

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Ready

See 3-1310-1/2 Mar 25 letter, par 24

TO : MR. D. M. LADD
FROM : H. B. FLETCHER
SUBJECT: JAY DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS
PERJURY
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: December 9, 1948

RS

Atty Gen

At 5:45 p.m., at the request of Assistant Attorney General Alexander M. Campbell, I conferred with him and Mr. Russo in Mr. Campbell's office. He explained that Henry Julian Wadleigh, who appeared before the Grand Jury yesterday and the House Un-American Activities Committee today, was a nervous wreck and he thought he would probably break. Wadleigh is going back to appear before the Grand Jury tomorrow, leaving at 8:00 a.m.

There was some talk to the effect that Russo and Campbell would talk again to Wadleigh tonight because they thought he would break further. In my presence, Mr. Campbell talked to Mr. Ray Whearty and Mr. Donegan in New York on the telephone and he told them he was considering interviewing Wadleigh some more tonight, but it appeared that Mr. Donegan, particularly, opposed it. It was noted that Mr. Campbell told both Mr. Whearty and Mr. Donegan that this was a key witness and that he would make the second witness to prove the perjury case of Hiss. Mr. Campbell indicated also that just before Wadleigh had left his office about 5:30 p.m., he had made some kind of a statement to the effect that he was still giving information out of State Department files as late as 1943. This kind of information does not appear in any statement taken by Bureau Agents and Mr. Campbell did not follow it up. He indicated to Mr. Whearty and Mr. Donegan that he was fearful of following it up because apparently the attitude all afternoon had been that of letting him say what he wanted to when he wanted to and they weren't pushing him in any degree on anything. They obviously are attempting to secure his cooperation and his testimony before the Grand Jury.

Mr. Campbell stated that he regarded Wadleigh as very important and requested that a surveillance be placed on Wadleigh tonight to see who he contacts, if anybody, and that he be "put to bed", and that the surveillance be continued in the morning to be certain that he gets on the train to New York; that he be surveilled in New York until it is known for certain what he is going to do. (At 7:00 p.m., I reached Supervisor Delavigne of the Washington Field Office and instructed the appropriate surveillance.)

Mr. Campbell also started to talk about an investigation designed to determine, locate and interview all associates of Hiss and a number of other subjects in this case, who were Government employees, to determine if any of the associates, supervisors, fellow workers, etc., could give any pertinent information. Mr. Campbell was called out at this point and I asked Mr. Russo to put a request for such an investigation in the form of a memorandum so that it could be properly considered by the Bureau.

At 7:15 p.m., I told Mr. McGrath of the New York Office to advise Mr. Belmont that Wadleigh has identified Harold Wilson as David Carpenter.

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HBF:esb

1 - p mem about states made by Walt
just before 4/1/49 Dec 9-48