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AMERICAN ASPECTS OF ASSASSINATION OF LEON TROTSKY

HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-FIRST CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

JULY 26, AUGUST 30, OCTOBER 18 AND 19,
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CONTENTS

	Page
Foreword	v
October 18, 1950, testimony of—	
Jacob Epstein	3345
Lydia Altschuler	3354
Pauline C. Baskind	3361
Frances Silverman	3364
October 19, 1950, testimony of—	
Anna Vogel Colloms	3371
Fanny McPeck	3377
Ethel Vogel	3380
Barnett Shepard	3384
August 30, 1950, testimony of—	
Helen Travis	3391
July 26, 1950, testimony of Philip L. Schmitz	3398
December 4, 1950, testimony of—	
Sylvia Ageloff	3401
Hilda Ageloff	3407
Ruby Weil	3409

FOREWORD

TROTSKY ASSASSINATION

On August 20, 1940, Leon Trotsky, the political rival of Joseph Stalin, was murdered in his home near Mexico City by a person using a mountain ax. The killer, after his apprehension, was found to have in his possession a fraudulent Canadian passport, which had been altered through the substitution of a fictitious name, Frank Jacson. The passport was originally issued to a Canadian, who was a member of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion of the International Brigade in Spain. When arrested by Mexican authorities, the killer later gave his name as Jacques Mornard Vandendreschd. However, his true name and identity have never been established. Jacson's, or Vandendreschd's, trial continued for 3 years. On April 16, 1943, he was sentenced to 19½ years for assault and an additional 6 months for carrying a pistol. He pleaded self-defense during the trial. Leon Trotsky died the day following the attack, but before his death he stated his killer was most likely sent by the Russian secret police. Investigations conducted since his assassination have indicated that Trotsky's beliefs were well founded.

The Committee on Un-American Activities early this year instituted its own investigation concerning the Trotsky assassination in order to establish, if possible, what part the Russian Government and the Communist Party played in the murder of Trotsky. The investigation covers two phases of inquiry, the first being the plans and events that led up to the assassination of Leon Trotsky; the second being an unsuccessful attempt to secure the release of the killer from a Mexican prison.

PART I

On November 11, 1950, Louis Budenz, former managing editor of the Daily Worker, submitted to the Committee on Un-American Activities a notarized affidavit setting forth his knowledge of the Communist Party's participation in the Trotsky assassination. This affidavit is reproduced in its entirety and is as follows:

STATEMENT BY LOUIS FRANCIS BUDENZ OF THE PREPARATIONS FOR ASSASSINATION OF LEON TROTSKY

"Rather early in my activity in the Communist Party, while I was still labor editor of the Daily Worker, I was called to the ninth floor of the Communist Party headquarters in New York City. Jack Stachel, powerful member of the political bureau of that Soviet fifth column, had telephoned down to the eighth floor (the offices of the Daily Worker) that he wished to see me.

"The conference to which Stachel called me was with one Jacob Golos, then chairman of the Control Commission of the Communist Party and conducting Soviet espionage activities under cover of World Tourists, Inc. Another man present at the conference had been known to me only by the name of Michaels, and I have never learned his true and correct name.

"Stachel and Golos advised me that it was important that I go with the latter almost at once "to meet some friends of importance, from abroad." I was

reluctant to do so, since I was busily engaged on a large editorial on the CIO and had a speaking engagement that evening. Stachel stated that "nothing could be more important than this assignment," saying that a substitute could be found for my speaking appointment.

"Accordingly, I went with Golos to a restaurant not far away, on East Fourteenth Street, facing Union Square. In a far corner of the restaurant I was introduced to a man sitting in one of the cubicles, who gave the name of Richard or Richards. It was clear that this was a fictitious name and his Russian accent emphasized that fact. During the course of my 10 years in the party, particularly as I came to be a member of the national or central committee, and a constant attendant on political bureau meetings, I met many other Soviet agents going under such first names or adaptations of first names.

"Richards advised me that he wanted my cooperation in getting information in regard to the Trotskyites and their movements, in order to offset any plots against the life of Stalin and against the Soviet Union that might be planned. This was the period of the great purge trials, and I agreed to help.

"From that time forward I met with Richards in various restaurants in New York, on the average of several times a week. I obtained for him lists of Trotskyites and also information in regard to the 'left' Socialists who were following Norman Thomas at that time. On one occasion, in his anger, Richards even declared that he would place me on the political bureau in Stachel's post, since he felt that the latter was not doing all that was possible to penetrate the Socialists. This offer I rejected, though Browder and Stachel both were cognizant of it and even called me into a special conference to ask if there was anything at all that they could do to assist me.

"This gives some idea of the high standing in the Communist conspiracy of the representatives of the Soviet secret police (now called the MVD) with whom I was thus dealing.

"My first meeting with Richards occurred around December 1936, or slightly earlier. From that time on I met him several times a week at various Child's restaurants in New York City. At his instructions we always agreed on the next place of meeting, but the time could be changed by telephone. That is, he would sometimes call me at the Daily Worker under his fictitious name and make certain that I could get away.

"In the spring of 1937 Richards introduced me to another member of the Soviet secret police, whose name was said to be Michaels or Michael. (He is not to be confused with the first Michaels who was with Golos on the ninth floor.) Both Richards and Michaels impressed upon me that we were engaged in trying to halt Trotskyite plottings against Stalin. I therefore collected and took them all the available information I could obtain in regard to the movings of secret Trotskyites, Trotskyite couriers, and their relations to the left-wing Socialists. At that time, I had a number of agents for the Stalinist group planted in the Trotskyite camp, that being one of my first assignments with the Communist Party, and from them I obtained this information. Prominent among these concealed Stalinists acting as Trotskyites was Bill Reich, who later openly announced his Communist Party affiliations.

"The agent Michaels met with me for a short time only, when suddenly in 1937, very shortly after I first met Michael, both Richards and he introduced me to another and clearly more important agent, who went by the name of Robert or Roberts.

"This man was a very intelligent person, fatherly in his manner, and immediately proceeded to organize new activity on my part. He instructed me to introduce to him various Stalinists who were penetrating the Trotskyites or might be useful along that line because of their work or associations.

"I should state here that after 5 years' investigation on my part, and after examining hundreds of photographs of men connected with Soviet espionage in one form or another, or with the conspiracy as a whole, I now know that this man Roberts was in reality Dr. Gregory Rabinowitz, or Rabinowitch, head of the Russian Red Cross in the United States. He was a physician and also a surgeon.

"It is significant that the Soviet dictatorship has been so unscrupulous in its dealings with the American Nation that it would use the International Red Cross (with which the Russian Red Cross was then connected) to advance espionage activities of various sorts in the United States. It is ironical that the Kremlin would use, or misuse, an organization devoted to the saving of lives for the purpose of destroying the lives of its enemies by assassination.

"Among those whom I introduced to Roberts was Ruby Weil, whom I had known as a member of the Conference for Progressive Labor Action, of which I had been national secretary prior to becoming a Communist. Miss Weil had secretly joined the Communist Party shortly after I had entered it openly, and had been assigned to a secret training school or unit for infiltration. This assignment had been given her by Comrade Chester, whose correct name is Bernard Schuster or Zuster, the notorious underground agent who directed infiltration of the National Guard and other organizations in the New York and New England areas for the Soviet fifth column.

"In addition to her knowledge of infiltration methods, Miss Weil had been on very friendly terms with Hilda Ageloff, sister of Leon Trotsky's secretary, Ruth Ageloff. Hilda was also sister to Sylvia Ageloff, a Brooklyn social worker who devoted vacation periods and other free time to Trotskyite courier work.

"Roberts and I agreed that he should be known as 'John Rich' to Miss Weil, and as such I introduced him to her. Before I had introduced him to her, Roberts had given me a considerable sum of money in cash to present to Miss Weil for expenses. This was for the specific purpose of enabling her to be dressed well, and to keep up telephone and other connections. She was reluctant to take the money, but upon learning its purposes, agreed to do so.

"In the course of time she met not only with Roberts, but also met with me both as long as I was in New York and then in New York after I had moved to Chicago (November 1937) to become editor of the *Midwest Daily Record*.

"Miss Weil was persuaded also that we were engaged in stopping Trotskyite plottings against Stalin's life. One incident that made us both think this was the case further was my assignment to check on the residents of a certain apartment house in the Stuyvesant Square area in New York. Roberts considered it of great importance that the exact names of these people be obtained, and it is interesting to note that he was aware of some Communists who lived there. Later on, this turned out to be the headquarters of a passport mill which furnished the false passport to the agent Robinson-Rubens, whose case became famous because the Soviet Union announced his arrest in Moscow.

"To my knowledge both from these conferences with Roberts and Miss Weil, I learned that she was being sent to Paris and that she had persuaded Sylvia Ageloff to accompany her, or rather that she was accompanying Miss Ageloff. The occasion for the trip was a Trotskyite International Congress in the French capital, and Ruby Weil went along on the plea that she was interested in Trotskyism and also that she could visit her sister in England.

"I was on one occasion specifically requested by Roberts to make a special trip to New York from Chicago, to persuade Miss Weil to go through with this arrangement. After having agreed enthusiastically to the plan, she had become disturbed. Already friends of hers who were Communists had noted her once or twice in the company of the Ageloff sisters and had reported her to the secret conspiratorial apparatus as being of dubious loyalty to the Communist cause. This had come to my attention, and I had sent word to the section organizer in her section of the party, that she was engaged in important secret work. This protected her from any official action, but my report could not be explained to her fellow Communists in the lower ranks. This was what disturbed her specifically.

"Of the various conferences between Roberts and Miss Weil I can only testify from what was told me by each one of them. After her return from Paris, though I did not see her then, Roberts told me that she had done a splendid piece of work for the Soviet secret police there.

"After the assassination of Leon Trotsky, in 1940, Miss Weil came to me in great distress to tell me of her part in this act. Although I was aware that assassination had been used against Soviet agents who had turned sour, I was not inclined to give full credence to her account until a year later when she was able to sit down and tell me the whole story. She had in the meantime been in a tuberculosis sanatorium and thus had been precluded from discussing the matter with her fully.

"However, I did report her first visit to Earl Browder, who was aware all along of my activities with the Soviet secret police. He agreed that if any attempt was made to arrest any MVD man here, or to bring matters to public notice in the Trotsky case, that the Communists would make 'another Tom Mooney case of it,' alleging frame-up.

"As Miss Weil filled out the story of her Paris visit to me, it ran as follows: Before going to Europe, Roberts had sent her to see a member of the Communist conspiratorial apparatus residing in Greenwich Village and known by the name

of Comrade Gertrude. As Roberts had on one or two occasions mentioned this Gertrude to me, I knew that she existed. The plan was that Gertrude would be in Paris at a certain address when Ruby arrived there and that she would give Miss Weil the instructions which she should follow, and also introduce her to the persons (Stalinist agents) whom she should introduce to Miss Ageloff.

"In this manner, Miss Weil was introduced to the man Jacson, who eventually killed Trotsky. In turn, Jacson was introduced to Sylvia Ageloff, and immediately Jacson instituted a whirlwind courtship. Representing himself to be a Jacques Mornard, a descent of Belgian counts, he won Miss Ageloff's favor and she smuggled him into Mexico and into the Trotsky household.

"The events which took place thereafter have been recorded in public records.

"After her return to the United States, and her release from the tuberculosis sanatorium Miss Weil approached me in regard to continuance of her membership in the Communist Party. This had been temporarily dropped during her infiltration work, as is frequently the case. Upon bringing up the question with Jacob Golos, with whom I had been in constant contact, he stated that he would first have to consult the Soviet consulate officials, or MVD agents located in the consulate. After conferring with them, he reported that Miss Weil could not have a Communist Party card and she was forbidden to go near the party headquarters or to visit my home. I conveyed this information to her, and she was gravely disappointed.

"(I might state that this close control of the party by the Soviet consulate and Embassy, through their espionage agents has come to my attention on scores of occasions. It completely refutes the various efforts to show that any Communist Party decisions of any importance are made by any native 'leader' or that Soviet policies in any country are influenced by the native Red leadership in that country. In the minute and rigid manner, Russian Soviet agents, or other alien agents subject to them, direct the acts of the native 'leadership'.)

"I might add by way of one detail that the meeting with Miss Weil in New York, upon my coming in from Chicago to persuade her to go on with the Paris trip, was held in the Grand Central Terminal. It took place from 10:30 to 11:30 in the evening, after I had called for her at the People's Press where she was working. Our conference continued until I caught the late train to Chicago.

"Another person whom I introduced to Roberts was Sylvia Franklin also known as Sylvia Caulwell and whose maiden name was something like Sylvia Kallen.

"When I went to Chicago, under Roberts' instructions I got in touch with Jack Kling, head of the Young Communist League in that area. The purpose of this consultation was, in the name of the National Committee of which I was a member, to get hold of some Stalinist agent infiltrating the Trotskyites, who could be moved to New York and put into the Trotskyite national office.

"Jack Kling introduced me to Sylvia Franklin, a Chicago social worker who was successfully infiltrating the Trotskyites. Her husband, Irving Franklin, had been in Spain working in secret work and had then been sent into Canada to aid in espionage activities there.

"After a number of consultations with Sylvia Franklin, I advised Roberts that he could meet her in Chicago if he wished to do so. He made a special visit to Chicago for that purpose staying at the Hotel Stevens where he registered under the name of Rabinowitz. He was obliged there of course to register under his legal name in this country, and this fact I mentioned in my book, *This is My Story*, written in 1946. It was a fact that he was thus compelled to use his correct name of Rabinowitz that enabled me to check with Miss Bentley and learn definitely that he was Dr. Gregory Rabinowitz.

"In Chicago, Roberts gave Sylvia Franklin \$300 as an initial expense account to make the trip to New York where he had arranged her employment with a woman doctor, who was connected with the Soviet secret police.

"He also arranged that her husband, Irving, who had returned from his espionage work in Canada, should be located in a special apartment in the Bronx, so that Sylvia could visit him there from time to time. She was to represent herself to the Trotskyites as unmarried and was set up in a separate apartment of her own in Manhattan.

"By first volunteering to do secretarial work in the national Trotskyite offices in New York, Sylvia Franklin under the direction of Roberts-Rabinowitz, gradually made herself indispensable to James Cannon, then head of the American Trotskyites. She became his secretary and served in that capacity for some time. Roberts-Rabinowitz advised me that she had proved to be invaluable in bringing copies of all of Trotsky's mail and other Trotskyite communications to him for his information.

"It may be said here that another valuable source of information established through the information I gave them, enabling the Soviet secret police to be minutely acquainted with the Trotsky household and his own ideas and movements, was obtained through taking advantage of the good will of Leigh White, now the well-known anti-Communist newspaper correspondent. I had made his acquaintance through one of the Communists working in concealment for the Soviet secret police.

"I asked him the simple question: 'Where does Trotsky's mail go, concerning his book?' At that time, Trotsky was preparing the book and Leigh White was employed by the publisher who had originally agreed to publish the work on Stalin. Mr. White advised me that all mail was going to Sara Wolf, who had been Trotsky's secretary and was the wife of a New Jersey professional man. Roberts-Rabinowitz advised me that in this manner, intercepting the mail through means of their own, they had kept in touch with all correspondence from Trotsky to New York.

"There are many more details to the account of the preparations for the assassination of Trotsky in Mexico City. For instance, one of the considerable items which caused the Soviet Union to be able to demand that Norway move Trotsky out of that country was the visit of A. J. Muste to Trotsky in Oslo. Upon Muste's return, I visited him at the suggestion of Roberts-Rabinowitz, and expressing great interest at how Trotsky reacted, learned that Trotsky said that only a revolution by violence within Russia against the Stalinite dictatorship, organized from without, could achieve anything against the Bonapartism in Moscow. Roberts-Rabinowitz let me know that this information had been of great value in private representations made by the Soviet Union to Norway, on the contention that this proved that Trotsky was using Oslo as a base to attack Soviet Russia.

"There was also a great number of people, in addition to those mentioned, whom I introduced to Roberts-Rabinowitz.

"The above gives the substance of the methods employed to bring about the assassination of Leon Trotsky.

"As to Roberts-Rabinowitz, I bade farewell to him in 1939—after Miss Weil's trip to Paris but before the actual Trotsky assassination. He got in touch with me (as usual) through Jacob Golos and asked me to meet him at the Bronx apartment of Irving Franklin. There he told me he was leaving for the Soviet Union, laughed about the comic papers he had to take with him for his son (whose name I believe was Boris) and said a fine piece of work had been done here. We took a walk, at his suggestion, around the block in the Bronx in the evening and then parted.

"Should other details be required on this Trotskyite case, and there are a number which I have not covered, I hold myself always in readiness to be of such service to Congress as I can."

STATE OF NEW YORK,

County of Westchester, ss:

I, Louis Francis Budenz, of Crestwood, N. Y., being duly sworn, do hereby state and declare that the attached account of the preparations for the assassination of Leon Trotsky, former Soviet leader, constitute a true version of those preparations, insofar as I was cognizant of them.

I am at this time under subpoena of the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, and submit this affidavit and statement at the instruction of that committee.

LOUIS F. BUDENZ.

Subscribed and sworn before me on this 11th of November 1950.

[SEAL]

ROBERT S. HORSLEY,

Notary Public in the State of New York, Appointed for Westchester County.

My commission expires March 30, 1951.

PART II

This is a condensation of intelligence information compiled by this committee relating to the participation of American Communists in an effort to free Frank Jacson from imprisonment in Mexico. Part II also includes a brief analysis of the testimony taken from individuals

who were discovered to have been a part of this conspiracy. From information obtained by the committee, it appears that although certain of the persons mentioned herein committed acts furthering the Communist conspiracy to release Frank Jacson from prison, not all of them know the exact purpose of the conspiratorial acts performed by them.

During the years 1942 and 1943, a number of letters from Mexico City to New York City, and from New York City to Mexico City, were intercepted by the United States Office of Censorship. After laboratory examination of the intercepted letters, it was determined that these letters contained ciphered messages in invisible ink. When the messages were deciphered, they were found to relate to the efforts of persons in the United States and in Mexico to free Frank Jacson from imprisonment. Further investigation disclosed that an elaborate system of mail drops, both in Mexico and the United States, was used in the handling of this correspondence. Subsequently, each of these mail drops was investigated to determine the scope of his activity as a part of the conspiracy to release Frank Jacson.

Jacob Epstein, 958 Madison Avenue, New York City, was identified as the head of the group in Mexico City. This individual is of Russian extraction and was born Jacob Eppstein, November 10, 1903, in Brooklyn, N. Y. He attended public schools in New York City and graduated from Cornell University in 1924. Mr. Epstein is a veteran of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and participated in the Spanish Civil War in 1938. The mail drops in Mexico City through which Epstein received correspondence from the United States were Mexicans and refugee Spaniards, all of whom were identified as members of the Communist Party. Ciphered messages between New York City and Mexico ceased in November 1943. Shortly thereafter, Pavel Klarin, vice consul of the Soviet consulate general, New York City, was transferred to Mexico City. Pavel Klarin is a known close contact of Vassili Zublin, who at that time was head of the NKVD (Russian secret police) in the United States. Investigation disclosed that Jacob Epstein contacted Pavel Klarin upon numerous occasions in Mexico City.

Mr. Epstein appeared before the Committee on Un-American Activities in executive session on October 18, 1950. In the course of the examination of the witness, he admitted being a former member of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. He also stated that he had resided in Mexico City. When asked if he had been a member of the Communist Party, he declined to answer the question on the grounds of self-incrimination. Epstein also declined to answer any questions propounded to him regarding his part in the Communist conspiracy mentioned herein on grounds of self-incrimination.

Other persons interrogated by the committee (residing in United States) who acted as mail drops were:

Lydia Altschuler, 97 Perry Street, New York City: This individual was born in Charlottenburg, Germany, and acquired citizenship by virtue of her father's naturalization. She attended New Jersey College for Women, Toledo University, and Hunter College. Her present occupation is that of a writer. She at one time was employed by the Welfare Counsel of New York City, where she was editor of a weekly publication called Better Times. From September 1937 to December

1944, she was education director of Consumers Union, Inc., in New York City. Consumers Union, Inc., was cited as a Communist front by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities on March 29, 1944. She was a member of the Committee of Women of the National Counsel of American-Soviet Friendship, an organization cited as Communist by this committee on March 29, 1944. Former Attorney General Tom Clark cited this organization as Communist on September 21, 1948.

Lydia Altschuler appeared as a witness before the Committee on Un-American Activities on October 18, 1950, at which time she was afforded the opportunity to affirm or deny her part in the Communist conspiracy to release Frank Jacson from imprisonment in Mexico. On this occasion she refused to answer all questions relating to her participation in this underground movement, on the ground that to do so might incriminate her. She likewise refused, on the grounds of self-incrimination, to answer questions regarding her membership in the Communist Party.

Barnett Sheppard, 47-14 Two-hundred and Sixty-first Street, Great Neck, Long Island, N. Y.: Mr. Sheppard was born in Syracuse, N. Y., February 27, 1908. He attended Syracuse public schools, Manlius Military Academy, Cascadella Prep School, and attended night school at Syracuse University. He appeared before the Committee on Un-American Activities October 19, 1950, at which time he stated he was unemployed. Sheppard, just as other witnesses in this case, refused to answer all questions propounded to him relating to his Communist affiliations on the grounds of self-incrimination. He likewise refused to answer, on the grounds of self-incrimination, questions regarding his Communist Party membership.

Fanny McPeck, 846 Prospect Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.: Mrs. McPeck was born in the city of New York, November 10, 1908. She received her elementary education in New York City and attended Hunter College for a short period. From 1934 to the summer of 1950, she was employed as a clerk at the Washington Irving High School in New York City. Mrs. McPeck testified before the Committee on Un-American Activities on October 19, 1950, and when asked questions regarding Communist Party membership she declined to answer questions on the grounds of self-incrimination. She also refused to answer questions concerning her participation as a mail drop in the Communist effort to release Frank Jacson from prison in Mexico.

Mrs. Pauline Baskind, 1045 Anderson Avenue, New York City, N. Y.: Mrs. Baskind was born in New York City on August 16, 1914. She was graduated from Hunter College in New York City, and received an M. A. degree from Columbia in 1938. Mrs. Baskind was employed by the New York Board of Education from 1936 to 1941 as a substitute teacher, and then again from 1947 to 1949 as a full-time teacher.

She testified before the Committee on Un-American Activities on August 18, 1950, at which time she was asked if she had voluntarily participated in any conspiracy involving the receipt of mail from one source and its subsequent transmission to another source. She declined to answer the question on the ground of self-incrimination. She likewise pleaded self-incrimination when asked if she was a member of the Communist Party.

Mrs. Frances Silverman, 134 St. Johns Avenue, Yonkers, N. Y.: The above individual was born in New York City on July 16, 1913. She attended New York City public schools and was graduated from City College School of Business in 1935. She was last employed by the Board of Education, New York City, from which position she resigned on February 1, 1950.

Mrs. Silverman testified before this committee on October 18, 1950. Just as the preceding witnesses, she declined to answer questions regarding Communist Party membership and her participation in the afore-mentioned Communist conspiracy to release Frank Jacson from imprisonment in Mexico.

Ethel Vogel, 137 West Eighty-second Street, New York City, N. Y.: Mrs. Vogel was born in Worcester, Mass. She attended public schools in New York City and was graduated from New York University in 1929.

