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Perl

W I L L I A M P E R L, recalled as a witness, having first
been duly sworn by the Foreman, testified as follows:

BY MR. LANE:

Q Now, Mr. Perl, you realize once again that you are
under oath? A Yes, I do.

Q And you have the benefit of counsel? A Yes.

Q And you also realize, I hope, and understand that
under your constitutional rights you don't have to answer
any questions which in your opinion may tend to incriminate
or degrade you. Do you understand? A Yes, I understand th

Q Now, in your previous appearances before the Grand
Jury you testified at some length and in your testimony you
said, I believe, that you did not know Julius Rosenberg.

A Yes, I believe I said that.

Q And do you still stand on that statement? A I don't
know. I have an awareness of Rosenberg from City College
days, so I would like --

Q Well, outside of City College days you don't recall
ever having seen him? A (No answer.)

Q What is the answer? A That's right; I don't recall
seeing him after City College days.

Q And when did your City College days end? A In 1940.

Q 1940? A Or, rather, 1939. I got my degree, my
Master's degree, there in 1940. My residence there ended
in 1939.

Q Do you have a younger brother? A Yes, I do.

Q What's his name? A Samuel Benjamin Perl.

Q Was he in the service? A He was.

Q When was he in the service? A I don't know exactly.

Q It was during the war, wasn't it? A Oh, yes.

Q It wasn't before that? A No.

Q It was after December, 1941? A Yes.

Q Do you recall how soon after that he entered the service? A I don't know exactly. It must have been within two years or so.

Q About 1943, '44? A Well, I don't know.

Q And what's he doing now? A So far as I know, he is studying music in Paris.

Q How old is he? A He is four years younger than myself. He is 28.

Q And is his name Mutterperl or Perl? A Perl.

Q He changed it, too? The whole family changed it?
A No. Shortly after I changed my name legally he decided to do the same.

Q Just the two in your family? Your dad and mother have the same name? A Yes.

Q And the name you were born with, your mother and father still retain that name? A Yes.

Q Just you and your brother changed it? A Yes.

Q Now, he got an honorable discharge, I assume. A Yes.

Q And where did he serve in the Army? A Oh, various places here and went overseas in the European theater, I believe.

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Q How long was he in, altogether? A Oh, two or three years; something like that.

Q Now, did you in 1944, accompanied by your brother -- I withdraw that. Do you know Sobell, Morton Sobell?

A Yes, I recollect Sobell.

Q Well -- A Though I realize I didn't in my previous testimony, I believe I do now, at least from City College days.

Q You see what I mean? Every time I confront you with something about something you said before you come here and you recant. A Well, I believe I mentioned this the last time.

Q You know him from City College days? A Yes.

Q Did you know him after City College days? A Well, I don't know. You mentioned previously this question of the party at which he and I were supposed to have been present. I don't recall that. I can't positively deny that I was there, for example.

Q Do you recall being present with your brother Bill -- what's his name; Sam? A Sam.

Q Sam; being with Sobell and your brother and having dinner at the Bird-in-Hand Restaurant? A Bird-in-Hand Restaurant?

Q Yes. A With Sobell, my brother and I?

Q Yes, do you recall that, in 1944? A No, I do not.

Q Do you recall ever being in the company of your brother and Sobell in a restaurant in New York City?

A I'm sorry, I don't recall.

Q Do you recall being in the company of Julius Rosenberg and your brother Bill -- your brother Sam and Sobell in the Bird-in-Hand Restaurant in 1944 or thereabouts?

A No, I do not recall that.

Q Do you recall being present in the -- ever being present in the apartment of Julius Rosenberg? A No, I do not recall that.

Q Were you ever present in the apartment of Julius Rosenberg? A Well, I would say no definitely, but it has to be to the best of my recollection.

Q Well, you should know whether you were or you weren't. You said you hadn't seen him since college days, so --

A Well, no; then I would say I was not.

Q How well did you know Sobell after college days?

A Well, I don't know.

Q You don't know how well you know him? Well, let's see if we can help you on that. How often did you see him after your college days? A Well, I must have seen him several times.

