

Dec. 15, 1948

Silverman

A . G E O R G E      S I L V E R M A N      called as a witness  
having first been duly sworn by the Asst. Foreman,  
testified as follows:

BY MR. DONEGAN:

Q Mr. Silverman, will you, although you appeared before  
this grand jury some time ago, I would like to repeat some  
background information. What is your present address and  
your present business address? A My present address is  
255 West 23rd Street, New York City. I am presently  
unemployed.

Q Now will you briefly give your employment in the  
Government? A My last position with the Government --

Q Start with your first one and then bring it up to the  
last one? A My first position with the U. S. Government  
was as Labor Advisor to the Labor Economic -- Labor Advisory  
Board of the NRA -- I am sorry, Chief Statistician of the  
Labor Advisory Board of the N.R.A. That was my first  
position with the Federal Government.

JUROR: That was when?

THE WITNESS: That was 1933-34. My next position  
was as Special Expert for the U. S. Tariff Commission  
for the negotiation of the Canadian-American trade  
agreement basically. My position after that was as  
Director of Research of the Railroad Retirement Board.  
My next position was as Chief of Analysis and Plans of  
the Materiel Service Headquarters, Army Air Forces,

Assistant Chief of Air Staff. That carried me through --

Q What year did you stop your Government employment?

A I stopped in August of 1945.

Q Where were you employed in the Government during the years of 1936, 1937 and 1938? A I left the Tariff Commission, I think in March of 1936, and then went immediately into the Railroad Retirement Board as Director of Research. That's the board that administered the old age pensions and unemployment insurance for railroad workers, Federal scheme. I was in the Railroad Retirement Board until I believe March 1942.

Q Mr. Silverman, you are appearing before this grand jury in response to a subpoena, is that correct? A That's right.

Q In reference to your appearance before this grand jury you have consulted an attorney? A Yes, I have.

Q Could you give his name and his business address?

A His name is Bernard Jaffee; his address is 52 Broadway

Q Now, your attorney has advised you with reference to your rights in appearing before this grand jury? A Yes he has.

Q As you have been previously advised when you appeared before this grand jury, I want to repeat that you have the right to refuse to answer any question that you believe will incriminate or degrade you. A Yes.

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Silverman

Q Where did you live in Washington during the years of 1937 and 1938, Mr. Silverman? A 1937 I lived -- I think I moved in 1937.

Q Where did you move from and to where? A From 2138 California Street, I believe, to 2215 -- I am not quite clear -- 2215 15th -- 2325, that's it, 2325 15th Street.

Q How long did you live at that latter address? A Until the time I left Washington, which was December of 1946, I believe. My wife was there later than that. She did not join me here in New York until about a half year later, so we lived there -- she lived there -- so approximately June 1947.

Q Do you know an individual named Alger Hiss? A I refuse to answer that question on the grounds that what I say might tend to incriminate or degrade me.

Q Do you know an individual named Whittaker Chambers? A I refuse to answer that question on the same grounds.

Q Have you ever furnished any information obtained by you in the course of your Government employment to Whittaker Chambers? A I refuse to answer that question on the ground that it might tend to incriminate me. I would like to, if permissible, I would like to explain my position.

Q Yes, go ahead. A Entirely conscious of my innocence of any wrongdoing at the last time I appeared and now, last time I answered all questions that were asked of me. Since that time I have been the subject of continued harassment

and pursuit, my name has become involved in all kinds of accusations in the newspapers, the simplest of my associations and the simplest of my acts have become perverted to imply something in relation to all kinds of crimes. It goes against my grain not to answer all questions at the present time but, under the circumstances, not knowing what it is, that the most innocent of my acts might be related to, I have, under advice of counsel, come to the conclusion that I must refuse to answer some questions on the ground that it might tend to incriminate me.

Q You know you are appearing before a Federal grand jury? A Yes, I do.

Q You know the proceedings before a Federal grand jury are secret? A Yes, I do.

Q Has your attorney so advised you? A As I know.

Q The purpose of a Federal grand jury is to determine whether there have been any violations of any Federal laws. You understand that? A Yes, I understand.

Q And for that purpose it hears witnesses and evidence is presented to it. Now, this grand jury is sitting here and taking your testimony for that purpose. Now I cannot quite understand, in view of the explanation you gave as to why you want to exercise your right to refuse to answer questions, how that is related to this grand jury. A I think I have made that perfectly clear. The simplest acts

the most decent acts of my life have come to imply all kinds of perverted actions and performances, and in view of all that has happened before the House-Un-American Committee, and in relation to all the accusations that have been implied in newspapers, I believe I am in a position to properly protect my rights.

BY JURORS:

Q Do you remember when you appeared before us a long time ago? A Yes, I do.

Q There was nothing that came out at that time that would tend to incriminate or embarrass you at the time, seeing everything that goes on here is secret, you do not have to worry about anything you say here. Maybe the result of this unfortunate publicity came out of Washington, but it did not come from here, I assure you. A I have gone over it very carefully with my counsel, and as I say, I have every urge to answer all questions, it deeply goes against my grain not to do so. On his advice and in terms of his explanations I must refuse to answer certain questions.

Q You went over this thoroughly with your counsel?

A I have been over it and over with him.

Q Stop me if there is anything improper about this Mr. Donegan. You went over it in detail with your counsel?

A I do not quite understand you.

Q I mean. A Yes.

Q I mean, your counsel knows the answers to the questions that you refuse to answer here? A I think I must refuse to answer that question on the grounds of confidential relations.

BY MR. DONEGAN:

Q The reason I am raising these questions with reference to your refusing to answer is not based on the exercise of your Constitutional privilege before this grand jury, but you volunteered an explanation as to why you were exercising your Constitutional privilege, and because of the fact that you did volunteer that explanation I consider it entirely proper that I call your attention to the fact that your explanation is subject to some question. This is a grand jury, and the grand jury does not indulge in publicity as you may well know. A I did not put it merely in terms of publicity. I said in terms of the associations that have been implied. The simplest acts, the simplest associations, <sup>which</sup> are entirely uninvolved in any possibility of crime or anything else have come to imply all kinds of meaning, and under those circumstances, and following his advice, I must refuse to answer certain questions.

Q Mind you, I am not trying to persuade you not to follow the advice of your counsel.

BY JURORS:

Q You put the security of your country above everything else first and foremost? A I surely do.

Q For that reason, having worked for Uncle Sam directly,

I should think you would be only too happy to cooperate, to supply any and all information possible. A I am following the advice of my counsel. He is outside there, and if you want me to go out and reconsider the matter --

Q What questions would you answer? What sort of questions would you answer? Would you give us an idea?

A I prefer to have the questions asked of me.

Q Would you like to make any statement that might be helpful to this grand jury to determine whether any others might have committed crimes against the Government? That's what we are here for, and you know by your remarks that the simplest acts, the most innocent thing, is indefinite. Now we are not accusing you of anything. We are trying to find out if there were any crimes committed by anyone, and you might be helpful in that regard. A My counsel has explained to me the deep maze of inter-relations and the difficulty of simply answering in a simple way any relation so a maze as complex as this, all the fantastic lies that have been created. I do not know, frankly, whether I am coming or going.

Q As complex as what? Be specific. A All the charges that have been made in connection with this later phase of the subject and the manner in which I have become involved in it.

