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INTERVIEWS: JOHN KNOX JESSUP  
FRANCIS B. SAYRE

In the report of SA JOSEPH M. KELLY dated February 8, 1949 it is reflected that JEROME FRANK in his interview stated that he remembered JOHN KNOX JESSUP, Chairman of the Board of Editors for "Fortune" magazine having at one time mentioned to him that there were rumors circulating to the effect that ALGER HISS had Communist affiliations.

On March 2, 1949 Mr. JESSUP was interviewed in the office of "Fortune" magazine in the Empire State Building, New York City. When asked whether or not he had any information concerning ALGER HISS which might be of interest to SA JOHN F. SULLIVAN who interviewed him, Mr. JESSUP stated that years ago, sometime around 1938, CHAMBERS had been in contact with HERBERT SOLOW, one of the editors of "Fortune" magazine, to whom he had disclosed a considerable portion of the information which has recently been brought out against ALGER HISS by the House Committee on Un-American Activities. Mr. JESSUP pointed out that his entire knowledge of ALGER HISS and his Communistic tendencies or affiliations was obtained from either HERBERT SOLOW or in discussions among the editors of "Fortune" magazine of the information given to them either individually or collectively by Mr. SOLOW. He emphasized the fact that he had no independent knowledge of ALGER HISS' Communist affiliations or sympathies. He also stated that he had no independent knowledge of any other aspects of this case other than what he had learned from Mr. SOLOW.

In this regard it should be noted that HERBERT SOLOW was interviewed by agents of the New York Office, the results of which are set out in this report.

On February 25, 1949 GERTRUDE SAMUELS, not SAMUELSON as has been previously reported, Secretary to JEROME FRANK when he was Chief Counsel for the Agriculture Adjustment Administration, was interviewed in her office in the New York "Times" Building, 229 East 43rd Street, New York City, by SA JOHN F. SULLIVAN. Miss SAMUELS, since having been employed by Justice FRANK, had been married and divorced from FRED R. OPPENHEIMER and has resumed her maiden name of GERTRUDE SAMUELS. She resides at 3555 73rd Avenue, Jackson Heights, telephone Havermeyer 4-5113. She is employed as a feature writer on children's affairs for the New York "Times" newspaper.

Miss SAMUELS related that she was employed with the AAA as Mr. FRANK'S Secretary from approximately 1933 to 1935. She could not recall the exact months in which she began and ceased this employment, but did

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remember that her severance had been prior to the shake-up in the AAA and JEROME FRANK'S resignation from that Administration. She had gone, after leaving the AAA, to Chicago where she had been employed for a short while before returning to Washington with the Resettlement Administration, for whom she worked during 1936.

She remembered, quite readily, ALGER HISS, JOHN ABT, NATHAN WITT, LEE PRESSMAN, FRANK SHEA, and ABE FORTIS. These names stood out in her mind, and she admitted she has followed their careers since she and they had left the government. She admitted, however, that while acting as FRANK'S secretary she could not class herself as having been an intimate of theirs and her relations with them had been restricted to the relation existing between the lawyers and JEROME FRANK'S secretary, i.e., it was purely a business relationship. She could recall but few instances in which she had had outside contact with any of the above attorneys, and believed that these contacts were restricted to having cocktails in some nearby restaurant or hotel at the AAA Building. After work cocktails with the lawyers would be the result of get-togethers when they had worked late at the office.

She admitted that she knew none of these men intimately and had not had any of their confidences exposed to her. To a question, she answered that at no time had it come to her attention that ALGER HISS, LEE PRESSMAN, NATHAN WITT or JOHN ABT were Communists, had Communist affiliations, or that any of them, and specifically ALGER HISS, had been engaged in espionage activities. She stated that she could understand that PRESSMAN, WITT and ABT could have had Communist affiliations, particularly PRESSMAN, in view of the way in which he has followed the Party line in recent years.

She stated that she had only seen ALGER HISS once since she had left the government in 1936, and that was at the Polish Embassy in 1946, at which time he had given a speech on child welfare on behalf of the United Nations which she had covered for the New York "Times". She had not seen him since and had never at any time received communications from him. With respect to her contact with ALGER HISS at the Polish Embassy, she related that the discussions she had with him were restricted to the problems of world children and had not touched any other field.

