

can recall?

Mr. CHAMBERS. Yes; do you want me to describe it?

Mr. NIXON. Describe the circumstances that you can recall.

Mr. CHAMBERS. In 1937, when I had definitely decided to break with the Communist Party, I thought that if I left the party, left Washington, without leaving any trace of myself at all—first, I could be assassinated without any possibility of a motive being established, and furthermore, there would be no record of anything I might have to say about it later. Therefore, I went to Peter—I don't know whether I went to Peter first or Silverman first, but the succession doesn't matter very much—and said that I could not continue to flutter around Washington here year after year without some kind of an occupation or name, and I asked George Silverman to get me a job in the Government. Mr. Peter agreed to this separately.

Mr. Silverman referred me to one Irving Kaplan who was, I believe, at that time cohead of something called the Federal Research Project or the National Research Project. I have forgotten which. Mr. Kaplan was then living in Philadelphia. I went to Philadelphia and spent an evening with him and discussed the problem. Now, I had known Mr. Kaplan before. He knew my real name.

Mr. NIXON. Did Silverman know your real name?

Mr. CHAMBERS. No; he did not. He knew me as Carl.

Mr. NIXON. I see. Now, you saw Mr. Kaplan, and then what happened?

Mr. CHAMBERS. I saw Mr. Kaplan, and he told me that he would try to arrange matters, and he tried to arrange matters so expeditiously that within, certainly within a matter of days, probably within 24 hours or so, I had a job with the Federal Government.

Mr. NIXON. You were on the pay roll?

Mr. CHAMBERS. I was on the pay roll.

Mr. NIXON. Mr. Kaplan arranged that job?

Mr. CHAMBERS. I understand that he and Silverman together arranged it. I don't know exactly what part was assigned to each.

Mr. NIXON. Now, under what name did you take that job?

Mr. CHAMBERS. I took that job under my name J. V. Chambers, if I remember correctly. Certainly J and probably V.

Mr. NIXON. That is V for Vivian?

Mr. CHAMBERS. Yes. I could be mistaken about that. The records will show.

Mr. NIXON. Do you recall where you worked?

Mr. CHAMBERS. Yes. I worked for the so-called National Research or Federal Research project. I was sworn in on the job in some office building downtown, I should think near Seventh Street or Eleventh Street.

Mr. NIXON. But you were still a paid functionary of the Communist Party at that time?

Mr. CHAMBERS. Certainly, certainly.

Mr. NIXON. Well, did your duties here take so much of your time that they interfered with your work for the Communist Party?

Mr. CHAMBERS. No; they did not. Besides, my work for the Communist Party was sloping off at that time.

Mr. NIXON. Well, what type of work did you do?

Mr. CHAMBERS. I was put to marking an index for some railroad-labor study, I believe, and I was told not to hurry with the job because that would bring it to an end prematurely, so it was purely a boondoggling operation.

Mr. NIXON. A boondoggling operation?

Mr. CHAMBERS. Surely. Perhaps I should say where I worked physically.

Mr. NIXON. Yes. Where else did you work?

Mr. CHAMBERS. I worked only a short time in that downtown office, and I was then moved up to an office, I would think about Fifteenth and C, which I believe to have been another office of the Railroad Retirement Board. Their main office was uptown, and I stayed there a short time. Then I was moved over to the auditorium, which was a vast circus over on Constitution and Nineteenth, somewhere in that area.

Mr. NIXON. Go ahead.

Mr. CHAMBERS. And after staying there long enough to establish the fact I was to establish it was ended, terminated.

Mr. NIXON. Now, you say that you took the job because you wanted to establish an identity?

Mr. CHAMBERS. Yes.

Mr. NIXON. You didn't tell Peters that?

Mr. CHAMBERS. No; certainly not.

Mr. NIXON. The reason that you gave to Peters and to Silverman and to Kaplan, that is, that you had—

Mr. CHAMBERS. Was the need for a cover.

Mr. NIXON. That you had to have a cover?

Mr. CHAMBERS. That is right.

Mr. NIXON. Now, did you get paid while you were on this job?

Mr. CHAMBERS. Yes; I did.

Mr. NIXON. Do you recall where your checks were sent?

Mr. CHAMBERS. Yes; they were delivered to my home at Mount Royal Terrace in Baltimore.

Mr. NIXON. Do you recall what your salary was?

Mr. CHAMBERS. No; I don't.

Mr. NIXON. Could you recall within certain limits as to what your salary was?

Mr. CHAMBERS. I think it was more than six thousand, but I have forgotten exactly what it was.

Mr. NIXON. You think it was more than—

Mr. CHAMBERS. I think it was more than six thousand.

Mr. NIXON. That six thousand a year?

Mr. CHAMBERS. Yes.

Mr. NIXON. And you got that job because you were within—