Q But the grand jury has not made any charges. I do not know yet what Mr. Silverman thinks he is involved in.

BY MR. DONEGAN:

Q The grand jury's inquiry and their interest is caused by the statement you made calling attention to the fact that you appeared here before and you did not exercise your Constitutional privilege. Now, you have volunteered the statement to the grand jury that you are exercising your Constitutional privilege and you want to explain to them why you are exercising the Constitutional privilege. They are questioning you about that. They are not questioning you about the fact that you are exercising it but the explanation you volunteered. A I can't give a proper explanation for that. I do not have the legal possibilities along those lines.

BY JURORS:

Q The question is a simple one. You referred several times to the fact -- to the matter in which you are involved. I do not know what matter you are involved in. Suppose you tell us what it is? A My name has been mentioned over and over again before the House Un-American Activities Committee.

Q This is not a House committee. This is a grand jury.  
A I appreciate that.

Q Isn't it true that unless you yourself tell people, they won't even know whether you answered questions or not?  
A At present I have to operate on the advice of my counsel.

Q You are not bound to. A I would --

Q Have you ever served on a grand jury? A No.

Q Have you knowledge of the actions and the responsibilities of the grand jury? A I have --

Q You have not seen anything in the newspaper with respect to your testimony here before, have you. A I do not know. I can't --

Q We can tell you you couldn't have seen it. A I imagine that's so.

Q You believe in your own innocence? A Yes, I do.

Q Then what have you got to worry about? You want to aid justice, don't you?

MR. WHEARTY: Do you have any ideas in your head of the nature of the things we want to ask you about?

THE WITNESS: I must refuse to answer that on the grounds it might tend to incriminate or degrade me.

MR. DONEGAN: We have had a little discussion here and you raised the question of your appearance before this grand jury previously. Do you want to go out and discuss the matter with your attorney?

THE WITNESS: If you wish.

MR. DONEGAN: Do you want to do it?

JUROR: I think in fairness to Mr. Silverman, he should be permitted to do that. When you discuss that, remember, this is not the House committee and we have no connection with it.

THE WITNESS: I fully understand that.

(Witness leaves room. Cont. by IFG)

December 15, 1948  
(Messrs. Whearty and Donegan)

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Silverman

A . G E O R G E S I L V E R M A N , recalled as a witness, having previously been duly sworn by the Foreman, testified as follows:

THE FOREMAN: You are still under oath as before, Mr. Silverman.

THE WITNESS: I talked matters over with my counsel, and I told him I wanted to answer all the questions as before. It goes against my grain not to answer questions under these circumstances.

A JUROR: You understand that as far as we are concerned, everything here is secret. You don't have to worry about that.

THE WITNESS: Well, I have taken a lot of consequences, and so has my family, and the strain has been very great.

BY MR. WHEARTY:

Q Just to fill out that picture, in the hall outside this Grand Jury room, Mr. Jaffe and I had a conversation with you and Mr. Donegan, is that right?

A Yes.

Q And then you were asked to leave and I continued talking to Mr. Jaffe, is that right? A Yes.

Q And Mr. Donegan also left, is that right?

A Yes.

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Silverman

Q And thereafter you were called back to Mr. Jaffe's side and I left you two, and you conversed together? A Yes.

Q And it was after that that you decided that you wanted to talk, without urging any privilege?

A That's right.

Q Now, we ask you again, Mr. Silverman, do you know Whittaker Chambers? A Yes.

Q How long have you known Whittaker Chambers?

A To the best of my recollection, I first met him somewhere in 1936, I should say.

Q Do you remember where you met him? A It was later in 1936. I am not entirely clear; I have a recollection of his coming up to my office.

Q Where was your office at that time? A It was at 10th and U Street, I believe.

Q 10th and U Street, in Washington? A In Washington.

Q What was your business at that time, Mr. Silverman? A I was then Director of Research of the Railroad Retirement Board.

Q You were then Director of Research of the Railroad Retirement Board? A Yes, sir, to the best of my recollection; I don't know for a certainty.

Q And then, under what circumstances did you

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Silverman

meet Whittaker Chambers? A I don't remember the exact circumstances. I have a recollection of his telling me that he was a free lance writer and that he wanted some information in connection, perhaps, with the constitutionality of the Railroad Retirement Act, or it might have been in connection with some other matter, the exact nature of which I do not remember.

Q What was your position at that time in the Railroad Retirement Board? A Director of Research.

Q Do you recall giving Mr. Chambers any information such as he sought? A I don't recollect having given him any information. What I was concerned with had no restrictions of any kind; it was just a general matter of the constitutionality of an Act.

Q And thereafter, from time to time, did you see Mr. Chambers? A I saw him a few times.

Q Always in Washington? A Always in Washington.

A JUROR: May I ask a question? What name did you know this person by at that time?

THE WITNESS: David Chambers.

Q David Chambers? A That's right.

Q What was the nature of the other contacts you had with him? A I liked him. He was very intellectual, and a nice fellow and basically - - the best

IFG-4

Silverman

I can recollect is that we talked about music and we talked about - - I am trying to remember. We had a common interest in DeStendahel, a French writer. We had a common interest in art matters. There was some talk about Peter Brugel, the Elder. I remember that I said, that was my greatest enjoyment in art, and he concurred along those lines. We talked about politics, presumably, although I don't remember any direct conversations with him.

Q Did Mr. Chambers ever tell you what his real occupation was at that time? A Which occupation are you referring to?

Q What occupations did he tell you he had? A He told me that he was a free lance writer, as I recollect it.

Q And nothing else? A I remember once he told me about having some sort of interest in import and export.

Q Did he tell you he was an underground operative of the Communist Party? A No.

Q Did you ever learn that? A No.

Q I suppose you have read the testimony before the Un-American Activities Committee? A Yes.

Q Prior to that time did you ever know what Chambers' real occupation was? A No.

Q Where would these meetings with Chambers occur - these several meetings? A Generally at lunch, and maybe sometimes at dinner; I don't remember.

Q When you had dinner, would you be eating in your home, or out? A We would be eating out, if I had dinner.

Q You are a married man, are you? A Yes, I am.

Q And your family was living with you at that time in Washington? A They were.

Q Of what does your family consist - your wife and - - A Child.

Q One child? A That's right.

Q How old? A He is now twenty-two years old.

Q So that at that time he was around twelve or so, is that right? A Yes.

Q Did Chambers visit you at your home on any occasion? A I think he may have, once or twice. I don't recollect exactly.

Q Did you ever meet Mrs. Chambers? A No. Not that I know of.

Q Did you know where Chambers was living at the time these contacts were occurring? A I was under the impression that he was living in New York, and coming to Washington now and then.

Q And you gathered that from what he told you?

A Yes.

Q Do you know Mr. Alger Hiss? A No. The first time I met Alger Hiss, to the best of my recollection, was when I met him out in the ante-room here last week, a week ago Tuesday.

Q When you were first subpoenaed? A I think the day after the first time I arrived here, Mr. Hiss was outside here, and that to the best of my recollection is the first time I ever met Hiss.

A JUROR: Were you introduced to him?

THE WITNESS: He introduced himself to me.

A JUROR: Did he know you then?

THE WITNESS: I don't know whether or not he did. I don't remember the exact circumstances.