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She repeated that the recent disclosures came as a great surprise to her as she had considered ALGER a kind, generous, lovable "guy", who was one of the hardest workers in the IIA. She mentioned that she is earnestly awaiting the trial to determine just what his defense is, and she believes that he is innocent, but is reserving decision until she hears his defense in court.

On February 25, 1949 FRANCIS B. SAYRE was interviewed in his office in the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations, 2 Park Avenue, New York City, by SAs FRANCIS J. GALLANT and JOHN F. SULLIVAN. On February 14th Mr. SAYRE had called SA SULLIVAN to advise that on Saturday, February 12th, ALGER HISS and his attorney Mr. McLEAN had called on him at his office and had gone over some of the documents in instant case, and he wanted to so-advise agent in conformity with his promise to keep him aware of any such developments.

It was determined from Mr. SAYRE that ALGER HISS had contacted Mr. PHILLIP JESSUP of the United Nations, to whom he had stated that he felt badly about the fact that he had not been in contact with Mr. SAYRE since the recent public disclosures of his activities. Mr. JESSUP had informed Mr. SAYRE of ALGER'S statement and inquired of Mr. SAYRE whether he would care to see ALGER as ALGER evidently desired such a meeting. Mr. SAYRE related that he had informed Mr. JESSUP that he would be glad to see ALGER, however, he wanted it understood that whatever ALGER said to him he, Mr. SAYRE, wanted to feel free to disclose this to the FBI or to whatever official body he might be called before. Subsequently thereto ALGER had called and made an appointment for Saturday, February 12th, when he came to Mr. SAYRE'S office accompanied by his attorney, Mr. McLEAN. Mr. SAYRE requested that the name of Mr. JESSUP be kept confidential as he does not desire to have him drawn into this matter.

Mr. SAYRE stated that ALGER HISS began to discuss the case and he and his attorney were particularly interested in going over the copies of the State Department documents which were in the possession of Mr. SAYRE. Mr. SAYRE pointed out that at the outset of this interview he again warned ALGER HISS that anything he might say Mr. SAYRE would feel free to repeat to the FBI or any other committee, and requested that Mr. McLEAN counsel Mr. HISS in this regard.

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With respect to the documents that they examined, Mr. SAYRE stated that as he recalled the examination, they were only concerned with the State Department records of the distribution of the documents. He stated that they did not read or make copies of any of the documents themselves, and he had the impression that they had copies of them. He could not recall seeing these copies in their possession, but either from the conversation or some other way, which he could not recall, he was sure that they had such copies.

Mr. McLEAN did copy, however, he pointed out, the State Department lists of the distribution of the State Department documents. He was asked whether anything of significance took place while McLEAN was examining the documents. Mr. SAYRE recalled that they were particularly interested in noting, and he was also, that a number of the documents which had allegedly been turned over to CHAMBERS by HISS and which had allegedly been removed from Mr. SAYRE'S office, were not shown on the distribution lists of the State Department as having been distributed to his, Mr. SAYRE'S, office. Mr. SAYRE then pointed out to agents that this situation had puzzled him and he felt that the documents which had not been distributed to his office must have been taken from another office. It should be noted at this time that when previously interviewed by interviewing agents it was not noted that Mr. SAYRE had among his papers instant distribution lists. It is not known at this time whether he had obtained them on his own initiative or at the request of HISS' attorney, or whether they had been supplied to him by the State Department. It was not deemed feasible to ask him where he had obtained them at this time, but such will be determined when he is next interviewed.

Mr. SAYRE again referred to, as he had in his previous interview, WADLEIGH as a possible suspect. He was not again questioned as to why he had suspected WADLEIGH as previous close questioning had revealed that he had no reason to suspect WADLEIGH as is set out in the report of his previous interview and had selected, as he claimed, WADLEIGH because WADLEIGH'S name had appeared in the newspapers as also being one of the suspects being questioned with regard to these documents. The constant interjection of WADLEIGH as a suspect by Mr. SAYRE, without any personal basis for it, indicated to agents that possibly either ALGER HISS or his attorneys, MARBURY or McLEAN, have arrived at the conclusion that someone else has pleaded guilty in instant case, probably WADLEIGH, as he has appeared frequently before the Grand Jury, and are preparing

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the groundwork to shove the blame on to WADLEIGH. It is possible that they, in their contacts with Mr. SAYRE, have impregnated him with this idea.

