

Mrs. MASSING. Yes. It is this encounter with Alger Hiss that forced me out of my seclusion because I don't believe that ex-Communists tend to go out and talk about their experiences, and I recall so well that when Whittaker Chambers was very reluctant and low-voiced in his testimony, how well I understood him, because it is a very difficult and horrible thing to not only speak about one's own past deviations in sins but about other people's involvements.

When Noel Field and I had established a rapport to the extent that he was quite willing to help me, when I had also convinced him—and I would like to say this here—that he must not join the open party because for a man of Noel Field's status and importance it would be very unwise and useless to join the open party, and he had wanted to do so—when he had agreed to work with me, which was not something like black and white—I mean there were many ups and downs, he would say “Yes” today and “No” tomorrow, and he would say “Yes, I will only do so much, I am willing to give you verbal reports but I am not willing to show you any documents, and I don't have any documents to show”—I mean it is an involved process—one of his last reluctances or one of his last resistances toward me came up in this way:

I visited with him and his wife. As a matter of fact, I lived in their house. He said to me, “You know, Hede, I thought the whole thing over and I have come to the conclusion that it is really quite ridiculous that I should work with you where I can work with an old friend of mine who works with me in the State Department and who is a man of my kind. Not that I mean to say I don't respect you but, you see, you are a foreigner and this man is an American and we see eye to eye on all principal issues, and you understand even technically it would be so much easier for me to work with this man.” Well, this was, of course, quite a disappointment for me. I had invested very much labor and intensity to get this man. If you do a job like this you want to do a good job, as I think everybody wants to do a fairly good job, and I was an espionage agent and I tried to do a good job, and having to lose Noel Field would have been quite a shock. So I said, “Who is this man?” He said, “I don't think you know him. His name is Alger Hiss.” I said, “Well, why don't you introduce me to him? I just don't believe he has any priority over you. In reality I believe you are much better off in my apparatus.” Then I said to him, “Where does he work? Where does he really work? How do you know he is the right man?” He said, “I don't know. I don't know where you work either.”

Noel Field arranged this meeting with Alger Hiss.

Mr. MORRIS. So you did meet Alger Hiss?

Mrs. MASSING. I did meet Alger Hiss. That is a meeting that I have spoken so much about that I find it very difficult to speak about again.

My superior, Russian superior at that time, Boris, was quite distressed about this meeting because it was unorthodox and it had not gotten the O. K. from Moscow. You see, Noel Field immediately arranged this meeting. Such things are not done without an O. K. from Moscow. But Boris said since it had been arranged I should go ahead and meet him.

I came to Washington and the meeting was at the Noel Field apartment and though it was a long evening, I believe the only thing that