Q What did he say to you, Mr. Silverman? A He may have asked my lawyer who I was. I don't remember the exact words that he used.

A JUROR: Did he call you by name?

THE WITNESS: I don't believe so.

A JUROR: Well, do you know?

THE WITNESS: Well, I don't remember the exact way in which he did it. I can assure you that - - well, I mean, if I could remember

how it happened, I would tell you.

Q Didn't you ever come into contact with Hiss when he was with either the State or Labor Departments in Washington? A Not to my recollection.

Q When you were living in Washington, back in 1936, did you have an automobile? A Yes.

Q What kind of a car was it? A A Ford, I believe.

Q And what make - I mean, what model? A I don't remember exactly.

Q Was it an open or closed car? A It was a closed car.

Q A four-passenger or a two? A It was a four-passenger.

Q A five-passenger, I mean, really. A That's right.

Q Did Whittaker Chambers have a car, do you know? A I don't know that. I believe he did.

Q Did you at any time make any presents to Whittaker Chambers? A No, not that I - - well, there is a qualification there. I loaned him some money.

Q You loaned him some money? A Yes, I did.

Q When did you loan him some money? A Somewhere in that period, I don't remember the exact dates. He was always hard up.

Similar to  
Hiss 11

Q Do you remember the amount? A No, I do not, but I know it ran up to a fairly substantial amount.

Q What do you mean by that, approximately?

A Maybe seventy-five dollars, in the course of -- after a while.

Q Was that borrowed in a lump or at different times? A At different times; that is my recollection.

Q Was it ever repaid? A No.

Q Did you ever ask him to repay it? A I wouldn't say it was never repaid. It wasn't repaid as such.

Q Was it repaid in some other way? A Yes, it was.

Q How was it repaid? A I finally bought two rugs from him.

Q You bought two rugs from him? A Yes.

Q When did you buy two rugs from him? A My recollection would be that it was somewhere in 1937.

Q What kind of rugs were they? A They were Orientals. I don't know the names of them.

Q Domestic or imported? A I think they were imported.

Q What makes you think they were imported?

A I just think they were imported -- they are import rugs.

SH-2  
Walley

Q Did Chambers tell you whether or not they were imported? A I believe so.

Q What did he say? A Well, I can't tell you what he said, because I don't remember it.

Q Pardon me; I thought you had said that you believed he did tell you, and that is why I asked you that question. A Well, I am certain that they are imported rugs.

Q You are certain of that? A Yes.

Q How do you know that? A Because that is what I have been told by everybody who has looked at them. I am not a connoisseur and pay very little attention to that beyond a certain point, but that is clear.

Q All right. Where did Chambers get these rugs, if you know? A He told me that he had some sort of a connection, and that is how I happened to remember about this import connection, and that he had some rugs that he would like to dispose of, and since I owed him some money this would be part payment towards the rugs -- that is, since he owed me some money, that would be part payment towards the rugs.

Q How much did you pay him for the two rugs that you bought? A I am trying to remember. It is somewhere between two and three hundred dollars.

Q Did you pay him by cash or check? A I have been trying to remember that, too; I don't exactly know.

so chambers  
lied.  
He got money  
from  
Silverman.

Q Have you kept your check-stubs from that period?

A I didn't have a checking account at that time, or at any time until I came to New York by myself. The custom in our home has been for my wife to have the account.

A JUROR: You said two hundred fifty dollars, approximately - did you mean per rug?

THE WITNESS: No, for both of them.

A JUROR: And the seventy-five dollars he owed you was in addition to that?

THE WITNESS: That's right.

A JUROR: That would make it three hundred twenty-five dollars?

THE WITNESS: That's right.

A JUROR: What size are the rugs?

THE WITNESS: I don't know; I think eight by eleven.

A JUROR: You still have the rugs?

THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.

Q Both of them? A I have one of them.

Q What did you do with the other one? A The other I gave to Mr. White.

Q To Dexter White? A Yes, Harry Dexter White.

Q How well did you know Harry Dexter White?

A I had known him for about twenty-six years, until the time of his death about twenty-five years.

*He gave  
White  
the  
rugs!*

IFG-11

Silverman

Q Did you give or sell the rug to White?

A I gave it to Mr. White. I had lived with the Whites for two months prior to that, while my wife was away - - or perhaps prior to the time she came to Washington - - and they had always refused to accept payment for my stay there, and I thought this was a way to accomplish that purpose.

Q Will you describe the rug you gave to Harry Dexter White? A It was similar to the one - - I wish I could remember the name - -

A JUROR: Was it a Bokhara rug?

THE WITNESS: It might have been.

A JUROR: Baluchistan?

THE WITNESS: I don't know that.

A JUROR: Is it a geometric design?

THE WITNESS: I believe so.

A JUROR: Reds and blacks and browns, principally?

THE WITNESS: I remember reds.

A JUROR: A dark, dark tone of red?

THE WITNESS: Something like that.

A JUROR: And black?

THE WITNESS: I don't remember.

A JUROR: Is it a continuous design or with a medallion in the center?

THE WITNESS: I think it is continuous.

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a  
debt.

A JUROR: With no medallion?

THE WITNESS: No.

A JUROR: That sounds like a Bokhara.

Q Do you remember the coloring of the rug you gave to White? A No, I do not, but I think all of them, both of them, had that coloring in them.

Q All of them? A Yes, all of them.

Q Now, you kept one and you gave one to White, and what did you do with the rest of them? A Mr. Chambers called for the other two.

Q Mr. Chambers did what? A He called for the other two.

Q He called for the other two? A That's right.

Q Now tell us what happened to the other two.

A All I know is that I gave them to Mr. Chambers.

Q Where did you give them to Mr. Chambers?

A From the house.

Q From your house? A Yes. I don't know whether he came up and brought them down, or whether I brought them down to him, but that is what happened.

Q Were they of the same quality and character?

A I believe so.

Q And you don't know what Chambers did with them? A No, I do not know what Mr. Chambers did with them.

Q You say you had a car? A Yes.

Q Did you at any time meet Whittaker Chambers

with your car and deliver one of those rugs to Whittaker Chambers? A No.

Q Did you at any time deliver one of those two rugs to Alger Hiss? A I did not.

Q At no time? A At no time.

Q And you say you gave the other two rugs to Whittaker Chambers at your home? A That's right.

Q And was your home up on U Street then, in Washington? A I can't remember whether or not it was 2138 California Street or whether it was the other address - 2325 15th Street.

Q Did you tell Chambers - - let me withdraw that - - where did you get these two rugs you gave Chambers? A Mr. Chambers asked me to accept delivery of a bundle.

Q I beg your pardon? A Mr. Chambers asked me to accept the delivery of the bundle containing the rugs, and it is my recollection that I got it through express.

Q Let us start in from the beginning, Mr. Silverman. A Yes.

Q How many bundles of rugs did you get from Chambers? A One.

Q One bundle? A I didn't get it from Mr. Chambers. Maybe I had better make that clear.

Q Where did you get them? A Mr. Chambers

asked me to accept a bundle which would contain rugs, and I believe I received it through express. My recollection is that I paid expressage on it.

Q Now let us see: You received a bundle of rugs from somewhere, is that right? A That's right.

Q And you received them at your home in Washington? A That's right.