Mrs. Vogel appeared before the Committee on Un-American Activities on October 19, 1950. She pleaded self-incrimination when asked questions regarding Communist Party membership and gave the same answer when asked whether or not she acted as a "mail drop" in the conspiracy to release Frank Jacson from prison.

Helen Levi Simon Travis, 5450 North Road, Armada, Mich.: Mrs. Travis was born in New York City on September 3, 1916. She was graduated from Bernard College in 1937.

Mrs. Travis appeared before the Committee on Un-American Activities on August 30, 1950. She testified that she had been employed by the Ford Instrument Co., Long Island City, for a short period of time in 1943 and 1944, and by the Chrysler Corp. in Detroit, Mich., in the summer of 1948. When requested to list additional employment she refused to do so on the ground that it might tend to incriminate her. Mrs. Travis was formerly employed by the Daily Worker, the official Communist Party newspaper in New York City, writing under the name of Maxine Levi.

In addition to the identification of the "mail drop" used in the conspiracy to release Jacson, the information in the possession of the committee reveals also that the group in Mexico requested funds for the use of a "money drop" in Mexico. Shortly after the interception of this request by Federal authorities, Helen Levi Simon transferred \$3,700 to one Enrique de los Rios, the "money drop" in Mexico City. This transaction occurred on February 21, 1944, at which time Helen Levi Simon executed in her own handwriting an application with the Chase National Bank in New York City to transfer the said amount to the account of the afore-mentioned individual. The application setting forth the foregoing transaction was entered into the testimony of August 30, 1950, of Helen Levi Simon Travis as "Travis Exhibit No. 5."

Mr. Philip A. Schmitz, a document analyst employed by the Identification and Detective Division, Veterans' Administration, Washington, D. C., testified in executive session before this committee on July 26, 1950. Mr. Schmitz testified that he had compared the handwriting appearing on "Travis Exhibit No. 5" with other documents bearing the known handwriting of Helen Levi Simon Travis which had been supplied to him by this committee. After adequate examination, he reached the conclusion that the handwriting appearing on said docu-

ments was written by one and the same person. Mr. Schmitz's complete testimony is reprinted in this report.

Mrs. Travis, in testifying before this committee on August 30, 1950, declined to answer all questions relating to the above transaction on grounds of self-incrimination.

Anna Vogel Colloms, Park Trail, Mount Airy Road, Croton-on-Hudson: Mrs. Colloms was born in New York City on August 6, 1902. She received her elementary training in New York City public schools, was graduated from Cornell University in 1921, and attended Columbia University, where she took graduate courses.

Mrs. Colloms appeared before this committee on October 19, 1950, at which time she testified that she is presently employed by the Board of Education, New York City, and is assigned as a teacher to Washington Irving High School.

Investigation of Anna Vogel Colloms by a Government intelligence agency disclosed that, in addition to acting as a "mail drop" in this conspiracy, she was also a courier in the attempt to free Frank Jaeson from prison.

On August 12, 1943, Anna Vogel Colloms departed from New York City for Mexico City, carrying an apparently new box of personal stationery. This stationery box contained five sheets of paper completely covered with messages in cipher. Mrs. Colloms was not allowed to cross over into Mexico with this box of stationery. The stationery box was retained by a Government agency which substituted other sheets of paper for the original ones bearing the secret messages.

While in Mexico Mrs. Colloms made a half-hearted attempt to contact Jacob Epstein in Mexico City. She reentered the United States on September 3, 1943, at which time the stationery box was returned to her by United States customs officials. Upon her return to New York City she gave the box of stationery to Ethel Vogel, who in turn transmitted it to Ruth Wilson Epstein, wife of Jacob Epstein.

Mrs. Colloms, in her testimony before this committee, followed the same course as all other witnesses who were subpoenaed in connection with this case and refused to answer all questions relating to this matter on grounds of possible self-incrimination. She also refused to answer, on the same grounds, the question of whether or not she had ever been a member of the Communist Party.

Sylvia Ageloff testified before the Committee on Un-American Activities on December 4, 1950, at which time she stated that she had been a member of the Trotskyite party or movement and, while a member of this group, had met Frank Jaeson, the assassin of Leon Trotsky, under the name Jacques Mornard in Paris, France, in June 1938 through one Ruby Weil, who had made the trip from New York to Paris on the same boat with her. She further testified that Jacques Mornard had, according to her recollection, illegally entered the United States through a forged passport during the month of September 1939, which contained the name Frank Jaeson. According to Sylvia Ageloff, Mornard then proceeded to Mexico. Sylvia Ageloff testified that in January 1940 she went to Mexico and while there contacted Leon Trotsky and spent a half hour with him. During this conversation, according to her testimony, she mentioned to Trotsky that she knew Frank Jaeson was in Mexico City and was

using a false passport. She said that she then asked Trotsky if he considered it advisable for her to see Jacson. According to her testimony, after she left Mexico City, she learned that Frank Jacson had met Leon Trotsky and had, upon one occasion, conveyed Mr. and Mrs. Trotsky to Vera Cruz, Mexico, via motor car. Miss Sylvia Ageloff testified that, in her opinion, Frank Jacson would never have been permitted to enter the home of Leon Trotsky if she had not made known to Trotsky that she had met Frank Jacson.

On December 4, 1950, Miss Hilda Ageloff, the sister of Sylvia, testified before the committee and stated that she had first met Ruby Weil in 1936. She said that at this time both she and Ruby Weil were members of the American Workers Party. She said that it was she who had told Ruby Weil about her sister Sylvia's proposed trip to Europe. Hilda Ageloff further testified that she had met Frank Jacson upon his arrival in New York City and was aware of the fact that her sister Sylvia had met Jacson in Paris through Ruby Weil. She also stated that she knew that Jacson had entered the United States illegally. Hilda Ageloff further testified that she had been in Mexico several times; that upon one occasion she was there with her sister, Sylvia; and that upon this occasion she met Leon Trotsky. She stated that after the assassination of Trotsky it became obvious to her that Jacson was a member of the NKVD or OGPU.

Ruby Weil testified before the committee on December 4, 1950. During her testimony, she stated that she had traveled to Europe on the same boat with Sylvia Ageloff during the summer of 1938, and that she introduced Sylvia to Jacques Mornard in Paris. She testified that she had never known Mornard under the name Frank Jacson, and first heard of Frank Jacson when she read of his part in the Trotsky assassination in the newspapers. She testified that she had joined the Communist Party in 1936 and ceased relationship with it in 1937. She further testified that she had known Louis Budenz as a member of the Communist Party and had considerable contact with him during the time she was a member of the Conference for Progressive Labor Action. She denied the allegations of Louis Budenz that she had been assigned to infiltration work for the Communist Party.

With reference to the testimony of the Ageloff sisters, it is pointed out that, as a result of their names being mentioned in connection with this matter by other sources, they have suffered hardships. The committee would like to state in their behalf that they cooperated fully with the committee and furnished valuable information during this particular investigation, despite the personal risk involved by so doing.

Other individuals who were named as "mail drops" and as members of this group were: Ruth Wilson Epstein, wife of Jacob Epstein, who served as a nurse in Spain on the Loyalist side during the Spanish Civil War in 1937; and Louis S. Bloch, who in 1943 and 1944 was employed as a motion-picture operator in New York City. Mr. Bloch was born in Lithuania and is a naturalized citizen of the United States. He presently resides on the west coast. In addition to being named as a "mail drop" in this case, he was named in the secret messages as a contact for couriers. These last two individuals were not subpoenaed for appearance before this committee.

CONCLUSION

Because of the alertness of United States Government intelligence agencies, the attempt to release Frank Jacson from imprisonment in Mexico never materialized. However, in analyzing the intelligence information in the possession of the Committee on Un-American Activities and the testimony of the witnesses, this case demonstrates that the Soviet Government was directly interested in the assassination of Leon Trotsky and the subsequent attempt to release his killer from prison.

1. Mr. Louis Budenz, in his affidavit appearing as part I of this report, presents a picture of Soviet supervision in the successful plans to have American Communists infiltrate the political party of Trotsky, which later led to Leon Trotsky's placing his trust in Frank Jacson and Trotsky's eventual assassination.

2. After the assassination of Leon Trotsky, the first communications intercepted by United States authorities, as outlined in part II of this report, were in the Russian language.

3. Louis S. Bloch, who has previously been identified as a contact for couriers, was on one occasion met by Mikhail Chaliapin, an employee of the Soviet consulate in New York City. Mikhail Chaliapin was known by United States Government intelligence agencies as a contact of one Gaik Ovakimian, the NKVD representative in the United States between 1933 and 1941.

4. Jacob Epstein is known to have contacted Pavel Klarin, vice consul of the Soviet consulate general, New York City, in Mexico City, on eight different occasions. Pavel Klarin has been identified as a close contact of Vassili Zubilin, who is known to Government intelligence agencies as the one-time head of the NKVD of the United States.

From the facts set forth in this report, it is definitely indicated that Frank Jacson was of special interest to the NKVD, and is possibly an NKVD agent. The case further sets forth the fact that American Communists can be, and are, recruited into Communist conspiracies which are under the direction of Russian NKVD agents operating in the United States.

AMERICAN ASPECTS OF THE ASSASSINATION OF LEON TROTSKY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1950

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES,
Washington, D. C.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A subcommittee of one of the Committee on Un-American Activities met pursuant to adjournment at 10:30 a. m. in room 226, Old House Office Building, Hon. John S. Wood (chairman) presiding.

Committee member present: Hon. John S. Wood (chairman).

Staff members present: Frank S. Tavenner, Jr., counsel; Donald T. Appell, William A. Wheeler, and Courtney E. Owens, investigators.

Mr. WOOD. Let the record show that for the purpose of this hearing the chairman has set up a subcommittee of one, consisting of the chairman alone.

Mr. WHEELER. Mr. Chairman, the first witness is Jacob Epstein.

Mr. JOSEPH FORER. Mr. Chairman, we object to the lack of a quorum.

Mr. WOOD. The chairman has set up a subcommittee consisting of the chairman alone for the purpose of this hearing.

Mr. FORER. May the record show that we are going ahead under protest, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. WOOD. Will you stand and raise your right hand, please? You solemnly swear the evidence you give this subcommittee shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I do.

TESTIMONY OF JACOB EPSTEIN, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS COUNSEL, JOSEPH FORER

Mr. WHEELER. Will you state your full name?

Mr. EPSTEIN. Jacob Epstein.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you represented by counsel?

Mr. EPSTEIN. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Will counsel identify himself for the record?

Mr. FORER. Joseph Forer. I am a member of the District of Columbia bar, 711 Fourteenth Street NW.

Mr. WHEELER. Mr. Epstein, will you kindly spell your last name?

Mr. EPSTEIN. E-p-s-t-e-i-n.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you also known as Jacob E-p-p-s-t-e-i-n?

Mr. EPSTEIN. No. This appears on my birth certificate. That is the only place it ever appeared.

Mr. WHEELER. You have never used the two p's in spelling your name?

Mr. EPSTEIN. Not that I recall.

Mr. WHEELER. Where do you presently reside?

Mr. EPSTEIN. 958 Madison Avenue.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you presently married?

Mr. EPSTEIN. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Will you identify your wife for the record?

Mr. EPSTEIN. Ruth Epstein.

Mr. WHEELER. Ruth Wilson Epstein?

Mr. EPSTEIN. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Does she presently reside with you?

Mr. EPSTEIN. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Is she working?

Mr. EPSTEIN. She is going to school.

Mr. WHEELER. Where are you presently employed?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I am self-employed. I have a furniture business at 986 Second Avenue.

Mr. WHEELER. Will you please give the committee a résumé of your educational background?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I went to public school, high school, and college.

Mr. WHEELER. What college did you go to?

Mr. EPSTEIN. Cornell.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you graduate from Cornell?

Mr. EPSTEIN. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. In what year?

Mr. EPSTEIN. 1924.

Mr. WHEELER. Have you ever traveled outside the United States?

Mr. EPSTEIN. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Will you list the countries that you traveled to?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I was in France; I was in Spain; I was in Mexico, that I recall. I may have been in some others.

Mr. WHEELER. What year were you in France?

Mr. EPSTEIN. 1938, I believe.

Mr. WHEELER. And what year were you in Spain?

Mr. EPSTEIN. 1938. It was the same year.

Mr. WHEELER. And that is the only time you have been in either France or Spain?

Mr. EPSTEIN. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. And what year were you in Mexico?

Mr. EPSTEIN. 1940 or 1941—somewhere in there.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you make more than one trip to Mexico?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I am not sure. I don't think so.

Mr. WHEELER. You can't say positively that you didn't make more than one trip to Mexico?

Mr. EPSTEIN. No.

Mr. WHEELER. While in Spain, were you a member of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade?

Mr. EPSTEIN. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Who solicited your participation in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I don't recall.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you recall how you traveled to Spain?

Mr. EPSTEIN. No. It has been a long time ago.

Mr. WHEELER. You went by ship?

Mr. EPSTEIN. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. And you first went to France; is that correct?

Mr. EPSTEIN. That is right.

Mr. WHEELER. At that time I believe the United States Government was not issuing passports to Spain. How did you get from France to Spain?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I don't know. As well as I recollect, I took a train. It was a long time ago and I don't remember all the details.

Mr. WHEELER. I have a passport application here, No. 9635, executed by Jacob Eppstein. I will hand it to you and ask if this is the passport application which you executed. It has a photograph on the back and a signature.

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. EPSTEIN. I think it is mine, but I wouldn't swear.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you recognize the photograph?

Mr. EPSTEIN. It looks like me, sure.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you live at the address shown on the application at that time?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I don't know. It is very hard for me to say. I can't remember those details.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you know Abraham Held?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I think I would refuse to answer that on the basis it might tend to incriminate me.

Mr. WOOD. I can't hear you.

Mr. EPSTEIN. I would refuse to answer that on the basis it might tend to incriminate me?

Mr. WOOD. You would refuse?

Mr. EPSTEIN. Yes.

Mr. WOOD. That is not sufficient. Do you refuse?

Mr. EPSTEIN. Yes; I do refuse.

Mr. WHEELER. I am merely seeking to help you identify the application.

Mr. EPSTEIN. Frankly, that seems to be the one I signed. It is a long time ago that I signed that—that that took place.

Mr. WHEELER. Abraham Held is given as your identifying witness, who lived at 239 Central Park West, New York City, N. Y.

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. WHEELER. Do you still decline to state whether or not you know this individual?

Mr. EPSTEIN. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Where were you born?

Mr. EPSTEIN. Brooklyn.

Mr. WHEELER. And the date?

Mr. EPSTEIN. November 10, 1903.

Mr. WHEELER. That date of birth corresponds with the date given in the passport application. Is this a picture of yourself, that appears on that passport application?

Mr. EPSTEIN. Yes; I guess so. I think this is my passport. I am not sure, but I believe it is.

Mr. WHEELER. You notice that Eppstein is spelled with two p's?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I told you why. My birth certificate was spelled with two p's. I never used that spelling except for a thing like this I might.

I don't know why my birth certificate was spelled that way, but I know my family spells the name with one p, and all of us spell the name with one p, and always have.

Mr. WHEELER. Mr. Chairman, I would like to introduce this passport application in evidence as Epstein exhibit 1.

Mr. WOOD. It will be received.

(The document above referred to, marked "Epstein exhibit 1," is filed herewith.)

Mr. WHEELER. How long were you in Spain?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I don't know exactly; half a year; I don't know exactly.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you remember the organization you were assigned to in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade?

Mr. EPSTEIN. No.

Mr. WHEELER. However, you did participate in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade as a member?

Mr. EPSTEIN. As well as I can recall; yes.

Mr. WHEELER. I have here an application for passport—application for registration, signed by Jacob Eppstein the 19th day of November 1938, and it is attested in Barcelona, Spain. I hand you this application and ask if you can identify it.

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. FORER. Will you restate the question?

Mr. WHEELER. I asked if you can identify the photostatic copy of this application.

Mr. EPSTEIN. Frankly, it is a long time ago, and I don't know, but it seems to be mine.

Mr. WOOD. Is your signature on it?

Mr. EPSTEIN. My signature is on it, and so the possibilities are it is mine, but it is a long time ago and I wouldn't swear "Yes" or "No."

Mr. WOOD. Do you mean you can't identify your own signature?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I think it is mine, it looks like mine, but I can't swear to it.

Mr. WHEELER. Look at the photograph on the back.

Mr. EPSTEIN. I think it is mine.

Mr. WOOD. Is that your photograph?

Mr. EPSTEIN. Yes.

Mr. WOOD. There is no use to hedge about it.

Mr. EPSTEIN. I am not hedging, but I don't want to say something that happened many years ago is a thing that I can positively say is so.

Mr. WOOD. You can look in a mirror and say it is not your reflection if you want to.

Mr. EPSTEIN. No. I just don't want to say something is definitely so when I am not sure of it.

Mr. WOOD. Proceed.

Mr. WHEELER. This application states you presented United States passport No. 9635 to officials of the International Brigades in Figuras, Spain. Is that true?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I don't know.

Mr. WHEELER. You don't recall?

Mr. EPSTEIN. No; I don't recall.

Mr. WHEELER. Mr. Chairman, I would like to introduce this application in evidence as Epstein exhibit No. 2.

Mr. WOOD. It will be received.

(The document above referred to, marked "Epstein Exhibit No. 2," is filed herewith.)

Mr. WHEELER. I hand you a document entitled "Certificate of Identity and Registration," signed Jacob Epstein, dated at Barcelona, Spain, November 23, 1938, and ask if you can identify this for the record?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. EPSTEIN. I really think it is mine.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you satisfied in your own mind that it is yours? It has your signature and photograph.

Mr. EPSTEIN. Yes; I would say so.

Mr. WHEELER. And you were in Spain at that time?

Mr. EPSTEIN. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Mr. Chairman, I would like to introduce this in the record as Epstein exhibit No. 3.

Mr. WOOD. It will be received.

(The document above referred to, marked "Epstein exhibit No. 3," is filed herewith.)

Mr. WHEELER. Mr. Epstein, are you a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I refuse to answer that on the basis it might tend to incriminate me.

Mr. WHEELER. Have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I refuse to answer on the same ground.

Mr. WHEELER. Have you ever been a member of an organization that believes in the overthrow of the American Government by force and violence?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. EPSTEIN. No.

Mr. WHEELER. Where did you reside in Mexico City?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I don't remember.

Mr. WHEELER. What was the purpose of your visit to Mexico?

Mr. EPSTEIN. Well, I was sort of messed up at the time personally, and I decided to go down there and see what I could do by way of making some money, and see what I could do down there.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you represent anybody from the United States down there, or did you just go on your own behalf?

Mr. EPSTEIN. At first I went down to look around and see what was doing there, and—

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. EPSTEIN. Well, I would refuse to answer beyond that on the same grounds that I gave before.

Mr. WOOD. That to do so might tend to incriminate you?

Mr. EPSTEIN. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. I have here a document entitled "Affidavit by Native American To Explain Protracted Foreign Residence," signed by Jacob Epstein, Dublin 12, Mexico, D. F. Was that your address, Dublin 12, Mexico?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I lived in several places in Mexico.

Mr. WOOD. Did you live at that address?

MR. EPSTEIN. Mr. Wood, it is a long time since I was in Mexico and I can't remember. It sounds like a reasonable address for me, but I can't remember.

MR. WHEELER. This document was executed on December 24, 1943. Do you recall living at Dublin 12, Mexico, on that date?

MR. EPSTEIN. I don't know. I imagine if I signed a document at that time it was at that address.

MR. WHEELER. I would like to hand you this document and ask if you can identify it.

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

MR. EPSTEIN. I believe it is mine.

MR. WHEELER. Are you satisfied in your own mind that it is yours?

MR. EPSTEIN. I believe it is mine.

MR. WHEELER. It states in this document you were interested in hard fibers and rugs. Is that statement of fact one of the reasons why you went to Mexico City?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

MR. EPSTEIN. Yes.

MR. WHEELER. Do you know James Marcus, of 10 West Thirty-third Street, New York City?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

MR. EPSTEIN. I refuse to answer that on the grounds it would tend to incriminate me.

MR. WHEELER. I would like to read this into the record. It is an extract from the paper that I just handed you and that you identified, or, rather, stated that you believed you executed it.

MR. Chairman, I would like to offer it in evidence as Epstein exhibit No. 4.

MR. WOOD. It will be received.

(The document above referred to, marked "Epstein Exhibit No. 4," is filed herewith.)

MR. WHEELER. And I want to read from this document the reasons given for foreign residence:

I wanted to look around and see what could be done in the way of business. I started some business, hard fibers and rugs, but priorities for war stopped for time being possibilities. Now I'm waiting to have papers—Mexican—arranged to start in furniture export—with an American, James Marcus, 10 West Thirty-third Street, New York City.

Was that a statement of fact?

MR. EPSTEIN. I would refuse to answer that on the same basis, on the same grounds.

MR. WHEELER. That it is incriminating to be in the furniture export business with an American citizen?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

MR. EPSTEIN. I have given you my answer.

MR. WHEELER. That is not an answer to my question.

MR. EPSTEIN. I am not a lawyer. I don't know.

MR. WHEELER. I would like to state for the record that James Marcus is connected with the Aldon Rug Mills in New York City.

Do you know Lewis Epstein?

MR. EPSTEIN. Yes.

MR. WHEELER. What relation is he to you?

MR. EPSTEIN. My brother.

Mr. WHEELER. Does he live at 29 Washington Square West, New York City?

Mr. EPSTEIN. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Does he presently reside there?

Mr. EPSTEIN. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. I hand you photostat of a letter on the letterhead of Burney Epstein, Inc., 1410 Broadway, New York 18, dated August 7, 1944, and addressed to Selective Service System, Local Board No. 51, 1393 Lexington Avenue, New York, N. Y., signed Jacob Epstein. Can you identify that as a letter you mailed to the Selective Service Board?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. EPSTEIN. I may have sent it. I am sure when I got back here I sent them a letter telling them I was here. I am sure this is the letter. My brother was living there then.

Mr. WHEELER. That is your brother, Burney Epstein?

Mr. EPSTEIN. Yes; that is my brother.

Mr. WHEELER. Mr. Chairman, I would like to introduce a photostat of this letter into the record as Epstein exhibit No. 5.

Mr. Wood. It will be admitted.

(The document above referred to, marked "Epstein Exhibit No. 5," is filed herewith.)

Mr. WHEELER. Mr. Epstein, are you acquainted with an individual known as Lydia Altschuler?

Mr. EPSTEIN. Frankly, I don't recall any such name.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you acquainted with an individual named Anna Vogel Colloms?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I don't recall any such name.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you acquainted with Helen Levi Simon?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I don't recall any such name.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you acquainted with a lady by the name of Frances Silverman?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I don't recall any such name.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you acquainted with a person named Louis S. Bloch?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I don't recall any such name.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you acquainted with an individual known as Fanny McPeck?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I don't recall any such name.

Mr. WHEELER. While in Mexico City, did you meet any representatives of the Soviet Government?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I refuse to answer that on the grounds it would tend to incriminate me.

(Witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. EPSTEIN. I would refuse to answer on the basis it would tend to degrade or incriminate me.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you ever meet an individual by the name of Pavel Klarin?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I would refuse to answer that on the same grounds.

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. WHEELER. Were you sent to Mexico City on request of the Communist Party?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I would refuse to answer that on the same basis that I gave you before.

