

HISS PERSONAL 2395

December 7, 1948

Hiss Typewriters

On Saturday afternoon, December 4, Mr. Rosenwald and I talked to Mrs. Hiss and Timmy about typewriters.

Mrs. Hiss's recollection was that she acquired an old office typewriter from her father when he retired. She thinks she got it about 1933 and that her father retired about 1931 or 1932. He died in 1940. She does not know the make of the typewriter.

She does not know how long she had the typewriter and is not clear whether she had any other typewriter until she received her present Royal. The Royal was a gift from Cynthia Jones, a sister of Donald Hiss's wife. A telephone conversation with Cynthia Jones on December 4 revealed that Cynthia's recollection is that she gave the Royal to Priscilla in 1942.

Mrs. Hiss did not know where she disposed of the Fansler typewriter. She thought she must have sold it for a few dollars to some dealer in second-hand typewriters in Washington. She had no names of any of them. She also thought she might have given it to the Salvation Army because she frequently gave things to it. This would be the M Street branch in Georgetown.

Timmy Hobson said that he very definitely recalled that between the time that they got rid of the Fansler typewriter and the time they acquired the Royal from Cynthia Jones, they had a rickety portable which he thought was a Corona.

He also suggested that perhaps the Hisses had given away the Fansler typewriter to a writer friend. The only writer he could think of was Don Tilman whom he said was left-wing. Mrs. Hiss vigorously denied that Don Tilman was left-wing and also said that she was sure that the typewriter had not been given to him.

Timmy went down in the basement and finally emerged with two specimens of typewriting, the Cub Scout menu of 1939 and the list of Greek names which we have called the Appendix. He said he felt sure that he had typed both of these at home. He said that he thought that the Appendix was typed on the Corona. (This checks with Haring's opinion.)

Timmy also produced a notebook full of school notes, some of which were typed. He said he was sure he typed these at school.

Cynthia Jones above mentioned, is also left-wingish. She was once an actress and was in "Tobacco Road" for a time. She has been active in an organization headed by Paul Robeson called Council on African Relations, or something of that sort which is said to be a subversive organization. Tilman was a friend of hers.

We also discussed the whereabouts of the manuscript of Priscilla's book which is covered in Mr. Rosenwald's separate memorandum.

Timmy said that he distinctly recalled that Mrs. Hiss typed copies of her father's will and distributed them to the members of the family. Mrs. Hiss said she was sure that she did

not. On December 6, I found a copy of the will among Mr. Hiss's papers in the black folder which he left with me in September. Haring says it was typed on a Remington. It does not check with any of the other possible Hiss machines.

(Dictated by Mr. Rosenwald)

After Mr. McLean left the Hiss apartment, Mrs. Hiss succeeded in reaching her sister, Daisy Fansler on the telephone. She asked Miss Fansler about the typewriter. Miss Fansler stated that their father, Mr. Thomas Fansler had been general agent of the Northwest Mutual Life Insurance Company, that upon retirement, his business had been taken over by Taylor Brothers who did not last very long and that it is now carried on by Harry Finkbiner of 1616 Walnut Street, Philadelphia. (This address has later been changed.) Miss Fansler said that the father's typewriter was an L.C. Smith or Remington. When I finally suggested to Mrs. Hiss that she inquire whether it might have been a Woodstock, the reply by Miss Fansler was that it might have been a Woodstock. Miss Fansler said that Mr. Fansler bought the machine and regarded it as his personal property, taking it from the office upon his retirement. Miss Fansler said that Mr. Fansler's secretary at the time of his retirement was fairly young. She also said that the present manager of Finkbiner's office was formerly manager of Mr. Fansler's office and would know who Mr. Fansler's secretary was.

E.C.McL.