Q And this was in 1936? A I am not sure of that; it might have been 1937.

Q And you think that bundle of rugs came by express? A Yes.

A JUROR: May I ask a question? Was it a local express or American Express?

THE WITNESS: I don't remember.

A JUROR: Was it a local Washington express company?

THE WITNESS: I don't remember.

Q Was it a foreign shipment? A I don't remember. If I at that time looked to see, by this time I have forgotten, but I have no recollection.

A JUROR: Did you open the package?

THE WITNESS: It is my recollection that I did.

A JUROR: If they came for Mr. Chambers, why did you open it?

THE WITNESS: He told me that they were

coming and he told me that - -

Q Let me develop that for a minute. A He told me that they were coming, and I could select the two I wanted from those four, and those two would be the ones I would purchase from him.

A JUROR: Do you recall the amount of expressage you paid?

THE WITNESS: No, I do not.

Q When did Chambers tell you this package was coming? A That I don't remember, but he told me before.

Q Where did Chambers say he was getting the rugs? A He implied that he had some connections in relation to import and export, and that he could get these rugs. I didn't inquire with respect to anything else in the matter.

Q Did you keep the better two? A Only the two that appealed most to me.

Q Did the one you gave to Harry White have a white design in it? A I don't remember.

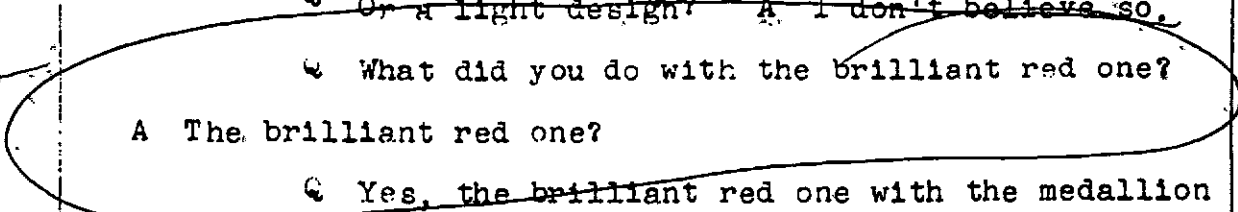
Q Or a light design? A I don't believe so.

Q What did you do with the brilliant red one?

A The brilliant red one?

Q Yes, the brilliant red one with the medallion design? A That isn't my recollection of them. They were all four more or less alike, and I selected one for

*Here was  
a brilliant  
red one*



myself and another that I selected for the Whites.

Q What is your recollection of the color of the four rugs? A My recollection is that they were all of the same type, and there were only gradations in the mixtures of the colors.

Q How about the color - - wasn't there a difference in color? A Not a very great difference.

Q Was the one you gave White a white rug, with a dark figure, or was it a dark rug with a light figure?

A They were all dark rugs; that is my recollection.

Q Was any of them red? A I think all of them had some red.

Q Well, was any of them with a red background?

A I don't remember.

Q Did you look through your wife's check-book to see if she had a stub representing a payment to Chambers for the rugs you took? A No, I didn't.

Q When did you tell Harry White you were going to give him the rug? A After I had received them, to the best of my recollection. How could any one remember what happened that many years ago?

Q Well, to how many other people have you given a two-or three-hundred-dollar rug? A I have never before done that. My recollection is that I told him that I would get these two rugs, and I would give him one of them for the reason that I indicated.

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dehony!!!

Q Mr. Silverman, do you know what the real value of those rugs was? A No, no.

It was considerably higher than what you say you paid Chambers, wasn't it? A I should not think so.

Q Weren't the rugs worth about six hundred dollars apiece? A Well, we didn't have use for that particular rug, because of our decoration scheme, so I asked my wife to try to sell it, and she inquired as to how much they would be willing to give her, and the most they would be willing to give her was one hundred dollars.

Q Who was willing to give her that? A Someone in Washington.

Q What did you do - keep the rug? A Yes.

Q And who was it - a merchant? A A rug merchant, who was willing to give her as much as one hundred dollars.

Q Where did you say Chambers was living at that time? A I don't know where he was living, but I was under the impression he was living in New York.

Q How long did you keep those rugs in your possession before he showed up for them? A Oh, I wouldn't remember; not a very long time.

Q Did you get in touch with him and tell him you had them? A I don't believe so.

Q Mr. Silverman, don't you want to tear this up

and give us the right version of this? A I am giving you the right version of it.

A JUROR: Did the rug have a fringe on it?

THE WITNESS: I believe it has a fringe.

Q Did all of them have fringes? A I believe so.

Q You think, Mr. Silverman -- weren't those rugs all different colors? A They must have had gradation in color.

Q The only differences were shading? A That's right.

Q No different backgrounds? A To the best of my recollection the only difference was in shadings.

Q Didn't you have a dark blue rug, with a sort of repeated medallion design on it? A No, I don't remember any blue.

Q Do you remember the red one? A I remember that our rug has red.

Q Your rug has red? A Yes.

Q A very brilliant red? A It has red in it, I don't know how brilliant it is.

Q You say they were all nearly alike? A I said that they were all different in gradation, to the best of my recollection and knowledge.

BY MR. DONEGAN:

Q Mr. Silverman, did you tell anybody that you were going to give that rug to Harry Dexter White?

A Not that I recollect.

Q Did you discuss it with your wife? A Yes, I discussed it with my wife.

Q Did you discuss it with anybody else, outside of Mr. White - did you discuss that you were going to give White that rug? A No.

Q Are you quite sure of that? A Yes, I am quite sure of that.

A JUROR: Is it your impression that Chambers got them for nothing?

THE WITNESS: No, I was not under the impression he was getting them for nothing.

Q Did you tell Chambers that you were going to give that rug to Mr. White? A I don't recollect whether or not I did or didn't.

BY MR. WHEARTY:

Q What conversation did you have with Mr. White when you gave it to him?

(CONTINUED BY BD)

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Silverman

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A My recollection would be -- I don't know -- that in return for that great service rendered me, allowing me to stay in his home for two months, that I would plan -- intend to give him a rug.

Q Mr. Silverman, back in 1936 you were working for the government, is that right? A Yes.

Q Prior to 1936 had you always worked for the government? A I had been working for the government since August -- September, 1933.

Q Were you a wealthy man? A I surely was not.

Q Did you have any source of income outside of your government salary? A The only thing I might have had would be interest on some savings.

Q Bank accounts? A Or some securities that I might have bought.

Q How much were you earning at that time, what was your salary? A At what time, what period?

Q '36; '33 to '36? A I was making between -- about -- four and seven thousand dollars.

Q Between four thousand dollars and seven thousand per year? A Yes.

Q In other words, in 1933 you started in with the government at around four thousand? A That's right.

Q And then in a period of three years you went up to seven thousand? A Yes.

Q What was your position when you first started with

the government? Chief statistician of the Labor Advisory Board of the National Recovery Administration.

Q Labor Advisory Board of the NRA? A That's right.

Q How long were you with them? A One year, approximately.

Q That takes you up to '34. A That takes me up to '34.

Q Do you remember the month in '34, or the season?

A About July, I should say.

Q Now, where did you go next in the government?

A I next went to the Tariff Export as a special expert.