Mr. WOOD. It is not a question of what you would do. What do you do?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I do refuse to answer that.

Mr. WHEELER. Were you sent to Mexico City on request of the Soviet Government?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I would refuse to answer that on the same basis. I am sorry, I do refuse, on the same basis.

Mr. WHEELER. Is it a fact that the reason you were in Mexico City was for the purpose of freeing from imprisonment Frank Jacson, the individual who assassinated Leon Trotsky in Mexico on August 20, 1940?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I refuse to answer that on the same basis I gave before.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you ever at any time receive mail in Mexico City from mail drops in the United States?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I refuse to answer that on the same basis.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you ever receive any ciphered messages from the United States?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I refuse to answer that on the same basis.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Chairman, may I interpose one question here?

Mr. WOOD. Yes.

Mr. OWENS. You said you refused to answer on the grounds of self-incrimination as to whether you may or may not have been sent to Mexico City to obtain the freedom of one Frank Jacson. How could a "No" answer to that question incriminate you?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I don't know how it could incriminate me, but—
(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. OWENS. You still refuse to answer the question on the ground of possible self-incrimination?

Mr. EPSTEIN. On that basis.

Mr. WHEELER. You have previously stated that you never met an individual named Anna Vogel Colloms.

Mr. EPSTEIN. I didn't say that at all. I said I didn't recall any such name.

Mr. WHEELER. Perhaps you may recall this: In August 1943 a person left the city of New York with instructions to contact you in Mexico City. Do you recall any such incident?

Mr. EPSTEIN. No.

Mr. WHEELER. None at all?

Mr. EPSTEIN. No.

Mr. WHEELER. You were not contacted in August 1943?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. EPSTEIN. I refuse to answer this question on the same basis.

Mr. WHEELER. You have never met Anna Vogel Colloms?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I didn't say that. I said I refuse to answer this on the same basis.

Mr. WHEELER. I don't believe that was your answer. I think you said you do not recall ever having met her. Are you changing your answer?

Mr. EPSTEIN. As I recall this whole thing, you asked me about a series of names; you asked me did I know these names. I said I didn't remember them. This is a different question.

Mr. WOOD. Do you mean you mean you haven't been asked by counsel if you knew this particular party he is now inquiring about?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I said I didn't remember the name.

Mr. WOOD. Now why do you refuse to answer if she contacted you?
 Mr. FORER. That was not the question. The question was whether anybody had contacted him. That he refused to answer. Why don't you restate the question?

Mr. WHEELER. Have you ever met Anna Vogel Colloms?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I don't recall.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you have any knowledge that Anna Vogel Colloms was sent from New York City in August 1943 to contact you in Mexico City?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I don't recall anything about this.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you recall if you received instructions from anybody that any individual in August 1943 was sent from New York City to contact you?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. EPSTEIN. I refuse to answer that on the grounds that it might incriminate me.

Mr. WHEELER. We have information that you contacted Pavel Klarin eight times in Mexico City. Is that true or false?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I refuse to answer on the basis that it might incriminate me.

Mr. WHEELER. I have no further questions, Mr. Wood.

Mr. WOOD. Mr. Tavenner?

Mr. TAVENNER. No, sir.

Mr. WOOD. Mr. Owens?

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Chairman, for the record, I would like to bring this out:

Mr. Epstein, would you tell the chairman why we encountered so much difficulty in subpoenaing you?

Mr. EPSTEIN. No difficulty. They went to my brother, and my brother called me up.

Mr. OWENS. They went to your brother, and your brother promised that he would produce you for service for a subpoena, and a period of 3 weeks elapsed.

Mr. EPSTEIN. No, sir; that is not true; 1 day.

Mr. OWENS. Why hasn't your wife been available for subpoena? You say you are living with her?

Mr. EPSTEIN. Yes.

Mr. OWENS. We have had investigators talking with your brother for months now, trying to serve both of you.

Mr. EPSTEIN. I know nothing about that, and my wife knows nothing.

Mr. OWENS. Your brother is Lewis Epstein, of Washington Square?

Mr. EPSTEIN. Yes; and I am quite sure my brother would have said something to me.

Mr. OWENS. Does your wife come home every night at 958 Madison?

Mr. EPSTEIN. Yes.

Mr. OWENS. Why is it your brother would not tell the investigator where you lived?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I don't know. I don't know what is in his mind.

Mr. WHEELER. Have you ever appeared before a Federal grand jury?

Mr. EPSTEIN. No, sir.

Mr. FORER. May the record show that Mr. Epstein, in appearing here, never received a subpoena telling him to appear here on this date. He is appearing voluntarily.

Mr. OWENS. It was continued by telegram.

Mr. WOOD. Let us clarify that for the record.

You got a subpoena to come before this committee?

Mr. EPSTEIN. Yes.

Mr. WOOD. Are you here in response to that subpoena?

Mr. EPSTEIN. I think Mr. Forer can make that clearer.

Mr. WOOD. I am asking you.

Mr. EPSTEIN. I had a subpoena.

Mr. WOOD. And you are here in response to that subpoena; is that right?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. EPSTEIN. I don't know.

Mr. WOOD. If you had not been subpoenaed, would you have been here?

Mr. EPSTEIN. No. But this business of evading the subpoena is not so. I did not evade the subpoena.

Mr. WHEELER. That is all.

Mr. WOOD. You are excused.

(Witness excused.)

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Chairman, the next witness is Lydia Altschuler.

Mr. WOOD. Will you please stand and be sworn. You solemnly swear the evidence you give this subcommittee shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Miss ALTSCHULER. I do.

Mr. WOOD. Be seated.

Let the record show that this hearing is being conducted by Mr. Wood as a subcommittee of one.

TESTIMONY OF LYDIA ALTSCHULER, ACCOMPANIED BY HER COUNSEL, EMANUEL BLOCH

Mr. OWENS. Will you please state your full name?

Miss ALTSCHULER. Lydia Altschuler.

Mr. OWENS. What is your present address?

Miss ALTSCHULER. 97 Perry Street, New York 14, N. Y.

Mr. OWENS. Are you here in response to a subpoena served upon you and subsequently continued by virtue of telegrams sent to you?

Miss ALTSCHULER. Yes.

Mr. OWENS. What is your present occupation?

Miss ALTSCHULER. Writer.

Mr. OWENS. Are you accompanied by counsel?

Miss ALTSCHULER. I am—Mr. Emanuel Bloch.

Mr. OWENS. Will counsel please identify himself for the record?

Mr. BLOCH. My full name is Emanuel H. Bloch, 270 Broadway. I take a special pride in the "H" in my name.

Miss ALTSCHULER. I am sorry, Mr. Bloch.

Mr. OWENS. Will you please give the committee a brief résumé of your educational background?

Miss ALTSCHULER. I went to Perth Amboy High School, New Jersey College for Women, Toledo University, and Hunter College. I never graduated. My education was interrupted by marriage.

Mr. OWENS. Will you briefly outline for the committee your employment background?

Miss ALTSCHULER. How far back would you like me to go?

Mr. OWENS. From college on.

Miss ALTSCHULER. It is pretty difficult. I think I started out with various odd jobs. I don't even remember the names of the employers. Maybe if I work back from the present it would be a little easier for me.

The last job that I worked on was with the Welfare Council of New York City. I was editor of a weekly publication for them called Better Times. That started in April 1944.

Before that I was with Jordanoff Aviation as editor of technical manuals. I worked there from about December 1943 to the end of March 1944.

Before that I was educational director of Consumers' Union, from about September 1937 to November or December 1943.

Before that I was with Inreklama, an advertising agency. That, by the way, was about 1932 or 1933 to 1937.

Before that I was with the Brookwood Labor College for a summer in 1932 or 1933 as a bookkeeper.

Before that I was free lancing for a while, writing stories.

And before that—I am not at all sure of the dates—I worked in the American Birth Control League.

That is about as far back as I can go and be absolutely certain of my facts.

Mr. OWENS. I think that is sufficient. Were you ever a member of the Consumers Union of United States, Inc.?

Miss ALTSCHULER. I worked for them.

Mr. OWENS. You did work for them?

Miss ALTSCHULER. Yes; for 7 years.

Mr. OWENS. I hand you a photostatic copy of a letter bearing the letterhead of Consumers Union of United States, Inc., 17 Union Square West, New York, N. Y., dated September 28, 1939, signed by Lydia Altschuler. I ask if this letter bears your signature?

Miss ALTSCHULER. Yes; that is my signature, or a reasonable facsimile.

Mr. OWENS. You are satisfied you wrote this letter and that this is your signature?

Miss ALTSCHULER. It looks like a letter I would have written about that period; yes.

Mr. OWENS. I would like to offer that in evidence as Lydia Altschuler exhibit No. 1.

Mr. WOOD. It will be received.

(The document above referred to, marked "Lydia Altschuler Exhibit No. 1," is filed herewith.)

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Chairman, I would like to read into the record from an official committee publication, Citations, the record of the Consumers Union. It appears on page 35 of Citations.

Cited as a Communist front "headed by the Communist Arthur Kallet (whose party name is Edward Adams). Ben Gold and Louis Weinstock, both well-known Communists, were also members of the labor advisory committee of Consumers Union." (Special Committee on Un-American Activities, report, March 29, 1944, p. 153.)

This organization has also been cited by the California Committee on Un-American Activities, report of 1943, as a Communist front.

This organization was cited as "subversive and un-American" by a special subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations, report of April 21, 1943; and the following is quoted from a report of the New York City Council Committee investigating the municipal civil service commission:

On its labor advisory board were Ben Gold, an avowed Communist and leader of the joint board, Furriers Union, * * * Louis Weinstock.

Miss Altschuler, were you ever a member of the Committee of Women of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship?

Miss ALTSCHULER. I must refuse to answer that question on the ground that it might incriminate me.

Mr. WOOD. Do you so refuse?

Miss ALTSCHULER. I do refuse.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Chairman, I have here a photostatic copy of a letter bearing the letterhead of the Committee of Women of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, Inc., 114 East Thirty-second Street, New York 16, N. Y. The letter is dated March 1, 1948. The second page of this letter lists a number of women and identifies them as the Committee of Women of this organization. The name Miss Lydia Altschuler appears on this list. The letter bearing the letterhead of the Committee of Women of the Gimbel and Miss Freda Diamond, vice chairmen; and Mrs. Lionel C. Perera, Jr., treasurer.

Will you examine this document, Miss Altschuler, and state whether or not that is your name that appears on the second page of that letter?

Mr. BLOCH. It is conceded that her name does appear on it.

Mr. WOOD. Let the witness answer.

Miss ALTSCHULER. It is my name. I don't know of anyone else who has that name.

Mr. OWENS. I desire to offer that in evidence as Lydia Altschuler exhibit No. 2.

Mr. WOOD. It is received.

(The document above referred to, marked "Lydia Altschuler Exhibit No. 2," is filed herewith.)

Mr. OWENS. Miss Altschuler, did you ever attempt to acquire a passport to visit the Soviet Union?

Miss ALTSCHULER. I have attempted to acquire a visa to visit the Soviet Union. I was not successful in so doing. Had I been able to acquire a visa, I would have applied for a passport.

Mr. OWENS. Was the visa denied you?

Miss ALTSCHULER. It was not denied. I never got an answer. Wait a minute. I should say I never got a formal answer. I was told when I inquired that I could not get one. The last time I tried I filled out an application form, and so forth, but I never did get an answer as to whether I could get a visa or not.

Mr. WOOD. You mean the State Department ignored your application?

Miss ALTSCHULER. I never applied to the State Department.

Mr. WOOD. To whom did you apply?

Miss ALTSCHULER. To the Soviet Embassy. As you know, it is hard to get a visa to the Soviet Union, and therefore I wanted to be sure of that before applying for a passport.

Mr. Wood. Did the Soviet Embassy ignore your application for a visa?

Miss ALTSCHULER. No. They sent me a form to fill out, and I filled it out, and I have not heard since. I sent them a follow-up letter, and they said they would let me know when there was something to know, and I have heard nothing further.

Mr. WOOD. When did you make that application?

Miss ALTSCHULER. In the spring of 1949.

Mr. WOOD. So your application is still pending for a visa?

Miss ALTSCHULER. You could say so; yes.

Mr. OWENS. Did you make application for passport?

Miss ALTSCHULER. No.

Mr. OWENS. You have never made application for passport?

Miss ALTSCHULER. No.

Mr. OWENS. What are the names of your parents?

Miss ALTSCHULER. My father's name is Simon Altschuler. My mother's name is Vera Altschuler. Her maiden name was Vera Trifon.

Mr. WOOD. Did I understand you to say you had been married?

Miss ALTSCHULER. Yes, twice.

Mr. WOOD. What is your married name?

Miss ALTSCHULER. Strong.

Mr. WOOD. At the present time?

Miss ALTSCHULER. Yes.

Mr. OWENS. Then you are known as Mrs. Strong?

Miss ALTSCHULER. I use the name Altschuler professionally.

Mr. OWENS. Where do your parents presently reside?

Miss ALTSCHULER. Moscow.

Mr. OWENS. How long have they resided there?

Miss ALTSCHULER. Since 1932 or 1933.

Mr. OWENS. Have they visited you since?

Miss ALTSCHULER. No. They have not been back to this country since that time.

Mr. OWENS. Was your father, prior to going to Moscow ever employed by Amtorg Trading Corp.?

Miss ALTSCHULER. He was.

Mr. OWENS. Can you tell the committee how long he was so employed, and the dates?

Miss ALTSCHULER. I don't know those dates.

Mr. OWENS. Could you approximate?

Miss ALTSCHULER. I could only say that it was sometime between 1926 and 1933. I don't know, really, whether it was a year or just when it was, but it was in that period.

Mr. OWENS. Miss Altschuler, the committee is presently investigating an underground Communist group which was assigned to free Frank Jacson from imprisonment in Mexico. Frank Jacson is presently serving time in Mexico for the assassination of Leon Trotsky on August 20, 1940. According to confidential information in the possession of the committee, Jacob Epstein was sent to Mexico City as head of this underground group. This underground group used an elaborate system of mail drops for receiving communications to and from Mexico. I will read to you part of that confidential information:

In the United States, the mail drops were determined to be Lydia Altschuler, the educational director of the Consumers Union of the United States, Inc., whose family resides in the Soviet Union * * *

Do you desire to make any comment on the information just read to you?

Miss ALTSCHULER. Yes. I have a statement. It is a brief statement commenting on this question.

Mr. WOOD. On that particular question?

Miss ALTSCHULER. On that particular question.

Mr. WOOD. Proceed.

Miss ALTSCHULER. In the summer of 1946 I was approached and questioned by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation concerning the principal matter about which I expect to be questioned today—that is, what you just read to me. I responded to their inquiries voluntarily, fully, and frankly. Had the authorities believed that I was guilty of any crime, or had they not been satisfied with my explanation, they could and should have leveled criminal charges against me.

However, the resurrection of the matters covered by the FBI in 1942, raised at this time to the dignity of a congressional hearing, has placed me under apprehension that irresponsible innuendoes are being transformed into criminal accusations.

I have always been and am a loyal and law-abiding citizen of the United States. I protest against being summoned here and having my reputation smeared by fantastic charges.

Mr. WOOD. You have made your statement. Now what is your reply to the question?

Miss ALTSCHULER. I must refuse to answer any further questions on that matter on the ground that it may be used to incriminate me.

Mr. OWENS. Has this committee leveled any charges against you, or smeared you?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Miss ALTSCHULER. I take it that these charges that you are now making are similar to the charges—

Mr. OWENS. What charges have we made?

Miss ALTSCHULER. The statement you just read, for instance, that I was a mail drop. They are similar to the charges made by Larry Kerley of the staff of the Journal-American before a Senate committee and later used by his newspaper as background for irresponsible statements about me.

Mr. WOOD. Isn't this a good place to deny those statements?

Miss ALTSCHULER. I have denied them to the FBI.

Mr. WOOD. Do you deny them now?

Miss ALTSCHULER. I have made this statement, which I think covers the matter.

Mr. WOOD. Do you categorically deny that you were used as a mail drop in these underground activities?

Miss ALTSCHULER. I am stating that I explained this matter to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I will state further, I have never voluntarily participated in any matter against the interests of the United States.

Mr. WOOD. That still does not answer the question.

Mr. BLOCH. May I help out so that you will get a responsive answer to the question?

(Mr. Bloch and the witness conferred.)

Miss ALTSCHULER. I desire to avail myself of my constitutional privilege under the Constitution.

Mr. WOOD. And for that reason do you refuse to answer the question?

Miss ALTSCHULER. I do.

Mr. OWENS. You said you have never voluntarily participated in any action prejudicial to the interests of the United States. Have you ever involuntarily participated in any such action?

Miss ALTSCHULER. I must decline to answer the question.

Mr. WOOD. I would like to believe that you have no connection with this matter at all, and I was giving you an opportunity to deny any such connection.

Miss ALTSCHULER. If you want to check with the FBI you can do that.

Mr. WOOD. We are checking with you, now, which I think is the highest authority we can have. Do you decline to answer the question?

Miss ALTSCHULER. I believe my statement covers the matter.

Mr. WOOD. Very well.

Mr. OWENS. Are you now or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

Miss ALTSCHULER. I must decline to answer the question on two grounds, first, on the ground my answer might tend to incriminate me; and, second, because the question deals with political beliefs, and as such constitutes an infringement on the right of free speech and free assembly as guaranteed by the Constitution.

Mr. WOOD. You said you must decline. Do you decline?

Miss ALTSCHULER. I do decline.

Mr. WOOD. For the reasons stated?

Miss ALTSCHULER. Yes.

Mr. OWENS. Are you acquainted with Ruth Wilson, also known as Ruth Wilson Epstein?

Miss ALTSCHULER. I must decline to answer on the grounds of self-incrimination.

Mr. WOOD. Do you decline?

Miss ALTSCHULER. I do.

Mr. OWENS. Are you now or have you ever been acquainted with Jacob Epstein?

Miss ALTSCHULER. I decline to answer on the same ground.

Mr. OWENS. Are you acquainted with Barnett Shepard?

Miss ALTSCHULER. That name means nothing to me.

Mr. OWENS. Are you acquainted with Fanny McPeck?

Miss ALTSCHULER. That name means nothing to me.

Mr. OWENS. Have you ever met Anna Vogel Colloms?

Miss ALTSCHULER. Nothing.

Mr. BLOCH. You say "nothing"?

Miss ALTSCHULER. The name means nothing to me.

Mr. WOOD. Do I understand from that you have no recollection of ever having met her?

Miss ALTSCHULER. In my work in Consumers Union, I have met thousands of people. It is impossible for me to answer "no" to the question whether I am acquainted with somebody.

Mr. WOOD. You have no recollection; is that correct?

Miss ALTSCHULER. That is correct.

Mr. OWENS. Are you acquainted with Pauline Baskind?

Miss ALTSCHULER. I met her this morning.

Mr. OWENS. For the first time?

Miss ALTSCHULER. That is right.

Mr. BLOCH. May I clarify the record in that respect? I represent Pauline Baskind, who has been subpoenaed to appear here this morning. I also represent Frances Silverman, who was subpoenaed to appear here this morning. And I introduced my clients to each other in the lobby of the Burlington.

Mr. OWENS. Were you acquainted with Frances Silverman before you met her this morning?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Miss ALTSCHULER. No.

Mr. OWENS. Are you acquainted with or have you ever met Helen Levi Simon?

Miss ALTSCHULER. I decline to answer.

Mr. OWENS. On what ground?

Miss ALTSCHULER. On the grounds of the fifth amendment.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Chairman, I have no further questions.

Mr. WOOD. Were you born in the United States?

Miss ALTSCHULER. I was born in Charlottenburg, Germany.

Mr. WOOD. Are your parents native Americans?

Miss ALTSCHULER. No. My parents were born in Russia.

Mr. WOOD. Are you now a citizen of the United States?

Miss ALTSCHULER. Yes.

Mr. WOOD. When did you become a citizen?

Miss ALTSCHULER. I became a citizen on my father's papers. If you want that date I can look it up.

Mr. WOOD. Approximately.

Miss ALTSCHULER. Approximately 1930.

Mr. WOOD. Are your parents citizens of the United States?

Miss ALTSCHULER. Are they, or were they? They were. Whether they are now, I can't answer. I don't know.

Mr. WOOD. Do you recall approximately when you became a naturalized citizen?

Miss ALTSCHULER. In 1930. I was naturalized on my father's papers.

Mr. WOOD. Any further questions?

Mr. OWENS. I have no further questions.

Mr. WOOD. Mr. Tavenner?

Mr. TAVENNER. No questions.

Mr. WOOD. Mr. Wheeler?

Mr. WHEELER. No questions.

Mr. WOOD. The witness will be excused.

(Witness excused.)

Mr. WHEELER. Mr. Chairman, the next witness is Mrs. Pauline Baskind.

Mr. WOOD. Will you raise your right hand, please, and be sworn. You solemnly swear the evidence you give this subcommittee shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mrs. BASKIND. I do.

Mr. WOOD. Have a seat. Let the record show that the same subcommittee is presiding in the hearing of this witness.

**TESTIMONY OF PAULINE C. BASKIND, ACCOMPANIED BY HER
COUNSEL, EMANUEL H. BLOCH**

Mr. WHEELER. Will you please state your full name?

Mrs. BASKIND. Pauline C. Baskind.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you represented by counsel?

Mrs. BASKIND. Yes, Mr. Bloch.

Mr. WHEELER. Will counsel please identify himself for the record?

Mr. BLOCH. Emanuel H. Bloch, 270 Broadway, New York City.

Mr. WHEELER. Mrs. Baskind, when and where were you born?

Mrs. BASKIND. I was born in New York City on August 16, 1914.

Mr. WHEELER. You are appearing before this committee in response to a subpoena served upon you?

Mrs. BASKIND. Yes, there was a subpoena served upon me.

Mr. WHEELER. Will you give the committee a brief résumé of your educational background?

Mrs. BASKIND. I am a graduate of Hunter College in New York City. I have a B. A. degree from there and an M. A. degree from Columbia.

Mr. WHEELER. What years did you graduate?

Mrs. BASKIND. I graduated from Hunter with a B. A. in 1934, and I got my master's, I don't remember whether February 1937 or February 1938—February 1938.

Mr. WHEELER. What is your present occupation?

Mrs. BASKIND. None.

Mr. WHEELER. Housewife?

Mrs. BASKIND. I am a housewife; yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Have you ever been employed?

Mrs. BASKIND. Yes; I have.

Mr. WHEELER. Will you please tell the committee your employment since you graduated from Columbia?

Mrs. BASKIND. My only employment has been in the field of teaching. Do you want to know the years that I taught?

Mr. WHEELER. Yes.

Mrs. BASKIND. From 1936 to 1941 I worked on and off. I was known as a substitute teacher.

Mr. BLOCH. Where?

Mrs. BASKIND. In many, many schools in the city.

Mr. WHEELER. Within the educational system of New York City?

Mrs. BASKIND. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Over what period of years?

Mrs. BASKIND. From 1936 to 1941 I did what they call day-to-day substituting. Then from 1947 to 1949, I worked those 2 years regularly.

Mr. WHEELER. And from 1941 to 1947 were you employed?

Mrs. BASKIND. No. I was home having babies.

Mr. WHEELER. You are married?

Mrs. BASKIND. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. And what is your husband's name?