Mr. SAYRE noted that while HISS and McLEAN were looking over the four pencilled notations which had appeared on the documents and which are known as Q1 through Q4, ALGER HISS pointed out that Q1, which is the pencil notation beginning "M21 tel for Mary Martin, widower of Hugh Martin...", was not his handwriting and SAYRE used the term that he claimed it was a forgery. He pointed out to Mr. SAYRE that the contents of the pencil notation meant nothing to him, and that the names were likewise unfamiliar. Mr. SAYRE added at this time that he had had the same reaction that the contents of this note did not pertain to anything in their office and did not have any State Department significance. It appeared to him to be a personal note.

He was asked whether ALGER HISS admitted that the other handwriting notations were his. These are Q2 through Q4. Mr. SAYRE replied that ALGER had stated that these appeared to be his handwriting. When queried for his exact words as to whether he had stated "They appeared to be his handwriting" or whether he had said "They were his handwriting", Mr. SAYRE could not recall exactly, but believed that he had said "They appeared to be his handwriting". Mr. SAYRE hastily added with some conviction "I don't think Alger will deny that these are his, and I don't think they intend to do so when they come to trial".

He was again asked whether they had shown any particular interest in the documents themselves. He stated that they had not and had merely concentrated their attention on the distribution of the documents, making notes of some, and had discussed with him, as he had stated, the fact that a number of the documents which CHAMBERS stated HISS had turned over to him had not been listed as having been distributed to his, Mr. SAYRE'S, office.

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He did admit, however, that some of the documents which the list showed had not been distributed to him, would have been of interest to him and should have reached his office.

He stated that he had carefully questioned ALGER HISS concerning these documents and how they could have gotten into CHAMBERS possession, but HISS was at a loss to explain this. He did explain the handwriting notations in this fashion. HISS had pointed out to him that he made it a practice to synopsise long telegrams or documents in order that he could explain the contents to Mr. SAYRE when he brought them to his attention, thus negating the necessity for Mr. SAYRE to read such documents.

Throughout the interview, as in previous interviews, Mr. SAYRE would reaffirm his faith in ALGER, occasionally pointing out that he could not understand how it could be possible for him to have done this, and also not being able to understand that ALGER would do this to him. However, it should be noted that both in this interview and the previous interviews Mr. SAYRE, just as frequently during the interviews, would pointedly inquire whether or not the Bureau's investigation had definitely proven ALGER to have committed the acts. When carefully questioned along lines which would tend to affect his preconceptions, Mr. SAYRE would become visibly concerned and slightly upset. He would then mention that the particular point under discussion indicated that he, SAYRE, might have been compromised or had unwittingly or unknowingly been taken advantage of. When this would be driven home to him it would bring forth the inquiry as to just how much the Bureau has proven. When no comment would be made to this, he would quickly rebound from his previous position and again reaffirm his faith in ALGER, but would never give any factual reason which would concern itself with an aspect of the case to substantiate this affirmation, other than his abject faith in ALGER. One point which seemed to considerably bother Mr. SAYRE was whether or not the Bureau has been able to prove that the documents were typewritten on ALGER'S typewriter. At one time he stated that if this was proven it would certainly look bad for ALGER.

A good example of the vacillating position of Mr. SAYRE, referred to above, took place when he was queried concerning CLAUDE ALBERT BUSS.

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With respect to CLAUDE ALBERT BUSS, the report of SA LUDWIG W.R. OBERNDORF, dated February 2, 1949, at Washington, D.C. reflects that a "Dr. BOSS" might have been approached by WITCZAK to perform a Soviet espionage mission. "Dr. BOSS" was believed to be identical with CLAUDE ALBERT BUSS, whom WITCZAK allegedly visited when BUSS was Director of OWI in San Francisco in June 1945. BUSS had previously been Executive Assistant to the High Commissioner of the Philippines on the recommendation of ALGER HISS.