Q As a special expert on tariffs. Well, Mr. Silverman, let's forget about that. What I want to know is this, and let me put it in language that you can't mistake, and also a little slang: Where did you get off to be passing out \$300 rugs and how could you financially afford to give away that kind of -- A Well, that -- I only paid approximately about \$150 for each of the rugs; \$150 for each wouldn't have been very extraordinary, exceptional.

Q Well, you have told us that you did not give presents of that value to anybody else, is that right? A That was a very special set of circumstances.

Q What was very special about those circumstances?

A I lived at the White's home for two months without paying.

Q Alone? A Alone.

BY THE JURY:

Q We know from Mr. Silverman that he gave one of the

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Silverman

Q rugs to Harry Dexter White; that's correct, isn't it?

A That's correct.

Q How was it delivered to Mr. White? A Probably under --

Q No; just think a little bit, now. Give us a very accurate answer to that. You gave him the rug. Now, how did you get it to him? A I imagine that either I brought it over to the house --

Q No; be very specific this time. I have a reason for it. A In all probability, I brought it over to his house.

Q How? A By car.

Q In the car that you described before? A Yes.

Q Did you have another rug in the car at the time?

A No, I don't think so.

Q Well, did you ever deliver another rug the same way?

A Never.

Q Did you receive a rug that way? A Never.

BY MR. WHEARTY:

Q You said you had known Harry White for a long time.

A About 22 years.

Q Mr. Silverman, have you ever been a member of the Communist Party? A No.

Q Have you ever been active in Communist circles?

A No.

Q Was Harry Dexter White a Communist, if you know?

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Silverman

A Not to my knowledge.

Q Was he ever active in Communist circles? A Not to my knowledge.

Q You have already testified that Whittaker Chambers was not active in Communist circles, to your knowledge.

A That's right.

Q You were pretty close to Harry White, weren't you?

A He is a very good friend of mine.

Q Did you ever talk to Chambers about White?

A Not that I can recollect.

Q Well, now, didn't you have a number of conversations about that, Mr. Silverman? A No.

Q Are you sure of that? A Yes. To the best of my recollection, I never spoke to Mr. White about Mr. Chambers.

Q Will you say definitely that you did or did not?

A To the best of my recollection, I never did.

Q You won't say whether you did or did not; is that right? A Well, it's conceivable that I might have spoken to Mr. White about anybody. I had no particular reason for not referring to Mr. Chambers. It's conceivable that I might have at that time made some reference to him; but to the best of my recollection, I did not.

BY MR. DONEGAN:

Q Mr. Silverman, did you at one time put one of those rugs in the back of your car and drive out towards College Park? Do you know where College Park is with relationship

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Silverman

to Washington? A It's between Washington and --

Q Yes, well, I'm speaking of the direction. A No, I did not.

Q Did you drive out beyond College Park and meet Chambers? A No, I did not.

Q Did Chambers take the rug out of your car? A No, I don't believe that -- my recollection, and I'm pretty certain of this, is that he came and I gave him the rugs.

Q Now, is it possible -- I'll ask you this, since you referred to your recollection -- is it possible that one of those rugs you put in the back of your car in accordance with the conversation you had previously with Chambers, you drove out to College Park and beyond College Park and met Chambers, who was in another automobile, and Chambers took the rug out of your car and took it into the other automobile? A No, I don't think -- that didn't happen.

Q That did not happen.

BY MR. WHEARTY:

Q Your testimony has been that Chambers came to your house and took away two rugs. A That's right; to the best of my recollection.

Q Who would be able to back you up on that; who was there at the time? A My wife probably could back me up on that, and we had a maid at that time.

Q What was the maid's name? A I don't remember. I think it was Miss -- Mrs. -- a Miss or Mrs. Thompson. I'm

bd-6

Silverman

not sure.

Q Where did this maid live, do you know? A She lived in Washington.

Q Do you know her first name? A No, I do not.

Q "hereabouts did she live in Washington? A I do not know.

Q Did you get her through an agency? A I don't remember how we got her.

Q Who handled that, Mrs. Silverman? A Mrs. Silverman.

Q What did you call the maid? A Florence.

Q Florence Thompson. Where did she live, over on Florida Avenue somewheres? A She may have.

Q A colored girl, wasn't she? A Yes.

Q How long was she with you? A A long time; ten or eleven years.

Q Did you ever have any other maid, in Washington? A No, not on a regular basis.

Q Well, what do you mean by that? You had a girl by the day? A Well, it's conceivable that some time we might have had somebody else. I remember that -- my recollection is that Florence was quite temperamental and every once in a while she would disappear and we would have a little trouble getting her back.

JUROR: When did she leave your employ permanently?

THE WITNESS: I would recollect around 1944.

Q Did you know Victor Perlo? A Yes.

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Silverman

Q Did you know John Abt? A No, not that I can remember.

Q Nathan Witt? A Yes.

Q Lee Pressman? A I knew him slightly.

Q Now, it's your testimony here -- is it your testimony here that you have no idea whatever as to what Chambers was, his real occupation? A That's right.

BY MR. DONEGAN:

Q Did you ever have any conversation with Mr. Chambers concerning Mr. Hiss? A No, I can't imagine that I had a conversation with Chambers about Hiss. I just didn't know Mr. Hiss.

Q Had you ever heard of Mr. Hiss in the government?

A The first time that I was conscious of Mr. Hiss was in connection with this famous Hiss-Chambers case as it arose before the Un-American Committee. That was my first -- then I thought back a bit and decided that I must have heard of Mr. Hiss in connection with perhaps Dumbarton Oaks and the International Monetary Fund. That was the way my mind worked with respect to Mr. Hiss.

Q Did you ever drive around Washington or the outside of Washington with Mr. Chambers in an automobile? A I don't remember ever having done so.

MR. WHEARTY: Did you ever discuss Harry White with Chambers?

THE WITNESS: I don't believe so.

BY THE JURY:

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Silverman

Q Could I ask this: You told us that you discussed DeStendahel and art and politics. A Yes.

Q Can you repeat approximately any discussions of politics, what the topics were? A Well, I have no recollection of it, but I imagine it was in connection with what was going on in the New Deal.

Q The New Deal? A I imagine so.

Q Did you discuss Socialism? A I don't recall ever having discussed Socialism.

Q Did you discuss Communism? A I don't believe so.

Q Well, would you know? A I wouldn't know.

Q Did you know how to get in touch with Chambers?

A No, I did not.

Q So, when the rugs came you couldn't have gotten in touch with him; he had to get in touch with you?

A That's right.

Q You are sure of that? A I'm practically certain of that.

BY MR. DONEGAN:

Q Did you have any discussion with Chambers as to whether he had a family? A Yes, he did tell me he had a family, and he seemed very solicitous about them.

Q Where did he say the family lived or stayed?

A My recollection was that they were in New York.

Q In New York? A That's right.

Q And how many times did you see Chambers?

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Silverman

A I don't know.

Q Fix an approximate number. A Half a dozen times, a dozen times.

Q Now, how often would you say, once a week?

A Oh, no, nothing like that. Sometimes very -- it might -- my recollection if it is it was very uneven.

Q You saw him about a dozen times? A Conceivably.

Q Well, now, when was it when you started? A I hope we are not going to get into that question, Mr. Donegan, about how many times you saw somebody a dozen or more years back.