Q Can you tell us where and under what circumstances?

A Well, I don't recall specifically. It must have been in New York, I imagine.

Q Well, what were your relationships with him? What was your relationship, just a friend? A Well, it certainly couldn't have been more than a friend.

Q Well, what was it? Tell us. I don't know. I'm

just asking. A Well, at school he was a class-mate and along with all -- various other class-mates that I went to lodge meetings and so on I to some extent kept in touch with him afterward.

Q Well, in what manner did you keep in touch with him?

A Well, it was either by correspondence or occasional personal contact, or both.

Q In other words, you were quite friendly with him?

A Well, I wouldn't say I was quite friendly with him.

Q What was the correspondence about? A It may not have been direct correspondence.

Q What would the personal conversation be about, the oral conversation, what would you talk to him about, what would the meetings be about? A Oh, just general, social nature.

Q I thought you said you weren't friendly with him.

A Well, these meetings, I don't know, I can't recall specific meetings. In other words, I can't recall coming to New York for the specific purpose of seeing Sobell.

Q Well, let's take it slowly. You graduated in 1939; is that right? A Yes.

Q And he graduated the same year. Now, after that where did you go to work? A I went to Langley Field in Virginia at the NACA laboratory there.

Q And where did Sobell go? A I don't know.

Q Well, did you correspond with him that first year

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out of college or did you see him socially or otherwise?

A I don't remember.

Q How about 1940; did you see him at all in 1940 or did you correspond with him? A I don't remember.

Q How about 1941? A Well, I had made various visits to New York in that period.

Q Did you see him then? A I might have seen him in that period in New York.

Q But you don't recall whether you did or not?

A No, I do not.

Q How often would you see him during the course of a year? A Well, if I saw him at all it would certainly not be more than two or three times.

Q And how often would you correspond with him in the course of a year? A Well, as I say, I don't know if I corresponded with him personally at all; but it would certainly have been no more than one or two letters, if I did.

Q Well, do you recall ever sending him a letter? A No, I don't. This is all sort of slightly hypothetical to me. The point is, I have a recollection of him.

Q You don't recall -- I don't quite understand you. You say this is hypothetical. This is not hypothetical. This is actual. I'm looking for facts, not for hypotheses.

A Well, I just don't remember these specific facts that you are asking me.

Q I'm asking you if you ever sent him a letter all the

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time you knew him. A I might have.

Q Well, don't you know? A No, I don't.

Q Well, when you came to New York did you see him on those occasions - Sobell? A I might have. I have no specific recollection of seeing him.

Q Do you recall ever staying at his place or him putting you up for the night? A No, certainly I do not recall that.

Q Did he ever visit you? A No. I don't know how these meetings occurred, if they did, and to what extent. He might have visited me. I don't know whether he knew where I was staying or not. If I corresponded with him he possibly probably did.

Q Well, if he ever visited you I think you would recall it, wouldn't you? A Well, I wouldn't know. I can really say I don't recall that.

Q Well, let's break it down further. Did he ever visit you any place outside of New York? A No.

Q You don't recall that? A No, I don't.

Q Can you definitely say he didn't? A Well, as definite as all my previous testimony.

Q Well, that's not very definite. A Well, this is all very long ago.

Q I understand; but I'm just in hopes that you can tell me yes or no whether he actually visited you at least once at any place outside of New York. Try to break it down outside of New York, now. A Let's see; I was at

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Langley Field and then in Cleveland.

Q And those are the only two places you have been stationed since you got out? A Yes.

Q Did he ever visit you at any of those places?

A I would say definitely no.

Q Did he ever write to you while you were in Cleveland?

A In Cleveland? No. I'm pretty sure he didn't write to me.

Q Did his wife write to you while you were in Cleveland?

A No.

Q Do you know William Danziger? A Yes, I remember Danziger.

Q Do you remember him from college? A Yes, I remember him from college.

Q Do you remember him after college? A Well, again I don't know if -- I may have met him several times after college, but it must have been pretty soon after college.

Q Well, isn't it a fact that you and Danziger and Sobell have been together on more than one occasion?

