

Introduced to Chambers "simply as 'Carl'" in the summer of 1934, Herbst described him as "a heavy, tall, thickset man with a heavy opaque face, thick skin and mournful eyes . . . not too carefully groomed . . . kindly, but rather melancholy." After Herbst and Chambers became friends, "he spoke to me of his difficulties and told me that his wife and child lived in New Jersey. . . . He always seemed to be in anxiety and fear and always on the run." Herbst learned that Chambers "was a courier and that his job was to make contacts high within the United States Government." Because his underground responsibilities "were of a far graver and more professional nature," and because his government contacts were often officials in high positions not openly identified with Communist activities, Chambers—according to Herbst—"had absolutely no direct contact with members of our group." Herbst knew the names of five such "high" officials—"as high as the position then held by Mr. Alger Hiss"—with whom Chambers had contact, but, again, she refused to name names.

"Alger Hiss did meet 'Carl,'" Herbst told Rosenwald. "'Carl' told me of such a meeting and said Alger Hiss was 'a very cagey individual' and quite uncommunicative but friendly, polite and very charming and that Mrs. Hiss, whom 'Carl' also met, was very charming." The meeting between Chambers and Hiss took place in either July or August 1934, Herbst noted, confirming Chambers's own memory of the date. "I believe this impression was gained by information from Harold Ware and one other person. . . . everything I know about them [Alger and Priscilla Hiss] was told to me by 'Carl,' Harold Ware or someone else." Herbst "had the impression" that Hiss had not yet become involved in CP activities at this initial meeting with Chambers. Herbst met Chambers at John Herrmann's apartment when only Herrmann was present. Sometimes when "Carl" came, "I was instructed to leave."

In her interview with McLean, Herbst gave a clear description of the "parallel apparatuses" that Peters had directed Chambers to organize in Washington: "There were ten to fifteen persons in the cell [the Ware Group] and five other persons holding high Government positions [the second network of government employees]." Herrmann, she avowed, had come to Washington at Ware's request "to work for the party . . . because of his thoroughly respectable front" as a writer on farm problems. She told McLean that Herrmann was probably a Party member and that their marriage had foundered partly because of her opposition to "the secret conspiratorial nature of their work which I considered childish." Chambers sympathized with her views—this emerges also in letters exchanged between Herbst and Herrmann in 1934—and she last saw "Carl" in April 1935 at the New York apartment of their mutual friend Joseph North of *The Daily Worker*. Despite not having seen Chambers for thirteen years at the time she spoke to Rosenwald in 1949, Herbst had recognized him immediately from press photographs.