Q Well, I'm interested in it because you stated you let Mr. Chambers have about \$75. A I remember another thing about Mr. Chambers. I remember that he was always very concerned about not having any money, and I once gave him a stock market tip.

Q Now, when did you first -- how many visits did you have with Mr. Chambers before you started to let him have money? A Oh, maybe three or four times. I was a notoriously easy "touch."

Q And Mr. Chambers had just been a visitor to your office; is that right? A I met him at lunch several times. I may have had dinner with him. He may have appeared at the house once or twice. I don't remember exactly.

Q Now, who brought up the question of the rugs first?

A It would obviously be Mr. Chambers.

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Silverman

Q Well, did he? A I think so.

Q In other words, whether it's obvious or not, did he or did you? A Well, I imagine so. I can't possibly say, under the circumstances; 12 years ago.

Q I realize it's a long time ago. And in your conversations with Mr. Chambers did he state why he was sending the rugs to Washington? A Just merely that he had connections and that he could get some rugs and would I be interested in buying one or two -- one, I suppose, and I said yes I imagine that I said I would.

Q And at that time did you have in mind you were going to give one to Harry Dexter White? A I don't believe so. It's my recollection that it wasn't so. I think that I must have come to that conclusion when I saw the rugs.

Q And you yourself delivered the rug to Harry Dexter White? A I believe so.

Q Now, how long did you have the rugs at your house before Chambers called for the balance of the two rugs? A I do not remember.

Q Did he drive there? A Did he drive where?

Q Did he drive to your house? A It's my recollection that he did.

MR. WHEARTY: Did you help him put the rugs in the car?

THE WITNESS: I may have. I don't remember.

BY THE JURY:

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Silverman

Q Mr. Silverman, did you feel that you got stuck, when the dealer came in and offered you only a hundred dollars for a new rug? A You mean later, when --

Q Well, I don't know how soon it was after you got it. You said you didn't like the color and you tried to sell it.

A No, I don't believe I was particularly stuck.

Q But you had to pay much more. A Yes. But I believe they were worth fully what I paid for them. I think I checked it at the time.

Q Did the dealer say they looked like an imported rug? He would know. A Well, I'm sure I wouldn't question that they were imported rugs.

BY MR. WHEARTY:

Q Did you ever visit Chambers in Baltimore?

A No, not that I can recollect.

Q I ask you once again, Mr. Silverman, don't you want to tear up a part of your testimony and tell us the real facts about these rugs? A I'm telling you the exact truth with respect to these rugs. I don't see why you keep on insisting with respect to that point.

Q What's your present position, Mr. Silverman?

A I'm unemployed.

Q How long have you been unemployed? A Ever since the House Un-American Committee called me before them.

Q When was that? A Early in August -- prior to that, a week before that.

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Silverman

Q Were you discharged from some position because of your being subpoenaed before the Committee? A Well, it just didn't happen that way. I thought it was best to resign, in those circumstances. I offered to do so prior to that. My position with the Orbach's was in public relations, among other things, and I offered to resign when I first was called before the Grand Jury. And they didn't want me to resign at that time, so I resigned after it came out in newspapers.

Q Well, what had you done that required your resigning? A Well, originally, I was supposed to be on leave of absence until I could fight this thing out, but then a newspaper reporter called up Mr. Jerry Orbach and at that point he said I was no longer with the organization. I had done nothing that would have caused me to -- for anything to happen. It was just simply that I have no control over the actions of people.

BY MR. DONEGAN:

Q Now, Mr. Silverman, you have seen considerable newspaper publicity with reference to witnesses appearing before the House Un-American Activities Committee and you have seen a woman by the name of Elizabeth Bentley testify before this Committee. A Yes.

Q Now, I would like to ask you a question that you have been previously asked before this Grand Jury when you appeared before: Have you ever seen that woman now known to

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Silverman

you as Elizabeth Bentley in the home of the Silvermasters?

A To my best knowledge and recollection, I never met Miss Bentley.

Q Did you ever have any conversations with the Silvermasters concerning that woman? A No.

Q Now, this Grand Jury heard your testimony at that time. Is there anything further you want to tell this Grand Jury with reference to that previous testimony?

A No, nothing whatsoever.

Q With reference to Ludwig Ullman, have you any knowledge that Ludwig Ullman photographed material in the basement of the Silvermaster home? A No, I do not.

Q Did you know that Ludwig Ullman had photographic material in the basement of the Silvermaster home?

A No, I do not.

Q Were you ever in the basement of the Silvermaster home? A Yes, I was.

Q Did you ever see any photographic material in the basement? A Not to my recollection. I do know that he was interested in photography.

Q Now, with reference to your employment in the government, did you ever give Ludwig Ullman or any other person material that you brought home from the government?

A No. And I never have given "restricted" materials to any unauthorized person.

Q Have you given any material, whether "restricted" or

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Silverman

not? A Well, I mean, that's a pretty broad question, as to whether I gave anybody anything.

Q I say, have you given anybody who was unauthorized -- do you know what I mean by "unauthorized"? A Yes.

Q Any material that you obtained as a result of your work in the government. A No, I have not. Knowingly, I never gave anybody any "restricted" materials unless he were authorized to receive them. Do you want to cover people that I might have passed a memorandum to bearing upon --

Q First of all, I would like to ask you: Not only "restricted" materials, but materials that wasn't "restricted" A Did I ever give any material?

Q Any material to anybody who was unauthorized, that you obtained in the government. A Well, I would have to say that if it were "restricted" material, I certainly did not. Now, any other material -- after all, I was in the government for a dozen years or more.

Q All right; well, let's restrict it at this time to one place. You worked in the War Department. A Yes, I did.

Q And you worked in a particular section with reference to the Air Corps; is that correct? A That's right.

Q Now, did you give any material from that section of the War Department to any unauthorized person? A No.

Q And note that I'm not saying "restricted." Any material whatsoever. A Well, I simply can't answer that question, because I don't -- you mean if I wrote a memorandum

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Silverman

in relation to some highly technical subject that had absolutely no reference to the law or anything else? Did I give anybody his personnel record, for example?

Q If you wrote a memorandum in connection with your work in the War Department, did you ever give a copy of that memorandum to any unauthorized person? A No, not knowingly.

Q All right, now, what do you mean by "knowingly"?

A Well, my lawyer has asked me to put in the word "knowingly" because I might unknowingly have done so, I might not have known that the person was an unauthorized person.

BY THE JURY:

Q Mr. Silverman said something about a personnel record. Did you ever hear of anybody being given his own personnel record in any department? A Well, I didn't mean it in that sense. I might have taken somebody's personnel record and given it to somebody else. That would be material.

Q Well, did you ever do that, hand out personnel records? They are all confidential. A Would I ever take a personnel record of somebody's and go over it with one of my subordinates and examine the matter?

Q No; hand it to somebody, give it to somebody.

A I shouldn't think so.

Q Leave it on his desk. A I shouldn't think so.

Q Leave it in his incoming mail, for instance.

A The answer would have to be no, I never knowingly gave anybody any material in relation to --

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Silverman

MR. DONEGAN: Is it possible that you did it without knowing it?

THE WITNESS: I don't see how.

Q Did anyone give you anything from some other agency of the government to transmit to somebody else? A No.

