he probably had seen DONALD HISS about the same number of times that he had seen ALGER. He had no reason to doubt DONALD HISS' loyalty to the United States.



POWELL advised that he first met HAROLD WARE in 1927, on an experimental farm in Russia, which was financed by the Quakers, according to POWELL. POWELL first went to Russia on a trip financed by the Open Road Tourist Agency in New York City. At the time of POWELL's arrival in Russia, WARE was already over there and after POWELL's return to the United States, he resumed his acquaintance with WARE. After WARE organized "Farm Research Incorporated," he asked POWELL to take a position there. POWELL always considered WARE to be a personal friend, but stated that WARE was the type of individual to whom no one ever could get too close. POWELL now believes, in the light of later developments, that WARE must have been leading a double life.

Before WARE's death, POWELL never knew that WARE was a Communist. He merely considered WARE to be a rabid new dealer. He admitted meeting ELLA REEVE (Mother BLOOR) and knew that she was HAROLD WARE's mother. He has been in her home near Philadelphia on one or two occasions, but in spite of that, he did not know that she was a Communist until sometime after HAROLD WARE's death in 1935. He thought that she was just a radical labor leader and nothing more. In connection with WARE's death in 1935, POWELL stated that he and his wife were in a car in front of WARE's car, and that his car was sideswiped by a truck and then smashed into WARE's car. They were all on their way to visit a friend, HANNAH PICKERING, in New York State when the accident happened.

POWELL first met HENRY HILL COLLINS on his trip to Russia in 1927. He stated that COLLINS had gone along with the group whose trip had been financed by the Open Road Tourist Agency. POWELL continued his acquaintance with COLLINS later in Washington, and has been in COLLINS' apartment at cocktail parties many times, but never attended any sort of meeting there. At the present time, he could not recall the names of any of the people who were present at parties in COLLINS' apartment. He never suspected COLLINS of being a Communist or of being, in any way, connected with a conspiracy to obtain government documents. In this connection, he made the comment in answer to a direct question, that of all his friends and acquaintances, while in Washington, he never knew any of them to be Communist Party members. He stated that some of them might have been sympathetic to some parts of the Communist doctrine, and that he, himself, had some of the same aims as the Communists, but that not all of the Communist aims and his aims were alike.

He advised that his wife had operated a school for children called Greenacres, near Silver Spring, Maryland. He recalled that a benefit, or benefits, had been held at the school to aid the Spanish Loyalist cause. He had, himself, been sympathetic with the Loyalist cause in Spain, and was acquainted with the fact that the Communists in this country had supported the Loyalists and helped recruit men for the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. He stated, however, that he was not aware, at that time, that the Communists were as much of a threat to the security and peace of the <sup>world</sup> as he feels they are at the present time.



POWELL stated that he knew LEE PRESSMAN, but that the details of his meeting with PRESSMAN are very hazy in his mind. He does recall being at a cocktail party at PRESSMAN's house, which he believes is across from the Zoo on Connecticut Avenue, but does not recall any other individuals who attended the party. He did not recall ever having met ABRAHAM GEORGE SILVERMAN.

POWELL stated that he did not desire to give a signed statement concerning the information which he had furnished to the interviewing Agents, but would prefer to consult an attorney before doing so. He was advised that this action was entirely within his rights. He stated, however, that he would be willing to be put under oath and repeat the foregoing information. He added that in the light of the accusations against many of his acquaintances by both MISS ELIZABETH BENTLEY and WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, he believes that if their accusations are true, he had been used as a front by these people for their Communist activities.

POWELL was re-interviewed by the same Agents at this office on March 31, 1949, and stated that he was still connected with the Department of State, but was on temporary assignment to the Department of Labor as a Foreign Labor Adviser. He has secured an apartment and is now residing at 5 East Irving Street, Chevy Chase, Maryland.

Concerning HANNAH PICKERING, POWELL stated that he does not know her present location, as he has not seen her or heard from her since 1940. The last information he had was that she was living on her farm at Elmira, New York. She had been a very good friend of WARE, and POWELL believed that WARE had met her when she had been interested in the farm that the Quakers financed in Russia. POWELL met PICKERING, he believes, when he went to Russia in 1927, under the auspices of the Open Road Tourist Agency, with which PICKERING was connected. He could not recall whether he first met her in the United States or after she had arrived in Russia. It was his opinion that she was a Quaker, but he could not state if she had been, or is, a Communist.

In response to a direct question, POWELL stated that he met ELEANOR NELSON sometime between 1933 and 1938, in Washington, D. C., when he had worked for "Farm Research Incorporated." He believes the occasion of the meeting was either a union rally or a meeting of a group to discuss the problems of the share-cropper. He never had any social contact with ELEANOR NELSON and only saw her once or twice after their first meeting. He did recall that HAROLD WARE and ELEANOR NELSON were very good friends.

Concerning "Farm Research Incorporated," POWELL admitted that CHARLES GARLAND had been connected with it in Washington, D. C. He stated that GARLAND did accounting work for the organization and also contributed money to it, since he had been a fairly wealthy man. POWELL could not say

if GARLAND was a Communist and he did not know of any of GARLAND's other activities outside of those with "Farm Research Incorporated."

In answer to a direct question, POWELL stated that ROBERT COE had worked for "Farm Research Incorporated" but he was unable to remember COE's exact position, nor could he state whether or not COE was a Communist. He believed COE was a liberal. According to POWELL, COE came into "Farm Research" about one year before POWELL, himself, left the organization, and he believed that COE had been brought into the organization by HAROLD WARE. When POWELL was reminded that he had stated previously that he had left "Farm Research" in 1938, and that HAROLD WARE was killed in 1935, POWELL stated that COE must have gone into the organization before WARE's death, and that he was just not able to remember the exact period that COE had worked for the organization. POWELL was sure that he had never met COE before this time. As it had been noted that POWELL's wife had operated a school under the name ALICE COE MENDHAM, POWELL was asked if ROBERT COE was any relation to his wife and he denied that there was any relationship.

POWELL stated that he did not recall a farm school at Dorfstown, Pennsylvania, with which WARE may have been connected. He did recall that there was a group of farmers in Pennsylvania which WARE used to visit. This group used to meet somewhere near a small town directly across the Delaware River from Trenton, New Jersey. POWELL knew nothing at all of the nature of this group other than that it was composed of farmers.

He was asked at this time, if he had recalled anything since the last time he was interviewed which would lead him to change his mind concerning the people who had been mentioned in the first interview. He stated that he could not recall anything at all which he believed would be at all helpful in trying to uncover the truth concerning the alleged Communist activities of these people. He had always believed that HAROLD WARE was pro-Russian, but he never knew WARE was a Communist until after WARE's death.

POWELL stated that during the period in which he had worked for "Farm Research," he had believed in "united front," in other words, he believed that the "damn Commies" could be used in order to obtain social advances. His own viewpoint follows more the line of the Socialists than that of the Communists, and he stated that he had been a member of the Socialist Party in 1926, at Hanover, New Hampshire. He had always believed that socialism had a lot of possibilities. He reiterated that he could not name one person of his acquaintance in Washington, D. C., who was known to him to be a Communist.

It was noted by the interviewing Agents that although POWELL stated that he wished to cooperate, he never offered any information unless it was in answer to a direct question, and that he never elaborated on his answers and further information had been brought out by direct questioning.

WFO 74-94

ENCLOSURES:

To the Bureau: Two photographs of ERWIN S. GELSEY

To New York: Two photographs of ERWIN S. GELSEY

-- P E N D I N G --

Kisseloff-7126

WFO 74-94.

LEADS

THE WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

Will continue to develop information pertinent to this investigation and conclude the investigation requested in the referenced Bureau letter.

\* \* \*

This matter is receiving constant and preferred investigative attention in this office and leads are being handled as they are received.

Kisseloff-7127

ADMINISTRATIVE

By letter dated March 21, 1949, to the Bureau with copies to New York, Los Angeles and San Antonio, the latter office was directed to interview DR. MARGARET WATT, at Pharr, Texas. DR. WATT is the former MARGARET GUTELIUS CRANE.

By letter dated March 21, 1949, to the Bureau, with a copy to Chicago, the latter office was requested to locate and interview ARTHUR C. BACHRACH, who was associated with ALGER HISS in the AAA at Washington, D. C.

By teletype dated March 9, 1949, the Baltimore Office requested interviews with ELLIS O. BRIGGS and HERBERT S. BURSLEY, former associates of LAURENCE DUGGAN at the State Department. It was ascertained that ELLIS O. BRIGGS is serving as American Ambassador at Montevideo, Uruguay, and that HERBERT S. BURSLEY is serving as American Ambassador at Tegucigalpa, Honduras. These interviews were, consequently, not conducted.

By letter dated March 2, 1949, to the Bureau, with copies to Philadelphia and New York, the Philadelphia Office was requested to locate and interview LAWRENCE R. BROWN, 222 Church Road, Ardmore, Pennsylvania, a former member of the Nye Committee, for any information he might have concerning ALGER HISS.

Bureau letter of March 4, 1949, to this office, with copies to New York and Baltimore, requested that the larger oil companies be contacted to determine if ALGER or PRISCILLA HISS had a gasoline charge account in 1937, and to examine such account to determine if the HISS' purchased gasoline in or near towns mentioned by WHITTAKER CHAMBERS as stopping places during an auto trip in New England in August 1937.

By letter dated March 4, 1949, to the Bureau, with copies to New York and Baltimore, Norfolk and Philadelphia, the offices listed were furnished the addresses of the major oil companies and were requested to conduct the investigation set out in the Bureau's letter of March 4, 1949.

New York teletype dated March 17, 1949, requested this office to interview WILLIAM WALTON. By teletype dated March 23, 1949, the New York Office was advised that WALTON was in Jacksonville, Illinois, and would be available for interview by the New York Office on March 27 or 28, 1949, at 111 East 70th Street, New York City, care of MR. EDWARD WARBURG.

Bureau letter of January 3, 1949, instructed this office to interview PAUL R. PORTER, former husband of ELEANOR NELSON SOYRING. The results of that interview are contained in this report. By letter dated April 1, 1949, the Bureau and New York Office were advised of the names of individuals furnished by PORTER who might furnish additional information concerning

Kisseloff-7128

WFO 74-94

ELEANOR NELSON SOYRING. The New York Office was requested to interview those individuals within its territory. This office is locating the other individuals mentioned therein, will interview those found here, and will set out appropriate leads when necessary. The Bureau was requested to give authorization for an interview with PORTER's brother, JAMES PORTER, whom he had described as a prominent member of the Communist Party.

