

CLAUDE CATLETT

542 N. Kent Street
Winchester, Virginia

Mrs. CATLETT will be expected to testify that she was employed by ALGER HISS as a maid and cook when HISS was residing at 2905 P Street, NW, Washington, D. C., and she continued in such employment while HISS resided in the house on Thirtieth Street and on Volta Place, Washington, D.C., until the Summer of 1938.

CATLETT will be expected to testify, as reflected in her signed statement, which is as follows:

"Winchester, Va.
Feb. 10, 1949

"I, Claudie Catlett, give the following statement to ROBERT O. CHICHESTER and JOHN E. HOWARD, who I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to give this statement. I have been advised that I do not have to make any such statement and that I have the right to consult an Attorney prior to giving a statement. I know that any statement I may make can be used as evidence in Federal Court.

"My maiden name is CLAUDIE MYERS, I was married about 27 years ago to PERRY L. CATLETT, I do not know whether or not my husband has procured a divorce. I am usually known as Claudie Catlett in Washington, D. C. and Claudie Myers in Winchester, Va. I now live at 542 N. Kent St., Winchester, Va. I am 47 years of age and I have 5 living children. I first did laundry work for Mrs. Alger Hiss, as well as I can now recall this was about six months before the Hisses moved to the house on 30th St. I first started working for Mrs. Alger Hiss on the recommendation of Mrs. Donald Hiss. When I first started working for Mrs. Hiss she would bring her laundry to my house and call for it when it was done. I did laundry work for Mrs. Hiss for about 2 weeks then went to work regular for her. When the Hisses moved from P St. to 30th St. they took with them one bed, several small chairs, some of which were black with a gold ivy design on them, a secretary, a small table, their books, their typewriter, and their personal belongings. These household goods were moved by some moving company the name of which I no longer recall. During the time the Alger Hisses lived on 30th St. I worked for them every day, with a half day off on Thursdays and Sundays, I usually went to work at 8 am the time I would leave would vary, I sometimes worked to 9 or 10 pm and later. I went with the Alger Hisses when they moved to Volta Pl. and continued working for them as I had on 30th St.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

"As well as I can recall at present I stopped working for the Alger Hisses sometime in the summer of 1938. After I quit working for them Mrs. Hiss would come to see me at my home at 2728 P Street, N. W. She finally suggested that I go to the clinic at Georgetown Hospital, which I did. Prior to my illness in the summer of 1938 I had worked steadily for them since going to work for them on P St. with only an occasional day off due to illness. The only times I would not work for any period of time would be while the Hisses were out of town. While working for the Alger Hisses regularly I did general housework, laundry, cooking and sometimes baby sitting.

x | "On Feb. 1, 1949 I was introduced to Mr. Whittaker Chambers, in the office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D. C. As soon as I saw Mr. Chambers I recalled that I had known him before. I did not know Mr. Chambers' name when I saw him before and do not now recall any name that he was known by or called by at that time. As well as I can presently recall I saw Mr. Chambers, prior to meeting him at the F.B.I. office, at 2905 P St. N.W. As well as I can recall Mr. Chambers came to the Alger Hisses house on P St. and I went to the door to let him in about the time I got the door open Mrs. Hiss came to the door from the living room and asked me to fix some tea for them. I then went to the kitchen in the basement to fix tea. I served this tea to Mrs. Hiss and Mr. Chambers in the parlor which was then in back on the floor above the basement. I merely took the tea thing in and placed them on the table, but in doing so I took a good look at the man who I now know was Chambers. I looked at this man closely at this time because I had never seen him before and also because he was poorly dressed and did not look like the people who usually called at the Alger Hisses. I do not ever recall seeing the man I now know as Mr. Chambers again, I feel positive I never saw him after the Hisses moved from P St. I may have seen him on another occasion on P St. but I do not remember it at this time. I do not recall Mr. Chambers staying overnight or for any period of time at the home of the Alger Hisses while I worked for them.

"After I quit working for the Hisses I did no work at all for some time as well as I can recall now I did no work from the summer of 1938 to about Christmas 1938. At Christmas 1938 I helped the Hisses regular maid serve dinner. After this I started doing days work for the Hisses and others. I never went back to working regular for the Alger Hisses.

"I recall seeing a red rug with a fringe on it in the Hisses house on 30th. This rug was in a closet next to the kitchen in the front part of the basement. The rug was rolled up & tied it was a regular room size rug. The Hisses did not use this rug in the house on 30th St. and I don't know when or where they got it. They may have had the rug while living on P St. as there was a room there in which things were stored. That room was locked and I never went in it.

~~"I recall asking Mrs. Hiss why they did not use this rug and as well as I can recall at this time she told me it was because it did not belong to her. Later on when they moved to the Volta Pl. house this rug was out on the floor of Tim Hobson's room.~~

"When I first went to work for the Alger Hisses they had a rusty looking old car with a top that let down. This car had a single seat in front & a rumble seat in back. While still living on P St. they bought a new gray automobile. For awhile both the new gray car and the old rusty one were parked out in front of the house on P St. Sometime about two weeks after the Hisses bought the gray car the old car was taken away and I never saw it after that. I don't know what happened to the old car, but I never saw it again. I am sure they got the new car on P St. because I remember seeing the two cars parked together and because they would take me home in the new car, they never took me home in the old car.

"I recall the Alger Hisses had a typewriter which I first saw on P St. I do not know the make of this typewriter, nor do I know whether or not it was a portable typewriter. If it was a portable I never saw it in any case. I remember they moved this typewriter from P St. to 30th St. and from 30th St. to Volta Pl. After the Hisses moved to 3210 P St. I went there to visit them I saw a typewriter in the house at this time. I do not know that it was the same typewriter that they had when I worked for them but it looked the same as far as I can recall. I have seen a photograph of Mrs. Whittaker Chambers and the Chambers' child but I do not recall ever having seen the people at any time. I do not recall them ever visiting the Alger Hisses at any of the places that I worked for them or at any time while I was there.

"When the Alger Hisses moved from 30th St. to Volta Pl. their furniture and household effects were moved for them by moving van. I do not know the name of the company to which this van belonged. So far as I know they moved everything in the 30th St. house to Volta Pl. with the exception of the kitchen stove and other such fixtures.

"When I helped served at the Alger Hiss home at Christmas 1938 the maid who was at that time working for them was named Drucilla. She is the only maid who worked for the Hisses whose name is known to me.

"Mr. Chichester has read the foregoing statement aloud in my presence and has gone over it with me. I understand its meaning and have initialed