BY MR. WHEARTY:

Q I think you said you might have talked to Chambers about Harry Dexter White. Am I correct in that?

A I merely am stating the general proposition that since I had no reason for concealing whether -- anything about the man at the time, I imagine it's conceivable that I might have said something about him to Chambers. And I have absolutely no recollection of having done so.

Q You don't ever remember having done so? A That's right.

Q Did you know Chambers under any other name at that time? A No, I did not.

MR. WHEARTY: David Chambers?

THE WITNESS: David Chambers.

Q And the rugs were addressed to you at your house?

A That's my recollection.

Q They were not addressed to Chambers? A I don't know. I don't see how they could have been; they wouldn't have been delivered to my house.

Q In care of you. A It's conceivable. I don't know.

BY THE JURY:

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Silverman

Q You don't know whether they were delivered by the American Express Company, indicating that they came from another city, or they were delivered by a Washington express company? A It's my recollection that they came from another city; New York.

Q Were there any foreign markings on the packages? A I haven't got the faintest recollection with respect to that matter.

Q How were they wrapped when you got them? A I don't remember how they were wrapped.

Q Were they in a wooden box, paper box, carton, wrapping paper? A I don't remember.

Q Were they folded or rolled? A I think possibly they might have been rolled.

Q Well, if they came by express, three or four rugs would be fairly heavy, nine by twelve rugs, so that would mean there is four times nine by twelve, there would be a pretty substantial charge on it. A That's right.

Q Don't you remember whether you paid \$4 or \$2 or \$18? A I don't remember.

BY MR. WHEARTY:

Q Your job was to keep Harry White in line, wasn't it? A I don't know what that means.

Q You don't? A No.

Q You are sure, now, you don't know? A I'm sure I don't know.

bd-18

Silverman

Q Did you have any conversation with Chambers about keeping Harry White in line? A Impossible.

Q Well, impossible. Did you or didn't you?

A I didn't.

Q You did not? A No.

JUROR: What would you think that meant, Mr. Silverman? Just think hard. A guess.

THE WITNESS: Well, "in line," with something that had to do with Communism or an apparatus or something along those lines.

Q Why would the question suggest that to you?

A Because I was called by Mr. Rosenwald, counsel for Mr. Alger Hiss, who asked me to make -- considering -- prospecting my making a deposition in favor of Mr. Hiss in relation to the libel suit, and among -- that's one of the things he told me Chambers had told them in connection with me: first, that I -- he was supposed to accept dues from me, and second, that I was supposed to keep Mr. White in line

Q Who told you that; Mr. Rosenwald? A Yes.

Q And Mr. Rosenwald wanted a deposition from you about that? A He wanted a deposition in connection with the whole libel suit.

Q At that time you didn't know Mr. Hiss; right?

A At that time I did not know Mr. Hiss.

BY THE JURY:

Q Why would they think you knew him, then, why would

Silverman

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they go to you? A Because in the course of the questioning by Mr. Hiss' attorneys --

Q Did you give them what they wanted? A I beg your pardon?

Q Did you give them what they asked for? A I was only up there that time to hear what he had to tell me. And the idea was that I was to go back to my lawyer and discuss the possibility.

MR. DONEGAN: What date was that?

THE WITNESS: About two weeks ago, maybe two and a half weeks ago.

Q Tell us some more about why they approached you for that? A They were approaching everybody.

Q Oh, no, they didn't approach me. A I was going to qualify that. That Mr. Hiss had mentioned in the course of his deposition during the course --

Q A little louder. I can't hear you. A Mr. -- according to what Mr. Rosenwald told me, several people had been mentioned, among others were myself and Mr. White.

Q Mentioned by whom? A By Mr. Chambers when he was questioned by Mr. Hiss' attorneys.

Q May I ask who Mr. Rosenwald is? A One of the --

MR. DONEGAN: I don't know who he is, but I'm assuming from what the witness says that he must be an attorney for Hiss.

THE WITNESS: Mr. Hiss.

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Silverman.

Q Do you know that to be a fact? A Well, the only -- he told me he was. Subsequently, Mr. Hiss issued a statement or Mr. Rosenwald issued a statement for Mr. Hiss, so I just assumed it was so.

Q Was Mr. Hiss there when you talked to Mr. Rosenwald?

A No, he was not.

BY MR. WHEARTY:

Q Is Mr. Rosenwald a little short man? A Yes.

Q Is he from Mr. McLean's office, do you know?

A I don't know.

MR. WHEARTY: I think it's Mr. McLean's associate.

BY MR. DONEGAN:

Q Mr. Silverman, I believe you stated that the first time you ever had any contact with Hiss was out here in the witness-room; is that correct? A Yes, sir, that's the best of my recollection.

Q To the best of your recollection. A Well, I just merely -- I mean, be reasonable, Mr. Donegan. I'm not -- I'm just merely saying -- my wife and I were talking the other day and she pointed out to me that some people had spent a whole summer in her house one year when she was away at school, and the thing had completely dropped out of my mind and I can't even to this point remember except in a general way that that was the situation.

Q Well, do I understand that you can't recall it but it's possible that you might have met Mr. Hiss?

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Silverman

A It's possible that I might have met anybody.

Q It's possible that you might have met Mr. Hiss?

A It's conceivable, but not from my recollection.

BY THE JURY:

Q Well, wouldn't you remember Mr. Hiss because of his peculiar build, long and thin? A In all likelihood if I had met Mr. Hiss before, I would remember it. I infer from that that I never met him. I only say to the best of my knowledge, because in a lifetime you meet literally --

Q Well, Mr. Hiss occupied a fairly important position in Washington or several positions in Washington. Wouldn't you remember a man like that? A Well, if you want me to say it without qualification, I would firmly -- I would say firmly that I never met Mr. Hiss. But I would have to say he might conceivably be present some day at a cocktail party when I was present and I might have forgotten him completely.

BY MR. WHEARTY:

Q Did you have mutual friends? A Mr. Hiss and I?

Q Yes. A Not to my knowledge.

Q Once again, Mr. Silverman, you appreciate fully that if you come before this Grand Jury and you deliberately and wilfully and knowingly testify to things which you know to be untrue, that that would constitute the crime of perjury. You understand that, don't you? A Yes, certainly.

Q And understanding fully what that situation is, do you want to sit there in that witness chair and testify as

you do with no qualifications? A That's right. I mean, the way I testified, I have told the truth and nothing but the truth.

BY THE JURY:

Q Did I understand you to say before that in your meeting with Mr. Hiss outside, that while you didn't recognize him, he seemed to know you? A I don't believe so. I don't remember exactly how it happened. He might have asked me who it was.

Q Well, it was a recent occurrence. It only happened. A Well, I assure you gentlemen that I just don't know Mr. Hiss. The first time --

Q Well, did he seem to know you? I have changed the question. A I wouldn't know. I wouldn't say he seemed to know me.

Q I'm a little confused. Mr. Whearty asked you twice whether or not you had discussed with Mr. Chambers Mr. White and you answered twice that you might have discussed with Mr. White about Chambers. Now the question is the reverse: Did you discuss with Chambers Harry Dexter White?

A No, not to the best of my recollection.

Q Did Mr. Chambers discuss Mr. White with you?

A Not that I can remember. I don't believe so.

Q Did Mr. Chambers ever introduce you to anybody?

A No.