Mrs. BASKIND. Albert Baskind.

Mr. WHEELER. What is his present employment?

Mrs. BASKIND. He works for a firm now as production manager.

Mr. WHEELER. What is the name of that firm?

Mrs. BASKIND. Maid-Rite Novelty Corporation.

Mr. WHEELER. Was your husband formerly employed by the Government in New York City?

Mrs. BASKIND. In New York City?

Mr. WHEELER. Or any place?

Mrs. BASKIND. He didn't work in New York City. For a while he worked for the Government, I believe.

Mr. WHEELER. What branch of the Government?

Mrs. BASKIND. I don't remember. May I ask advice of counsel?

Mr. WHEELER. Certainly.

(The witnesses conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. BASKIND. Yes; he worked, I don't remember the years, but I think it was 1 or 2 years, at an Army base as a timekeeper. I think it was 1942 and 1943, but I am not sure. I think he worked 1 or 2 years.

Mr. WHEELER. Was he ever employed as an attorney in the Office of Price Administration in New York City?

Mrs. BASKIND. No.

Mr. WHEELER. Is your husband an attorney?

Mrs. BASKIND. Yes; he is an attorney.

Mr. WHEELER. But he never worked for the Office of Price Administration?

Mrs. BASKIND. No.

Mr. WHEELER. Have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

Mrs. BASKIND. I decline to answer on constitutional grounds of self-incrimination.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you presently a member of the Communist Party?

Mrs. BASKIND. I refuse to answer on the same grounds.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you acquainted with Ruth Wilson, also known as Ruth Wilson Epstein?

Mrs. BASKIND. No.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you acquainted with Jacob Epstein?

Mrs. BASKIND. No.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you acquainted with Lydia Altschuler?

Mrs. BASKIND. I met her for the first time this morning. Mr. Bloch introduced me to her.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you acquainted with Fanny McPeck?

Mrs. BASKIND. Yes; I know her.

Mr. WHEELER. In what connection?

Mrs. BASKIND. When I was working from 1947 to 1949 she was in the same school I was.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you know her to be a member of the Communist Party?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. BASKIND. I decline to answer on constitutional grounds of self-incrimination.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you know Anna Vogel Colloms?

Mrs. BASKIND. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. In what connection do you know her?

Mrs. BASKIND. Also through teaching.

Mr. WHEELER. She was also a teacher in the New York school system?

Mrs. BASKIND. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you ever know her to be a member of the Communist Party?

Mrs. BASKIND. I decline to answer on the constitutional ground of self-incrimination.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you know Ethel Vogel?

Mrs. BASKIND. No.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you acquainted with Frances Silverman?

Mrs. BASKIND. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. When did you meet Frances Silverman?

Mrs. BASKIND. Just a minute. When I met Mrs. Colloms I did not meet her from 1947 to 1949. I met her previously to that, in 1940 and 1941, when I was working in another school.

Mr. WHEELER. How about Frances Silverman?

Mrs. BASKIND. I met her in the same school in 1940.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you know her to be a member of the Communist Party?

Mrs. BASKIND. I decline to answer on constitutional grounds of self-incrimination.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you know Helen Levi Simon?

Mrs. BASKIND. No.

Mr. WHEELER. Mrs. Baskind, the committee, in the course of this investigation, received information from a confidential source which outlines an attempt of American Communists to free from imprisonment Frank Jacson, the individual who assassinated Leon Trotsky in Mexico on August 20, 1940. This information gives in detail the names of the individuals who participated in this underground movement, and also the names of various individuals used as mail drops; that is, these individuals were part of a system which assisted in transmitting code messages to and from Mexico City to individuals involved in this conspiracy. The following is quoted in regard to your participation in this Communist effort:

Other individuals named as members of the group in the secret writing messages were Pauline Baskind, a native-born citizen of Russian parents residing in New York whose husband, Albert Saul Baskind, is an attorney with the Office of Price Administration in New York City. Pauline Baskind was named as a mail drop.

Do you have any comment to make on this statement I have just read to you?

Mrs. BASKIND. No; I have no comment.

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. BASKIND. I decline to answer that on the same constitutional ground of self-incrimination.

Mr. WHEELER. I would like to ask if you voluntarily participated in any conspiracy involving receiving mail and transmitting it to other sources?

Mrs. BASKIND. I decline to answer that on constitutional grounds.

Mr. WHEELER. You refuse to answer whether it was voluntary or involuntary?

Mrs. BASKIND. I refuse to answer at all.

Mr. OWENS. How could a "no" answer possibly incriminate you?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. BASKIND. I don't want to answer that.

Mr. WHEELER. You don't deny the information I have just read?

Mrs. BASKIND. I refuse to answer that.

Mr. WHEELER. I have no further questions.

Mr. WOOD. Mr. Tavenner?

Mr. TAVENNER. No questions.

Mr. WOOD. Mr. Owens?

Mr. OWENS. No questions.

Mrs. BASKIND. Mr. Chairman, is it possible for me to make a statement?

Mr. WOOD. You mean in connection with the matter about which you have been interrogated?

Mrs. BASKIND. I guess it is.

Mr. WOOD. You may make a statement in regard to that. First of all, before you make a statement, I think you should answer the question. There is nothing here to make a statement about. You declined to answer. I don't see how a statement could be informative to the committee. Since you decline to answer the question, we must reach the necessary inference that your answer would incriminate you. Therefore, there is nothing to make a statement about.

Mr. BLOCH. Mr. Chairman, not "would" incriminate her; "might" incriminate her. I think this witness would like to make the same kind of statement, in substance, that Lydia Altschuler made, about having answered inquiries to the FBI on this very question.

Mr. WOOD. We are not interested in that, Mr. Bloch. When a witness says she refuses to answer a question because to do so might tend to incriminate her, then a protestation of being a loyal American citizen is window dressing.

Mr. BLOCH. Of course, you and I may disagree on that.

Mr. WHEELER. Have you ever appeared before a United States grand jury?

Mrs. BASKIND. No.

Mr. WHEELER. I have no further questions.

Mr. WOOD. The witness is excused.

(Witness excused.)

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Chairman, the next witness is Mrs. Frances Silverman.

Mr. WOOD. Will you hold up your right hand, please, and be sworn. Do you solmenly swear the evidence you give this subcommittee shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. I do.

Mr. WOOD. Have a seat.

Let the record show that this same subcommittee, consisting of the chairman alone, is conducting this hearing.

TESTIMONY OF FRANCES SILVERMAN, ACCOMPANIED BY HER COUNSEL, EMANUEL H. BLOCH

Mr. OWENS. Will you please state your full name?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. Frances Silverman.

Mr. OWENS. What is your present address?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. 134 St. Johns Avenue, Yonkers.

Mr. OWENS. When and where were you born?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. I was born in the United States July 16, 1913.

Mr. OWENS. You are here in answer to a subpoena served upon you and subsequently continued by virtue of telegrams sent to you?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. Yes.

Mr. OWENS. Are you represented by counsel?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. Yes.

Mr. OWENS. Will counsel please identify himself for the record?

Mr. BLOCH. Emanuel H. Bloch, 270 Broadway, New York City.

Mr. WOOD. You are at liberty to consult with your counsel at any time you desire.

Mr. OWENS. What is your present occupation?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. Housewife.

Mr. OWENS. Before we go any further into your occupational background, will you give the committee a brief résumé of your educational background?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. I was graduated from Theodore Roosevelt High School in 1931, and from City College, School of Business, in 1935; then subsequently I took courses in City College in the evenings for my master's, but never completed it.

Mr. OWENS. You stated you are a housewife. Now. Have you been employed in the past?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. Yes.

Mr. OWENS. Please outline for the committee the positions you have held since graduating from college.

Mrs. SILVERMAN. My first job was as bookkeeper in a tobacco sales firm. Then I worked for Cooperative Distributors, a mail-order house which subsequently went out of business. Then I was a teacher in training, then substitute teacher, then regular teacher. Then I resigned, and then I was reinstated after my resignation. I resigned, I don't remember the exact year, 1946 or so.

Mr. OWENS. Is that your last period of gainful employment?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. No. Then I went back for a year and a half as a school teacher.

Mr. OWENS. When did you cease your occupation as a school teacher?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. February 1, 1950.

Mr. OWENS. What is your husband's name?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. Saul Silverman.

Mr. OWENS. What is his occupation?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. He is in the novelty business.

Mr. OWENS. Mrs. Silverman, have you ever been a member of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. May I consult with counsel?

Mr. OWENS. Surely.

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. SILVERMAN. I decline to answer on grounds of self-incrimination.

Mr. OWENS. Mrs. Silverman, the Daily Worker of December 1, 1948, on page 7, lists you as a speaker at a Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee rally in Brooklyn. Is that a correct statement of fact or not?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. SILVERMAN. No. That is not a statement of fact.

Mr. OWENS. You deny, then, that you were a speaker at a Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee rally in Brooklyn in December 1948?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. Absolutely.

Mr. BLOCH. Just to clarify the record, I suppose the statement in the newspaper is factually correct. I mean, it probably did appear

in the newspaper. I just want to clarify that what this witness is saying is that she never was a speaker.

MR. WOOD. What you say is that you did not appear as a speaker on that occasion?

MRS. SILVERMAN. Never.

MR. WOOD. Under the auspices of that organization; is that right?

MRS. SILVERMAN. That is right.

MR. WOOD. Did you authorize your name to be listed or carried in the publication?

MRS. SILVERMAN. No. I have never been a speaker. I can't speak, I don't know how, and I never would have approved myself as a speaker in any organization of any type.

MR. WOOD. Did you know you were listed as a speaker?

MRS. SILVERMAN. No. I never heard of that article before.

MR. WOOD. Did you attend that meeting on that date?

MRS. SILVERMAN. No. This is entirely new to me.

MR. OWENS. The Daily Worker of December 9, 1948, lists you as chairman of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee. Would you like to comment on that article?

MRS. SILVERMAN. What is the date?

MR. OWENS. December 9, 1948.

MRS. SILVERMAN. Could I possibly have the context of the whole article?

MR. OWENS. This article lists officers and members of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee, and your name is listed with the word "Chairman" next to it. That is on page 2 of the Daily Worker of December 9, 1948.

MRS. SILVERMAN. May I please confer with counsel?

MR. OWENS. Yes.

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

MRS. SILVERMAN. I don't know how to answer that.

MR. BLOCH. Off the record.

MR. WOOD. Off the record.

(A statement was made off the record by Mr. Bloch.)

MR. OWENS. This will get the record straight with reference to you, then. We realize Frances Silverman may very easily be a common name. This is a chance for you to deny or affirm these assertions in the Daily Worker.

MRS. SILVERMAN. I was never chairman of any meeting.

MR. OWENS. Were you ever a member of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee?

MRS. SILVERMAN. I have answered that. I decline to answer that on the ground of self-incrimination.

MR. OWENS. Are you now or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

MRS. SILVERMAN. I decline to answer on grounds of self-incrimination.

MR. OWENS. Mrs. Silverman, the committee is presently investigating an underground Communist group which was assigned to free Frank Jacson from imprisonment in Mexico. Frank Jacson is presently serving time in Mexico for the assassination of Leon Trotsky on August 20, 1940. According to confidential information in the possession of the committee, Jacob Epstein was sent to Mexico City

as head of this underground group. This underground group used an elaborate system of mail drops for receiving communications to and from Mexico. I will read to you from this confidential information pertinent parts pertaining to your alleged participation in this movement:

Other individuals named as members of the group in the secret writing messages were Pauline Baskind, a native-born citizen of Russian parents residing in New York. Louis S. Bloch, a naturalized citizen born in Lithuania and employed as a motion-picture operator in New York City, was named in the secret writing messages as a contact for couriers. Bloch has stated that he has been employed by the Soviet Government in motion-picture work and that his brother-in-law is in charge of motion-picture work for the Soviet Government. Frances Silverman, a native-born citizen formerly Weinrib, only one of whose parents was born in Europe, is a member of the Teachers Union of the City of New York but is not employed at the present time. She was named in the secret writing messages as a mail drop.

Do you have any comment to make on the information just read to you?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. May I confer with counsel?

Mr. OWENS. Yes.

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. SILVERMAN. I decline to comment on the ground of self-incrimination.

Mr. OWENS. Silverman is your married name?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. Yes.

Mr. OWENS. Was your maiden name Weinrib?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. Yes.

Mr. OWENS. Were you a member of the Teachers Union of the city of New York?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. SILVERMAN. Yes.

Mr. WOOD. Is that local 555?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. I think it is now local 555.

Mr. OWENS. Were you engaged in such activities as alleged in this statement I just read to you?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. I must decline to answer on grounds of self-incrimination.

Mr. WOOD. Do you decline?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. I do decline.

Mr. OWENS. Will you tell me how a denial of these accusations would be incriminating?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. SILVERMAN. I decline to answer.

Mr. OWENS. Did you understand my last question?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. Yes.

Mr. OWENS. Are you acquainted with Ruth Wilson, also known as Ruth Wilson Epstein?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. May I confer with my counsel?

Mr. OWENS. Yes.

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. SILVERMAN. I have never heard that name before.

Mr. OWENS. To the best of your recollection you have never met her or been acquainted with her?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. That is correct.

Mr. OWENS. Are you acquainted with Lydia Altschuler?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. I met her this morning. Mr. Bloch introduced me to her.

Mr. OWENS. You had never known her before?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. No.

Mr. OWENS. Do you know Barnett Shepard?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. I never heard of him.

Mr. OWENS. Are you acquainted with Fanny McPeek?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. Yes. She was clerk at school when I taught there.

Mr. OWENS. What school?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. Washington Irving High School.

Mr. OWENS. In New York City?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. Yes.

Mr. OWENS. Are you still acquainted with Fanny McPeek?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. I don't see her socially. We don't live near each other.

Mr. OWENS. Do you have any reason to contact her?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. No. She lives in Brooklyn and I live in Yonkers, and we both have children and are quite busy.

Mr. OWENS. Did you ever meet Anna Vogel Colloms?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. Yes. She was also a teacher at Washington Irving High School.

Mr. OWENS. Do you maintain relations with her?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. Not since I stopped teaching.

Mr. OWENS. Have you ever met Ethel Vogel?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. No.

Mr. OWENS. Are you acquainted with Pauline Baskind?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. Yes. She taught at Washington Irving High School too.

Mr. OWENS. Do you know Louis S. Bloch?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. No.

Mr. BLOCH. Incidentally, no relation.

Mr. OWENS. Have you ever met Helen Levi Simon?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. No.

Mr. OWENS. Do you know Jacob Epstein?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. No.

Mr. OWENS. Of these individuals you have admitted knowing, did you know any of them as members of the Communist Party?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. SILVERMAN. I decline to answer on grounds of self-incrimination.

Mr. OWENS. Mrs. Silverman, you seemed very willing to set the record straight with reference to this information in the Daily Worker with regard to one Frances Silverman. That information, to me, is not half so incriminating as the information that I read to you. Why aren't you as willing to set the record straight as to that as you were with reference to the Daily Worker quotations?

Mr. BLOCH. Mr. Chairman, I think that is a question loaded with editorial implications. I know an attorney is not permitted to raise objections, but—

Mr. WOOD. You may advise your client.

Mrs. SILVERMAN. I decline to answer.

Mr. OWENS. I just wanted to give the witness another chance to reconsider her answers. I have no further questions.

Mr. WOOD. Mr. Tavenner?

Mr. TAVENNER. No questions.

Mr. WOOD. Mr. Wheeler?

Mr. WHEELER. No questions.

Mr. BLOCH. I would like to clarify for the record, when the witness talked about her occupation I believe she said she terminated her employment as school teacher in February 1950. I would like the witness to clarify that for the record. She may still be formally attached to the school system.

Mrs. SILVERMAN. I have not officially resigned. I have been on leave since February 1, 1950.

Mr. WOOD. What did you say your husband's name was?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. Saul Silverman.

Mr. WOOD. When were you married?

Mrs. SILVERMAN. June 1938.

Mr. WOOD. That will be all, thank you.

(Witness excused.)

Mr. WOOD. The subcommittee stands adjourned until 10:30 tomorrow morning.

(Thereupon, at 12:25 p. m. on Wednesday, October 18, 1950, an adjournment was taken until Thursday, October 19, 1950, at 10:30 a. m.)

AMERICAN ASPECTS OF THE ASSASSINATION OF LEON TROTSKY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1950

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON
UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES,
Washington, D. C.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A subcommittee of one of the Committee on Un-American Activities met pursuant to adjournment at 10:30 a. m. in room 226, Old House Office Building, Hon. John S. Wood (chairman) presiding.

Committee member present: Representative John S. Wood (chairman).

Staff members present: William A. Wheeler and Courtney E. Owens, investigators.

Mr. WOOD. Are you ready to proceed?

Mr. WHEELER. Yes. Mr. Chairman, the first witness this morning is Mrs. Anna Vogel Colloms.

Mr. WOOD. Let the record show that for the purpose of this hearing today the chairman has set up a subcommittee consisting of the chairman alone.

Mr. FORER. May the record show that we have objected to the lack of a quorum and that we are proceeding under protest.

Mr. WOOD. There is a quorum present. In fact, the whole subcommittee is present.

Will you raise your right hand and be sworn, please? Do you solemnly swear the evidence you give this subcommittee shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I do.

Mr. WOOD. Have a seat, please.

For the information of counsel, the resolution creating this committee provides for the taking of testimony by the whole committee or by a subcommittee designated by the chairman. As chairman, I have designated myself a subcommittee of one for the purposes of these hearings, and I am here.

Mr. FORER. I want to add that this witness was subpoenaed to appear before the committee and not before a subcommittee.

**TESTIMONY OF ANNA VOGEL COLLOMS, ACCOMPANIED BY HER
COUNSEL, JOSEPH FORER**

Mr. WHEELER. Will you please state your full name?

Mrs. COLLOMS. Anna Vogel Colloms.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you represented by counsel?

Mrs. COLLOMS. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Will counsel identify himself for the record?

Mr. FORER. Joseph Forer. I am a member of the District of Columbia bar. My address is 711 Fourteenth Street NW.

Mr. WHEELER. And you represent Mrs. Colloms?

Mr. FORER. That is correct.

Mr. WHEELER. Mrs. Colloms, when and where were you born?

Mrs. COLLOMS. New York City.

Mr. WHEELER. What is your present occupation?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I am a teacher.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you presently a teacher?

Mrs. COLLOMS. Yes, sir.

Mr. WHEELER. By whom are you employed?

Mrs. COLLOMS. The Board of Education of New York City.

Mr. WHEELER. What school are you presently assigned to?

Mrs. COLLOMS. Washington Irving High School.

Mr. WHEELER. What is your present address?

Mrs. COLLOMS. Park Trail, Croton on Hudson, New York.

Mr. WHEELER. And you are appearing here in response to a subpoena?

Mrs. COLLOMS. Yes, sir.

Mr. WHEELER. To whom are you married?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I am married to Albert Lionel Colloms.

Mr. WHEELER. What is his occupation?

Mrs. COLLOMS. He is a lawyer.

Mr. WHEELER. In New York City?

Mrs. COLLOMS. In New York City.

Mr. WHEELER. Would you give the committee a brief résumé of your educational background?

Mrs. COLLOMS. Well, I went to the public schools in New York City, and public high school in New York City, and then I was at Cornell University for four years, where I got a B. A. degree, and I took graduate courses at Columbia, mostly, but I have no other degree.

Mr. WHEELER. What year did you graduate?

Mrs. COLLOMS. 1921.

Mr. WHEELER. Will you briefly outline to the committee your employment record?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I have been a school teacher all the time.

Mr. WHEELER. In New York City?

Mrs. COLLOMS. In New York City.

Mr. WHEELER. What subjects do you teach at Washington Irving High School?

Mrs. COLLOMS. Social studies.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you acquainted with an individual named Jacob Epstein?

Mrs. COLLOMS. Jacob Epstein? Yes, I know him.

Mr. WHEELER. What is the nature of your acquaintance with him?

Mrs. COLLOMS. It was a long time ago and sort of casual.

Mr. WHEELER. Could you further identify the period of time?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I don't think I can. It was some years back.

Mr. WHEELER. In the 1940's?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I don't really remember whether I saw him as late as that.

Mr. WHEELER. How did you meet him?

Mrs. COLLOMS. How I met him? It is hard to say. It was a casual acquaintance. I really don't know how I met him. I don't remember.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you now or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I think I can't answer that, on the ground that that would tend to incriminate me.

Mr. WOOD. And for that reason do you decline to answer?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I decline to answer, yes, for that reason.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you know Jacob Epstein as a member of the Communist Party?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I would refuse to answer that on the same ground.

Mr. FORER. Do refuse.

Mrs. COLLOMS. I do refuse to answer that on the same ground.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you acquainted with Lydia Altschuler?

Mrs. COLLOMS. Not that I know of.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you know Fanny McPeck?

Mrs. COLLOMS. Fanny McPeck? Yes, I do.

Mr. WHEELER. What is the nature of your acquaintance with her?

Mrs. COLLOMS. We are in the same school.

Mr. WHEELER. Washington Irving High School in New York City?

Mrs. COLLOMS. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you know Fanny McPeck as a member of the Communist Party?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I refuse to answer that on the same ground.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you know Ethel Vogel?

Mrs. COLLOMS. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. What is the nature of your acquaintanceship with her?

Mrs. COLLOMS. She is related to me.

Mr. WHEELER. What is the relationship?

Mrs. COLLOMS. My brother's wife.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you know Ethel Vogel as a member of the Communist Party?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I refuse to answer that on the ground it might tend to incriminate me.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you know Ruth Wilson Epstein, the wife of Jacob Epstein?

Mrs. COLLOMS. Yes, I do; I did, I should say.

Mr. WHEELER. Where did you meet her?

Mrs. COLLOMS. It was also a long time ago, and a very casual acquaintance.

Mr. WHEELER. Would you say in 1940, or in the thirties?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I can't remember that. It is years back.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you know her as a member of the Communist Party?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I refuse to answer that on the ground that it may incriminate me.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you acquainted with Pauline Baskind?

Mrs. COLLOMS. Yes, I know her.

Mr. WHEELER. What is the nature of your relationship with Pauline Baskind?

Mrs. COLLOMS. She also taught in Washington Irving.

Mr. WHEELER. Washington Irving High School?

Mrs. COLLOMS. Yes. That is past tense; she taught there.

Mr. WHEELER. Over what period of time did you know Mrs. Baskind?

Mrs. COLLOMS. That is also some years back.

Mr. WHEELER. Three or four years back?

Mrs. COLLOMS. No; more than that. I don't think she has been in the school for some time.

Mr. WHEELER. When did she sever her connection with the school system of New York City; do you know?

Mrs. COLLOMS. That I don't recall.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you ever know her as a member of the Communist Party?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I refuse to answer that on the same ground.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you acquainted with an individual named Louis S. Bloch?

Mrs. COLLOMS. That name doesn't sound familiar to me.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you know Frances Silverman?

Mrs. COLLOMS. Yes, I know her.

Mr. WHEELER. Where did you become acquainted with her?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I knew her at the Washington Irving High School.

Mr. WHEELER. Over what period of time?

Mrs. COLLOMS. She hasn't been in the school for some years; either; a number of years.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you know her as a member of the Communist Party?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I refuse to answer that on the ground that it may tend to incriminate me.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you acquainted with Helen Levi Simon?