Kisseloff-7129



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7/20/87 BY SP-7 mac/ab

Kisseloff-7130

74-1333-3055



*Erwin Gelsey*  
Kisseloff-7131

Erwin Gelsey

Name - ERWIN S. GELSEY,  
alias Erwin Gelsky  
Age - 50  
Born - 12-31-99, Russia  
Height - 5' 6"  
Weight - 150 pounds  
Eyes - Brown  
Hair - Red  
Race - Russian Jew

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7/20/87 BY SP-7 MAC/RS

74-1333-3055

ENCLOSURE

Kisseloff-7132



*Erwin Gelsey*

Erwin Gelsey  
1934

Kisseloff-7133

Name - ERWIN S. GELSEY,  
alias Erwin Gelsky  
Age - 50  
Born - 12-31-99, Russia  
Height - 5' 8"  
Weight - 150 pounds  
Eyes - brown  
Hair - red  
Race - Russian Jew

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7/20/87 BY SP-7 mee/AB

74-1333-3055

ENCLOSURE

Kisseloff-7134

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK

FILE NO. 74-94

REPORT MADE AT <b>WASHINGTON, D. C.</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>4/8/49</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>2/8, 16, 24, 25; 3/1, 2, 9, 10, 15-18, 21-23, 28, 31/49</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>LUDWIG W. R. OBERNDORF MFL</b>
TITLE <b>JAY DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, was., et al</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>PERJURY ESPIONAGE - R INTERNAL SECURITY - R</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Colonel SIDNEY F. GIFFIN; LEO PASVOLSKY; RICHARD W. FLOURNOY; HOWARD C. JOHNSON; RELLA R. SCHWARTZ, nee RESNICK; Brigadier General TELFORD TAYLOR, interviewed. No information of Communist activities on part of ALGER HISS developed. Neighborhood investigation equally negative. Investigation to locate pertinent Woodstock typewriter set out. File review of HISS' financial transactions set out. Information re WILLIAM EDWARD CRANE obtained from MRS. PEYTON KERR set out. PAUL C. DANIELS, GEORGE H. BUTLER, associates of LAURENCE DUGGAN, interviewed. Information from INS re ERWIN S. GELSEY, aka ERWIN GELSKY, set out. PAUL R. PORTER, former husband of ELEANOR NELSON, interviewed. Inquiry re DAVID ZIMMERMAN with aliases. WEBSTER CLAY POWELL knew HAROLD WARE, ALGER HISS, ELEANOR NELSON, ROBERT COE; denies knowledge of Communist affiliations.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7/20/87 BY SP-7 MMS/JSB  
#266,586

- P -

**REFERENCES:**

Bureau File No. 74-1333  
Bureau letter dated January 3, 1949  
Bureau letter dated December 13, 1948  
Report of Special Agent JOSEPH M. KELLY, dated February 8, 1949, at New York City.

Kisseloff-7135

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
<p>5 - Bureau COPIES OF THIS REPORT (Encl) 3 - New York (65-14920 - 1 THOMAS J. DONEGAN, SAAG, NY) Encl) 1 - Baltimore (65-1642) (Info) 1 - Los Angeles (100-30409) (Info) 3 - Washington Field</p>		<p><i>Copy of Serial</i> <b>70-1333-3055</b></p>	



WFO 74-94

DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

ALGER HISS

Interviews with Friends, Associates,  
Neighbors, and Acquaintances

New York teletype of January 28, 1949, requested this office to interview LEO PASVOLSKY, of the Brookings Institute, and Colonel SIDNEY F. GIFFIN, U. S. Air Force.

Colonel SIDNEY F. GIFFIN, Chief, World Survey Branch, Air Forces Operations, Room 4C-1082, Pentagon, advised Special Agent JACK S. TURTON on March 31, 1949, that he has known ALGER HISS since January 1946. GIFFIN had been a member of a joint committee composed of Army and Navy officers and State Department representatives, the purpose of which was the study and the development of security measures for the United States and an analysis of world affairs reflecting on United States security.

GIFFIN attended a number of committee meetings at which HISS was present in his capacity of Chief of the Special Political Affairs Division of the Department of State. In addition, GIFFIN spent two weeks in August 1947, at a seminar conducted by the Brookings Institute at Dartmouth College. He has also had contacts with HISS since the latter assumed the presidency of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. He considered HISS to be a friend, even though he has known him only professionally and has never visited HISS' home, nor has HISS visited the GIFFIN home. GIFFIN stated that he had been in London at the time the HISS-CHAMBERS case broke in the newspapers in the Fall of 1948. Upon reading of the hearings and of HISS' subsequent involvement, GIFFIN had written HISS a letter. In this letter, he told HISS of his regret that as a result of the "mud slinging" some of the dirt had splattered on HISS' coat. He received a short acknowledgment from HISS, but was unable to locate that piece of correspondence. GIFFIN stated that he was unable to justify in his own mind the allegation made against HISS. He realized that his contact occurred a number of years after HISS' alleged activities, but in his opinion, there was no activity on HISS' part that would lead GIFFIN to believe in the accusations against HISS. GIFFIN had had numerous differences of opinions in conversations with HISS, but none of the ideas propounded by HISS led GIFFIN to believe that HISS displayed pro-Soviet tendencies in any way.

With further reference to the meeting of the Brookings Institute at Dartmouth College, GIFFIN stated that he had become quite friendly with HISS, and that they had worked closely on a number of projects at that meeting. GIFFIN described the purpose of the seminar as making available the combined state-military views toward the security measures of the United States. GIFFIN did not attend the Brookings seminar held at Stanford University in June and July 1947, but was aware of the fact that HISS had

Kisseloff-7136

WFO 74-94

attended this conference. He made available a letter written to him by HISS at the time that HISS returned an original document to GIFFIN. GIFFIN stated that this document was a paper on American security which he had written and had sent to HISS in order to obtain HISS' ideas on the paper. This letter has been submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory for appropriate typewriter examination.

LEO PASVOLSKY, Brookings Institute, Washington, D. C., advised Special Agent JACK S. TURTON, on February 8, 1949, that he has been employed by the Institute since 1922, and was on leave of absence from Brookings Institute during the period he was employed by the State Department. PASVOLSKY stated that ALGER HISS entered the State Department to work for FRANCIS B. SAYRE, inasmuch as SAYRE desired an attorney as an assistant in the Trade Agreements Division of the State Department. PASVOLSKY advised that when SAYRE left the State Department to go to the Philippine Islands, HISS transferred to work for STANLEY HORNBECK. As far as he could remember, HISS stayed with HORNBECK until approximately 1944.

PASVOLSKY stated that HISS was appointed to the Staff that attended the Yalta Conference by the Secretary of State. He was further appointed as Secretary General at the San Francisco Conference by Secretary of State STEPTINIUS, and this appointment had the approval of the late President ROOSEVELT.

PASVOLSKY stated he is not aware of any person or persons who may have been behind HISS in HISS' government employment, and knows of no one who was sponsoring him. He did not know HISS at all well socially; his family had never exchanged visits with the HISS family, and he knows of none of HISS' friends.

PASVOLSKY has never been closely associated with the Carnegie Endowment and did not discuss HISS' appointment to the position as President with JOHN FOSTER DULLES. PASVOLSKY advised HISS' appointment to the Carnegie Institute position was considered a very good one by a number of people, inasmuch as HISS had turned out to be an excellent administrator. PASVOLSKY stated no one had ever given much thought to HISS' ability along this line, but that he had turned out to be an excellent administrator at the Dumbarton Oaks Conference.

He was unable to locate any typewritten correspondence from ALGER HISS. He has been advised by JOSEPH VALLENTINE that HISS had had no correspondence with the business office of the Brookings Institute, Washington, D. C.

Bureau letter dated March 18, 1949, instructed this office to interview RICHARD B. FLOURNEY. On March 23, 1949, RICHARD W. FLOURNOY, 111 West Leland Street, Chevy Chase, Maryland, was interviewed at his home by Special Agent JOHN B. VAN ETTEN. MR. FLOURNOY, who is presently retired

Kisseloff-7137

after serving as a Legal Advisor with the State Department for a considerable number of years, furnished the following information:

He first became acquainted with ALGER HISS in approximately 1940, at which time, FLOURNOY, in his capacity as Legal Advisor, was working on various trade agreements and had some business contact with ALGER HISS. FLOURNOY was never other than casually acquainted with ALGER HISS and, to his knowledge, they had never met socially in the same social circle. He has, to his knowledge, never received any correspondence from ALGER HISS either in typewriting or in longhand and he knows nobody who might be of aid in this regard.

Although the City Directory reflects that FLOURNOY resided only one block from ALGER HISS on P Street, Northwest, FLOURNOY was unaware of this fact and stated that his entire contact with ALGER HISS had been limited to matters of business at the State Department. He was unable to identify the photograph of WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, although he thought the photograph used by WHITTAKER CHAMBERS as DAVID BREEN, to obtain a passport in 1935, was familiar. He could not identify this photograph with any particular individual.

In view of the fact the referenced Bureau letter requests that a RICHARD B. FLOURNEY be interviewed, it was considered advisable to determine whether the above FLOURNOY was identical with the person referred to in the Bureau's letter. FLOURNOY advised that he was well acquainted with ALBERT LEVITT, who had formerly been with the Department of Justice, and it is presumed that RICHARD B. FLOURNEY and RICHARD W. FLOURNOY are actually one and the same person.

By teletype dated March 22, 1949, New York Office requested that HOWARD G. JOHNSON, Chief of the Division for United Nations Security Affairs, U. S. Department of State, be interviewed. On March 28, 1949, JOHNSON was interviewed at his office, Room 609, 2145 C Street, Northwest, Annex No. 5, U. S. Department of State, by Special Agent DONALD D. CONNORS.

JOHNSON advised he resides at 4731 Fulton Street, Northwest, and that he was first employed by the State Department in October, 1945. He stated it was some time after that when he first met HISS. JOHNSON advised that although he was a member of the Secretariat at the San Francisco United Nations Conference, he did not know HISS until after the conference. He pointed out that he knew HISS only for a very short time and that he did not know him socially. He said that his acquaintance with HISS on all counts was extremely slight. JOHNSON did not recognize pictures of CHAMBERS, advised that he had never met CHAMBERS, and that he had no correspondence from HISS. He advised that in view of his slight acquaintance with HISS, he had no reason or occasion to doubt HISS' loyalty.

Kisseloff-7138

WFO 74-94.

New York teletype dated February 24, 1949, requested this office to interview MRS. RELLA R. SCHWARTZ, a former employee of the Agriculture Adjustment Administration.

MRS. RELLA R. SCHWARTZ, nee L. RELLA RESNICK, was interviewed at her office, Room 800, Hibbs Building on March 16, 1949, by Special Agent FRANCIS R. MCGINTY. MRS. SCHWARTZ advised she was appointed a Junior Attorney in 1934, and was employed at the Litigation Section, Agriculture Adjustment Administration. Her work in the capacity of a Junior Attorney consisted mostly of briefing cases, and doing considerable research work in the library. As a result, she did not come in contact with the more prominent attorneys in the Agriculture Adjustment Administration. While working at the AAA, she was studying hard for the bar examinations and as a result, had little time for social activities which would have brought her in contact with other attorneys in the AAA. She did, however, have an initial interview with LEE PRESSMAN, who was one of the most prominent attorneys, but does not recall meeting or seeing ALGER HISS. The nature of her work did not bring her in contact with the head attorneys at the AAA and as a result, she was never acquainted with ALGER HISS, nor would she know him or his acquaintances. MRS. SCHWARTZ advised she had no reason to receive any correspondence from ALGER HISS, nor was she acquainted socially with him.