Q You are definite? A Yes.

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Silverman

Q Did he ever mentioned any name of any other people, in his conversations with you? A None that I can remember.

Q Well, not whether you can remember them or not; but did he mention any names? A Well, I just don't think so.

Q Did you meet Mr. Hiss at Mr. Rosenwald's office?

A No. It wasn't at his office. I met Mr. Rosenwald in Mr. Rosenwald's home.

Q Oh, at his home? A Yes.

Q Did you make a deposition? A No. I was only up there to listen -- I talked it over with my counsel, Mr. Jaffe, and he said, "Go up and see him, see what he has to say." He said, "Don't say anything. Just find out what it is he has on his mind." And that's what I went up there and that's what I did. And then I went back to Mr. Jaffe at a later date and told him what Mr. Rosenwald wanted to ask me.

Q And he asked you not to make a statement?

A Well, we didn't come to a conclusion.

Q Well, what did he ask you? Do you want to tell us?

A What did who?

Q What did Mr. Rosenwald ask you? A He wanted to know did I want to make a deposition.

Q To what effect? A In the libel suit.

Q To what effect, what sort of a deposition?

A I imagine covering the points that have been raised here.

Q Well, without imagining, what did he say?

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Silverman

A Well, we didn't get -- we weren't talking about the matter what I was going to be asked in case I decide to make a deposition. We were just talking about the question of whether I would be willing to make a deposition.

Q Well, Mr. Silverman, why would Mr. Hiss' lawyer send for you? A Because in the --

Q To make a deposition. A As I understand it, in the course of examining Mr. Chambers, Mr. Hiss' lawyer examined Mr. Chambers, Mr. Rosenwald told me that they had Mr. Chamber there for two and a half days, certain things had come out which made it appear advisable to Mr. Rosenwald that he should get in touch with me and several other people that Mr. Chambers had mentioned and have us make depositions.

Q Why would you go to his house to do it? Wouldn't it be natural that he would come to you? A He lives right one block --

Q But, still, why would you go to his house? He has an office here in New York, hasn't he. You were doing something for him, he wanted you to do something for him. Why should you go to his house? A Well, I don't think that it ever occurred to me that it made any difference if he asked me to come up to his house and --

MR. WHEARTY: Did he ask you or did you volunteer?

THE WITNESS: I don't know. I don't remember.

Q Was his first talk on the telephone? I mean, how did he get in touch with you? A He called up several times and

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Silverman

two or three times I was out all those times. And then finally I wasn't going to get in touch with him. I talked it over with Mr. Jaffe and we decided --

Q Wait, now. Before then he must have told you, he got you. And what did he tell you when he got you on the telephone? A Whether I wouldn't get in touch with him.

Q Did he say about what? A Well, I knew, by that time he said in what connection.

Q How did you know it? A He told my wife over the phone when I was not there.

Q Did you meet him during the day time or in the evening? A In the evening.

Q Would that be customary, to tell that to a man's wife without his consent? A Just that he wanted to see me in connection with the Hiss-Chambers --

Q Yes. A It would be a perfectly normal thing.

Q Might that not have embarrassed your wife? A In what respect? I don't quite understand.

Q Well, if you don't understand it, then I'm sorry, I can't explain it.

BY MR. WHEARTY:

Q Where do you live now, Mr. Silverman? A 2325 -- gee, I've forgotten my address.

Q What was the address you were starting to give us? 2325 -- A That was my California one. 2355 West 23rd Street.

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Silverman

JUROR: In New York? There is no such number here.

Q Is it in New York? A Yes.

Q What's your address? A 255 West 23rd.

Q What's your telephone number? A Watkins 4-6244.

BY THE JURY:

Q Was Mr. Rosenwald ever in the government service in Washington? A Of course, I don't even know whether I should -- whether this conversation with Mr. Rosenwald is a confidential character or what. I don't know anything about Mr. Rosenwald.

Q Did Mr. Rosenwald tell you he is a lawyer or an investigator? A Well, he told me he was a lawyer, Hiss' lawyer. I happen to know that.

Q You mean you knew it before? A Well, I remembered having met him before.

Q Under what circumstances had you met him before?  
A I had met him in a lawyer's office.

Q About what? A He was just there when -- my original lawyer in this case was Mr. Oseas. He was associated with Mr. Oseas.

Q Well, now, that clears that up. A Yes, I knew he was a lawyer. I had no reason to question he was Hiss' lawyer. I mean, I haven't gotten to the point where I have those shadows to fight with.

Q And how recently did that happen? A About two and a half weeks ago.

bd-27

Silverman

Q Mr. Silverman, Mr. Rosenwald, I understand, was an associate of your former lawyer. A That's right.

Q And you met him before. Then it wasn't entirely pointless that he sent for you to make a deposition in regard to Mr. Hiss, was it? He knew about you before. A Oh, no; he told me very explicitly how it came about.

Q Did I understand that correctly, that Mr. Rosenwald was an associate of Mr. Oseas and Mr. Oseas was your first counsel, your counsel when you appeared here the first time?

A Yes.

Q Is he still an associate of Mr. Oseas? A No. He told me he wasn't.

Q Well, who is he associated with now? A I don't know.

Q But, still, he sends for you to make a deposition for Mr. Hiss? A He wants to see me.

Q Out of your own lawyer's office? A He wants to see me to know the possibility of my making a deposition.

Q Did you give him any information? A About what?

Q Well, what we are talking about. A I only went there with the view to find out what he wanted.

Q Well, but did you give him any information? A No.

Q Why did you want to find out, what did you care?

A I didn't care. As a matter of fact, I was going to ignore it completely.

Q But you went to his house; he didn't go to your house?

A Well, I don't see that there is --

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Silverman

Q Did he mention the rugs to you? A No.

Q Nothing at all? A No.

Q Did he mention anything at all? A I explained what he mentioned to me.

Q Well, I mean specifically, you didn't explain any specific item. A He had said that Mr. Chambers, in the course of the questioning with respect to the deposition, had said that Mr. Chambers had said that I had -- that he had taken dues from me and that I was there to keep Mr. White in line.

Q Do you own a typewriter, Mr. Silverman? A No, I do not.

Q Did you ever own a typewriter? A I don't believe.

Q Did you ever use a typewriter? A I don't know how to use a typewriter.

Q What did you pay dues for? A What did I pay?

Q Yes; I mean, what dues was he talking about?

A He said that Mr. Chambers, I think, accused me of having received -- having paid him dues. That was in relation to me.

Q Well, did he say for what? A I don't know.

Q Well, couldn't you hazard a guess? You are doing a little guessing. A Well, in reference to this contest and in relation to other accusations he made. I suppose it was in connection with Communist Party membership.

Q Did you ever pay such dues? A No.

BY MR. WHEARTY:

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Silverman

Q Again I want to say to you in all sincerity, Mr. Silverman, that I believe you ought to consider carefully the testimony you have given here today and consider whether you are sure that you have told the truth and nothing but the truth. A There is nothing for me to consider along those lines. It was my every intention to talk and tell the truth and I prevailed upon my lawyer to let me talk, and I --

Q You thought you would get rid of it that way? A No, I had no thought that I was going to get rid of anything.

MR. WHEARTY: I don't think we have any further questions of Mr. Silverman.

(WITNESS EXCUSED)