

December 27, 1948

Memorandum re Francis Sayre

Marbury talked to Sayre on December 19. He says that Sayre seemed very much agitated and more concerned about his own possible involvement than about helping Hiss.

Sayre would not admit that he recalled having seen hand written memoranda prepared by Hiss like the samples produced by Chambers. He did not deny that such memoranda were written. (Hornbeck, whom Marbury interviewed some time ago, although he was not asked specifically at that time about memoranda, did volunteer the information that Hiss read many documents and reported on them to him. He said that "Alger was my eyes.") Sayre could not even remember what Alger's duties had been when he worked for him.

Marbury asked Sayre about how the various types of documents were handled. Sayre said that any documents addressed to him or bearing his receiving stamp must necessarily have come to his office. He admitted that if they related to trade agreement matters they might well have been sent by him to Mr. Hawkins, head of the trade agreement division, where they would have been accessible to a number of people in that division, including Wadleigh. Hawkins is now a professor at Tufts College.

Those documents which were marked "Strictly Confidential" should have been kept in the safe in Sayre's office where they would be accessible only to Sayre, Hiss and the two secretaries. However, Sayre would have to admit that such papers were frequently left on desks where they could have been stolen.

It is not clear just what Sayre did remember about the documents which were not specifically addressed to him or which did not bear his stamp. When Marbury interviewed him, Marbury did not ask him specifically whether such documents would be circulated from office to office by messenger as Hiss has stated. The newspaper accounts, however, quote Sayre as saying that many of the documents were accessible to a number of people so that presumably he has refreshed his recollection on this point since Marbury talked to him.

In this connection, note the statements attributed to an official of the State Department in an article in the Washington Post filed herewith.

E. C. McL.