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April 13, 1949

MEMORANDUM

"CHAMBERS" DOCUMENTS

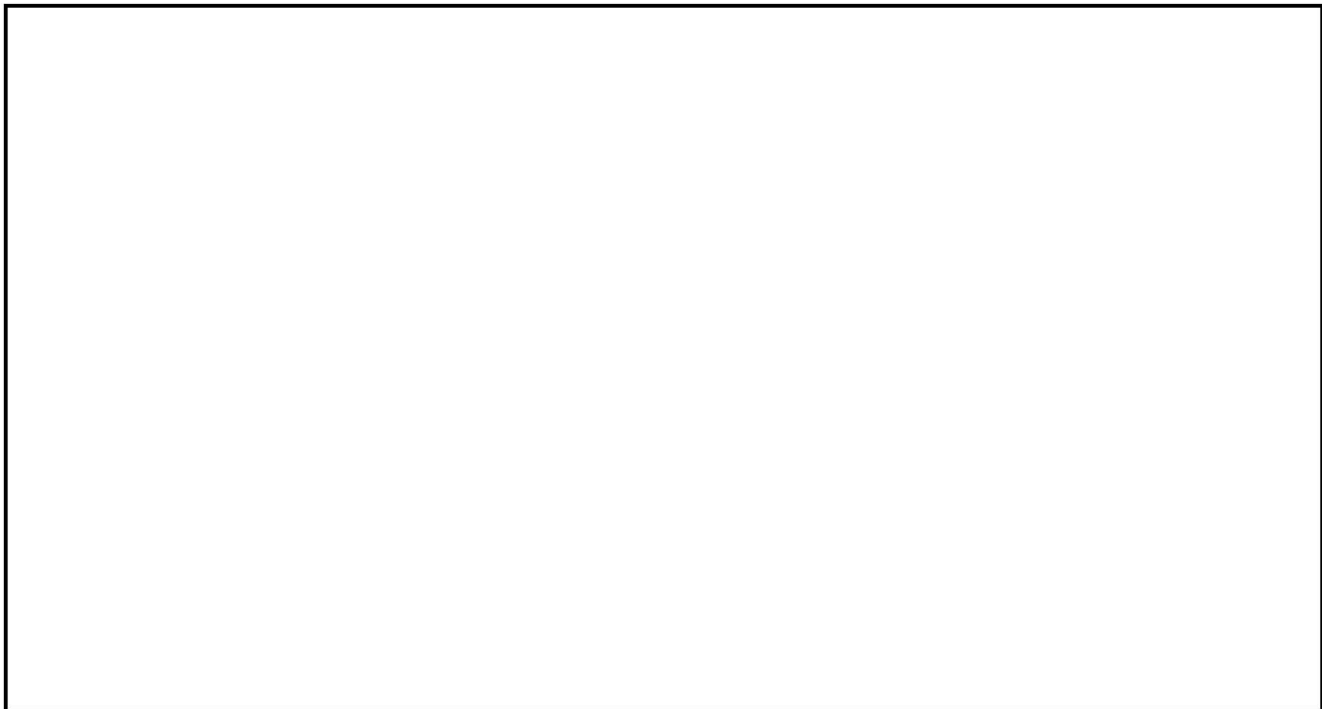
In connection with a civil action brought by ALGER HISS against WHITTAKER CHAMBERS a pretrial deposition was conducted at Baltimore, Maryland on November 17, 1948. During the deposition CHAMBERS produced sixty-five typewritten pages of material and four handwritten pieces of white paper. These documents are being referred to as the "CHAMBERS" documents. According to CHAMBERS these documents were given to him by ALGER HISS in 1937 or in the early part of 1938.

Origin of Documents

In a signed statement dated December 3, 1948 CHAMBERS advised that the documents were deposited in a manila envelope which was hidden in a dumb-waiter shaft in the home of the mother of NATHAN LEVINE, 260 Rochester Avenue, Brooklyn, New York. This envelope was reported to have been placed in the dumb-waiter shaft in 1938 when CHAMBERS broke with the Communist Party. The envelope was removed by CHAMBERS on Sunday, November 14, 1948, and the sixty-nine "CHAMBERS" documents were thereafter introduced at the deposition in Baltimore.

Description of Documents

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ENCLOSURE 74-1333-4534

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FBI Laboratory Examination

In a report to the Attorney General dated December 13, 1948 the Laboratory advised that it was not possible to determine the age of the documents. Specimens Q1 through Q4 were concluded to have been written by ALGER HISS, whose known handwriting is listed as Kc1 through Kc4, submitted by the Baltimore office on November 29, 1948. The Laboratory determined that the typing on specimens Q6 through Q69 compared most closely with Woodstock pica type spaced ten letters to the inch, a style of type made by Woodstock in 1929. Q5 was reported to compare most closely to the standards of type for the Royal elite type spaced twelve letters to the inch. Q6 through Q69 were identified as having

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been prepared on the same typewriting machine as that used to prepare documents designated as K17, K32, K35, K40, K41, and K249, which are described below.

K17 is a two-page typewritten letter addressed to WALTER L. TIBBETTS, Boston, Massachusetts, dated January 30, 1933. It is purported to be an unsigned, unmailed letter beginning "On reading over my policy last week" and relates to an insurance policy allegedly issued to ALGER HISS. This document was furnished the New York office by Mr. EDWARD C. McLEAN, Attorney for ALGER HISS, on December 10, 1948. This document was returned to Mr. McLEAN pursuant to his request on December 28, 1948 by Mr. T. J. DONEGAN, Special Assistant to the Attorney General.