Mrs. COLLOMS. Not that I know of.

Mr. WHEELER. Have you traveled outside the United States within the last 10 years?

Mrs. COLLOMS. What would the last 10 years be? This is 1950. That would be since 1940?

Mr. WHEELER. Yes.

Mrs. COLLOMS. Yes; I have.

Mr. WHEELER. Will you list the countries that you traveled to?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I traveled to Mexico, I think, since then. That is all that I can remember.

Mr. WHEELER. If you had traveled to other countries you would remember, would you not, as quite an event?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I don't remember traveling to any other country.

Mr. WHEELER. Other than Mexico?

Mrs. COLLOMS. Other than Mexico.

Mr. FORER. In the last 10 years?

Mrs. COLLOMS. In the last 10 years. That is what I was trying to say.

Mr. WHEELER. What year did you go to Mexico?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I think it was 1943.

Mr. WHEELER. Was it in August 1943?

Mrs. COLLOMS. It was in the summertime. It probably was August.

Mr. WHEELER. For what purpose did you go to Mexico?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. COLLOMS. I think I will refuse to answer that on the ground that it may incriminate me.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you so refuse?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I do so refuse.

Mr. WHEELER. While in Mexico, did you go to Mexico City?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I did.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you go to Mexico City for the Communist Party?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I refuse to answer that on the same ground.

Mr. WHEELER. While in Mexico City, did you attempt to contact Jacob Epstein?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I refuse to answer that on the same ground.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you receive instructions from the Communist Party to contact Jacob Epstein in Mexico City?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I refuse to answer that on the same ground.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you carry any messages to Jacob Epstein in Mexico City when you traveled there?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I refuse to answer that on the same ground, that it may tend to incriminate me.

Mr. WHEELER. While en route to Mexico City, did United States customs officials search you and your personal effects?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. COLLOMS. They did.

Mr. WHEELER. Did they take anything from you?

Mrs. COLLOMS. They did.

Mr. WHEELER. And what did they take?

Mrs. COLLOMS. Papers that I had with me, newspapers, books.

Mr. WHEELER. Did they take a stationery box from your custody?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I don't know. They may have.

Mr. WHEELER. Was that one of your possessions that you took with you?

Mrs. COLLOMS. 1943 is a long time ago. They may have.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you receive a box from anybody in the Communist Party to deliver to Jacob Epstein in Mexico City?

Mrs. COLLOMS. That is a question I refuse to answer on the ground that it may tend to incriminate me.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you take with you any ciphered messages to deliver to Jacob Epstein in Mexico City?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I refuse to answer that on the same ground.

Mr. WHEELER. Is it not a fact that you carried a box of stationery with you, and in this box of stationery were five pieces of paper that contained ciphered messages?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I refuse to answer that on the same ground.

Mr. WHEELER. When did you return from Mexico City to the United States?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I don't exactly remember. It was that summer. It was either the end of August or maybe the first week in September.

Mr. WHEELER. September 3, 1943?

Mrs. COLLOMS. It could be.

Mr. WHEELER. Is it not a fact that a stationery box that was taken from you was returned to you upon your arrival in the United States by the United States customs?

Mrs. COLLOMS. Everything that was taken from me was returned to me. I don't know if that was included or not.

Mr. WOOD. You say everything that was taken from you was returned?

Mrs. COLLOMS. Everything that was taken from me was sent back to me. I don't know what it all was. I assume everything that was taken from me was returned to me.

Mr. WHEELER. You didn't contact Jacob Epstein in Mexico City, did you?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I refuse to answer on the same ground.

Mr. WHEELER. If you didn't contact him, what would the basis of incrimination be?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. COLLOMS. I don't know how it would tend to incriminate me. I don't know.

Mr. WHEELER. If you don't know how it would incriminate you, why do you refuse to answer?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. COLLOMS. It is a hypothetical question. I don't know how.

Mr. WOOD. The question was: You did not contact Epstein, did you? You refused to answer on the ground of self-incrimination. Then the question was asked: If you did not contact him, how could it incriminate you?

Mr. FORER. The question had an "if" in it.

Mr. WHEELER. Upon your return to New York City, what did you do with the box of stationery?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mr. WHEELER. I will change the question. Upon your return to New York City, did you transfer anything to Ethel Vogel?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I refuse to answer that on the ground that it will incriminate me.

Mr. WHEELER. Mrs. Colloms, the committee, in the course of its investigation, and through confidential sources, obtained confidential information in which the following résumé is set forth regarding your participation in a Communist underground movement to free Frank Jacson from imprisonment in Mexico. Frank Jacson is the individual who assassinated Leon Trotsky in Mexico City on August 20, 1940. I will now read to you an extract from this confidential report:

Anna Vogel Colloms, wife of Lionel Colloms, then and now an official in the Enforcement Unit of the Office of Price Administration, New York City. * * * In addition to acting as a mail drop, Anna Colloms, on August 12, 1943, left New York City for Mexico City carrying concealed in an apparently new box of personal stationery five sheets of paper completely covered with writing in cipher. She was not permitted to carry the box of stationery into Mexico. Mrs. Colloms made a half-hearted attempt to contact Jacob Epstein while in Mexico City and upon her return to the United States she received the stationery box from the United States Customs and, through Ethel Vogel, transmitted it to Ruth Wilson.

Do you have any comment to make on that statement?

Mrs. COLLOMS. No.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you deny it?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. COLLOMS. I refuse to answer on the ground that it may incriminate me.

Mr. WHEELER. Was your husband formerly employed by the United States Government?

Mrs. COLLOMS. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. In 1943 was he an official in the Enforcement Unit of the Office of Price Administration?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I believe he still was, yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you travel to Mexico City by airline?

Mrs. COLLOMS. Coming back.

Mr. WHEELER. How did you proceed to Mexico City from New York?

Mrs. COLLOMS. Train.

Mr. WHEELER. Have you ever appeared before a United States grand jury?

Mrs. COLLOMS. No.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you know whether or not you have ever been indicted for any offense?

Mrs. COLLOMS. I don't believe I ever have.

Mr. WHEELER. I have no further questions.

Mr. WOOD. The witness is excused.

(Witness excused.)

Mr. WHEELER. The next witness is Fanny McPeek.

Mr. WOOD. Before you sit down, will you raise your right hand and be sworn, please?

Do you solemnly swear the evidence you give this subcommittee shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mrs. MCPEEK. I do.

Mr. WOOD. Have a seat.

Mr. FORER. I don't want to be monotonous, Mr. Chairman, but for the record I would like to renew my objection to the lack of a quorum and to say that we are proceeding under protest.

Mr. WOOD. That will be considered of record for all the witnesses you appear for.

Mr. FORER. Thank you.

**TESTIMONY OF FANNY McPEEK, ACCOMPANIED BY HER COUNSEL,
JOSEPH FORER**

Mr. OWENS. Will you state your full name, please?

Mrs. MCPEEK. Fanny McPeek.

Mr. OWENS. Are you represented by counsel?

Mrs. MCPEEK. Yes.

Mr. OWENS. Will counsel please identify himself for the record?

Mr. FORER. Joseph Forer, a member of the District of Columbia bar, 711 Fourteenth Street NW.

Mr. OWENS. Mrs. McPeek, what is your present address?

Mrs. MCPEEK. 846 Prospect Place, Brooklyn.

Mr. OWENS. You are here in answer to a subpoena served upon you and amended by subsequent telegrams which you received?

Mrs. MCPEEK. That is right.

Mr. OWENS. When and where were you born?

Mrs. MCPEEK. November 10, 1908, city of New York.

Mr. OWENS. Are you married?

Mrs. MCPEEK. I am.

Mr. OWENS. What is your husband's name?

Mrs. McPEEK. Alvin H. McPeek.

Mr. OWENS. Will you give the committee a brief résumé of your educational background?

Mrs. McPEEK. I graduated from elementary school; graduated from high school; and after graduating from high school in 1926 I took some courses at Hunter College in the city of New York.

Mr. OWENS. Did you graduate from Hunter?

Mrs. McPEEK. No, I didn't.

Mr. OWENS. Would you relate to the committee your employment record since the cessation of your education?

Mrs. McPEEK. In the very beginning I had one or two odd jobs. I can't remember the names of the people I worked for perhaps a week or so. Then, I think it was in 1927, perhaps, I got a job at Beth David Hospital in New York City, and worked there about 7 years. In 1934 I was appointed as a substitute clerk at Washington Irving High School, and in 1935 I received my regular employment there.

Mr. OWENS. And you are still employed in that capacity?

Mrs. McPEEK. Yes.

Mr. OWENS. What is your husband's occupation?

Mrs. McPEEK. My husband is a prescription clerk.

Mr. OWENS. In New York City?

Mrs. McPEEK. That is right.

Mr. OWENS. What was your maiden name, Mrs. McPeek?

Mrs. McPEEK. Fanny Pildes, P-i-l-d-e-s.

Mr. OWENS. Mrs. McPeek, are you now or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

Mrs. McPEEK. I refuse to answer on the ground that it may incriminate me.

Mr. OWENS. Mrs. McPeek, the committee is presently investigating an underground group in the Communist Party which was assigned to free Frank Jacson from imprisonment in Mexico. Frank Jacson is presently serving time in Mexico for the killing of Leon Trotsky on August 20, 1940. According to confidential information in the possession of this committee, Jacob Epstein was sent to Mexico City as head of this underground group. This underground group used an elaborate system of mail drops for receiving communications to and from Mexico. You, according to this confidential information, have been named as a mail drop. I will read a pertinent part of this report to you.

Are you familiar with what a mail drop is?

Mrs. McPEEK. No. I am terribly confused. Would you mind reading this again?

Mr. OWENS. The committee is currently engaged in an investigation to determine the extent of the success of an underground Communist group which was engaged in an effort to free Frank Jacson from imprisonment in Mexico. Frank Jacson assassinated Leon Trotsky. He is presently serving time in Mexico.

Are you acquainted with Jacob Epstein?

Mrs. McPEEK. No, I never—

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. McPEEK (continuing). To the best of my recollection, no.

Mr. OWENS. The information of this committee accuses you of having served as a mail drop for that group, and I am going to read the part of this confidential report which names you:

In the United States, the mail drops were determined to be * * * individuals who do not concern you, and

Fanny McPeek, a clerk in the Washington Irving High School, New York City, who is active in Communist affairs.

Do you have any comment to make on the excerpt I have just read to you?

Mrs. McPEEK. No; no comment.

Mr. OWENS. In 1943 you were a clerk in the Washington Irving High School, were you not?

Mrs. McPEEK. In 1943 I was, yes.

Mr. OWENS. Did you at any time receive letters through the mail which you later forwarded to Mexico City?

Mrs. McPEEK. I refuse to answer on the ground it may incriminate me.

Mr. OWENS. Did you at any time receive mail from Mexico City which you subsequently forwarded or gave to individuals in the United States?

Mrs. McPEEK. I refuse to answer on the same grounds.

Mr. OWENS. Are you acquainted with Lydia Altschuler?

Mrs. McPEEK. To the best of my knowledge, no.

Mr. OWENS. Do you know an individual by the name of Barnett Shepard?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. McPEEK. Up to this morning, no, but as I was sitting in the room outside a man came in and introduced himself to the clerk in charge as Mr. Shepard.

Mr. OWENS. You don't know his first name?

Mrs. McPEEK. You just mentioned it.

Mr. OWENS. I mean the gentleman you met this morning.

Mrs. McPEEK. No. He just said Mr. Shepard.

Mr. OWENS. Are you acquainted with Anna Vogel Colloms?

Mrs. McPEEK. I am.

Mr. OWENS. What is the nature of that relationship?

Mrs. McPEEK. She is a very dear friend of mine.

Mr. OWENS. Under what circumstances did you meet her?

Mrs. McPEEK. When I was a student at Seward Park High School she was a teacher of mine, and I saw her years later when she was assigned to Washington Irving High School.

Mr. OWENS. I understood you to say she is a very dear friend of yours?

Mrs. McPEEK. Yes; she is.

Mr. OWENS. Did you ever know Mrs. Colloms as a member of the Communist Party?

Mrs. McPEEK. I refuse to answer on the ground it might tend to incriminate me.

Mr. OWENS. Do you know Ethel Vogel?

Mrs. McPEEK. Well, this morning I was introduced to a Mrs. Vogel.

Mr. OWENS. Do you know Ruth Beverly Wilson, also known as Ruth Wilson Epstein?

Mrs. McPEEK. To the best of my recollection, no.

Mr. OWENS. Are you acquainted with Pauline Baskind?

Mrs. McPEEK. Yes; I know her.

Mr. OWENS. Under what circumstances did you meet her?

Mrs. McPEEK. She was a teacher at Washington Irving High School a few years ago.

Mr. OWENS. Have you ever known her as a member of the Communist Party?

Mrs. McPEEK. I refuse to answer on the ground it may incriminate me.

Mr. OWENS. Are you acquainted with an individual named Louis S. Bloch?

Mrs. McPEEK. To the best of my recollection, no.

Mr. OWENS. Do you know an individual by the name of Frances Silverman?

Mrs. McPEEK. Yes; I know her.

Mr. OWENS. Under what circumstances did you meet Mrs. Silverman?

Mrs. McPEEK. I met her many years ago when she was substitute teacher at Washington Irving High School. Subsequently she received an appointment.

Mr. OWENS. Have you known her for a number of years?

Mrs. McPEEK. I have.

Mr. OWENS. Did you know her as a member of the Communist Party?

Mrs. McPEEK. I refuse to answer on the ground it may incriminate me.

Mr. OWENS. Do you know an individual by the name of Helen Levi Simon?

Mrs. McPEEK. To the best of my recollection, no.

Mr. OWENS. I have already asked you this, but I want to ask you again: Have you ever been acquainted with an individual named Jacob Epstein?

Mrs. McPEEK. To the best of my recollection, no.

Mr. OWENS. I have no further questions, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. WOOD. Mr. Wheeler?

Mr. WHEELER. No questions.

Mr. WOOD. The witness is excused.

(Witness excused.)

Mr. WHEELER. The next witness, Mr. Chairman, is Mrs. Ethel Vogel.

Mr. WOOD. Will you raise your right hand and be sworn. Do you solemnly swear the evidence you give this subcommittee shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mrs. VOGEL. I do.

Mr. WOOD. Be seated.

TESTIMONY OF ETHEL VOGEL, ACCOMPANIED BY HER COUNSEL, JOSEPH FORER

Mr. WHEELER. Will you state your full name and present address?

Mrs. VOGEL. Ethel Vogel, 127 West Thirty-second Street.

Mr. WHEELER. You are represented by counsel?

Mrs. VOGEL. Yes; Mr. Forer.

Mr. WHEELER. Will counsel identify himself for the record?

Mr. FORER. Joseph Forer, 711 Fourteenth Street NW., a member of the District of Columbia bar.

Mr. WHEELER. Mrs. Vogel, what is your present occupation?

Mrs. VOGEL. Housewife.

Mr. WHEELER. Where were you born?

Mrs. VOGEL. Massachusetts.

Mr. WHEELER. What city?

Mrs. VOGEL. Worcester.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you presently married?

Mrs. VOGEL. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. And to whom are you married?

Mrs. VOGEL. Sidney Vogel.

Mr. WHEELER. What is his occupation?

Mrs. VOGEL. He is a physician.

Mr. WHEELER. Where are his offices located?

Mrs. VOGEL. Twenty-nine West Eighty-fifth Street.

Mr. WHEELER. New York City?

Mrs. VOGEL. New York City.

Mr. WHEELER. You are appearing here in response to a subpoena served upon you?

Mrs. VOGEL. Yes, sir.

Mr. WHEELER. Will you please relate to the committee your educational background?

Mrs. VOGEL. I finished high school in New York City and went to New York University, from which I received a degree of bachelor of science. That is all.

Mr. WHEELER. What year did you graduate from New York University?

Mrs. VOGEL. 1929.

Mr. WHEELER. Have you been employed since leaving New York University?

Mrs. VOGEL. Yes. I worked on and off for several years as a secretary.

Mr. WHEELER. Would you list your employment, with the years?

Mrs. VOGEL. I worked for the American Weekly, a Hearst publication, until 1932, as a secretary. Since then I have had, on and off, part-time jobs as secretary to physicians. Do you want any of their names?

Mr. WHEELER. Yes.

Mrs. VOGEL. Frankly, the only one I remember is Dr. Arthur Palmer. Another was Dr. Kenneth Lewis. They were part-time positions.

Mr. WHEELER. Your husband was in the Medical Corps during World War II, was he not?

Mrs. VOGEL. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you now or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

Mrs. VOGEL. I refuse to answer the question on the ground that it might incriminate me.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you acquainted with Jacob Epstein?

Mrs. VOGEL. Yes; I knew him.

Mr. WHEELER. What was the nature of your relationship with Mr. Epstein?

Mrs. VOGEL. Nature of my relationship? I knew him socially, I would say, as an acquaintance.

Mr. WHEELER. How long ago did you meet Mr. Epstein?

Mrs. VOGEL. Many years ago. I knew him many years ago.

Mr. WHEELER. Have you kept up this acquaintance over the years?

Mrs. VOGEL. No. I haven't seen him for years.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you know Mr. Epstein as a member of the Communist Party?

Mrs. VOGEL. I refuse to answer the question on the ground that it might incriminate me.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you acquainted with his wife, Ruth Wilson Epstein?

Mrs. VOGEL. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. When did you meet her?

Mrs. VOGEL. I must have met her after he married her, a long time ago.

Mr. WHEELER. Have you continued this acquaintance with her?

Mrs. VOGEL. No. I haven't seen him for years.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you know her as a member of the Communist Party?

Mrs. VOGEL. I refuse to answer that on the same ground.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you acquainted with Lydia Altschuler?

Mrs. VOGEL. Not to my knowledge.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you acquainted with Fanny McPeck?

Mrs. VOGEL. I think I was introduced to her this morning by Mr. Forer. Is that right?

Mr. FORER. That is right.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you acquainted with Anna Vogel Colloms?

Mrs. VOGEL. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. She is your sister-in-law?

Mrs. VOGEL. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you know her to be a member of the Communist Party?

Mrs. VOGEL. I refuse to answer the question on the same ground.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you know Pauline Baskind?

Mrs. VOGEL. Not as far as I know.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you acquainted with Louis S. Bloch?

Mrs. VOGEL. Not as far as I know.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you acquainted with Frances Silverman?

Mrs. VOGEL. Not as far as I know.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you know Helen Levi Simon?

Mrs. VOGEL. Not to my knowledge.

Mr. WHEELER. Mrs. Vogel, the committee, through confidential sources, has obtained information relating to the attempts of an underground group of the Communist Party to free Frank Jacson from imprisonment in Mexico. Frank Jacson assassinated Leon Trotsky in Mexico on August 20, 1940. During the activities of this particular group of the Communist Party, a series of mail drops were instituted. In other words, messages would be sent from Mexico to New York City and relayed by the person receiving them to another person, in an

attempt to cover up direct contacts. I want to quote from a report which lists you as having participated in this group:

An additional mail drop was determined to be Ethel Vogel, a native-born citizen of Russian parents and the wife of Capt. Sidney Leon Vogel, United States Medical Corps.

Do you deny that you participated as a mail drop?

Mrs. VOGEL. I refuse to answer that question on the ground that it might incriminate me.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you remember when Anna Vogel Colloms went to Mexico City?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. VOGEL. I know she went some years ago.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you know Ruth Wilson Epstein in 1943?

Mrs. VOGEL. I knew her a long time ago. I don't remember when was the last time I saw her.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you have any contact with her in 1943?

Mrs. VOGEL. I don't know when was the last time I saw her. I know it was a long time ago.

Mr. WHEELER. Mrs. Colloms returned from Mexico City the first week of September 1943, and the information in our files reflects that she transmitted to you a box of stationery which you, in turn, gave to Ruth Wilson Epstein. Do you wish to affirm or deny that statement?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. VOGEL. I don't wish to affirm or deny it.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you receive a box of stationery from Mrs. Colloms and in turn give it to Ruth Wilson Epstein?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. VOGEL. I refuse to answer that question on the ground that it might tend to incriminate me.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you at any time receive letters through the mail which you readdressed and forwarded to Mexico?

Mrs. VOGEL. I refuse to answer on the same ground.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you at any time receive letters through the mail from Mexico which you readdressed and forwarded to persons in the United States?

Mrs. VOGEL. I refuse to answer that question on the same ground.

Mr. WHEELER. I have no further questions.

Mr. OWENS. I have no questions.

Mr. WOOD. You say you had knowledge of the fact that Mrs. Colloms went to Mexico City. Did you have that knowledge before she went?

Mrs. VOGEL. I really don't remember. I just remember she took a trip. I don't remember any of the details.

Mr. WOOD. Did you see her when she came back?

Mrs. VOGEL. I see her all the time. She is a relative.

Mr. WOOD. For the reasons you have given, you now decline to give the committee any information about any material she may have brought back from Mexico; is that right?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. VOGEL. I don't understand the question.

Mr. WOOD. You were asked specifically if Mrs. Colloms transmitted to you any documents or papers. I understood you to say you refused to answer that question on grounds of self-incrimination.

Mrs. VOGEL. Yes.

Mr. WOOD. Do you now decline to answer?

Mrs. VOGEL. Do I now decline to answer on the same ground? Yes, sir.

Mr. WOOD. That will be all.

(Witness excused.)

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Chairman, the next witness is Mr. Barnett Shepard.

Mr. WOOD. Will you stand and be sworn, please. You solemnly swear the evidence you give this subcommittee shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. SHEPARD. I do.

Mr. WOOD. Have a seat, Mr. Shepard.

Mr. SHEPARD. Mr. Chairman, I am a little bit hard of hearing, so I just wanted to say that if I asked you to repeat it is for that reason.

Mr. WOOD. Thank you, sir, and will you try to talk loud enough so that I can hear you.

Mr. SHEPARD. Yes.

Mr. WOOD. Are you represented by counsel?

Mr. SHEPARD. I am.

Mr. WOOD. Will counsel identify himself for the record?

Mr. FAULKNER. Stanley Faulkner, 11 West Forty-second Street, New York 18, N. Y.

Mr. WOOD. What is your residence address?

Mr. FAULKNER. 28 Woodland Place, Great Neck, N. Y.

Mr. WOOD. Mr. Sheppard, during the course of the interrogation you will be given the privilege of conferring with counsel at any time you may desire.

Mr. SHEPARD. Thank you.

TESTIMONY OF BARNETT SHEPARD, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS COUNSEL, STANLEY FAULKNER

Mr. OWENS. Will you please state your full name?

Mr. SHEPARD. Barnett Shepard.

Mr. OWENS. When and where were you born?

Mr. SHEPARD. Syracuse, N. Y., February 27, 1908.

Mr. OWENS. You are here under subpoena served upon you and subsequently continued by telegrams sent to you?

Mr. SHEPARD. That is correct.

Mr. OWENS. What is your present address?

Mr. SHEPARD. 4714 Two Hundred and Sixty-first Street, Great Neck, N. Y.

Mr. OWENS. Will you please give the committee a brief résumé of your educational background?

Mr. SHEPARD. I went to Syracuse public schools; Manlius Military Academy; back to Syracuse public schools; Cascadilla Prep School; and night school at Syracuse University.

Mr. OWENS. Did you graduate from Syracuse University?

Mr. SHEPARD. No.

