

Hiss cont: like Whitaker Chambers, for confidential, secret work. Also, what American communists tell me, people who used to be communists, was that there was an iron clad rule; anybody ~~XXXXXX~~ ^{who is} in the American party has nothing to do with the Russians. We don't want to be accused of helping them, of...this seems to have been the American Party's pattern. Uh, I, I don't know of any instance where somebody...well, let me go back and bring up another point that had seemed to me relevant before, and it's relevant to this.

One reason communism in Washington was not a big issue in the New Deal days is that (SLAM) upper class, elitist, middle-class people like us, me and my fellows, really thought of communists as unwashed, unemployed, perhaps brave in standing up to the Cossacks, ...but not intellectual...uh, and you just wouldn't meet them in New Deal circles. Now the Parlor Pinks of the New Republic coterie, were quite different. They played at being communist, and I doubt if any of them actually ev...I can't believe Edmund Wilson ever joined the communist party, and paid dues, or got a little card. I, I'm sure (Mattie Josephson) didn't. He says so, and I believe him. Uh, there was a man named Frank. That's his last name, like Jerome's. Waldo Frank, died a few years ago. And he said to me, "Weren't you ever even interested in communism. All of us up here were." Well he was talking about the intellectuals, who were really playing games. I said we were too damn busy doing a job. While ~~(XXXXXX)~~ he was talking about some kind of a philosophic discourse on socialism versus capitalism, we were shoring up

(cont)

Hiss cont: a failing economy, and trying to make it work, so there would be less suffering at the bottom.

(BREAK TO CHANGE FILM)

Brick: This is SOUND ROLL #28 UP, AND THIS IS BEGINNING OF CAMERA ROLL 40. (BEEP)

Hiss: You pick up now. I've finished that particular outburst.

Lowenthal: Yes, we had...I think it was triggered off by my reference to alleged or actual espionage.

Hiss: Yes, well I have no doubt that, of course, espionage was going on, though I don't think it was of very great importance, uh, to anybody in the 30's. For example, British colleagues friends of mine, tell me that up until '33, the American military had no war plan against Germany. They had a war plan, called war plan red, against England. This (LAUGHING) was right up until Roosevelt came in, and, and there was always one for Japan. There was one for an imaginary, I mean unspecified, South American country, which I shouldn't think would have been much help to them, 'cause it's a pretty big continent.

I just doubt if espionage was very sharpened, in the 30's, but I'm sure that our G2 was doing the best it could to find out about other countries, particularly England. And I assume the Russians were too. Now whether they used TASS, which was their, uh, press service...whether they used (ANTORG). I assume ~~XXXX~~ just as with our foreign service officers, who report on economic developments abroad. We, when I was in the far eastern division (BRICK GOING BACK TO TASS BECAUSE OF NOISE)

I assume that the Russians may have been getting information from TASS, representatives...their news service,
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