

January 31, 1949

Det 1/31/49 #2
Del 1/13/76
X

MR. A.B. MAGILL.

We located and interviewed Mr. A.B. Magill who is a writer and now lives at 210 West 107th Street, New York, N.Y.

Mr. Magill stated to Mr. Suppan of the writer's staff that he thought Whittaker Chambers had been married to, rather had lived in common law marriage with, Ida Dales. According to Mr. Magill, Chambers and Miss Dales were married but then separated and later obtained a divorce, having lived together for a period of several months only.

Mr. Magill remembers Ida Dales as a masculine woman with strong features and a square build and stature. Of Esther Shemitz he said that she, too, had definitively masculine tendencies when Chambers married her.

Mr. Magill also remembers that Chambers had an affair with a good-looking young boy, nicknamed "Bub". This was at a time when Chambers was employed on the staff of the Daily Worker. "Bub", whose real and full name Mr. Magill does not remember was either also employed there, or, if not, spent a great deal of his time at the office of Whittaker Chambers at the Daily Worker. Chambers took a great deal of ribbing from his fellow workers on the paper because of this relationship between himself and "Bub".

Eventually Chambers sent "Bub" through some college. Mr. Magill does not remember the name of the college but he recalls that this move came as a surprise to Chambers' fellow-workers on the Daily Worker because no one knew where Chambers obtained the funds to finance "Bub's" education. Chambers was, at that time, subject to criticism by some of his fellow-workers who resented his efforts to secure additional funds by translating for independent publishers.

According to Mr. Magill, Chambers also was very friendly with a man

S

(1) Ida Dales

(2) Chambers's Homosexual Affair w/ "Bub" 1/14/76 WAR: is Jack Berg - owner of Harbors Books

2a. (3) sending "Bub" to college

3 (4) Homosexual affair?

named "Sandor Gorlin" and who, according to Mr. Magill, may be reached through the Hotel & Club Employees Union No. 8, AF of L, 405 West 41st Street, N.Y., N.Y.

Mr. Magill also suggested that we contact Mr. Joseph North of the Daily Worker who was, at one time, very close to Chambers.

Chambers was in the habit of showing Magill his manuscripts for perusal before publication. According to Mr. Magill "some of these manuscripts would turn your stomach". They were, said Mr. Magill, "dripping with perversities, violence and weird plots".

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY.

Mr. McCall of my office had an opportunity to make a check of the records at George Washington University. Unfortunately this institution destroyed practically all correspondence and letters received prior to 1945. Mr. McCall discovered a file jacket pertaining to Mrs. H. but it contained nothing useful in our pursuit. Mr. McCall learned that the FBI had gone over the same ground several days before his call.

Respectfully submitted,

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

(4) WC's
manuscripts

(5) Check of
GWU files