MRS. SCHWARTZ stated she was not aware of the fact that ALGER HISS had been employed by the AAA during the period she was employed with them until she read the recent news releases concerning MR. HISS' activities in government employment. To the best of her knowledge, MRS. SCHWARTZ recalls she left the AAA the latter part of 1935, and has forgotten most of the people who were employed there in 1934 - 1935, and as a result, could not recall any specific names.

Referenced New York report requested this office to interview General TELFORD TAYLOR, who had been associated with ALGER HISS in the Agriculture Adjustment Administration.

Brigadier General TELFORD TAYLOR, Head of the War Crimes Section, U. S. Army, was interviewed in his office in the Pentagon Building by Special Agent THOMAS J. BARRY on March 2, 1949, and advised as follows:

TAYLOR first met HISS in 1934, when TAYLOR had gone to work for the AAA in the Agriculture Department. He was somewhat younger than HISS and never considered himself to be a very close friend. After the "purge" in the Agriculture Department, in which JEROME FRANK, LEE PRESSMAN, and others, had lost their jobs, while ALGER HISS was not one of those purged, HISS made a statement to the effect that he was in favor of those people who had been purged and it was shortly thereafter that HISS resigned. TAYLOR took over part of HISS' duties and, therefore, worked closely with HISS for a few weeks in order to become acquainted with his duties. After HISS resigned,

Kisseloff-7139



TAYLOR only saw him a few times on the occasion of cocktail parties and the like. TAYLOR entered the Justice Department in about September 1939, and in 1943, entered the U. S. Army and went overseas. From that time, until May 1948, he had not seen or heard of ALGER HISS. When he returned from overseas, in May 1948, he contacted HISS in connection with his work with the War Crimes Trial, since he wanted HISS to publish some information concerning the trial, the arrangements for which were to be made by the Carnegie Endowment Fund for Peace, with which HISS was by then connected.

About October 1948, after the charges against HISS had appeared in the newspapers, but before the "pumpkin papers" had been exposed, HISS got in touch with TAYLOR. According to TAYLOR, the reason for this was that HISS told him he wanted to go over some of the things that had happened during the period of their joint employment in the Agriculture Department in order to refresh HISS' memory. TAYLOR was shown pictures of WHITTAKER CHAMBERS and failed to identify him. He stated he had never seen or heard of CHAMBERS. During TAYLOR's employment at the Agriculture Department, he believes that he may have been in the HISS home about six times, and that HISS and his wife came to the TAYLOR home about the same number of times. He did not recall seeing a typewriter in the HISS home. He commented that when the matter broke in the newspapers, it was a complete shock to him, as he had never had any indication that HISS was a Communist, or in any way involved in a conspiracy to obtain Government secrets. At the present time, his feelings are akin to those of DEAN ACHESON and he is waiting until the court action to see whether HISS is proven guilty or not before coming to any conclusion with regard to HISS' guilt.

By letter dated March 4, 1949, the Bureau suggested that former neighbors of ALGER HISS be interviewed.

MRS. ERNEST I. LEWIS, 3099 Q Street, Northwest, advised Special Agent WILLIAM H. ATKINSON on March 9, 1949, that she met PRISCILLA HISS sometime around 1941. She could not fix the exact time, but stated that PRISCILLA's child, TONY, was still kept in his play pen. She advised that she was never an intimate friend of PRISCILLA HISS, but that she was a social acquaintance until PRISCILLA HISS left Washington, D. C., in 1947. She visited the HISS home on Volta Place on one occasion and visited their home in the 3200 block of P Street on two or three occasions. She could not furnish the names of baby sitters, maids, or other employees of the HISS household. She could not recall any typewriter in the home and advised that she has had no correspondence with PRISCILLA HISS, except a letter to PRISCILLA sympathizing with her after ALGER HISS was charged before the House Committee on Un-American Activities. PRISCILLA answered her letter, but MRS. LEWIS advised that that letter has since been destroyed.

MRS. LEWIS advised that she attended several hearings of the House Committee on Un-American Activities and that she was present when HISS and

CHAMBERS first confronted each other. She could not recall ever having seen WHITTAKER CHAMBERS prior to that time. She also examined the photographs of WHITTAKER CHAMBERS which were taken in the middle thirties and advised that she could not identify that individual.

She could not recall any acquaintances of PRISCILLA HISS who were known by the name of CARL CARLSON, GEORGE CROSLY, or WHITTAKER CHAMBERS. She emphasized that PRISCILLA was much younger than she, and that her only contact with her was at teas, parties, and other social affairs in Washington. She believes that she met ALGER on one occasion. She knew of nothing which would indicate that the HISS' were engaged in subversive activities.

MRS. HUGHES CALL, 1675 35th Street, Northwest, advised that she was active as one of the Co-Directors of the Foxhall Nursery School, which was conducted in the Parish Hall at Foxhall and Reservoir Road, Northwest, from 1945 through 1947. During that time, PRISCILLA HISS enrolled her child, TONY HISS, in the nursery school. Through this relationship, MRS. CALL became acquainted with PRISCILLA HISS. She also indicated that she met PRISCILLA HISS at teas given by her mother, MRS. ERNEST I. LEWIS, and at social affairs given by other residents in Georgetown. MRS. CALL advised that she is much younger than PRISCILLA HISS and that she never became a good friend. She believes that she was in the HISS home on one or two occasions, but could furnish no information concerning a typewriter, household employees, or baby sitters. She has never corresponded with either ALGER or PRISCILLA HISS.

MRS. BENNETT PHELPS STILES, 403 South Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia, advised that she was a sister of MRS. FERDINAND AUGUSTUS SILCOX. She stated that MR. SILCOX was called to Washington, D. C., in 1936, to become Chief Forester of the United States. At that time, he rented a house in Georgetown and resided in this home from three to nine months. He soon obtained permanent quarters and moved to Alexandria, Virginia. She could furnish no information regarding the address of the house which was leased in Georgetown, nor could she furnish the name of the person who owned that house. She advised that her brother-in-law died in 1939, and that her sister died in Alexandria, Virginia, in November of 1948. She advised that they had no children.

Colonel and MRS. FREDERICK W. BOYE, 4511 Cathedral Avenue, Northwest, advised Special Agent WILLIAM H. ATKINSON on March 9, 1949, that from March 1938, through September 1939, they rented a home at 1545 35th Street, from Admiral SHARP. They advised that they were not acquainted with the people who resided at 3415 Volta Place; however, they frequently looked over the high board fence which separated their back yards and admired the roses in the yard at that address. They knew none of the employees at that address and did not recognize the name of ALGER or PRISCILLA HISS, WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, GEORGE CROSLY, or CARL CARLSON. They also examined photographs of WHITTAKER CHAMBERS and ALGER HISS, but were unable to identify either of these men.



MRS. ELINOR T. DONALDSON, 2234 Decatur Place, Northwest, advised Special Agent WILLIAM H. ATKINSON on March 10, 1949, that she met KATHERINE HISS around 1939 or 1940, as they were both serving in the American Women's Volunteer Service in Washington, D. C. She also met KATHERINE HISS at various social functions in Washington, D. C. She recalls that KATHERINE and DONALD HISS were very close friends of an old friend of hers, MRS. L. CORRIN STRONG. She advised that she has probably met ALGER and PRISCILLA HISS, but she cannot recall it at this time. She has never corresponded with ALGER or PRISCILLA HISS and has never visited their home. She examined the photographs of ALGER HISS and WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, but was unable to identify either of these individuals.

By teletype dated March 11, 1949, the New York Office requested that GARDNER JACKSON be re-interviewed in connection with the Twentieth Anniversary Petition of the SACCO and VANZETTI case. On March 17, 1949, JACKSON was interviewed at his office, the Cooperative League of the United States of America, 726 Jackson Place, Northwest, by Special Agent DONALD D. CONNORS. JACKSON recalled that he had sent a copy of the afore-mentioned petition to ALGER HISS in 1947, when this petition was published. HISS returned the petition with a letter in which HISS indicated that he felt he could not sign the petition because his position as President of the Carnegie Peace Foundation precluded his taking so positive a stand in any highly controversial matter. JACKSON advised that although he is unable to find HISS' letter, and has not read it for a year or so, there is nothing in this letter to indicate that HISS was sympathetic to the Communist Party or to Soviet Russia. He recalled that a number of individuals did refuse to sign this petition on the grounds that it was "Red baiting" and added to the "anti-Soviet hysteria" sweeping the country.

MR. THOMAS B. NOLAN, Assistant Chief Geologist, U. S. Geological Survey, Department of Interior, was interviewed on March 17, 1949, by Special Agent EDWARD F. HUMMER at his office in the Old Interior Building, concerning his knowledge as to whether ALGER HISS visited Longview, Accokeek, Maryland, on or about July 4, 1937.

MR. NOLAN stated that prior to 1937, he was frequently a week-end guest at the estate of MR. and MRS. HENRY G. FERGUSON at Accokeek, Maryland, but after 1937, the year his son was born, his visits there were more or less infrequent. Inasmuch as he was the guest of the FERGUSONS, he did not know the identity of the persons who visited SALLY RINGE and LENORE THOMAS at Longview, the adjoining property which was owned by the FERGUSONS and rented to the two girls. NOLAN stated that it was customary for the THOMAS and RINGE guests to come over to the FERGUSON property and use the volley ball court.

NOLAN stated that he never met ALGER HISS and only knows him through the publicity of this case and, therefore, he cannot say whether

HISS was a visitor at Longview. He was shown a picture of ALGER HISS taken in 1934, and stated that he had no recollection of HISS ever being there. FERGUSON characterized the two girls, LENORE THOMAS and SALLY RINGE, as well as most of their guests, as being "ultra liberals or new dealers." By this, he meant that they invariably, in their discussions, advocated the extreme left wing views at the time, but he had no discussions with the two girls or the guests indicating their membership in the Communist Party. NOLAN stated that he recalls a red-headed man there, but he did not know his name. In recent conversations with the FERGUSONS, the latter have identified him to NOLAN as being CHARLES KRAMER.

Investigation to Locate  
Woodstock Typewriter

The report of Special Agent DANIEL F. X. CALLAHAN in this matter, dated February 17, 1949, at Baltimore, Maryland, requested this office to recontact the Arlington Typewriter Company in an effort to locate SYLVIA STEVENS.

MRS. SYLVIA STEPHENS, Lakeland, Maryland, advised Special Agent WILLIAM H. ATKINSON that in January or February of 1942, she purchased a typewriter from the MacDONALD's Typewriter Company, 818 Fourteenth Street, Northwest. It is to be noted that this typewriter company is associated with the Arlington Typewriter Company and the District Typewriter Company, and all the records of these companies are maintained by the District Typewriter Company at 818 Fourteenth Street, Northwest.