Mr. OWENS. Would you relate to the committee your employment record since leaving school?

Mr. SHEPARD. It would be a little hard.

Mr. OWENS. As best you can remember.

Mr. SHEPARD. I went to work for the City Bank & Trust Co. in Syracuse. Then I left there and worked for the Syracuse Capital Corp. Then I worked for the Household Outfitting Co. Do you want 1-week or 2-week employment?

Mr. OWENS. No; just employment that you have held over a period of time, months or years.

Mr. SHEPARD. Then I went to work for Joseph Sicker & Co.; then Zoline & Co.

Mr. OWENS. Are these all in Syracuse?

Mr. SHEPARD. No. If you go back, I will tell you. Up to Joseph Sicker & Co. Joseph Sicker & Co. and Zoline & Co. are in New York.

Then I worked for Bendix Luitweiler in New York; then for Hirsch Lilienthal, New York; Francis I. du Pont & Co.; Gussack Machine Products; Brewster Aeronautical; Gruntal & Co.; and then Shaskan & Co.

I think that will cover it.

Mr. OWENS. Are you presently employed at Shaskan & Co.?

Mr. SHEPARD. No.

Mr. OWENS. Are you employed presently?

Mr. SHEPARD. No.

Mr. OWENS. What were the dates of your employment at Brewster Aeronautical, if you recall, approximately?

Mr. SHEPARD. It will have to be rough. Is that all right?

Mr. OWENS. That is all right.

Mr. SHEPARD. I think I left there in April 1945, and I was there about 18 or 20 months. Am I correct that the war in Europe was over in May?

Mr. OWENS. May 1945.

Mr. SHEPARD. I was laid off just before that.

Mr. OWENS. Were you employed at the Long Island plant of the Brewster Co.?

Mr. SHEPARD. That is correct.

Mr. OWENS. Are you now or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party of the United States?

Mr. SHEPARD. I decline to answer that under the fifth amendment, as the answer may tend to incriminate me.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Shepard, during the years 1942-43, did you ever receive any communications from a source unknown to you which you subsequently readdressed and forwarded to individuals here in the United States, after having received them from Mexico?

Mr. SHEPARD. I decline to answer that.

Mr. OWENS. State your ground for refusal in each case, please, for the record.

Mr. SHEPARD. May I consult my attorney?

Mr. OWENS. Yes; any time.

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. SHEPARD. I decline to answer under the fifth amendment, as the answer may tend to incriminate me.

Mr. OWENS. Have you at any time received communications from Mexico City from a source unknown to you which you subsequently readdressed and forwarded to individuals in the United States?

Mr. SHEPARD. Same answer, sir.

Mr. OWENS. For the same reason?

Mr. SHEPARD. For the same reason.

Mr. OWENS. Did you at any time receive material or mail from individuals in the United States which you subsequently forwarded to Mexico City?

Mr. SHEPARD. Same answer.

Mr. OWENS. For the same reasons?

Mr. SHEPARD. For the same reasons.

Mr. OWENS. Are you acquainted with Jacob Epstein?

Mr. SHEPARD. I decline to answer for the same reason.

Mr. OWENS. Have you ever been acquainted with Jacob Epstein?

Mr. SHEPARD. I decline to answer for the same reason.

Mr. OWENS. Are you acquainted with an individual named Lydia Altschuler?

Mr. SHEPARD. Lydia—

Mr. OWENS. Lydia Altschuler, A-l-t-s-c-h-u-l-e-r.

Mr. SHEPARD. To the best of my knowledge I have never heard that name before.

Mr. OWENS. Are you acquainted with an individual named Fanny McPeek?

Mr. SHEPARD. To the best of my knowledge I never heard that name before. Fanny—

Mr. OWENS. Fanny McPeek, M-c P-e-e-k.

Are you now or have you ever been acquainted with Anna Vogel Colloms, C-o-l-l-o-m-s?

Mr. SHEPARD. To the best of my knowledge I have never heard that name before.

Mr. OWENS. Are you acquainted, or have you ever been acquainted, with an individual named Ethel Vogel?

Mr. SHEPARD. Excuse me, sir; is this for the record?

Mr. OWENS. If you want to go off the record, you have to make the request to the chairman.

Mr. WOOD. Would you like to make a statement off the record in response to this question?

Mr. SHEPARD. Yes.

Mr. WOOD. All right. This will be off the record.

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. SHEPARD. I decline to answer that.

Mr. WOOD. This is on the record, then?

Mr. SHEPARD. Yes.

Mr. OWENS. For what reason?

Mr. SHEPARD. The same as given before.

Mr. OWENS. Are you now or have you ever been acquainted with an individual known as Ruth Beverly Wilson, also known as Ruth Wilson Epstein?

Mr. SHEPARD. I have never heard that name before. Let me change that. I don't know anybody by that name.

Mr. OWENS. This is repetitious, but I would like to ask it again. Are you acquainted with Jacob Epstein?

Mr. SHEPARD. I decline to answer.

Mr. WOOD. In order that we may get the record straight, do you know Jacob Epstein's wife?

Mr. SHEPARD. I decline to answer for the same reasons.

Mr. OWENS. Are you now or have you ever been acquainted with an individual named Pauline Baskind?

Mr. SHEPARD. B-a-s-k-i-n?

Mr. OWENS. B-a-s-k-i-n-d.

Mr. SHEPARD. To the best of my knowledge I have never heard that name before.

Mr. OWENS. Are you now or have you ever been acquainted with Louis S. Bloch?

Mr. SHEPARD. To the best of my knowledge I have never heard that name before.

Mr. OWENS. Are you now or have you ever been acquainted with an individual known as Frances Silverman, a woman?

Mr. SHEPARD. To the best of my knowledge I have never heard that name before.

Mr. OWENS. Are you now or have you ever been acquainted with an individual named Helen Levi Simon?

Mr. SHEPARD. I think——

Mr. FAULKNER. Will the chairman permit me to consult with my client?

Mr. WOOD. Yes.

(Mr. Faulkner conferred with the witness.)

Mr. SHEPARD. I would like to change that, please. I decline to answer for the same reason.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Shepard, the committee, in the course of the current investigation, has received confidential information which gives an outline of an attempt of American Communists to free from imprisonment Frank Jacson, the individual who assassinated Leon Trotsky in Mexico on August 20, 1940. This information gives in detail names of individuals who participated in this underground movement, and also names of various individuals used as mail drops. These individuals were part of a system which assisted in transmitting code messages to and from Mexico City to individuals involved in this conspiracy. I am going to read to you from this confidential report the pertinent parts pertaining to you.

In the United States, the mail drops were determined to be Lydia Altschuler, the educational director of Consumers Union, Inc., whose family resides in the Soviet Union; Barnett Shepard, a native-born citizen of Russian parents, then a foreman at the Brewster Aeronautical Corp., Long Island City, N. Y., and now an employee of Shaskan & Co., stockbrokers in New York City, who, confidential sources advised, has been a member of the Communist Party.

Do you wish to deny or affirm the statements just read to you?

Mr. SHEPARD. May I consult with counsel?

Mr. OWENS. Yes.

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. FAULKNER. Would you mind repeating that, please?

(The question referred to was read by the reporter, as recorded.)

Mr. FAULKNER. Mr. Chairman, that statement involves many details. My client is prepared to answer questions, and if counsel to the committee will break that down to questions rather than a statement containing many details, he may answer it categorically. To make a categorical answer to a question of that kind would be foolish.

Mr. OWENS. We will be glad to break it down if there will be any answers.

Are you a native-born citizen?

Mr. SHEPARD. Yes.

Mr. OWENS. Where were your parents born?

Mr. SHEPARD. They were born in an area that is not clear to me whether it was Poland or Russia, because that particular part of the country has changed hands many times.

Mr. WOOD. What were their names?

Mr. SHEPARD. My father's name originally was Shopiro, S-h-o-p-i-r-o, Samuel. He changed his name later in life.

Mr. WOOD. To Shepard?

Mr. SHEPARD. Yes.

Mr. WOOD. After he came to this country?

Mr. SHEPARD. After he came to this country.

Mr. WOOD. Was he ever naturalized as a citizen of the United States?

Mr. SHEPARD. Yes.

Mr. OWENS. Then that portion of the information, "a native-born citizen of Russian parents," is correct?

Mr. SHEPARD. The answer to whether my parents were born in Russia or not, I do not know.

Mr. OWENS. Were you ever a foreman at the Brewster Aeronautical Corp., Long Island City, N. Y.?

Mr. SHEPARD. No.

Mr. OWENS. Were you ever employed at the Brewster Aeronautical Corp., Long Island City, N. Y.?

Mr. SHEPARD. Yes, sir.

Mr. OWENS. Were you ever employed at Shaskan & Co., stockbrokers in New York City?

Mr. SHEPARD. Yes, sir.

Mr. OWENS. Have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. SHEPARD. I decline to answer that for previous reasons given.

Mr. OWENS. Did you ever serve as a mail drop in any Communist conspiracy?

Mr. SHEPARD. I decline to answer for the same reason.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Shepard, the reason I asked you to comment on this excerpt which I read to you was to give you a chance to tell the committee whether or not you have participated in such activity.

I have no further questions, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. WOOD. Have you categorically answered or declined to answer the questions in regard to the transaction detailed to you? Do you desire to make any further statement in regard to it?

Mr. SHEPARD. No.

Mr. OWENS. One further question, Mr. Chairman.

When did you leave the employ of Shaskan & Co.?

Mr. SHEPARD. August 11.

Mr. OWENS. 1950?

Mr. SHEPARD. Yes.

Mr. WOOD. And for how long prior to that time had you been employed?

Mr. SHEPARD. By Shaskan?

Mr. WOOD. Yes; approximately.

Mr. SHEPARD. Since 1945—I believe July 1, but I am not certain.

Mr. WOOD. Continuously up to August of this year?

Mr. SHEPARD. Well, I have been out a good deal ill, but I was still an employee of Shaskan's. I was out a good deal ill.

Mr. WOOD. Did you have any other employment during that interval?

Mr. SHEPARD. No, sir; not paid.

Mr. WOOD. That is all.

(Witness excused.)

Mr. WOOD. The subcommittee stands adjourned.

(Thereupon, at 12:20 p. m., the hearing was adjourned.)

AMERICAN ASPECTS OF THE ASSASSINATION OF LEON TROTSKY

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 1950

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES,
Washington, D. C.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The committee met in executive session, pursuant to call, at 12:10 p. m. in room 226, Old House Office Building, Hon. John S. Wood (chairman) presiding.

Committee members present: Representatives John S. Wood (chairman), Francis E. Walter, Burr P. Harrison, John McSweeney, and Harold H. Velde.

Staff members present: Louis J. Russell, senior investigator; Donald T. Appell and Courtney Owens, investigators; and A. S. Poore, editor.

Mr. WOOD. Let the record show a quorum of the full committee is present, consisting of Messrs. Walter, Harrison, McSweeney, Velde, and Wood.

Will you hold up your right hand, please.

You solemnly swear the evidence you give this committee shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I do.

Mr. FORER. Mr. Chairman, there is one brief objection I would like to make before we go on. In view of the fact the committee has refused to inform me as to what the purpose and subject matter of the hearing is, I request we be informed now.

Mr. WOOD. The committee does not hear objections.

Mr. FORER. Let it be noted we are proceeding under protest here today.

Mr. WOOD. It will be noted.

TESTIMONY OF HELEN TRAVIS, ACCOMPANIED BY HER COUNSEL, JOSEPH FORER

Mr. RUSSELL. You were subpoenaed under the name Helen Levi Simon, I understand?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I was subpoenaed under the name Helen L. Travis, with aliases, my previous married name and my maiden name.

Mr. WOOD. You are appearing here under that subpoena?

Mrs. TRAVIS. Yes.

Mr. WOOD. What is your name?

Mrs. TRAVIS. Helen Travis.

Mr. WOOD. The subpoena was issued correctly?

Mrs. TRAVIS. Yes.

Mr. WOOD. Are you represented by counsel?

Mrs. TRAVIS. Yes, Mr. Forer.

Mr. WOOD. Will counsel identify himself?

Mr. FORER. Joseph Forer, of the District of Columbia bar.

Mr. WOOD. What is your office address?

Mr. FORER. 711 Fourteenth Street NW., Washington, D. C.

Mr. WOOD. And your residence address?

Mr. FORER. 1107 Trenton Place SE., Washington, D. C.

Mr. RUSSELL. Were you at one time known as Helen Levi Simon?

Mrs. TRAVIS. Yes.

Mr. RUSSELL. When and where were you born?

Mrs. TRAVIS. New York City, September 3, 1916.

Mr. RUSSELL. What is your present address?

Mrs. TRAVIS. Armada, Mich.

Mr. RUSSELL. What is your street address?

Mrs. TRAVIS. 5450 North Road.

Mr. RUSSELL. Will you furnish the committee with a brief résumé of your educational background?

Mrs. TRAVIS. High school; college.

Mr. RUSSELL. What college did you attend?

Mrs. TRAVIS. Barnard College.

Mr. RUSSELL. Did you graduate?

Mrs. TRAVIS. Yes.

Mr. RUSSELL. What year?

Mrs. TRAVIS. 1937.

Mr. RUSSELL. What degree did you receive?

Mrs. TRAVIS. B. A.

Mr. MCSWEENEY. I am sorry to interrupt, but I can't hear you.

Mrs. TRAVIS. I am sorry.

Mr. RUSSELL. Where have you been employed since leaving school?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I think you are coming to a question the answer to which might partly tend to incriminate me because of associations, so that I think I will not answer that question.

Mr. WOOD. You mean by that, you have been employed in such capacities that the employment itself might tend to incriminate you?

Mrs. TRAVIS. Yes; with organizations and so on, association with which might tend to incriminate me, so I prefer not to answer the question.

Mr. WOOD. Has all your employment been of that character?

Mrs. TRAVIS. No.

Mr. WOOD. Give us the benefit of that which you do not think would incriminate you.

Mrs. TRAVIS. During the war I worked for the Ford Instrument Co., Long Island City. I worked for the Chrysler Corp., in Detroit.

Mr. WOOD. When?

Mrs. TRAVIS. It must have been the summer of 1948. I think that is right.

Mr. WOOD. Are you presently employed?

Mrs. TRAVIS. No; not in a gainful capacity, not by any employer.

Mr. WOOD. You mean you work for yourself?

Mrs. TRAVIS. That is right.

Mr. WOOD. In what business?

Mrs. TRAVIS. We farm.

Mr. WOOD. Where?

Mrs. TRAVIS. Armada, Mich.

Mr. WOOD. You say "we." You mean you and your husband?

Mrs. TRAVIS. Yes.

Mr. WOOD. Does he work in farming with you?

Mrs. TRAVIS. Yes.

Mr. RUSSELL. During what period of time were you employed by the Ford Instrument Co.?

Mrs. TRAVIS. Approximately November 1944 or 1943; it was during the war. I can't remember exactly.

Mr. RUSSELL. When did you cease to be employed by the Ford Instrument Co.?

Mrs. TRAVIS. January of some year. I think it must have been November 1943 to January 1944, but don't put that under oath because I wouldn't swear to it.

Mr. WOOD. That is your best recollection?

Mrs. TRAVIS. Yes.

Mr. RUSSELL. Where were you employed in 1947?

Mrs. TRAVIS. That comes under the questions which I do not answer.

Mr. RUSSELL. Were you employed by the Daily Worker?

Mrs. TRAVIS. Again, I don't care to answer.

(Witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. TRAVIS. For the same reason.

Mr. WOOD. We can't hear you. You were asked if you were employed by the Daily Worker in 1947.

Mrs. TRAVIS. I said I would not answer that question on the grounds of the fifth amendment.

Mr. RUSSELL. Were you ever employed by the Michigan Worker?

Mrs. TRAVIS. Again, I will not answer for the same reason.

Mr. RUSSELL. Were you ever employed by the Communist Party?

Mrs. TRAVIS. Again, I refuse to answer that question on the same grounds.

Mr. RUSSELL. You are appearing here in response to a subpoena that was served upon you?

Mrs. TRAVIS. That is right.

Mr. RUSSELL. Mrs. Travis, I have here a photostatic copy of a passport application dated April 2, 1946, which bears the number 22339. This passport was applied for at San Juan, P. R. I now hand you this photostatic copy of the passport application and ask you if this application was executed by you?

(Witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. TRAVIS. Inasmuch as I don't know the implications of the questions, I think it is best to refuse to answer on the same grounds.

Mr. WOOD. That is not an answer to the question at all. The question is: Did you sign that passport application? I assume it bears a signature, doesn't it?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I refuse to answer that question.

Mr. WOOD. Mr. Russell, does the application for passport bear a signature?

Mr. RUSSELL. Yes, sir.

Mr. WOOD. The question was whether or not you executed that application for passport, a photostatic copy of which has been exhibited to you. What is your answer?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I refuse to answer that question on the same grounds.

Mr. WOOD. That your answer to it might tend to incriminate you?

Mrs. TRAVIS. That is correct.

Mr. RUSSELL. I ask you if this is a photograph of yourself?

(Witness confers with her counsel.)

Mr. WOOD. What is your answer to that?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I will refuse to answer on the same grounds.

Mr. RUSSELL. On the bottom of the second page of the application for passport there is a signature, Helen L. Simon. Is that your signature?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I refuse to answer on the same grounds.

Mr. RUSSELL. Where did you reside in New York City?

Mrs. TRAVIS. On what date?

Mr. RUSSELL. At any time; your various addresses.

Mrs. TRAVIS. Eight West Seventy-fifth Street—this is starting from the beginning; I may forget a few—895 Park Avenue; 30 East Seventy-first Street; 525 Fifth Avenue; 350 East Seventy-seventh Street.

Mr. RUSSELL. Did you ever reside at 21 Pomander Walk, New York 25, N. Y.?

Mrs. TRAVIS. A member of my family resides there.

Mr. RUSSELL. Is his name Harold Levi?

Mrs. TRAVIS. That is correct.

Mr. RUSSELL. I show you a photostatic copy of a letter dated March 24. The year is not given. Apparently it was 1950. It is addressed "Dear Sirs," and signed with the name Helen L. Simon. I hand you a photostatic copy of this letter and ask you if the signature appearing thereon is yours?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I refuse to answer this question on the grounds that it might jeopardize me.

Mr. RUSSELL. Have you ever obtained a passport for travel outside the United States?

(Witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. TRAVIS. I refuse to discuss the matter of passports altogether, on grounds of the fifth amendment.

Mr. RUSSELL. On the passport application which I have shown you there is a signature, Maxwell N. Weisman, which is listed under that section of the application devoted to affidavit of identifying witness. Do you know Maxwell N. Weisman?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I refuse to answer the question on grounds my answer might tend to incriminate me.

Mr. RUSSELL. Do you know whether or not he was ever in the United States Army?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I refuse to answer that question on the same grounds.

Mr. RUSSELL. Do you know where Maxwell N. Weisman is at the present time?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I refuse to answer that question on the same grounds.

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Chairman, I ask that the photostatic copy of passport application be received in evidence as Travis exhibit No. 1.

Mr. WOOD. Without objection it will be received.

(The photostatic copy of passport application above referred to, marked "Travis Exhibit No. 1," is filed herewith.)

Mr. RUSSELL. And I desire to introduce in evidence as "Travis Exhibit No. 2" the photostatic copy of the letter of March 24 addressed "Dear Sirs," and signed "Helen L. Simon."

Mr. WOOD. Without objection it will be received.

(The photostatic copy of letter above referred to, marked "Travis Exhibit No. 2," is filed herewith.)

Mr. RUSSELL. Where did you reside in August 1945?

Mrs. TRAVIS. At the Seventy-seventh Street address.

Mr. RUSSELL. Three hundred and fifty East Seventy-seventh Street?

Mrs. TRAVIS. Yes.

Mr. RUSSELL. What was your employment at that time, in August 1945?

Mrs. TRAVIS. That is in the period I refused to discuss on the grounds it might tend to incriminate me.

Mr. RUSSELL. Did you, in July of 1945, circulate a nominating petition for councilman for Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., for the city of New York from the Borough of Manhattan?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I refuse to answer that question on the grounds it might tend to incriminate me.

Mr. RUSSELL. Did you ever attest to the signatures which appeared on a nominating petition for Benjamin J. Davis?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I refuse to answer that question on the same grounds.

Mr. RUSSELL. Have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I refuse to answer that question on the same grounds.

Mr. RUSSELL. Are you now a member of the Communist Party?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I refuse to answer that question on the same grounds.

Mr. RUSSELL. Have you ever belonged to the Young Communist League?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I refuse to answer that question on the same grounds.

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Louis Budenz, in his testimony before this committee, testified that he knew you as a member of the Communist Party. Do you affirm or deny that statement?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I refuse to answer it on the same grounds.

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Budenz also testified that he knew you as an employee of the Daily Worker as Helen Levi Simon and also as Maxine Levi. Is that a statement of fact?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I refuse to answer on the same grounds.

Mr. RUSSELL. Is that statement false?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I refuse to judge on the same grounds.

Mr. RUSSELL. I hand you a photostatic copy of a page from the Daily Worker of July 20, 1947, which pertains to Guiseppina Erico and states that he was a monarchist, and contains the name "By Helen Simon." Did you ever write an article of that nature for the Daily Worker?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I refuse to answer that question on the same grounds.

Mr. RUSSELL. I show you a photostatic copy of a page from the Daily Worker of August 17, 1949, entitled "Formula for Friendship," which also contains the name "By Helen Simon." I ask if you ever wrote an article of that nature for the Daily Worker?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I refuse to answer that question on the same grounds.

Mr. RUSSELL. I show you a photostatic copy of a page from the Daily Worker dated Monday, July 19, 1948, and under the caption "Our duty to other peoples," there is the name "By Helen Simon." I ask if you have ever written an article of that character for the Daily Worker?

(Witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. TRAVIS. I refuse to answer this question on the same grounds, and if you go through all of them it might come out the same.

Mr. RUSSELL. I ask that this photostatic copy of page from the Daily Worker of July 19, 1948, be introduced in evidence as Travis exhibit No. 3.

Mr. WOOD. Without objection, it will be received.

(The photostatic copy of document above referred to marked "Travis Exhibit No. 3," is filed herewith.)

Mr. RUSSELL. Have you ever maintained an account in the Chase National Bank of New York City?

(Witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. TRAVIS. I don't remember.

Mr. RUSSELL. Do you recall whether you opened one in March 1942?

Mr. WOOD. We will have to go answer the roll call.¹ We will suspend until 2:30 this afternoon.

(Thereupon, at 12:30 p. m., on Wednesday, August 30, 1950, a recess was taken until 3:30 p. m. of the same day.)

AFTERNOON SESSION

(A subcommittee of the Committee on Un-American Activities met at 3:30 p. m., Hon. John S. Wood (chairman) presiding. Representatives John S. Wood, Francis E. Walter, and Harold H. Velde were present.)

Mr. WOOD. Let the record show that for the purpose of a continuation of the testimony of this witness, since the recess a subcommittee composed of Messrs. Walter, Velde, and Wood has been named.

TESTIMONY OF HELEN TRAVIS—Resumed

Mr. RUSSELL. When we concluded this morning I had asked you a question as to whether you had ever had an account in the Chase National Bank of New York City, and I believe you said you did not recall?

Mrs. TRAVIS. That is correct.

Mr. RUSSELL. Do you recall whether you opened an account in the Chase National Bank of New York City on March 30, 1942, and closed it on May 14, 1948?

