

February 8, 1949

Memorandum of Conference with
Leon Herald Srabian

Herald's home address is 142 East 13th Street, New York. His business address is the Hotel McAlpin, Broadway and 34th Street, New York.

Herald goes by that name. Sometimes he uses his last name of Srabian. He is a poet who has written extensively for the Dial and other magazines. He is now employed "in the kitchen" of the Hotel McAlpin.

He was a Communist for many years but left the Party around 1937.

He first met Chambers when Chambers was working in the public library. He saw a good deal of him socially from then until 1930 when Herald moved to Chicago where he lived from 1930 until 1933. He lived in a rooming house on a street the name of which he has forgotten but thinks it was either Walton or Oak Street.

In 1932, the John Reed Club, a literary Communist-front organization of which Herald was a member, held a convention in Chicago. Chambers attended the convention. He saw Herald there and asked Herald to find him a room to stay in. Herald got him a room on the same floor of the house where Herald lived.

The first night that Chambers lived there, Herald was awakened out of a sound sleep by discovering Chambers in his bed assaulting him in a homosexual way. Herald repulsed him and would not participate. Chambers remained in Herald's room for over an hour pleading with him to agree to homosexual intercourse. Herald refused. Chambers finally left the room.

Herald did not go back to the convention the next day and stayed away from the house until after the convention was over and Chambers had left.

He has not seen Chambers since. Sometime around 1944, he discovered that Chambers was an editor of Time. Herald communicated with him by letter and by telephone apparently with a view to making a touch or getting a job. Chambers never answered the letters and never would answer the telephone either.

Herald is a Roumanian and is undoubtedly the same man that we have heard mentioned before although he says that he has never told this story to anyone except the man who brought him to us, Sendor Garlin.

Herald's wife is dead. He has a son who is in his teens and who is living with friends. Herald thinks it would be embarrassing to the son and might also prejudice him in his job if he were to testify to these facts in court. Nevertheless he expressed his desire to be of assistance and did not completely refuse to testify. I told him that we would discuss it with him again before calling him if we should decide that his testimony would be needed.

Herald also knew the "Bub" referred to in Gurlin's memorandum but did not know his name or where he is. He knows nothing about any other homosexual activities of Chambers. Herald has never heard of Hiss until he read about him in the papers in connection with this case.

E. C. McL.