Typewriter specimens obtained by Agent ATKINSON on March 9, 1949, from Woodstock typewriter No. 162202, which is presently owned by MRS. STEPHENS, were forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory on March 10, 1949. The Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory advised in letter dated March 11, 1949, that Woodstock typewriter No. 162202 was not the machine that was used to type the documents turned over by CHAMBERS.

By letter dated March 16, 1949, the Bureau requested the re-interview of HARRY C. FELDSTONE, 1531 Wisconsin Avenue, Northwest.

FELDSTONE was reinterviewed on March 22, 1949, at his place of business by Special Agents JOHN E. HOWARD and CHARLES W. PEASINGER. He advised that since his previous interview by Agents on February 4, 1949, he had located his book of sales and purchases covering dates up to 1935. The only record book not located was for the period 1935 through 1943. FELDSTONE advised that when he moved from 1516 Wisconsin Avenue, Northwest, about a year ago, he had destroyed a lot of old papers and misplaced a lot of others and he believes that instant book has been thrown away.

Previous statements made by FELDSTONE were gone over with him carefully but no additional data pertaining to instant typewriter was obtained.

He continues to state that he can recall no purchases of Woodstock typewriters nor can he recall any dealings with ALGER or PRISCILLA HISS or TIMOTHY HOBSON.

FELDSTONE was advised concerning his notarization of HOBSON's naval papers and asked for his comment. He stated he could not recall this notarization. He stated that he notarized many such navy papers during the war, but that he could not recall PRISCILLA or TIMOTHY. FELDSTONE stated that when someone asks him for a notarization that he requests that person to identify himself by some official or semi-official document, e.i., draft card, driver's license, etc. He cannot recall PRISCILLA HISS or what identification she may have used.

With FELDSTONE's permission, Agents examined his filing cabinet and desk, as well as old files he maintained in the basement, but no pertinent records were located. FELDSTONE, subsequently, advised that he rented an old garage in the rear of 1516 Wisconsin Avenue, Northwest, as a storage place and that possibly some old records might be there. FELDSTONE accompanied Agents to this garage and a search thereof located a quantity of check stubs and two old typewriters which were not Woodstocks. FELDSTONE advised that whenever he made a purchase that he paid for it by check. His check stubs were examined for the period 1937 through 1943, but no record of a typewriter purchase or any payment of interest was noted.

FELDSTONE advised that he would continue to make efforts to recall any information of interest to instant investigation and that though he could not think of anywhere else that instant purchase book might be located, he would continue to make efforts to locate it and would contact interviewing Agents in that event. FELDSTONE appeared to be entirely cooperative and concerned with emphasizing his desire to cooperate in any way possible. He stated that he could not positively affirm that he had not purchased instant typewriter, but, that if he had, he had no recollection thereof.

File Review, HISS' Financial Transactions

Reference is made to Bureau letter to the Washington Field dated March 4, 1949, which requested the Washington Field Office to determine if \$400 was redeposited in their bank account by either of the HISS' immediately subsequent to November 19, 1937, thus substantiating the allegation of CHAMBERS that the money was repaid to the HISS' by Colonel BYKOV. This letter also requested this office to check the case file for any information as to why the HISS' would withdraw \$400 from their savings account on November 19, 1937.

The report of Special Agent (A) J. BERNARD COOK, dated March 14, 1949, at Washington, D. C., reported that PRISCILLA HISS withdrew \$400 from the HISS joint savings account No. 10931, at the Farmers and Mechanics

Kisseloff-7144

Branch, Riggs National Bank, Washington, D. C., on November 19, 1937. This report contains a detailed analysis showing withdrawals, deposit description of deposits when available, and balance of ALGER and PRISCILLA HISS' savings account from November 4, 1936, through October 1, 1948. This report also contains an analysis showing deposits, description of deposits when available, and balance for the HISS checking account at the same bank from June 6, 1934, through February 4, 1949.

Examination of the analysis of the HISS' savings account reflects that after the withdrawal of the above-mentioned \$400 on November 19, 1937, the balance remained under \$100 until May 8, 1939, when \$200 was deposited into the account. This brought the balance in the account up to \$202.29. The deposit of \$200 was unidentified in the analysis.

An analysis of the HISS' checking account for the year 1937, failed to list any material deposit that does not regularly appear month after month except for a deposit made on May 19, 1937, in the amount of \$657.42. The analysis reflects that the deposit slip for this deposit bore the notation "Heinold." On December 8, 1937, a \$300 deposit was made, the analysis reflecting that the source is unidentified. After December 8, 1937, the following deposits that have not appeared regularly each month were noted:

- (1) On February 5, 1938, a check for \$116 that was drawn on the Munsey Trust Company, Washington, D. C., was deposited.
- (2) On June 18, 1938, a deposit of \$400 was made. The checking account analysis reflects the source was unidentified.
- (3) On November 28, 1938, a deposit of \$400 was made. The checking account analysis reflects that the source was unidentified.

Offices covering the location of payments that were listed on deposit slips have been requested to attempt to determine the source of deposits to the HISS' accounts by contacting payments on which deposit checks were drawn.

#### Family Illness and Hospitalization

The review of the file revealed that TIMOTHY HOBSON, a stepson of ALGER HISS, was injured at 27th and P Streets, Northwest, by a car driven by GEORGE E. KILLEEN, 3117 N Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C., on February 19, 1937. TIMOTHY HOBSON was admitted to Georgetown University Hospital for treatment of a broken leg on February 19, 1937, and he was released from the hospital on February 27, 1937. He was treated by DR. PAUL O'CONNELL and DR. MARGARET NICHOLSON.



Doctors and dentists who have treated the HISS family and representatives of hospitals where members of the family have been patients, have been contacted by Agents of this office, but no data appears in the file that would indicate details regarding the financial relationship between them. Thus, there is no indication that unusual medical expenses arose around November 1937; however, interview with friends and associates did not reveal any known illness or operation during this period.

#### Purchase of Automobile

The files of the Credit Bureau, 1221 G Street, Northwest, reflect that ALGER HISS, 2905 P Street, Northwest, on October 7, 1935, purchased from the Smoot Motor Company, a Plymouth, Motor No. PJ 295368, for \$723.85. HISS made a cash down payment and the balance of \$621.35 was to be paid in two monthly installments of \$200 and one installment of \$221.35.

#### Furniture

MARTHA POPE advised that she was employed by the HISS' as a maid from 1930 to 1935, at 3411 O Street, Northwest; 2831 28th Street, Northwest, and for about a month after they moved to 2905 P Street, Northwest, around May 1, 1935. (The HISS' lived at 2905 P Street, Northwest, from May 1, 1935, to June 15, 1936). She stated that HISS rented the P Street house furnished, that she does not recall any furniture being removed from the apartment on 28th Street to P Street, and that the HISS' carried their personal belongings to P Street in their automobile.

CLAUDIE CATLETT, a maid employed by the HISS' about six months before the HISS' moved to the house on 30th Street, (HISS moved from 2905 P Street to 1245 30th Street, on June 15, 1936) until the Summer of 1938, advised that most of the furniture in the house at 2905 P Street, Northwest, was not the property of the HISS' and was left in the house when they moved to 1245 30th Street, Northwest. They did move several chairs, a secretary, a small table, their books and typewriter and their personal belongings by moving van. She stated that when the HISS' moved from 30th Street to 3415 Volta Place, Northwest, around January of 1938, their furniture and household effects were moved by van. In fact, she indicated in her signed statement that they moved everything from the 30th Street house to Volta Place, with the exception of a kitchen stove and other such fixtures. She reported that a red rug with a fringe was stored by the HISS' in a closet at 1245 30th Street, Northwest, but that after they moved to Volta Place, it was placed on the floor of TIM HOBSON's room.

#### Real Estate and House

Kisseloff-7146

The files of the Real Estate Tax Division reflect that on September 28, 1943, ALGER HISS purchased the residence at 3210 P Street, Northwest, from PRENTISS B. GILBERT and that he sold the residence on October 25, 1947, to BENTRAM and RUTH SORELS BENDICT. All other residences in Washington,

WFO 74-94

D. C., were rented by ALGER HISS and there was no information in the files pertaining to the amount of the monthly rent.

#### Insurance Premiums

On December 13, 1948, MR. LEO D. FITZGERALD, Associate Counsel for the Equitable Life Assurance Company of the United States, advised that ALGER HISS was an assured of that company. Information regarding monthly or annual premiums, etc., was not reported. The case files do not reflect any other insurance policies for the HISS'.

#### TIMOTHY HOBSON's Education

MR. FRANCIS THAYER HOBSON, 425 Fourth Avenue, New York City, advised on December 16, 1948, that he personally made arrangements for all of TIMOTHY HOBSON's schooling and had personally paid the bills for same by check.

#### PRISCILLA HISS' Schooling

The files reflect that PRISCILLA attended summer school in Chemistry at the University of Maryland, in 1937, and that she enrolled at Georgetown University on September 17, 1937, and withdrew December 13, 1937. Financial data regarding these studies is not available in the files.

#### Credit

Results of Credit Agency checks in Washington, D. C., were reported on pages 76 and 77, in the report of Special Agent COURTLAND J. JONES, dated January 28, 1949, at Washington, D. C.

Investigation reflects that the following accounts were opened by the HISS' subsequent to November 19, 1937:

<u>Business Establishment</u>	<u>Date Account Opened</u>
Julius Garfinckel and Company	September 21, 1940
B. Rich Sons Shoe Store	September 1936
Raleigh Haberdashery	October 1940
Standard Oil Company of New Jersey	October 1940

MISS JANET HELMFELD, Auditor, W & J SLOANE, 1217 Connecticut Avenue, Northwest, advised that when the office was moved from 709 21st Street, Northwest, that all old records were destroyed. Present records were reviewed and they revealed no account for ALGER or PRISCILLA HISS. (Credit

Kisseloff-7147



Bureau report dated October 23, 1940, indicates ALGER and PRISCILLA HISS opened an account with W & J SLOANE in September 1936). There is an account in the name of DONALD HISS and records indicated that he purchased a rug in May of 1947.

On page 121, in the report of Special Agent JOSEPH M. KELLY, dated February 8, 1949, at New York City, MARIAN KENNY, Assistant Credit Manager, Best and Company, 51st Street and Fifth Avenue, New York City, advised that MRS. ALGER (PRISCILLA) HISS opened an account at the Washington, D. C., store of Best and Company on September 26, 1938. This account represents a thirty-day charge account with a limitation of \$150. The account was settled in 1943.

MR. C. H. RAITT, Credit Manager, Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, 261 Constitution Avenue, Northwest, advised that ALGER HISS opened a fuel oil account in October of 1940, but that all records pertaining to the account are maintained in the Baltimore office.

A teletype to the Director from the Baltimore Office dated March 15, 1949, reflects that HISS opened a fuel oil account on October 30, 1940, and that no record of gasoline charge account in the name of ALGER and PRISCILLA HISS could be located in the credit records of the Shell Oil Company, Inc., Esso Standard Oil Company, Sinclair Oil Company, Sherwood Oil Company, or the American Oil Company, all Baltimore, Maryland.