Mrs. TRAVIS. Was it at Seventy-ninth and Madison?

Mr. RUSSELL. The Seventy-ninth Street branch.

Mrs. TRAVIS. Yes.

Mr. RUSSELL. You had an account there?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I don't remember the dates, but I had an account at Seventy-ninth and Madison.

¹This refers to a roll-call vote which was being taken on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Mr. RUSSELL. Did you ever transfer any money from that account to the account of D. Enrique de Los Rios?

Mrs. TRAVIS. That is a question I don't care to answer, on grounds of possible self-incrimination.

Mr. WOOD. Do you answer it or not?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I decline to answer it on those grounds.

Mr. RUSSELL. I show you a photostatic copy of an application for transfer of \$3,700, by order of Helen L. Simon, to the Banco Anglo-Mexicano, Mexico, Province D. F., Mexico, for the account of D. Enrique de Los Rios, dated February 21, 1944, and signed by Helen L. Simon. I ask you if you can recall ever having signed this application for transfer of funds?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I refuse to answer that question on the same grounds.

Mr. RUSSELL. Is that your signature on that document?

(Witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. TRAVIS. Same answer.

Mr. WOOD. You decline to answer that?

Mrs. TRAVIS. Correct.

Mr. RUSSELL. Where did you reside on February 21, 1944; in New York City?

Mrs. TRAVIS. On Seventy-seventh Street.

Mr. RUSSELL. 350 East Seventy-seventh Street?

Mrs. TRAVIS. Yes.

Mr. RUSSELL. Is the address which appears on this application for transfer your address?

Mrs. TRAVIS. That was my address at the time.

Mr. RUSSELL. But you won't answer as to whether or not that was your signature?

Mrs. TRAVIS. Same answer.

Mr. RUSSELL. This morning I asked you if you had ever secured signatures to a nominating petition for Benjamin J. Davis for councilman in the Borough of Manhattan, and you refused to answer that question.

At this time I would like to show you a photostatic copy of a nominating petition containing 10 signatures attested to by Helen L. Simon of 350 East Seventy-seventh Street, and I will ask if you signed this nominating petition?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I decline to answer on the same grounds.

Mr. RUSSELL. I ask that the photostatic copy of the application for transfer of \$3,700 be placed in the record as Travis exhibit No. 4.

Mr. WOOD. It will be admitted.

(The photostatic copy of application for transfer of funds, marked "Travis Exhibit No. 4," is filed herewith.)

Mr. WOOD. It is noted from an examination of the document that the amount is not an even \$3,700.

Mr. RUSSELL. There were several charges, but the amount transferred was \$3,700.

I ask that a photostatic copy of nominating petition for councilman, signed by Helen L. Simon and dated August 1945, be introduced in the record at this time as Travis exhibit No. 5.

Mr. WOOD. It will be admitted.

(The photostatic copy of nominating petition above referred to, marked "Travis Exhibit No. 5," is filed herewith.)

Mr. RUSSELL. Are you acquainted with Jacob Epstein?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I decline to answer that on the same grounds.

Mr. RUSSELL. Do you know Ruth Wilson, also known as Ruth Wilson Epstein?

Mrs. TRAVIS. Same answer.

Mr. RUSSELL. Are you acquainted with Lydia Altschuler?

Mrs. TRAVIS. Same answer, on the same grounds.

Mr. RUSSELL. Do you know Pauline Baskind?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I decline to answer that question on the same grounds.

Mr. RUSSELL. Do you know Anna Vogel Colloms?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I decline to answer on the same grounds.

Mr. RUSSELL. Do you know Ethel Vogel?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I decline to answer on the same grounds.

Mr. RUSSELL. Do you know Louis S. Bloch?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I decline to answer on the same grounds.

Mr. RUSSELL. Do you know Frances Silverman?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I decline to answer on the same grounds.

Mr. RUSSELL. Do you know Barnett Shepard?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I decline to answer on the same grounds.

Mr. RUSSELL. Are you acquainted with Fanny McPeck?

Mrs. TRAVIS. I decline to answer that question on the same grounds. (Witness confers with her counsel.)

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Chairman, I have no further questions.

Mr. WOOD. Mr. Walter?

Mr. WALTER. No questions.

Mr. WOOD. Mr. Velde?

Mr. VELDE. I have no questions.

Mr. WOOD. You may be excused.

(Thereupon the witness and her counsel left the hearing room.)

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Chairman, we have taken the testimony of Philip L. Schmitz, a handwriting examiner. This testimony was taken July 26, 1950, by Mr. Moulder, presiding as chairman of a subcommittee.

Mr. Schmitz' testimony pertained to the handwriting examination of the documents which have been introduced into the record which were signed by Helen L. Simon. They are exhibits 1, 2, 4, and 5. The handwriting examiner testified that those documents were all written by the same person, and the person who signed her name as Helen L. Simon. I request that this testimony be made a part of the record of this hearing at this point.

Mr. WOOD. Without objection, that will be done.

(The testimony above referred to is as follows:)

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES,
Washington, D. C., Wednesday, July 26, 1950.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The subcommittee of one met, pursuant to call, at 2 p. m., in room 226, Old House Office Building, Hon. Morgan M. Moulder presiding.

Committee member present: Hon. Morgan M. Moulder.

Staff members present: William A. Wheeler and C. E. Owens, investigators.

Mr. MOULDER. Let the record show that I have been designated by the chairman as a subcommittee of one for the purpose of this hearing.

Mr. Schmitz, do you swear that the testimony you give before this subcommittee shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. SCHMITZ. I do.

TESTIMONY OF PHILIP L. SCHMITZ

Mr. WHEELER. Will you please state your full name?

Mr. SCHMITZ. Philip L. Schmitz.

Mr. WHEELER. What is your present address?

Mr. SCHMITZ. Washington, D. C.

Mr. WHEELER. Where are you employed at the present time?

Mr. SCHMITZ. Veterans' Administration.

Mr. WHEELER. What position do you hold with the Veterans' Administration?

Mr. SCHMITZ. I am a document analyst, Identification and Detection Division.

Mr. WHEELER. What are your duties as a document analyst?

Mr. SCHMITZ. My duties include examination of handwriting, handlettering or handprinting, typewriting, indented writing, obliterated writing, inks and erasures, as well as paper examinations and similar related material.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you devote your entire time to this work?

Mr. SCHMITZ. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. What educational training have you received?

Mr. SCHMITZ. B. S. degree from St. Thomas College, St. Paul, Minn.

Mr. WHEELER. What did you do in a special way to prepare yourself for the work you are now doing?

Mr. SCHMITZ. I spent several years with the FBI as a document examiner. Upon receiving my appointment in the laboratory, I worked under the supervision of experienced document examiners. I also received a course of instruction and training during which I read various books on the subject, attended lectures and conferences and received experience working on actual cases under the direct supervision of several examiners. During this time I examined hundreds of cases involving thousands of specimens. After reaching a satisfactory degree of proficiency, I received authority to examine cases on my own responsibility and was granted the right to testify in court as an expert witness. I have also spent several years with the Veterans' Administration as a document analyst. I have also testified in general courts martial involving war crimes trials in Manila, Philippine Islands. I have testified before the Federal court in Washington, D. C. as an expert witness on document identification.

Mr. WHEELER. How many years have you been engaged in this type of work?

Mr. SCHMITZ. Approximately 10 years.

Mr. WHEELER. I now show you a document identified as exhibit K-1, which is a photostatic copy of a passport application form dated April 2, 1946, bearing No. 22339 and containing the signature of Helen L. Simon. I desire to introduce this document in evidence as Helen L. Simon exhibit K-1.

Mr. MOULDER. It is so ordered.

Mr. WHEELER. The next document is identified as exhibit K-2, which is a photostatic copy of a letter dated March 24, beginning "Dear Sirs" and containing the purported known handwriting and signature of Helen L. Simon. I desire to enter this document in evidence as Helen L. Simon exhibit K-2.

Mr. MOULDER. It is so ordered.

Mr. WHEELER. The next document, exhibit Q-1, is a photostatic copy of a nominating petition for councilman, Borough of Manhattan, city of New York, dated August 8, 1945, and bearing the questioned handwriting of Helen L. Simon. I desire to introduce this document in the record as Helen L. Simon exhibit Q-1.

Mr. MOULDER. It is so ordered.

Mr. WHEELER. Mr. Schmitz, have you examined the writings appearing on the exhibits received in evidence as Helen L. Simon exhibits K-1 and K-2?

Mr. SCHMITZ. I have.

Mr. WHEELER. Have you examined the handwriting appearing on the exhibit entered as Helen L. Simon exhibit Q-1?

Mr. SCHMITZ. Yes, I have.

Mr. WHEELER. Have you compared the writing appearing on Helen L. Simon exhibits K-1 and K-2 with the writing appearing on Helen L. Simon exhibit Q-1?

Mr. SCHMITZ. Yes, I have compared the writings on these documents.

Mr. WHEELER. From your examination and comparison of these writings, have you formed an opinion as to whether they were written by the same person?

Mr. SCHMITZ. Yes, I have.

Mr. WHEELER. What is your opinion?

Mr. SCHMITZ. An examination of the handwriting appearing on the documents, photostatic copy of nominating petition for councilman (Q-1); photostatic copy of passport application form dated April 2, 1946 (K-1); and photostatic copy of letter dated March 24 (K-2), has resulted in the conclusion that the signature

"Helen L. Simon" and the writing on the lower portion of Q-1, nominating petition for councilman, beginning "Helen L. Simon, being duly sworn," with the exception of the notation of the certifying officer in the lower left corner, were all written by Helen L. Simon, whose known and purported known writing and signatures have been previously identified as exhibit K-1 and exhibit K-2.

Mr. WHEELER. Will you relate to the committee how you arrived at the conclusion to which you have just testified?

Mr. SCHMITZ. Handwriting identification is based on an examination and comparison of minute handwriting characteristics which are inherent in each individual. The mechanics of handwriting examination, as I conduct it, involve an examination of the questioned writing wherein minute handwriting characteristics are determined and set forth on a work sheet. Next, the known handwriting is examined and the individual characteristics are determined and also set forth on a work sheet. Following these two examinations, the questioned and known writings are examined simultaneously and a determination is then made as to whether or not the writings were prepared by one or more than one individual. In handwriting examination there must be a strong combination of handwriting similarities with no unexplained major differences.

Mr. WHEELER. I now hand you a photostatic copy of a document headed "Application for Transfer by Mail, Cable or Wireless." This application bears the purported signature of Helen L. Simon, is dated February 21, 1944, and discloses that Helen L. Simon forwarded for the account of D. Enrique De Los Rios the amount of \$3,700. I desire to introduce this document into the record as Helen L. Simon exhibit Q-2.

Mr. MOULDER. It is so ordered.

Mr. WHEELER. Mr. Schmitz, have you examined the handwriting appearing on this document, both on the front and back thereof?

Mr. SCHMITZ. Yes, I have examined this writing.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you reach the conclusion that this document was executed by the same individual whose signatures appear on the documents introduced in the record as exhibits K-1, K-2, and Q-1?

Mr. SCHMITZ. Yes, that is the conclusion I reached.

Mr. WHEELER. I now ask you to explain to the committee what portion of the writing appearing on exhibit Q-2 was written by the individual who executed exhibits K-1, K-2, and Q-1.

Mr. SCHMITZ. The conclusion which I reached is that the signature "Helen L. Simon" on the front side of the application for transfer by mail, cable or wireless (Q-2), and all the writing, including the signature "Helen L. Simon" appearing on the reverse side of this document, were written by Helen L. Simon, whose known and purported known writings have previously been identified as photostatic copy of passport application (K-1) and photostatic copy of letter dated March 24 (K-2).

Mr. WHEELER. Did you arrive at this conclusion by the same method which you previously related to the committee concerning exhibits K-1, K-2, and Q-1?

Mr. SCHMITZ. Yes, I did.

Mr. WHEELER. Mr. Chairman, I have no more questions.

Mr. MOULDER. Mr. Schmitz, on behalf of the committee, I wish to thank you for your testimony this afternoon.

(Thereupon, at 2:30 p. m. on Wednesday, July 26, 1950, the subcommittee adjourned.)

Mr. Wood. The committee will stand adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

(Thereupon, at 3:35 p. m. on Wednesday, August 30, 1950, an adjournment was taken until Thursday, August 31, 1950, at 10 a. m.)

AMERICAN ASPECTS OF THE ASSASSINATION OF LEON TROTSKY

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1950

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES,
Washington, D. C.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A subcommittee of the Committee on Un-American Activities met pursuant to call at 11 a. m. in room 226, Old House Office Building, Hon. Francis E. Walter presiding.

Committee members present: Representatives Francis E. Walter, Burr P. Harrison, Harold H. Velde, and Bernard W. Kearney.

Staff members present: Louis J. Russell, senior investigator; William A. Wheeler and Courtney E. Owens, investigators.

Mr. WALTER. You may proceed.

Mr. WHEELER. Miss Sylvia Ageloff.

Mr. WALTER. Will you raise your right hand, please. You swear the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Miss AGELOFF. I do.

TESTIMONY OF SYLVIA AGELOFF

Mr. WHEELER. Will you please state your full name?

Miss AGELOFF. Sylvia Ageloff.

Mr. WHEELER. Where were you born?

Miss AGELOFF. In New York City.

Mr. WHEELER. You are here in response to a subpoena served upon you?

Miss AGELOFF. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you acquainted with Ruby Weil?

Miss AGELOFF. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Would you please relate to the committee the circumstances involved in your relationship with her?

Miss AGELOFF. In 1938, when I went to Europe, she called and said she was going to Europe too and that she would go along with me. We went on the boat together, and we went to Paris together.

You want the whole story?

Mr. WHEELER. Yes, how you met her and the whole story.

Miss AGELOFF. I met her before 1938 in New York. At that time I was a member of the American Workers Party and she was also a member and I was friendly with her at that time.

Then we didn't see her too much. She disappeared. The rumors were that she was joining the Communist Party, or was interested in it, and we didn't see her much at all, except that we had been personally friendly in the sense that we met her sometimes to go to the movies.

A few weeks before I went to Europe, she said her sister, who lived in England, had sent her money for passage, and since she had free time or was unemployed, wasn't it wonderful, and she would go along. I said that was all right with me. That was in June 1938.

We got to Southampton, her sister met her at the boat, and they went up to London by car, and I went on a boat train. I told her what hotel I would be in, and she called in a few days and came to see me and brought her sister along. She said she was going to Paris too. She knew I was going to Paris. So she said she would go with me.

We went on a boat train to Paris, and she came with me to the hotel I was staying at. Then she said she had a sister Gertrude who knew somebody in Paris that she had been friendly with, who was a young student and used to visit Gertrude at her house in Paris, and she was going to get in touch with him.

So she called him and he came around to the hotel. At that time her other sister, Corinne, the one in England who met her at the boat, came to Paris, and the three of us went sightseeing together.

I don't remember if Corinne and Ruby left Paris at the same time and went back to London, or whether Corinne left first and Ruby left directly from Paris. I never saw Ruby after that.

Mr. WHEELER. What was the purpose of your visit to Paris?

Miss AGELOFF. Just a pleasure trip.

Mr. WHEELER. Was there a convention over there of any kind?

Miss AGELOFF. Yes; but I didn't know that at the time. I went for a holiday.

Mr. WHEELER. What convention was it?

Miss AGELOFF. The Fourth International.

Mr. WHEELER. A Trotskyite International Congress?

Miss AGELOFF. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. You were a member of the Trotskyite Party or movement?

Miss AGELOFF. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. And your sister Ruth Ageloff was Leon Trotsky's secretary?

Miss AGELOFF. No. The papers garbled that terribly. Actually, the only connection she had, she was in Mexico at the time of the Dewey Commission, and they needed someone to do typing work and she was employed to do that. She was never secretary in a true sense. She never handled the correspondence.

Mr. WHEELER. What period of time did she work there?

Miss AGELOFF. Maybe a week.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you get a passport to go to France and England?

Miss AGELOFF. Sure.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you get it under the name of Sylvia Ageloff?

Miss AGELOFF. Of course.

Mr. WHEELER. I would like for you to go in a little further detail about Frank Jacson. Who introduced you to Frank Jacson?

Miss AGELOFF. Ruby Weil.

Mr. WHEELER. And over what period of time did you know Frank Jacson in Paris?

Miss AGELOFF. We got there I guess in June. From June until I left in January or February of 1939.

Mr. WHEELER. That would be a period of about seven months?

Miss AGELOFF. Six or seven months.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you know Frank Jacson under any other name?

Miss AGELOFF. Yes. It wasn't Jacson, it was Jacques Mornard at that time.

Mr. WHEELER. You and this Mr. Mornard became quite friendly over this period of time?

Miss AGELOFF. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. What was Mr. Mornard's attitude in regard to the Trotskyite movement?

Miss AGELOFF. In the first place, I didn't tell him I was a Trotskyite. He seemed completely disinterested in politics of any kind. He never even read ordinary news articles. He seemed interested in sports and the theater and music and things of that sort. He seemed very disinterested in politics.

Mr. WHEELER. He didn't show any interest at all in Trotsky?

Miss AGELOFF. No. He seemed completely naive and disinterested.

Mr. WHEELER. You returned to New York City in January 1939?

Miss AGELOFF. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. After you returned to New York City did you see Mr. Mornard at any time?

Miss AGELOFF. In September 1939 he came here. That was a few days or weeks after the war broke out. He came with a forged passport as Frank Jacson. The reason he gave for using a forged passport was that he was in the Belgian Army and would not have been permitted to leave the country.

Mr. WHEELER. He confided in you that he was in the United States illegally?

Miss AGELOFF. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. How long a period of time did he remain in New York City?

Miss AGELOFF. About 3 weeks, or maybe less.

Mr. WHEELER. Did he tell you where he was going after he left New York City?

Miss AGELOFF. Yes. He said he was going to Mexico, that his mother had arranged a job for him with—I don't remember the man's name now; he was supposed to be head of the Allied Purchasing Commission, and through his mother's connections this man was going to employ him, and he was to work for him in a general capacity.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you ever see him after that time?

Miss AGELOFF. Yes. Then in January 1940 I went down to Mexico. I had had a sinus infection, and I went down there. I was going anyway, and was anxious to see him, so I went there in January and stayed until March. I was working at the time, so in March I came back.

All the time he had said he was not going to stay in Mexico, that this man would arrange a job for him in New York, and that this was only temporary; that they were going to open an office in New York too and that he would be the New York representative.

Mr. WHEELER. In New York did he ever discuss with you that he was going to try to get in the employment of Leon Trotsky in Mexico City?

Miss AGELOFF. No. He never showed any interest in Trotsky at all. By that time he knew I was in the Trotskyite movement. When I was in Mexico from January to March he showed a little more interest in politics as a concession to me, but nothing that would give a clue to his feelings.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you feel he used you in any way?

Miss AGELOFF. I think it is very obvious from what happened.

Mr. WHEELER. And you saw Mornard, or Jacson, in January—

Miss AGELOFF. From January to March 1940.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you recall where he was employed at that time?

Miss AGELOFF. This company—it is in the testimony. He was employed by this man who was supposed to be a Belgian and the head of a purchasing commission. I never met that man.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you ever see any correspondence from him?

Miss AGELOFF. No.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you ever have any contact with Frank Jacson when he went to work for Leon Trotsky?

Miss AGELOFF. He never worked for Leon Trotsky.

Mr. WHEELER. He never worked for Leon Trotsky?

Miss AGELOFF. No.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you know how he gained access to Leon Trotsky's headquarters?

Miss AGELOFF. This is the story we heard later in testimony. We didn't know from first-hand information. He said he had an article he wanted Trotsky to look at. This came as quite a surprise to me, because he had never shown any interest in politics. It seems he had written an article on economics and he wanted Trotsky to look it over. The reason the guard let him in the house, I understand sometime prior to that, he had a car and he had taken Mrs. Trotsky on a trip to Vera Cruz, and that is why the guard let him in that time.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you know how he arranged the trip?

Miss AGELOFF. I wasn't there.

Mr. WHEELER. I thought you may have heard.

Miss AGELOFF. I think he just drove up in his car. They needed two cars, I think.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you ever have any indication at all that this Frank Jacson or Mornard was a representative of NKVD?

Miss AGELOFF. Oh, no. He seemed so different. He didn't seem like a political person at all.

Mr. WHEELER. Have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

Miss AGELOFF. No.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you ever know that Ruby Weil was a member of the Communist Party?

Miss AGELOFF. We knew in 1938 that she was no longer interested in the American Workers Party, and she worked for a newspaper that was supposed to be pro-Communist. We never knew for a certainty. We never knew definitely, but the general feeling was that Ruby Weil was getting to be interested in it.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you feel now that that was a prearranged plan to introduce you to Mornard?

Miss AGELOFF. I am sure it was, because it couldn't have just happened.

Mr. WHEELER. Were you instrumental in any way in getting Mornard into the United States?

Miss AGELOFF. No. I came home from work one day and found him there. The original intention when I left Europe was that he was to come over in a month or so, legally. There was no mobilization or anything then.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you ever find out his real name?

Miss AGELOFF. The name he gave me?

Mr. WHEELER. The real name of Frank Jacson?

Miss AGELOFF. There was a name in the last book that came out that was written by the chief of police in Mexico. It has some other name.

Mr. WHEELER. I mean of your own personal knowledge, do you know of any other name?

Miss AGELOFF. No.

Mr. WHEELER. How did Ruby Weil use you in regard to all of this? How do you feel that she used you?

Miss AGELOFF. Well, she knew that I was going to Paris, because I made no secret of it. I told everybody I was going. I had saved up some money and planned to make that trip.

Mr. WHEELER. Didn't Ruby Weil originally meet your sister, Hilda?

Miss AGELOFF. We all knew her, but she was friendly with Hilda particularly. I knew her well enough that I wasn't surprised when she said could we go together.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you have any indication, in your associations with Ruby Weil, that she had been instructed by the Communist Party to infiltrate the Trotskyite movement?

Miss AGELOFF. No. She was what I would call a sympathizer. She never forced her opinion. She never was very rigid about it. We would have discussions. One could talk to her. She didn't give the impression of being such a hardened Communist as being an agent of the OGPU. She gave the impression of being sympathetic.

Mr. WALTER. What was the name of the newspaper she worked for?

Miss AGELOFF. I believe the Federated Press.

Mr. WHEELER. Mr. Chairman, we also had subpoenaed another sister, Ruth Ageloff. However, she is ill and we have a doctor's certificate we would like to present to the committee in regard to her. I don't think it is necessary to make this a part of the record.

Mr. WALTER. No.

Mr. WHEELER. I suggest it be put in the file.

Mr. WALTER. Very well.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you have anything you would like to volunteer to the committee in regard to this matter you have been brought down here for?

Miss AGELOFF. I don't know what you mean.

Mr. WHEELER. Is there any additional information we haven't asked you about that might help us?

Miss AGELOFF. You mean to show that Ruby Weil was really implicated?

Mr. WHEELER. That is right, or your participation in it, whether knowingly or unknowingly.

Miss AGELOFF. I think it would be easier, if there are any gaps, for you to ask me.

Mr. WHEELER. What was your reaction when Frank Jacson murdered Leon Trotsky?

Miss AGELOFF. I felt he was an OGPU agent. I felt there was no other way to explain it.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you feel in any way you had been involuntarily or unknowingly involved in this?