JUROR: Excuse me, Mr. Perl. May I interject?

You know, you are not making a very good impression on this Jury. You have got to be less evasive. A man of your memory can remember more specifically. Now, answer specifically.

THE WITNESS: I'm trying to be as specific as I can. Now, I knew both Sobell and Danziger. As to where I was with them both at any one time, I cannot remember.

It might be so. It could not have been very long after 1939.

Q Were you ever with Sobell and Rosenberg on any one occasion after 1939 at any meeting at all? A Well, no, I do not remember any such meeting. This party you mentioned to me the last time might have occurred. I don't recall that party. I certainly recall no other occasion.

Q You say you recall seeing Rosenberg at that party? A I believe in my previous testimony you asked me about a party at which they were supposed to have been present along with myself.

Q And your answer was what? A That I did not recall that party or being at it.

Q And you also stated, you said today that you never saw Rosenberg after -- you never knew Rosenberg --

A Yes, after City College days, anyway.

Q And you said you were not with him on any occasion, on any occasion, after you graduated from City College, you never spoke with him; that's what you testified to.

A Yes; I can't recall any such occasion.

THE FOREMAN: Did you have any correspondence with Sobell when you were at Langley Field?

THE WITNESS: Well, I might have. You see, I recall corresponding with various people from my graduating class. As to whether I mentioned him in a letter or corresponded with him directly, I couldn't say.

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JUROR: You say you recall corresponding with various people from your graduating class. Could you recount who some of those people are?

THE WITNESS: Well, I think that Joel Barr was one of them and, let's see -- oh, I couldn't say any other names at the moment.

Q Did you ever have a discussion about pediatrics with anybody? A Pediatrics?

Q Yes. A That I don't remember at the moment. I'm not quite sure what pediatrics means.

Q Well, did you ever discuss the bringing up of children with anybody? A Yes, I think I did.

Q You think you did? A Yes.

Q Do you have sort of a hobby on that particular subject? A No.

Q Where did you have this discussion about bringing up children; do you recall where it was? A No, I don't.

Q But you do recall having such a conversation? A It's the sort of thing I would discuss about with people.

Q Why would you discuss it? You are a bachelor, aren't you? Isn't it rather odd that you discussed that subject, unless you are a scientist - bringing up children?

A I think I would tend to discuss the theory of anything, and that is a theory of bringing up children and it's an interesting theory to me.

JUROR: Would you remember where you and Joel Barr

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agreed on some formula or theory about the bringing up of children on an occasion?

THE WITNESS: No, I don't remember any such particular agreement on that subject.

Q But you do discuss this subject quite a bit, don't you; it's one of your hobbies? A Well, not especially. There are lots of other subjects I discuss. But that sounds like a subject I would discuss.

Q Well, have you discussed it? A Yes, I have.

Q Very often? A No, not very often; occasionally.

JUROR: Mr. Lane, could you get a little idea of his philosophy on that?

MR. LANE: Sure.

JUROR: What is your theory on bringing up children? Just briefly, roughly, hit the high points.

THE WITNESS: Well, I think they should be taught to understand things rather than to react temperamentally. They should be taught sound ethical principles, preferably by example. That sort of thing. And they should be taught to know things from the importance of knowing things and understanding. How all that is to be done I don't know, actually, but that's the general idea of my philosophy as to what direction they should be turned in.

MR. LANE: Can we adjourn this?

THE FOREMAN: All right; you are excused.

[WITNESS EXCUSED]

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Rel BD
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Sylvia Danziger

S Y L V I A D A N Z I G E R , recalled as a witness,
again duly sworn by the Foreman, testified:

BY MR. LANE:

Q Mrs. Danziger, you will have to face the jury and I want you to pay very close attention to what I say. Your husband has just appeared before the grand jury and I am going over some of the ground with reference to Edith Levitov. Did you know her? A That's the sister-in-law of --

Q The sister-in-law of Sobell. A Yes. I think I was introduced to her.

Q A little louder. A I said, I think I was introduced to her.