MR. FRANK SCOTT, Credit Manager, Woodward and Lothrop Department Store, advised that an account in the name of ALGER and PRISCILLA HISS had been opened on September 18, 1935. MRS. THELMA BUCK, Credit Department, Woodward and Lothrop, advised that the credit account records are only kept for three years unless some unusual reason exists to keep an individual account. She stated that all ledger references pertaining to 1931 and 1938 credit accounts have been destroyed many years ago.

MRS. ROSE G. BREAUULT, Credit Manager, Brentano's Bookstore, 1322 F Street, Northwest, advised that an account for MRS. ALGER HISS was opened in October 1929, that the original credit application and old ledger sheets have been destroyed and that the current ledger card reflects the highest credit ever extended to the HISS' was \$38.50 in November - December, 1946.

MR. WILLIAM KING of the W. S. King and Son Coal Company, 2141 30th Street, Northwest, advised that his records show ALGER HISS purchased coal on credit during the Winter of 1930. No other information was available.

ELIZABETH L. JACKSON, 3112 Q Street, Northwest, advised that she was Secretary-Treasurer of Preece and Curtis, Inc., a woman's store formerly located at 1014 Connecticut Avenue, Northwest. She advised that this business was sold in July of 1947, and that all records were destroyed except for customer accounts that had not been settled. She does not have any records of the store pertaining to ALGER or PRISCILLA HISS. She reported

that she knew MRS. HISS in a business way, as she had been a regular customer since about 1936 or 1937. She recalled that MRS. HISS usually purchased sport clothes and suits that ran from \$19.95 to \$29.00. The HISS' settled their account promptly and she believes that the largest credit balance would be somewhere between \$50.00 and \$125.00.

Credit applications that were executed by either ALGER or PRISCILLA HISS in most of the foregoing business establishments have been destroyed. The credit application that was executed by MRS. HISS at B. Rich and Son Shoe Store lists credit references that have previously been contacted and explained above.

WILLIAM EDWARD CRANE

Interview with MRS. PEYTON KERR

By teletype dated March 9, 1949, the New York Office advised that in about 1936 or 1937, WILLIAM EDWARD CRANE attempted to develop MR. and MRS. PEYTON KERR as sources of information for a Soviet espionage apparatus, but that this attempt was unsuccessful. This office was requested to interview MR. and MRS. PEYTON KERR.

On March 18, 1949, MRS. PEYTON KERR was interviewed at her home, 421 Argyle Drive, Alexandria, by Special Agent DONALD D. CONNORS. She advised that her husband is now First Secretary of the United States Embassy at New Delhi, India, and that he has been in this position for approximately four months. She and the children intend to join him there and planned to leave the United States approximately April 5, 1949.

After a moment's hesitation, MRS. KERR recognized a picture of CRANE and correctly identified him. She stated that her husband had met CRANE at the University of California, at Berkeley, California, while MR. KERR was attending college there in about 1933 or 1934. According to MRS. KERR, her husband was well acquainted with one MARGARET GUTELIUS, a pre-medical student at Berkeley, and through her, met CRANE. CRANE and GUTELIUS were subsequently married. MRS. KERR stated that she and MR. KERR were married on July 10, 1934, in San Francisco, California, her maiden name being MARGARET WILSON. She recalls that she associates her first meeting with PEGGY GUTELIUS and WILLIAM CRANE with her own wedding. At that time, CRANE was a free-lance photographer and resided in Berkeley. In 1935, the KERRS left Berkeley and came to Washington, D. C. Sometime later that year, CRANE and his wife moved to New York City, where CRANE also operated as a free-lance photographer.

MRS. KERR advised that both she and her husband were extremely fond of CRANE's wife, but both regarded CRANE as a braggadocious egomaniac and both had an intense dislike for CRANE. MRS. KERR advised CRANE's wife to separate from him and she recalls that in 1936, MARGARET CRANE did, in

fact, leave WILLIAM CRANE, and following a brief and unsuccessful reconciliation, the CRANES were divorced. According to MRS. KERR, the former MARGARET GUTELIUS CRANE is now MRS. JAMES F. WATT, a practicing physician in Pharr, Texas.

Following the unsuccessful reconciliation between the CRANES, MARGARET CRANE told MRS. KERR that WILLIAM CRANE had made the remark that he was photographing national defense installations in New York City and was being paid for this work by another nation. MRS. KERR stated that there were no further details in regard to this statement, but that she and her husband, as well as MARGARET CRANE, could not believe this remark, and attributed it to CRANE's usual blustering manner.

She stated that she and her husband saw the CRANES probably no more than five or six times from 1935 through the early part of 1937, at which time the CRANES were divorced. She recalls that MARGARET CRANE, during this time, was studying medicine and in the Summer of 1936 or 1937, MRS. CRANE worked in the George Washington Hospital Clinic in Washington, D. C. She recalls that this employment lasted only about eight weeks and during this time, MARGARET CRANE lived at an apartment hotel in the Northwest section of Washington. She could not recall the exact location of this hotel, but stated that it was rather far out to the East of Connecticut Avenue.

MRS. KERR described MARGARET CRANE as follows:

Height:	5' 3"
Hair:	Light brown
Eyes:	Blue
Build:	Slender
Age in 1937:	28 - 30 years
Characteristics:	Excellent swimmer, formerly held summer employment as Counsel for girls' camps.

MRS. KERR recalled that while MARGARET CRANE lived in Washington, D. C., WILLIAM CRANE maintained their residence in New York City, and did not accompany his wife to Washington.

With regard to the unknown individual whom CRANE alleges he attempted to develop, MRS. KERR could recall no one of her acquaintances who would fit this description, and advised that she was rather sure that neither she nor her husband had ever introduced CRANE to any of their friends. She pointed out that CRANE had been in their home in Washington no more than two or three times, and because both she and her husband disliked him very much, they had made no effort to introduce CRANE to their circle of acquaintances. She also pointed out that CRANE had never urged her, or so far as she knew, had never urged her husband to introduce CRANE to anyone. She had never conversed with CRANE with respect to the Communist Party or Soviet Russia and advised that she had, as a matter of course, considered CRANE to be a loyal

American citizen, or as loyal as anyone with his neurotic tendencies could be. She has not seen CRANE since either 1936 or 1937, but has occasionally corresponded with his former wife.

By teletype dated March 3, 1949, the New York Office requested that the passport records be checked concerning IRENE PERLA GLAS, nee GOLDSTEIN, with aliases. The records of the Passport Division of the United States Department of State, contain no information concerning this individual. The New York Office was so advised by teletype on March 16, 1949.

By teletype dated March 2, 1949, the Los Angeles Office requested this office to check the records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, United States Department of Justice, concerning ANTOINETTE SANIUCI, nee BROGELLI. No record of this individual was located in the files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the Bureau and interested offices were so advised by teletype on March 15, 1949.

LAURENCE DUGGAN

By teletype dated March 9, 1949, the Baltimore Office requested this office to interview certain former associates of LAURENCE DUGGAN at the Department of State.

PAUL CLEMENT DANIELS, Director for American Republics Affairs, State Department, Room 3114, New State Department Building, 21st and C Streets, Northwest, advised Special Agent WILLIAM H. ATKINSON on March 10, 1949, that he was assigned to the Department of State in Washington, D. C., from December 1939, until the end of 1943, as a Desk Officer and Assistant Chief, both in the Latin American Division (now known as the American Republics Affairs Division). He advised that during this time, he served under the immediate supervision of LAURENCE DUGGAN and that he worked very closely with him. During this time, he knew ALGER HISS casually and he cannot, at this time, recall having had any professional contact with him. He believed that ALGER HISS was employed in another division within the Department of State, and that he was never assigned to the Latin American Division. In this connection, he stated that he did not know that ALGER HISS and LAURENCE DUGGAN ever shared office space at the Department of State and since they never served in the same division during this time, he could not think of any reason why they would share the same office. He advised that he did not know HISS socially; that he never visited his home; that he was not acquainted with his wife; and that he has never corresponded with either of the HISS'. He stated that his acquaintanceship with HISS was so casual that he was not in a position to furnish pertinent information. He had the impression that HISS and DUGGAN were very close friends, but he could offer nothing to substantiate this impression at this time.

DANIELS examined the photographs of WHITTAKER CHAMBERS which were taken in the middle thirties and advised that he was unable to identify them.



He could recall no visitors or friends of ALGER HISS or LAURENCE DUGGAN by the name of WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, CARL CARLSON, or GEORGE CROSLY. He advised that from the end of 1943 until the Fall of 1947, he served as a Foreign Service Officer in the Department of State outside the continental limits of the United States. When he returned to the Department, ALGER HISS had resigned and accepted a position with the Carnegie Foundation.

GEORGE HOWLAND BUTLER, Deputy Director, Policy Planning Staff, Department of State, Room 5152, New State Department Building, 21st and C Streets, Northwest, advised Special Agent WILLIAM H. ATKINSON on March 10, 1949, that he served in the Department of State in Washington, D. C., from 1935 to 1939, as a Desk Officer and Assistant Chief; both in the Division of Latin American Affairs. During the greater part of this service in the State Department, LAURENCE DUGGAN was his immediate supervisor and close friend. In his opinion, LAURENCE DUGGAN was a thoroughly patriotic American, most intelligent, an outstanding public servant, a man of the highest integrity, and a person with a high sense of duty to the United States. He advised that he knew ALGER HISS casually and he had no social or professional contact with him. He has never visited his home and has never corresponded with ALGER or PRISCILLA HISS. He could offer no information as to whether or not HISS and DUGGAN were close friends, but advised that he is positive that they never shared an office at the Department of State during the time he was assigned in Washington, D. C. From 1939 to early in 1940, he served as Foreign Service Officer outside the continental limits of the United States. He was again called back to the Department in February 1945, and sometime between that time and September 1946, he was a dinner guest of one of the HISS' --- he believes that it was DONALD HISS.

He examined photographs of WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, but was unable to identify that individual. He did not recognize the names of WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, GEORGE CROSLY, or CARL CARLSON, and could not remember LAURENCE DUGGAN ever having mentioned these names.

ERWIN S. GELSEY, ALSO KNOWN AS  
ERWIN GELSKY, ISRAEL GELSKY

Referenced New York report requested this office to check the records of the Passport Division, United States Department of State, and of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, United States Department of Justice, for information concerning ERWIN GELSKY.

The records of the Passport Division, United States Department of State, were checked on February 16, 1949, by Special Agent CHESTER C. CRAWFORD, with negative results.

The records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, United States Department of Justice, were checked by the same Agent on February 24, and March 28, 1949, and reflected the following information:

Kisseloff-7152

By order of Supreme Court, Brooklyn, New York, dated April 10, 1934, ERWIN GELSKY's name was changed to ERWIN GELSEY.

