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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York, New York

July 21, 1949

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*Ip memo from Spencer re
the use of typing error
as a means of
MEMO identifying the
typist of the
docs.
to be written
that*

Re: JAHAM
PERJURY; ESPIONAGE - R

RE: TYPEWRITING ERRORS NOTED ON
BALTIMORE PAPERS AND KNOWN
TYPING OF PRISCILLA HISS

Reference is made to the writer's memorandum of July 21, 1949, in connection with the further investigation of this case for possible use in the retrial in the fall of this year.

On July 7, 1949, FREDERICK GAFFNEY, one of the jurors in the HISS case, voluntarily appeared at the office of AUSA MURPHY, at which time he talked over the reaction of the jurors to the various evidence that was offered. The writer and SA J. J. DANAHY were also present at the request of Mr. MURPHY.

GAFFNEY stated that one observation noted by VINCENT H. SHAW, another juror, might be of some benefit in preparation of the retrial of this case. According to GAFFNEY, SHAW observed that there were several typing errors in the Bryn Mawr letter that also appeared on the questioned documents, and in his effort to convince the four jurors who held for acquittal, pointed these common errors out, of course, however, with no avail. It will be recalled that early in the investigation of this case, a thesis written by PRISCILLA HISS and her sister was obtained from Columbia University, and it was noted at that time that there were numerous strike overs and other errors in this thesis that also appear in the Bryn Mawr report and the questioned documents. These facts were pointed out to the Bureau with the hope that possibly a sufficient number of these errors could be found in the known specimens and questioned documents that would enable someone to so testify. These examinations were made by the Laboratory and a report was submitted, indicating that it would be impossible for an expert to testify to the fact that because of the similar or common errors it followed that PRISCILLA HISS actually typed the questioned documents.

Mr. MURPHY now desires that a complete review of these common errors be made as he feels that although he probably will not be able to use this information on the Government's case in chief, he might be able to point it out in summation.

TGS:NJG
65-14920

Handwritten note

*Baltimore
Douby
CN 83*

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F. B. I.
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MEMO
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It is suggested, therefore, that all of the serials containing information concerning these common typing errors be reviewed and that the thesis, which has been returned to Columbia University, be again obtained so that a comprehensive summary and a compilation of these errors may be prepared for whatever use Mr. MURPHY may see fit to use them.

THOMAS G. SPENCER, SA

*Approved from Spencer
directing*