K32 is three pages of typewritten material entitled "Description of Personal Characteristics of TIMOTHY HOBSON." This document is dated September 9, 1936 and was apparently an enclosure to a handwritten letter to PAUL L. BANFIELD which is signed by ALGER HISS. This document, together with a letter dated September 1, 1936 bearing the signature PRISCILLA HISS referring to the application of TIMOTHY HOBSON for admission to the Landon School, was obtained from Mr. PAUL L. BANFIELD, Headmaster, Landon School, Bethesda Post Office, Washington, D. C., on December 12, 1948. Mr. BANFIELD requested that the material be used only in an investigation concerning the national defense of this country and was particularly desirous of not having the information made available to the House Committee on Un-American Activities in any form. He also advised that attorneys for both HISS and CHAMBERS had requested access to his file but had been refused. K32 was delivered to Mr. T. J. DONEGAN in New York City by Special Agent JONES of the Washington Field Office on December 14, 1948, together with the other documents furnished by Mr. BANFIELD.

FBI K35 is a typewritten letter addressed to Miss EMMA HELLINGS, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which was enclosed in an envelope postmarked December 6, 1931 which begins "Dr. PELTZ, my physician" and is signed DAISY FANSTER, a sister of Mrs. ALGER HISS. This document was obtained from FRANKLIN H. PRICE, librarian for the Free Library of Philadelphia, on December 13, 1948. This document was transmitted to the Justice Department as an enclosure to a memorandum to Mr. ALEXANDER M. CAMPBELL, Assistant Attorney General, dated March 3, 1949.

K40 is a one-page typewritten letter to WALTER C. SCHELKER, New York City, dated February 17, 1933, and is signed ALGER HISS. This document was obtained from Mr. LEO D. FITZGERALD, Associate Counsel, Equitable Life Insurance Society of the United States, in response to a subpoena served on December 13, 1948. A carbon copy of this document had been previously furnished by Mr. McLEAN, Attorney for HISS, on December 10, 1948, and was returned at his request on December 28, 1948. K40 was transmitted to the Department of Justice as an enclosure to a memorandum to Mr. ALEXANDER M. CAMPBELL, Assistant Attorney General, dated March 3, 1949.

K41, a typewritten letter dated May 25, 1937 addressed to Mrs. W. M.

HILLEGEIST, Director of Admissions, University of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland, beginning "I am sending to your office today," and signed PRISCILLA FANSLER HISS, was obtained by the Baltimore office from Mrs. FLORENCE T. STAFFORD, assistant in the registrar's office, University of Maryland, on December 14, 1948. K41 has been returned to Mrs. STAFFORD by the Baltimore office.

K249 is three typewritten pages captioned "President's Report for the Year 1936 to 37" and is reported to have been a report submitted by Mrs. ALGER HISS at the expiration of her term of office as president of the Bryn Mawr Alumni Association in 1937. This document was obtained from Mrs. HENRY L. ABBOTT, 2205 California Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C., and forwarded to the Laboratory on January 7, 1949. After the examination it was returned to Mrs. ABBOTT by the Washington Field Office.

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THE "PUMPKIN" DOCUMENTS

Mr. JAY DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, in a signed statement dated December 3, 1948, advised that three cans of undeveloped film and two strips of developed film which had been in a manila envelope hidden in a dumb-waiter shaft of the home of NATHAN LEVINE's mother, 260 Rochester Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, had been turned over to investigators for the House Committee on Un-American Activities at Westminster, Maryland, on December 2, 1948 in response to a subpoena. Mr. CHAMBERS advised that the film contained photographs of original documents taken from the State Department and the Bureau of Standards. He alleged that the bulk of the documents from the State Department were obtained from ALGER HISS, the remainder having been received from JULIAN WADLEIGH.

WILLIAM A. WHEELER, 3924 Southern Avenue, Southeast, Washington, and DONALD T. APPELL, 3241 Terrace Drive, Silver Hill, Maryland, investigators employed by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, on December 2, 1948 at 10:45 PM received from CHAMBERS at his farm near Westminster, Maryland, five rolls of 35-millimeter film which CHAMBERS took from a hollowed-out pumpkin. Two rolls of the film had been developed and three rolls were unprocessed. The developed film was identified with the date 12/2/48 and the initials WT by WHEELER and APPELL. The undeveloped film was processed by PHILLIP L. SCHMITZ of the Veterans Administration and was identified by the date 12/3/48 and the initial W by Mr. WHEELER. This film was subsequently identified on December 13, 1948 in the office of Mr. T. J. DONEGAN, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, New York City, as G.J. 47, 48, 49, 50 and 51. These documents were photographed by the FBI Laboratory on December 14, 1948 and are described below. In identifying the "pumpkin" films with State Department documents Mr. DAVID A. SALMON, 3223 Kingle Road, Northwest, Washington, D. C., advised the State Department kept "action" copies of communications and a microfilm of an "information" copy of the same document and that the "information" copy was destroyed.



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HARRY DEXTER WHITE DOCUMENTS

Description

Documents which are referred to as the HARRY DEXTER WHITE documents are described as four pages of handwriting material on yellow lined paper, three of the pages having handwriting on both sides. The documents were turned over to the Baltimore office of the Bureau by RICHARD F. CLEVELAND, Attorney for JAY WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, on December 3, 1948. These documents,

according to CHAMBERS, were in a manila envelope hidden in the dumb-waiter of the home of his brother-in-law's mother in Brooklyn, New York. These documents were designated as Q70 through Q73 as follows.

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