Mr. SAYRE was questioned concerning who had been his Executive Assistants in the Philippines while he was High Commissioner. He stated that he had had LARRY SALSBURY, CABOT COVILLE, and CLAUDE BUSS. He was asked how these assignments were made. At first he stated that he personally chose BUSS, but continued questioning revealed that he had written to friends in the States inquiring for recommendations and that they had sent recommendations to him and from them he had chosen BUSS as being the best qualified. Further questioning brought forth the admission that the appointment had been made through the suggestion of ALGER HISS and also that ALGER HISS had previously recommended NOEL FIELD. At this point Mr. SAYRE volunteered that he had learned through the HCUA Hearings that NOEL FIELD was considered a well known Communist.

To questions put to him Mr. SAYRE replied he had found Mr. BUSS an able Executive Assistant and had only one complaint concerning his activities which he could recall, and that was that he had considered BUSS too intimate with President MANUEL QUEZON, BUSS did not have access to the codes, had never left the Island to his knowledge, had not been in contact with any foreign individuals who were suspected to SAYRE'S knowledge, and had not engaged in any activities which caused him to be suspicious of him at that time. With the last remark, he was asked to clarify it to which he related that after the bombing of Manila and the evacuation of SAYRE and the staff he had left BUSS in Manila in charge of the mission, and that BUSS was there when the Japanese successfully invaded and took over command of the Island. BUSS and other members of the mission were interned in a local hotel and questioned periodically. Subsequently BUSS alone was removed to Tokyo and interned in a hotel in that city where he was questioned further.

SAYRE had not been aware of this until after the war. A short time after the end of hostilities he had recommended BUSS for a government job, but had been cautioned against this by certain individuals in

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Washington who brought to his attention the fact that they were suspicious of BUSS because of his having been removed from the Island and questioned at such length in Tokyo. He, therefore, dropped the recommendation.

Agents had conducted the questioning of SAYRE with regard to BUSS without disclosing any reason for the inquiry. However, at the conclusion of it SAYRE inquired of agents whether or not BUSS was an espionage agent and whether we had "the goods on him". Agents pointed out to him that they were not in a position to disclose what information they had on BUSS, but were attempting to determine his relations with BUSS and what activities BUSS had engaged in in the Philippines. Mr. SAYRE then exclaimed "This certainly puts me in a bad light". He again mentioned the fact that NOEL FIELD, allegedly a known Communist had been recommended to him as well as BUSS, whom agents were now inquiring about. It was pointed out to Mr. SAYRE that this was true, but the purpose of the investigation by the FBI is to get all the facts, which unquestionably would eventually dispel such a supposition on his part, and if he was the victim of circumstances or a misplaced trust it would eventually be brought out.

At this point Mr. SAYRE stated that he would have liked to have seen the entire case against HISS tried rather than just the perjury angle, so that all the facts would be disclosed and the matter cleared up in its entirety.

In an attempt to determine whether there is any obligation flowing from Mr. SAYRE to ALGER HISS which might possibly be responsible for his extreme confidence in ALGER HISS' loyalty, Mr. SAYRE was asked to relate how he obtained the position of Chairman of the American Delegation to the Trusteeship Council of the U.N. and whether ALGER HISS had been responsible for his obtaining it. Mr. SAYRE answered that this was a difficult question; that he recalled that he had first discussed with ALGER HISS the possibility of obtaining a position with the Trusteeship Council. He had also gone to the President on another matter, at which time he asked him whether he had any objections to his name being considered for a position on the Trusteeship Council. He had also made this same inquiry of Senators VANDENBURG and CONNOLLY as well as other Senators, and they later reassured him that they had none. He then received a call from BENJAMIN GERRIG of the State Department inquiring whether he was interested in a position with the Trusteeship Council. He said

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that he would be and thereafter he was offered the position. He was again asked whether, to his knowledge, ALGER HISS had been responsible for obtaining this position. He replied that it could have been possible that ALGER HISS was working behind the scenes, but he did not know of it to his knowledge.

Mr. SAYRE, in parting, stated that he was most anxious to cooperate with agents and that they should feel free to call on him at any time if he could be of assistance to them.