In a declaration of intention, No. 72730, dated August 28, 1935, GELSEY furnished the following information. He gave his name as ERWIN S. GELSEY, residing at 1416 North Haverhurst Drive, Los Angeles, California. He listed his occupation as Scenario Writer, and reported that he had been born December 31, 1899, in Russia, and that that country had constituted his last foreign residence. He immigrated to the United States from Hamburg, Germany, under the name of ISRAEL GELSKY, and entered at the Port of New York, on October 27, 1904, on the S.S. PATRICIA. His description, as furnished in the declaration, is as follows:

Sex:	Male
Color:	White
Complexion:	Ruddy
Eyes:	Brown
Hair:	Red
Height:	5' 8"
Weight:	150 lbs.
Race:	Hebrew
Nationality:	Russian
Date and place of birth:	December 31, 1899, Russia

On June 13, 1940, he filed Petition for Naturalization No. 76024, at which time, his address was 1250 Hilldale, Los Angeles, California. In the petition, he gave his date and place of birth as Bialystok, Poland, on December 31, 1899. On June 13, 1937, he was married to LOUISE GELSKY at Denver, Colorado. His marital status at the time this petition was filed was divorced. This petition gave his last foreign residence as Vilna, Russia.

Naturalization Certificate No. 5188012, dated January 24, 1941, reflects that his residence at that time, was 8819 $\frac{1}{2}$  Haratt, Los Angeles, California. He was issued Alien Registration No. 5395023. The file contained no record of visa re-entry permit No. 1103447.

Photographs of GELSEY obtained from the afore-mentioned Immigration and Naturalization Service records are being furnished to the Bureau and to the New York Office with this report as enclosures.

ELEANOR NELSON

MR. PAUL R. PORTER, Department of State, was interviewed in his office in the New State Department Building, on March 21, 1949, by Special Agents EDWARD F. HUMMER and DONALD D. CONNORS, and stated the following:

Kisseloff-7153



PORTER recalled that he first met ELEANOR NELSON in late 1932, and that he was introduced to her by MARY DUBLIN, who is now the wife of LEON KEYERSLING. It is PORTER's recollection that he first met ELEANOR at a Socialist Party Banquet in Baltimore. He states that this may have been in the Spring of 1933, but believes it to be the latter part of 1932. It is noted that PORTER married ELEANOR NELSON in February 1933, and lived with her as man and wife until December 1933, although during most of this time, they maintained separate domiciles. PORTER stated that he was employed in New York City, and ELEANOR NELSON was employed in the Labor Department, Washington, D. C. She resided on Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest, in about the 2400 or 2500 block.

In May 1933, PORTER was sent to Philadelphia as a Socialist Party organizer, where he maintained an apartment over Party headquarters somewhere on 52nd Street. During this period, PORTER and NELSON spent most of their week ends together in Philadelphia or New York.

In the early part of 1934, PORTER, who had tuberculosis, was confined in a sanitarium in the Adirondack Mountains in New York State. In July 1934, NELSON visited him at the sanitarium, and arrangements were made at that time for the divorce. PORTER recalls that he saw NELSON again in October 1934, March 1937, and that the last time he saw her was in Pittsburgh in 1938. He stated that she arranged the divorce and procured it in the District of Columbia. He advised that one of the main reasons their marriage broke up was because shortly after he knew ELEANOR, she began to come under the influence of the Communist Party, whereas he was a staunch Socialist and believed ELEANOR NELSON to be one at the time of their marriage. PORTER advised that he had no idea that NELSON was involved in any espionage activities. In the latter states of their marriage, and after the divorce, he came to realize that ELEANOR NELSON was an active and fanatic member of the Communist Party.

With regard to HAROLD WARE, PORTER advised that he knew WARE to be an organizer of a farm group in Minnesota, and that he had heard NELSON speak of WARE. He also recalled that one WEBSTER CLAY POWELL was a close friend of WARE, and he had heard ELEANOR speak of POWELL. Although, he did not know POWELL to be a Communist, he said that he always felt "some misgivings" in connection with POWELL, because of his friendship with WARE.

PORTER did not know ALGER or DONALD HISS at this time, and advised that he has never met these individuals, although he is familiar with their names.

PORTER did not know the following individuals: JOHN ABT; HENRY HILL COLLINS; LEE PRESSMAN (PORTER stated that he later became acquainted with PRESSMAN); ABRAHAM GEORGE SILVERMAN; ROSE CLINTON; CHARLES COE; ROSE COE; VICTOR PERLO; NATHAN WITT; CHARLES KRAMER; IRMA RINGE; SALLY RINGE; BOB STRAUSS; LENORE THOMAS (now MRS. BOB STRAUSS); DR. BENJAMIN WEININGER.

With respect to WALTER SASSAMAN, PORTER advised that he had a faint recollection that he knew this individual, and connected him in a vague fashion with the Communist Party. PORTER advised that he knew ROB HALL slightly, and that while he, PORTER, was organizing a Socialist student's group at Columbia University, HALL was organizing a Communist Party National Students' League, also at Columbia. PORTER had no recollection whatsoever of DAVID CARPENTER, with aliases, HAROLD WILSON, DAVID ZIMMERMAN, and said further, that he knew of no HAROLD with whom ELEANOR NELSON was familiar just before or after their divorce, although PORTER indicated that he did not know a great deal of ELEANOR NELSON's life following the divorce. He was unaware that she had remarried, and was the mother of a child.

PORTER did not know WILLIAM EDWARD CRANE, WARD PIGMAN, FELIX INSLERMAN, HELEN MILLER, or ROBERT MARTIN WOHLFORTH.

PORTER advised that this last name was faintly familiar to him as one who served on the LaFollette Committee. PORTER also did not know ANDRE EMEREE under any of her aliases or THELMA OSTER, although, he did know by reputation ROY HUDSON, presently the husband of ANDRE EMEREE. PORTER advised that he knew STEPHEN RAUSHENBUSH as a Socialist, and indicated that he was acquainted with RAUSHENBUSH while RAUSHENBUSH worked for Governor MARTIN of Pennsylvania, at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He said that RAUSHENBUSH was a friend of NORMAN THOMAS.

PORTER stated that he was leaving for Europe on Thursday, March 24, 1949, and if his recollection is refreshed concerning ELEANOR NELSON, he would advise the Bureau by letter.

DAVID ZIMMERMAN, with aliases

On March 1, 1949, TANSEL BUTLER, 300 K Street, Northeast, was interviewed by Special Agent PHILIP H. WILSON and HARRY K. CLAYTON concerning any information BUTLER might be able to furnish with reference to DAVID ZIMMERMAN, with aliases, former Editor of "Work", official organ of the Workers Alliance of America.

BUTLER advised he was President of the District of Columbia Branch of the Workers Alliance of America from 1936 until he resigned during April 1939. He pointed out that this branch maintained a separate staff and headquarters from that of the national organization; therefore, his contacts were infrequent with members of the national staff.

He added, however, that he had occasion to confer with national officers DAVID LASSER and HERBERT BENJAMIN and knew both of them well. He stated that he knew ELEANOR NELSON and DAVID ZIMMERMAN, but was not well acquainted with either. He did not know ZIMMERMAN by any other name and he stated he did not know the address of ZIMMERMAN while the latter was in Washington, D. C.

With reference to investigation conducted to locate the apartment in Washington, D. C.; utilized by CHAMBERS for the photographing of documents in 1936, BUTLER stated that he does not know of any Communist member who was residing in the area surrounding Eastern High School or Lincoln Park during 1935-1937 inclusive.

WEBSTER CLAY POWELL

By teletype dated January 28, 1949, the New York Office advised that WHITTAKER CHAMBERS had stated that HAROLD WARE organized a small apparatus in the agriculture field, and that WEBSTER CLAY POWELL had been a kind of personal deputy of WARE.

WEBSTER CLAY POWELL was interviewed by Special Agents DONALD D. CONNORS and THOMAS J. BARRY at this office on February 25, 1949. He advised that he is presently a Foreign Service Officer in the United States Department of State, and that he had just returned from three and a half years duty in Australia. He stated that he had been acquainted with ALGER HISS, but had had no close contact with him, and could not recall where he had met HISS, or who had introduced him. He thinks he possibly first met HISS in the agriculture field since he, POWELL was Director of Research in "Farm Research Incorporated" from about 1933 to 1938.

POWELL described "Farm Research Incorporated" as not a Government organization; but a private group which was formed to assist the farmer by obtaining helpful information and making it available to the farmers. He believed that the real founder of "Farm Research Incorporated" was HAROLD WARE. The organization was financed by contributions from interested people and farm organizations. He was acquainted with the fact that this organization had been cited by the House Committee on Un-American Activities as a Communist front, but could give no reason for this action other than the fact that HAROLD WARE had been connected with it and that WARE has been accused by many people of being a Communist.

With regard to ALGER HISS, POWELL believes he may have seen HISS a few times socially since their first meeting, and once or twice on the street, but he has never attended any kind of meeting with HISS. During the contacts with HISS, he never observed anything that would lead him to believe that HISS was a Communist or was in any way involved in a conspiracy to obtain Government documents. He stated that he had never heard of WHITTAKER CHAMBERS and failed to identify photographs of CHAMBERS and of MRS. CHAMBERS which were taken in the 1930's.

POWELL has also been acquainted with DONALD HISS, but could not recall the circumstances of their meeting and believes he probably had seen DONALD HISS about the same number of times that he had seen ALGER. He had no reason to doubt DONALD HISS' loyalty to the United States.

Kisseloff-7156

POWELL advised that he first met HAROLD WARE in 1927, on an experimental farm in Russia, which was financed by the Quakers, according to POWELL. POWELL first went to Russia on a trip financed by the Open Road Tourist Agency in New York City. At the time of POWELL's arrival in Russia, WARE was already over there and after POWELL's return to the United States, he resumed his acquaintance with WARE. After WARE organized "Farm Research Incorporated," he asked POWELL to take a position there. POWELL always considered WARE to be a personal friend, but stated that WARE was the type of individual to whom no one ever could get too close. POWELL now believes, in the light of later developments, that WARE must have been leading a double life.

Before WARE's death, POWELL never knew that WARE was a Communist. He merely considered WARE to be a rabid new dealer. He admitted meeting ELLA REEVE (Mother BLOOR) and knew that she was HAROLD WARE's mother. He has been in her home near Philadelphia on one or two occasions, but in spite of that, he did not know that she was a Communist until sometime after HAROLD WARE's death in 1935. He thought that she was just a radical labor leader and nothing more. In connection with WARE's death in 1935, POWELL stated that he and his wife were in a car in front of WARE's car, and that his car was sideswiped by a truck and then smashed into WARE's car. They were all on their way to visit a friend, HANNAH PICKERING, in New York State when the accident happened.