Miss AGELOFF. I was involved insofar that I suppose if I had never met him, I guess he wouldn't have gained entrance to the house at all.

I should say for the record, though, that I never brought him to the house, because I felt since he was in the country illegally it was not good for Mr. Trotsky that he should ever be brought to the house, so that he only entered the house after I had returned to New York City, and Mrs. Trotsky confirmed that.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you work for Leon Trotsky in Mexico City?

Miss AGELOFF. No. I went to visit him. I was there once for exactly a half hour, and I told him at that time that Jacson was in Mexico and that he was here on a false passport, and would it be better for him if I didn't see him. There never was any question of Jacson seeing him. He didn't seem interested.

Mr. WALTER. How did you know that Trotsky knew Jacson?

Miss AGELOFF. Afterwards he wrote to me he had taken them to Vera Cruz. I was surprised to hear it, because when I left in March he had never even been inside the house.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you feel Jacson gained entrance to the house because he knew you? Do you feel he used your friendship to acquire the trust of Leon Trotsky in Mexico?

Miss AGELOFF. I guess so. I guess if it wasn't he it would have been somebody else, but I guess that is the reason why they let him take them down to Vera Cruz. They certainly wouldn't have let a stranger offer his car.

Mr. WHEELER. I have no further questions.

Miss AGELOFF. The only other thing I wanted to bring out, I had the impression he must have been in New York before, in retrospect, because he told me that on the boat he was telling everybody what was lower Manhattan, and so forth, and I said, "How could you tell them, how did you know?" He said he had been so interested he had studied pictures and everything. When I thought it over I figured he must have been in New York before, although he said he had not.

Mr. WHEELER. When was the last time you saw Ruby Weil?

Miss AGELOFF. In June 1938.

Mr. WHEELER. That was after she introduced you to Frank Jacson, and then she departed?

Miss AGELOFF. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you see her this morning?

Miss AGELOFF. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. That is the same person who accompanied you to France, the person in the waiting room?

Miss AGELOFF. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. No further questions.

(Witness excused.)

Mr. WHEELER. Miss Hilda Ageloff.

Mr. WALTER. Will you raise your right hand, please. You swear the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Miss AGELOFF. I do.

Mr. WALTER. Have a seat.

TESTIMONY OF HILDA AGELOFF

Mr. WHEELER. Will you state your full name?

Miss AGELOFF. Hilda Ageloff.

Mr. WHEELER. Where were you born?

Miss AGELOFF. New York City.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you acquainted with an individual named Ruby Weil?

Miss AGELOFF. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Will you explain to the committee the circumstances under which you met her?

Miss AGELOFF. It was in the American Workers Party we belonged to in 1936 or thereabouts. Ruby Weil worked on the newspaper with her brother-in-law, Harry Howe. That is how I got to know her.

Afterward she left the party and stopped working on the paper. Harry Howe left the paper too, I think. I would see her very occasionally. Every couple of months or so she would call me.

Mr. WHEELER. Did anybody introduce you to Ruby Weil?

Miss AGELOFF. No. It was a very tiny group and we had classes and lectures, and she worked on the newspaper.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you recall the name of the paper?

Miss AGELOFF. I am not sure of the name of the paper.

Mr. WHEELER. And you in turn introduced Ruby Weil to your sister, Sylvia?

Miss AGELOFF. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Over what period of time did you know Ruby Weil?

Miss AGELOFF. As I say, it was very casual. I wouldn't see her for months at a time. One time when I met her at a movie or something I must have mentioned that Sylvia was going to Europe, and then quite a while later I was surprised to hear that she was going to Europe, that her sister in England was sending her a ticket. She didn't have the money—that is what she said—and that her sister was sending her the fare and was inviting her over. She was working at that time. She was working for the Federated Press.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you ever know Ruby Weil as a member of the Communist Party?

Miss AGELOFF. No. I had no idea. Our conversations on politics were very mild. I hadn't the faintest idea.

Mr. WHEELER. Have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

Miss AGELOFF. Never.

Mr. WHEELER. Have you ever been to Mexico City?

Miss AGELOFF. Yes, several times.

Mr. WHEELER. What years?

Miss AGELOFF. I don't remember now. I was there about 1948, and I was there when Sylvia was there in 1940, because I was there with her the last time when this whole business happened.

Mr. WHEELER. Were you acquainted with Leon Trotsky?

Miss AGELOFF. Well, I met him once, the first time when I came down there; I don't remember the year. I was invited over to his house and

we sat in his study for about 20 minutes to a half hour, a very informal meeting, a social meeting, and I think that was the only time I ever saw him.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you ever meet Frank Jacson?

Miss AGELOFF. Yes. I met him when he came to the house the day he suddenly appeared and said he had just arrived from Europe; that he had arrived on a sealed boat; that the war had started. It was all very dramatic.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you know at the time he was illegally in the United States?

Miss AGELOFF. When he came; yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Did he give any purpose for coming to the United States?

Miss AGELOFF. He was on his way to Mexico. He had this job; he didn't want to be in the Belgian Army; he didn't want to fight.

Mr. KEARNEY. What job was that?

Miss AGELOFF. He said he had a job in Mexico with a purchasing commission, import-export, something like that, with a Belgian importer. I don't know the details of that. I didn't pay too much attention to it.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you ever acquire any knowledge that Frank Jacson was a member of NKVD or OGPU?

Miss AGELOFF. Not until he killed Trotsky. Then it was obvious.

Mr. WHEELER. What was obvious?

Miss AGELOFF. There had been an attempted assassination a few months before, and Trotsky was in continuous fear of his life, and kept saying that he feared he would be killed, so it was public knowledge.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you feel in any way that you assisted in this Trotsky assassination, unknowingly or unwillingly?

Miss AGELOFF. Certainly unknowingly, through Ruby Weil.

Mr. WHEELER. You feel Ruby Weil was very instrumental in the assassination of Leon Trotsky?

Miss AGELOFF. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. I have no further questions.

Mr. WALTER. Any questions?

Mr. VELDE. How do you feel she was instrumental in the assassination?

Miss AGELOFF. Because she was the connecting link with the assassin, and since I felt pretty sure it was the Stalin police that had killed Trotsky, her being a link made it obvious she was a part of the chain.

Mr. VELDE. What do you mean by her being a link?

Miss AGELOFF. She introduced Sylvia to Mornard, as she knew him, and Mornard killed Trotsky.

Mr. VELDE. How did that make her responsible?

Miss AGELOFF. She was acting as a member of the plot, whether she knew it or not. I don't know whether she knew it, but she willingly agreed to do that part for them.

Mr. VELDE. Do you know anything else that she did besides making the introduction?

Miss AGELOFF. I don't know what you mean.

Mr. VELDE. Do you know of anything else that she did that caused the assassination of Trotsky, other than making the introduction?

Miss AGELOFF. I don't know. I didn't see her after that.

Mr. WHEELER. Mr. Velde, we have previous testimony by Mr. Budenz that Ruby Weil was selected by the Communist Party to infiltrate the Trotskyites, and in doing that she became acquainted with Hilda Ageloff, who introduced her to Sylvia Ageloff, and Ruby Weil went to Paris with Sylvia and in Paris introduced Sylvia to Frank Jacson; and through the Ageloff's being active in the Trotskyites and having known Leon Trotsky, it was felt that introducing the Ageloffs to Mornard or Jacson would give him a way to get in to Trotsky in Mexico City.

Mr. KEARNEY. Did you know of your own knowledge that an attempt would be made to assassinate Trotsky?

Miss AGELOFF. No.

Mr. KEARNEY. You never took part in any meetings where anything like that was discussed?

Miss AGELOFF. No. I was never in the Communist Party and I was never close to the Communist Party.

Mr. WALTER. Mr. Harrison, any questions?

Mr. HARRISON. No.

Mr. WHEELER. When was the last time you saw Ruby Weil?

Miss AGELOFF. When she came back from Europe she telephoned me. She said, "I guess you want to know all about Sylvia?" I said "Sure." She said Sylvia was having a very nice time, that she had met this fellow, and it all sounded very nice.

A few weeks later she telephoned and said, "I went to the doctor with a slight cold and he told me I had tuberculosis, and I have to go to a sanatorium."

Mr. WHEELER. But she ceased her associations with you after the introduction of Jacson to Sylvia?

Miss AGELOFF. She did go to Bedford Hills Sanatorium after that.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you see her this morning?

Miss AGELOFF. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Where?

Miss AGELOFF. In the waiting room. I wrote her when she was in the sanatorium, and she answered, and I once phoned Marion, her sister, and asked how she was, and she said she was getting along all right.

Mr. WHEELER. I have no further questions.

(Witness excused.)

Mr. WHEELER. The next witness is Miss Ruby Weil.

Mr. WALTER. Raise your right hand, please. Do you swear the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Miss WEIL. I do.

TESTIMONY OF RUBY WEIL, ACCOMPANIED BY HER COUNSEL, DAVID REIN

Mr. WHEELER. Please state your full name.

Miss WEIL. Ruby Weil.

Mr. WHEELER. You are represented by counsel?

Miss WEIL. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Will counsel identify himself for the record?

Mr. REIN. Surely. David Rein, 711 Fourteenth Street NW., Washington, D. C.

Mr. WHEELER. When and where were you born?

Miss WEIL. Evansville, Ind., May 7, 1903.

Mr. WHEELER. What is your present address?

Miss WEIL. 445 West Twenty-third Street.

Mr. WHEELER. And your present occupation?

Miss WEIL. I am a newspaper editor.

Mr. WHEELER. And for whom do you work?

Miss WEIL. Associated Press.

Mr. WHEELER. In New City City?

Miss WEIL. That is right.

Mr. WHEELER. And you are appearing here in response to a subpoena served upon you?

Miss WEIL. That is right.

Mr. WALTER. How long have you been employed by the Associated Press?

Miss WEIL. Almost 8 years.

Mr. WHEELER. Will you please relate to the committee your educational background?

Miss WEIL. I went to public schools in Evansville, and I took some courses in Indianapolis, and later took extension-college courses.

Mr. WHEELER. What college?

Miss WEIL. Extension of Indiana University.

Mr. WHEELER. What year was that?

Miss WEIL. That would be early in the 1920's.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you hold any degrees from any university?

Miss WEIL. No; I do not.

Mr. WHEELER. Will you relate your employment record since leaving the university?

Miss WEIL. That was not a university. Those were just some classes. It was while I was working. I worked first on the Evansville Press, then on the Indianapolis Times, and then I came to New York and worked for the Fairchild Publications, which is a trade publication, and a little paper called People's Press. Then I had a period of illness, and when I came back I worked for the Associated Press.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you ever travel outside the United States?

Miss WEIL. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Will you relate to the committee your travels?

Miss WEIL. I have been to Europe twice.

Mr. WHEELER. When were you in Europe the first time?

Miss WEIL. I am not sure whether it was late 1928 or early 1929.

Mr. WHEELER. And when was your second trip?

Miss WEIL. In 1938.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you recall the month?

Miss WEIL. It was early summer. I think it was probably late June or early July.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you travel to Europe by yourself?

Miss WEIL. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you acquainted with Sylvia Ageloff?

Miss WEIL. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Did she accompany you on this trip?

Miss WEIL. Yes. When I said by myself, we traveled on the same boat. We were not making the trip together.

Mr. WHEELER. What was the purpose of your trip to Europe?

Miss WEIL. I was on vacation.

Mr. WHEELER. Have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

Miss WEIL. Yes, I have.

Mr. WHEELER. When did you join the Communist Party?

Miss WEIL. I am not certain of the date. I would say probably sometime during 1936.

Mr. WHEELER. When did you resign from the Communist Party?

Miss WEIL. I didn't actually resign. I just kind of stopped going around.

Mr. WHEELER. When did you cease relationships with the Communist Party?

Miss WEIL. Sometime in 1937.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you resign by direction of the Communist Party, or voluntarily?

Miss WEIL. I didn't resign at all. I just stopped going around.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you cease your relationship with the Communist Party voluntarily, or by direction?

Miss WEIL. Voluntarily.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you ever rejoin the Communist Party?

Miss WEIL. No.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you ever ask anybody in regard to your membership in the Communist Party?

Miss WEIL. I don't understand what you mean.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you ever ask to rejoin the Communist Party?

Miss WEIL. No.

Mr. WHEELER. Who recruited your membership?

Miss WEIL. I guess I wasn't actually recruited. I decided that it was what I wanted to do and I just went up and told them so.

Mr. WHEELER. Where was this—what city?

Miss WEIL. New York.

Mr. WHEELER. Where did you go?

Miss WEIL. To their place down on Thirteenth Street.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you recall who you saw there?

Miss WEIL. I don't know that I ever knew the name.

Mr. WHEELER. Were you assigned to any particular unit or branch of the Communist Party?

Miss WEIL. Yes. I was sent to a neighborhood branch.

Mr. WHEELER. Can you identify the branch of the Communist Party you were a member of?

Miss WEIL. I don't remember what they called it. It was an awfully long time ago.

Mr. WHEELER. Have you ever held any offices in the Communist Party?

Miss WEIL. No.

Mr. WHEELER. Who were members of this branch or cell of the Communist Party that you were assigned to?

Miss WEIL. I don't know. Lots of people.

Mr. WHEELER. You don't remember any of them?

Miss WEIL. I don't remember their names. This happened a long time ago.

Mr. WHEELER. You don't recall one name?

Miss WEIL. Not now.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you know Louis Budenz?

Miss WEIL. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you know him as a member of the Communist Party?

Miss WEIL. I knew he was a member.

Mr. WHEELER. How did you know that?

Miss WEIL. He joined very publicly.

Mr. WHEELER. Were you ever a member of the Conference for Progressive Labor Action?

Miss WEIL. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. When was that?

Miss WEIL. Well, I had been away from New York, and I came back sometime in 1934. I think probably it was late in 1934 or early in 1935.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you acquainted with Bernard Schuster?

Miss WEIL. No.

Mr. WHEELER. You don't recall him at all?

Miss WEIL. No.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you ever meet Frank Jacson?

Miss WEIL. No. I never knew that name until I saw it in the paper.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you know him by another name?

Miss WEIL. I suppose I did. I suppose it is the same person.

Mr. WHEELER. Under what name did you know him?

Miss WEIL. Jacques Mornard.

Mr. WHEELER. How did you meet Mr. Mornard?

Miss WEIL. I met him in Paris.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you recall who introduced you?

Miss WEIL. I had known a woman in New York, had met her, and she was a friend of his. When he called me he said he was a friend of hers.

Mr. WHEELER. What was her name?

Miss WEIL. Her first name was Gertrude.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you recall her last name?

Miss WEIL. I am not absolutely certain of her last name. I think it was Sauzea. I knew several people with a name something like that associated with the Waldorf.

Mr. WHEELER. Where did Gertrude reside?

Miss WEIL. In Paris.

Mr. WHEELER. You saw her before you went to Paris, didn't you?

Miss WEIL. Not for sometime.

Mr. WHEELER. Didn't she used to reside in Greenwich Village?

Miss WEIL. I don't think she lived there. I had seen her in New York.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you introduce Sylvia Ageloff to Mr. Mornard in Paris?

Miss WEIL. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you ever recall meeting anybody by the name of Roberts?

Miss WEIL. I have met several people named Roberts.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you ever meet anybody named Rabinowitz connected with the Red Cross?

Miss WEIL. Not that I know of.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you ever receive any instructions from the Communist Party to contact Sylvia Ageloff or Hilda Ageloff?

Miss WEIL. I did not.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you ever receive any instructions at any time to infiltrate the Trotskyite movement?

Miss WEIL. I did not.

Mr. WHEELER. Mr. Budenz, in his testimony, gives quite a different picture.

Mr. WALTER. Does the witness know what Mr. Budenz said?

Miss WEIL. I read his book; yes.

Mr. REIN. She doesn't know what he testified to, but she has read what has appeared in print.

Mr. WHEELER. I would like to read from the affidavit of Mr. Budenz:

Among those whom I introduced to Roberts was Ruby Weil, whom I had known as a member of the Conference for Progressive Labor Action, of which I had been national secretary prior to becoming a Communist. Miss Weil had secretly joined the Communist Party shortly after I had entered it openly, and had been assigned to a secret training school or unit for infiltration. This assignment had been given her by Comrade Chester, whose correct name is Bernard Schuster or Zuster, the notorious underground agent who directed infiltration of the National Guard and other organizations in the New York and New England areas for the Soviet fifth column.

You were a member of the Conference for Progressive Labor Action?

Miss WEIL. That is right.

Mr. WHEELER. And you did join the Communist Party?

Miss WEIL. That is right.

Mr. WHEELER. Were you ever assigned to a secret training school or unit of the Communist Party?

Miss WEIL. I was assigned to—I think they called it a branch.

Mr. WALTER. Did you know Schuster?

Miss WEIL. No.

Mr. WALTER. Did you know Comrade Chester?

Miss WEIL. No.

Mr. HARRISON. You deny the testimony?

Miss WEIL. Yes.

Mr. HARRISON. In toto?

Mr. REIN. I hardly think that is fair, Mr. Congressman.

Mr. WALTER. You deny the allegation that was just read?

Miss WEIL. That is right.

Mr. REIN. She said some things that are the same as Mr. Budenz said.

Mr. HARRISON. I was referring to that particular allegation.

Mr. WHEELER (continuing reading):

In addition to her knowledge of infiltration methods, Miss Weil had been on very friendly terms with Hilda Ageloff, sister of Leon Trotsky's secretary, Ruth Ageloff. Hilda was also sister to Sylvia Ageloff, a Brooklyn social worker who devoted vacation periods and other free time to Trotskyite courier work.

You were on friendly terms with Hilda Ageloff?

Miss WEIL. That is right.

Mr. WHEELER. And you also knew Sylvia Ageloff?

Miss WEIL. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Who paid your expenses to Europe?

Miss WEIL. I paid them.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you ever receive any money from Mr. Budenz or any other member of the Communist Party for part of your expenses?

Miss WEIL. No.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you ever know this Gertrude as Comrade Gertrude?

Miss WEIL. No.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you know Gertrude as a member of the Communist Party?

Miss WEIL. No.

Mr. WHEELER. While in Paris, did you attend the Trotsky International Congress?

Miss WEIL. I did not.

Mr. WHEELER. Were you ever a member of the Trotskyite Party?

Miss WEIL. When I was in that Labor Action group there was a merger, but I actually was in there but a very short time. It wasn't at that time the Trotskyite Party; no.

Mr. WHEELER. Were you interested in the Trotskyite movement?

Miss WEIL. No.

Mr. WHEELER. How well do you know Mr. Budenz?

Miss WEIL. Well, when I was in this Labor Action group I knew him quite well.

Mr. WHEELER. The Labor Action group was part of the Communist Party?

Miss WEIL. No. It was a separate organization.

Mr. WHEELER. How many times have you seen Mr. Budenz roughly?

Miss WEIL. I am afraid I couldn't even guess at that.

Mr. WHEELER. Two times?

Miss WEIL. Oh, no. During that period I saw him quite often.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you ever see him after your return from France in 1938?

Miss WEIL. It is possible. I don't have any recollection of having seen him. I saw him since then; I beg your pardon. I saw him several years ago.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you recall seeing him in 1940?

Miss WEIL. In 1940 I was ill. I was just out of a sanatorium.

Mr. WHEELER. Just out of it?

Miss WEIL. I was in the TB sanatorium from November or December 1938 until the early summer of 1940.

Mr. WHEELER. Mr. Budenz has related to the committee that subsequent to the assassination of Leon Trotsky you personally contacted him in New York.

Miss WEIL. I read that. He said I rushed up to the Daily Worker. As a matter of fact, I was in Vermont. I wasn't even in New York.

Mr. WHEELER. You deny that?

Miss WEIL. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. When were you released from the tuberculosis sanatorium?

Miss WEIL. In early summer 1940.

Mr. WHEELER. What sanatorium were you in?

Miss WEIL. It was called Bedford Hills. It was part of Montefiore.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you contact Mr. Budenz after your release from the sanatorium?

Miss WEIL. No.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you ever live in Chicago?

Miss WEIL. No.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you know Sylvia Franklin?

Miss WEIL. No.

Mr. WHEELER. Sylvia Caulwell?

Miss WEIL. No.

Mr. WHEELER. Sylvia Kallen?

Miss WEIL. No.

Mr. WHEELER. Those names are absolutely unfamiliar to you?

Miss WEIL. They mean nothing to me.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you know Jack Kling, K-l-i-n-g?

Miss WEIL. No; I am sorry.

Mr. WHEELER. You don't recall the name Roberts or Rabinowitz at all?

Miss WEIL. No.

Mr. REIN. I think she said she did recall meeting Roberts.

Mr. WHEELER. People named Roberts?

Miss WEIL. People named Roberts; yes.

Mr. WHEELER. You were in the Communist Party for how long?

Miss WEIL. A year or maybe a little more than a year.

Mr. WHEELER. And that was in New York City in 1937?

Miss WEIL. Around then.

Mr. WHEELER. And you don't remember one person in the Communist Party?

Miss WEIL. I can't remember any names. They were not important people.

Mr. WHEELER. How many people do you believe you met as members of the Communist Party while you were a member?

Miss WEIL. That is like the other question. I haven't the slightest idea.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you pay dues?

Miss WEIL. Yes.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you recall whom you paid dues to?

Miss WEIL. I don't remember the person. It probably was a number of different people; I don't know.

Mr. WHEELER. Do you recall now who registered you in the Communist Party?

Miss WEIL. I don't know that I ever knew the name.

Mr. WHEELER. You don't recall who issued your card?

Miss WEIL. No.

Mr. WHEELER. You had a card?

Miss WEIL. I had a very serious illness after all this, and I was advised to relax and concentrate on getting well, and I put everything out of my mind but getting over it; and since then I have been advised not to get upset. That is one thing TB patients have to be careful about.

Mr. WHEELER. Is this the individual known to you as Mr. Mornard [showing picture to witness]?

Miss WEIL. I wouldn't recognize that, no. That is an AP picture. He must have changed considerably.

Mr. WHEELER. Did you ever see Mr. Mornard in the United States?

Miss WEIL. No.

Mr. WHEELER. Are you a member of the Communist Party now?

Miss WEIL. No; I am not.

Mr. WHEELER. I have no further questions.

Mr. WALTER. Is there anything you want to volunteer?

Miss WEIL. I really don't know what I can tell you. I have told this story several times to Government people. I don't even know why I was brought down here.

Mr. RUSSELL. Are you sympathetic to communism at the present time?

Miss WEIL. I have nothing to do with these matters. I am a non-political person.

Mr. RUSSELL. Are you sympathetic or not to communism?

Miss WEIL. No; I am not. I have nothing to do with such things.

Mr. HARRISON. What is your position with the Associated Press?

Miss WEIL. I am women's editor in the Wide World Photos, which is one of the picture departments. My job is largely in fashions. As a matter of fact, I am missing a very important assignment today by being brought down here, which has disturbed me, because I could do my job well.

Mr. OWENS. You stated this was an AP picture. Do you recognize it is an AP picture?

Miss WEIL. I happened to run across it. One of my jobs is to go over pictures. I am picture editor. I happened to notice that picture, and I saw the name. I would not have recognized it otherwise. He has changed a good deal from what he looked like when I knew him.

(Thereupon, at 12:15 p. m., the hearing was adjourned.)

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