POWELL first met HENRY HILL COLLINS on his trip to Russia in 1927. He stated that COLLINS had gone along with the group whose trip had been financed by the Open Road Tourist Agency. POWELL continued his acquaintance with COLLINS later in Washington, and has been in COLLINS' apartment at cocktail parties many times, but never attended any sort of meeting there. At the present time, he could not recall the names of any of the people who were present at parties in COLLINS' apartment. He never suspected COLLINS of being a Communist or of being, in any way, connected with a conspiracy to obtain government documents. In this connection, he made the comment in answer to a direct question, that of all his friends and acquaintances, while in Washington, he never knew any of them to be Communist Party members. He stated that some of them might have been sympathetic to some parts of the Communist doctrine, and that he, himself, had some of the same aims as the Communists, but that not all of the Communists' aims were alike. Kisseloff 7157d

He advised that his wife had operated a school for children called Greenacres, near Silver Spring, Maryland. He recalled that a benefit, or benefits, had been held at the school to aid the Spanish Loyalist cause. He had, himself, been sympathetic with the Loyalist cause in Spain, and was acquainted with the fact that the Communists in this country had supported the Loyalists and helped recruit men for the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. He stated, however, that he was not aware, at that time, that the Communists were as much of a threat to the security and peace of the world as he feels they are at the present time.



POWELL stated that he knew LEE PRESSMAN, but that the details of his meeting with PRESSMAN are very hazy in his mind. He does recall being at a cocktail party at PRESSMAN's house, which he believes is across from the Zoo on Connecticut Avenue, but does not recall any other individuals who attended the party. He did not recall ever having met ABRAHAM GEORGE SILVERMAN.

POWELL stated that he did not desire to give a signed statement concerning the information which he had furnished to the interviewing Agents, but would prefer to consult an attorney before doing so. He was advised that this action was entirely within his rights. He stated, however, that he would be willing to be put under oath and repeat the foregoing information. He added that in the light of the accusations against many of his acquaintances by both MISS ELIZABETH BENTLEY and WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, he believes that if their accusations are true, he had been used as a front by these people for their Communist activities.

POWELL was re-interviewed by the same Agents at this office on March 31, 1949, and stated that he was still connected with the Department of State, but was on temporary assignment to the Department of Labor as a Foreign Labor Adviser. He has secured an apartment and is now residing at 5 East Irving Street, Chevy Chase, Maryland.

Concerning HANNAH PICKERING, POWELL stated that he does not know her present location, as he has not seen her or heard from her since 1940. The last information he had was that she was living on her farm at Elmira, New York. She had been a very good friend of WARE, and POWELL believed that WARE had met her when she had been interested in the farm that the Quakers financed in Russia. POWELL met PICKERING, he believes, when he went to Russia in 1927, under the auspices of the Open Road Tourist Agency, with which PICKERING was connected. He could not recall whether he first met her in the United States or after she had arrived in Russia. It was his opinion that she was a Quaker, but he could not state if she had been, or is, a Communist.

In response to a direct question, POWELL stated that he met ELEANOR NELSON sometime between 1933 and 1938, in Washington, D. C., when he had worked for "Farm Research Incorporated." He believes the occasion of the meeting was either a union rally or a meeting of a group to discuss the problems of the share-cropper. He never had any social contact with ELEANOR NELSON and only saw her once or twice after their first meeting. He did recall that HAROLD WARE and ELEANOR NELSON were very good friends.

Concerning "Farm Research Incorporated," POWELL admitted that CHARLES GARLAND had been connected with it in Washington, D. C. He stated that GARLAND did accounting work for the organization and also contributed money to it, since he had been a fairly wealthy man. POWELL could not say

if GARLAND was a Communist and he did not know of any of GARLAND's other activities outside of those with "Farm Research Incorporated."

In answer to a direct question, POWELL stated that ROBERT COE had worked for "Farm Research Incorporated" but he was unable to remember COE's exact position, nor could he state whether or not COE was a Communist. He believed COE was a liberal. According to POWELL, COE came into "Farm Research" about one year before POWELL, himself, left the organization, and he believed that COE had been brought into the organization by HAROLD WARE. When POWELL was reminded that he had stated previously that he had left "Farm Research" in 1938, and that HAROLD WARE was killed in 1935, POWELL stated that COE must have gone into the organization before WARE's death, and that he was just not able to remember the exact period that COE had worked for the organization. POWELL was sure that he had never met COE before this time. As it had been noted that POWELL's wife had operated a school under the name ALICE COE MENDHAM, POWELL was asked if ROBERT COE was any relation to his wife and he denied that there was any relationship.

POWELL stated that he did not recall a farm school at Dorfstown, Pennsylvania, with which WARE may have been connected. He did recall that there was a group of farmers in Pennsylvania which WARE used to visit. This group used to meet somewhere near a small town directly across the Delaware River from Trenton, New Jersey. POWELL knew nothing at all of the nature of this group other than that it was composed of farmers.

He was asked at this time, if he had recalled anything since the last time he was interviewed which would lead him to change his mind concerning the people who had been mentioned in the first interview. He stated that he could not recall anything at all which he believed would be at all helpful in trying to uncover the truth concerning the alleged Communist activities of these people. He had always believed that HAROLD WARE was pro-Russian, but he never knew WARE was a Communist until after WARE's death.

POWELL stated that during the period in which he had worked for "Farm Research," he had believed in "united front," in other words, he believed that the "damn Commies" could be used in order to obtain social advances. His own viewpoint follows more the line of the Socialists than that of the Communists, and he stated that he had been a member of the Socialist Party in 1926, at Hanover, New Hampshire. He had always believed that socialism had a lot of possibilities. He reiterated that he could not name one person of his acquaintance in Washington, D. C., who was known to him to be a Communist.

It was noted by the interviewing Agents that although POWELL stated that he wished to cooperate, he never offered any information unless it was in answer to a direct question, and that he never elaborated on his answers and further information had been brought out by direct questioning.



WFO 74-94

ENCLOSURES:

To the Bureau: Two photographs of ERWIN S. GELSEY

To New York: Two photographs of ERWIN S. GELSEY

- P E N D I N G -

Kisseloff-7160

WFO 74-94

LEADS

THE WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

Will continue to develop information pertinent to this investigation and conclude the investigation requested in the referenced Bureau letter.

\* \* \*

This matter is receiving constant and preferred investigative attention in this office and leads are being handled as they are received.

Kisseloff-7161

ADMINISTRATIVE

By letter dated March 21, 1949, to the Bureau with copies to New York, Los Angeles and San Antonio, the latter office was directed to interview DR. MARGARET WATT, at Pharr, Texas. DR. WATT is the former MARGARET GUFELIUS CRANE.

By letter dated March 21, 1949, to the Bureau, with a copy to Chicago, the latter office was requested to locate and interview ARTHUR C. BACHRACH, who was associated with ALGER HISS in the AAA at Washington, D. C.

By teletype dated March 9, 1949, the Baltimore Office requested interviews with ELLIS O. BRIGGS and HERBERT S. BURSLEY, former associates of LAURENCE DUGGAN at the State Department. It was ascertained that ELLIS O. BRIGGS is serving as American Ambassador at Montevideo, Uruguay, and that HERBERT S. BURSLEY is serving as American Ambassador at Tegucigalpa, Honduras. These interviews were, consequently, not conducted.

By letter dated March 2, 1949, to the Bureau, with copies to Philadelphia and New York, the Philadelphia Office was requested to locate and interview LAWRENCE R. BROWN, 222 Church Road, Ardmore, Pennsylvania, a former member of the Nye Committee, for any information he might have concerning ALGER HISS.

Bureau letter of March 4, 1949, to this office, with copies to New York and Baltimore, requested that the larger oil companies be contacted to determine if ALGER or PRISCILLA HISS had a gasoline charge account in 1937, and to examine such account to determine if the HISS' purchased gasoline in or near towns mentioned by WHITTAKER CHAMBERS as stopping places during an auto trip in New England in August 1937.

By letter dated March 4, 1949, to the Bureau, with copies to New York and Baltimore, Norfolk and Philadelphia, the offices listed were furnished the addresses of the major oil companies and were requested to conduct the investigation set out in the Bureau's letter of March 4, 1949.

New York teletype dated March 17, 1949, requested this office to interview WILLIAM WALTON. By teletype dated March 23, 1949, the New York Office was advised that WALTON was in Jacksonville, Illinois, and would be available for interview by the New York Office on March 27 or 28, 1949, at 111 East 70th Street, New York City, care of MR. EDWARD WARBURG.

Bureau letter of January 3, 1949, instructed this office to interview PAUL R. PORTER, former husband of ELEANOR NELSON SOYRING. The results of that interview are contained in this report. By letter dated April 1, 1949, the Bureau and New York Office were advised of the names of individuals furnished by PORTER who might furnish additional information concerning

WFO 74-94

ELEANOR NELSON SOYRING. The New York Office was requested to interview those individuals within its territory. This office is locating the other individuals mentioned therein, will interview those found here, and will set out appropriate leads when necessary. The Bureau was requested to give authorization for an interview with PORTER's brother, JAMES PORTER, whom he had described as a prominent member of the Communist Party.

Kisseloff-7163

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW ORLEANS, LA.

F.B.I. FILE NO. 74-1333

REPORT MADE AT New Orleans, La.	DATE WHEN MADE 4/1/49	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 4/4, 5/49	REPORT MADE BY PAUL G. TAYLOR	MRS
TITLE JAMES DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, with aliases; et al			CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R; INTERNAL SECURITY - R	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

*Forwarded 3/24/49*

Mrs. JAMES WATT, nee MARGARET FRANCES GUNDELUS, former wife of WILLIAM EDWARD CRANE, admits knowing that CRANE engaged in "special work" for CP from 1934 through 1937. Knows that he was a photographer and received about \$200.00 in cash monthly for his services. Recalls meeting CRANE's Party boss, who was a man called "BOB," described as short, heavyset and resembling WHITTAKER CHAMBERS as he appears in 1931 photograph. She also met BOB's wife. WATT denies she ever met any other persons connected with CRANE's activities or figuring in this case.

- RUC -

REFERENCE:

Bureau File 74-1333.  
Los Angeles letter to the Bureau, 3/25/49.  
New York teletype to New Orleans, 3/23/49.  
New Orleans teletype to the Bureau and New York, 4/5/49.

DETAILS:

AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Accepting an invitation extended to her the preceding day, Mrs. JAMES WATT, nee MARGARET FRANCES GUNDELUS, called at the New Orleans Office on April 5, 1949, and was interviewed by Special Agent ROBERT F. COOPER, JR. and the writer.

Mrs. WATT advised that her own membership and activity in the Communist Party were limited to the school year of 1932-33 when she was teaching elementary grades at the Catherine Eranson School, Ross, California. She recalled that she and two other young women who were also teachers at the school had joined the Communist Party at a street meeting in San Francisco. She stated

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>W. J. [Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 3 - New York (1-Thos. J. Donegan, Sp. Asst. to Atty. Gen., NY 765-14920) 2 - New Orleans		77-1333-3056	RECORDED - 25
COPIES DESTROYED 169 DEC 16 1964		Kisseloff-7164	INDEXED - 25

that throughout the year the three teachers and a man, whose name she did not recall but whom she believed to be the Party organizer in that area, held meetings about once a week at Mill Valley, California. She stated that it was during this period that she first met WILLIAM EDWARD CRANE, probably in the spring of 1933. It was Mrs. WATT's recollection that she had met CRANE at a Communist Party meeting in San Francisco rather than in Mill Valley. She said that she knew CRANE only casually at this time and had no dates with him. She advised that she had never renewed her membership in the Party or contributed any more money to the Party, nor did she ever thereafter attend any Party functions.

Mrs. WATT recalled that after spending the summer of 1933 with her parents at Rochester, New York, she returned to California where, during the school year 1933-34, she took some chemistry classes at San Mateo Junior College and worked in a book store there. She did not see CRANE that year, she advised.

Mrs. WATT stated that she next saw CRANE while visiting her parents at their home in Rochester, New York, in the summer of 1934. She recalled that CRANE was driving through Rochester and spent a few days there. According to Mrs. WATT, CRANE told her at that time that he was doing "special work" for the Communist Party and expected to be working in the San Francisco area. Since she was planning on entering the University of California Medical School at Berkeley that fall, she and CRANE decided that they should get together out there.

Mrs. WATT indicated that while she attended the University of California Medical School during 1934-35, she and WILLIAM EDWARD CRANE lived together in an apartment in Berkeley, the precise location of which she could not recall. It was her recollection that during this period CRANE would meet friends once in a while but he did not appear to do any work. She stated that to the best of her knowledge, she met no one who was connected with CRANE's Party work in the San Francisco area. She said that CRANE never brought any of his "friends" to their apartment and that their mutual social contacts were, for the most part, with other students at the University. Mrs. WATT recalled that toward the end of that school year, CRANE told her that his work for the Party would demand that he be in New York City the next year, rather than on the West Coast.

Mrs. WATT related that she and CRANE were married in Rochester, New York, in the summer of 1935, and that after their marriage they went to New York City to live. She stated that for the remainder of the summer she shopped around for a medical school to attend and decided upon Columbia University. She recalled that in New York they lived first on Staten Island and that shortly before school started that fall, they moved to Manhattan and took an apartment on Amsterdam Avenue, about four or five blocks from the Presbyterian Hospital. Mrs. WATT could not recall the precise addresses of the



apartments which she occupied with CRANE on Staten Island and on Amsterdam Avenue. She stated that the apartment on Amsterdam Avenue was a walkup on the fourth or fifth floor. They lived there, she said, until the end of that school year.

Mrs. WATT stated she was unable to remember just what she and CRANE did during the summer of 1936, but she did recall that they left New York City and went to either Baltimore or Washington--she was not sure which. There he continued his work for the Communist Party and she merely loafed.

Mrs. WATT advised that when she returned to Columbia for the school year of 1936-37, she and CRANE took an apartment on Haven Avenue which was somewhat closer to the medical school than their previous place had been. She stated that she did not remember the exact address. She recalled that it was during this period that she and CRANE first began having serious marital difficulties and they separated about the time of her Christmas vacation. She took a room in a rooming house further downtown and he stayed in the Haven Avenue apartment. She recalled that she wanted CRANE to get a decent, steady job and that this was one of the reasons for their quarreling, in addition to the fact that their interests were different, she being no longer interested in the Communist Party. She stated that they remained separated for about a month, after which she moved back to the Haven Avenue apartment with CRANE.

In the summer of 1937, they moved to Washington, D. C., Mrs. WATT stated, where she worked in the clinic at the George Washington University Hospital for two months during her vacation. She recalled that in Washington they had an apartment on Longfellow Street. She could not recall the address. It was her recollection that CRANE stayed in Washington throughout the two-month period while she was working at the clinic and that he worked for the Party in Washington that summer.

She and CRANE returned to New York together in the fall of 1937 and she commenced her final year in medical school at Columbia. She stated that by this time their marital relationship had deteriorated to a point where she left CRANE for good. She stated that she moved into a dormitory room at Bard Hall initially and thereafter moved to a young women's residence hotel on 36th Street run by a Mrs. YORN. She recalled that besides residing there, she also ran a small clinic in the building. Mrs. WATT was under the impression that CRANE remained in New York City until approximately the date of her graduation from medical school, but during her final year at school she saw CRANE very infrequently. She advised that one day in the Spring of 1938, they met briefly after CRANE had telephoned her. She recalled that CRANE was unhappy and upset because he said the Party didn't need him any more. He indicated to her that he was going back to California and get a job. That was the last time she ever saw CRANE, Mrs. WATT said.

Mrs. WATT related that she had never assisted CRANE in his special work for the Communist Party and that he had never requested her to do so. She stated further that CRANE did not discuss his work with her. She stated it was her understanding that CRANE's Party work was principally that of a photographer and that he had indicated to her that most of his photographing was of documents. She recalled that CRANE had a Leica camera with lens attachments, which attachments, she understood, were to facilitate the photographing of documents. She recalled also that CRANE possessed some gadgets for holding down book pages while they were being photographed. She stated that CRANE used to practice photographing books and newspapers around the apartment, but that to the best of her knowledge this was purely practice and the photographing which he did for the Party was done elsewhere.

Mrs. WATT explained that in addition to his Party work, CRANE did free-lance photography in connection with articles which he attempted to sell to legitimate publications. In this connection, she recalled that he built a small darkroom in their apartment on Staten Island and there developed some photographs which he had made, which photographs were, to the best of her knowledge, "local color" shots which CRANE contemplated using in his legitimate activities. She recalled CRANE telling her after they first arrived in New York that he was not supposed to submit material to the Communist press or magazines and was not supposed to be seen with known Communists.

She stated that in connection with his Party work, CRANE made trips about once a month to Baltimore and Washington. Mrs. WATT stated that CRANE had mentioned to her that while on these trips he took photographs of documents, which documents she assumed came from Washington, although CRANE never said so in so many words. She stated that CRANE told her he had friends in Washington and Baltimore who helped him with this work, and she gained the impression that after making his photographs, CRANE left the films with these friends.

Mrs. WATT stated that CRANE's Party boss was a man called "BOB." She advised that for his services to the Party, CRANE was paid about \$200.00 monthly in cash. She assumed that BOB paid him. She advised that CRANE apparently had a great deal of respect for BOB because, as she recalled it, he always spoke of BOB in the most complimentary terms. She related that when her marriage to CRANE first began to show signs of breaking up, probably during the school year of 1936-37, CRANE took her to meet BOB. Introduction was by first name only, she stated, and BOB's last name was never mentioned. She described this individual as a short, heavyset man who was a pleasant talker. Photographs of WHITTAKER CHAMBERS were displayed to Mrs. WATT and she stated that BOB bore a great resemblance to WHITTAKER CHAMBERS as he appears in the photograph of him taken in 1931. BOB had no accent, she stated, and he looked and acted like an American. Mrs. WATT advised that even from other more recent

NO #65-1836

photographs of CHAMBERS, including those which appeared in the newspapers, she believed it might well have been CHAMBERS who was introduced to her as BOB, CRANE's Party boss in 1936-37.

Mrs. WATT recalled that her first meeting with BOB was in a restaurant in New York City where the three of them, she, CRANE and BOB, had dinner. She stated that a few months later, she and CRANE went to dinner at BOB's home and that there she met his wife, whom she described as a small, thin, dark woman, not very pretty. The photograph of Mrs. WHITTAKER CHAMBERS taken about 1936 was displayed to Mrs. WATT and while she could not make an identification on the basis of this photograph, she stated it was her recollection that BOB's wife was of the same general type. Mrs. WATT recalled that BOB's home was in the country, but she was uncertain as to whether it was on the outskirts of New York City or Baltimore. She stated that to get there she and CRANE had to drive, but she was not certain whether they were on an extended trip at this time or not.

Mrs. WATT stated that on both occasions when she and her former husband met BOB, his conversation was about art, literature and the problems of marriage. It was her recollection that BOB was interested in having the CRANE's marriage preserved.

The photographs of the subjects and persons connected with this case were displayed to Mrs. WATT and she was unable to identify any of them as persons she had ever seen, with the exception, of course, of her former husband, WILLIAM EDWARD CRANE, and the above noted references to Mr. and Mrs. WHITTAKER CHAMBERS. Mrs. WATT stated that except for BOB, she had never, to her knowledge, seen or been introduced to any persons connected with CRANE's Party work. She stated that she did not recall meeting MORRIS ASIMOW either in New York or on the West Coast. She also stated that to the best of her knowledge she had never met Colonel BYKOV and his wife. She did not recall ever having met any Russians through CRANE. She recalled CRANE's having made frequent mention of a "PETE" but she stated she had never met that individual. Mrs. WATT pointed out that while living in New York City with CRANE, she had devoted almost all of her time to her medical studies to the virtual exclusion of other interests. She and CRANE had very little social life in New York, she stated, and she could not remember having ever gone to a New York night club with her former husband.

Mrs. WATT related that she married her present husband in 1939. She stated that he has been a physician with the U. S. Public Health Service since about 1937. He is presently stationed in New Orleans. Mrs. WATT stated that her present sympathies are definitely anti-Soviet and have been for some time. She advised that she is presently employed at the Louisiana State University School of Medicine and that she and her husband and two children reside at 1730 Napoleon Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Kisseloff-7168

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

BOB BYKOV  
MRS. BOB BYKOV

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK CITY**

U.S. FILE NO. **65-1414**

REPORT MADE AT <b>New Orleans, La.</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>4/7/49</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>4/4, 5/49</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>PAUL G. BAYLOR</b>
TITLE <b>Mrs. DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, with aliases, et al.</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>PERJURY; ESPIONAGE - R; INTERNAL SECURITY - R</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Mrs. **JAMES WATT**, nee **BERNADETT FRANCES GURKIN**, formerly wife of **WILLIAM HENRY CHAM**, admits knowing that **CHAM** engaged in "special work" for CP from 1934 through 1937. States that he was a photographer and received about \$100.00 in cash monthly for his services. Recalls meeting **CHAM**'s Party boss, who was a man called "**BOB**," described as short, balding and resembling **WHITTAKER CHAMBERS** as he appears in 1934 photograph. She does not know **WATT**'s wife. **WATT** denies she ever met any other persons connected with **CHAM**'s activities or figuring in his case.

- RUC -

**REFERENCE:**

Bureau File 65-1414.  
Los Angeles letter to the Bureau, 1/25/49.  
New York teletype to New Orleans, 1/28/49.  
New Orleans teletype to the Bureau and New York, 4/5/49.

**DETAILS:**

**AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

Accepting an invitation extended to her the preceding day, Mrs. **JAMES WATT**, nee **BERNADETT FRANCES GURKIN**, called at the New Orleans Office on April 5, 1949, and was interviewed by Special Agent **ROBERT F. GOWEN**, Jr. and the writer.

Mrs. **WATT** advised that her own membership and activity in the Communist Party were limited to the winter of 1935-36 when she was teaching elementary grades at the Catherine Newman School, Los Angeles, California. She recalled that she had two other young women who were also teachers at the school and had joined the Communist Party at a street meeting in San Francisco. She stated

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		
5 - Bureau 3 - New York (1-Exec. J. Morgan, Sp. Asst. to Dir., G. L. HEC) 65-1414		Kisseloff-7169
2 - New Orleans		