Q Well, now, Mrs. Danziger, there is no reason why you and your husband -- well, before I ask you that question, how many children do you have? A Two.

Q How old are they? A One is going to be four next week and one --

Q A girl and boy? A The boy is four.

Q Your husband is greatly devoted to those children? A Yes, he is.

Q Do you think he cares more for the children than he does for the Sobells? A I definitely do.

Q Do you? A I certainly do.

Q Can you give me any reason why he doesn't want to cooperate? A No.

Q On the fact that I have inquired? A No.

Q Do you suppose you can get him to cooperate, to tell

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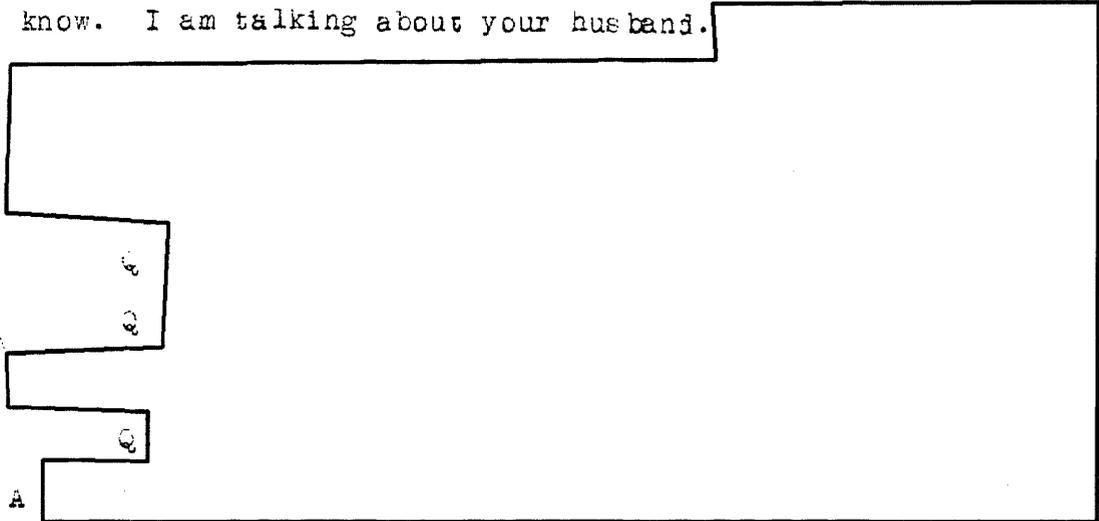
Sylvia Danziger

the truth? A I certain would if I could.

Q What? A I think he should tell the truth.

Q I don't think that you would be trying to shield Sobell, would you? A I certainly would not.

Q Maybe you can help us and perhaps help him, I don't know. I am talking about your husband.



Q Do you know he corresponded with Sobell? A I found that out, that he had sent a letter to Sobell, when I was talking to my uncle.

Q When you were talking with your uncle? A Yes.

Q When was this? A When you gave him the first subpoena and we went down and asked his uncle what a subpoena was -- my uncle, rather -- what a subpoena was and what it meant, and he said, "what have you got to do with it." And Bill told him, and that's when I found out about it.

Q You told the grand jury the last time you were here that you saw a letter that he received from Sobell. A Yes.

Q That doesn't add up with what you told us a minute ago.

A You said he sent a letter to Sobell.

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Sylvia Danziger

Q He answered it. A That I did not know until that time.

Q You knew that he had received letters from Sobell?

A I knew he had received a letter from Sobell.

Q How many? A A letter.

Q What was in the letter? A I told you as far as I remember what it was.

Q Didn't he tell you what he did with the letter?

A I am pretty sure I threw it out.

Q That's just what I am coming to. You are pretty sure you did not throw it out because the letter was sent to somebody else. A Oh, I am pretty sure I threw it out.

Q No, you couldn't have thrown it out because I have the letter. A Then I did not throw it out.

Q How could you throw out something I have got? I have a photostat right in my hand here. How can you come in here and tell this jury that you threw something out when I have it? A Mr. Lane, when the Agents asked about the letter I hunted all over the house for it, and when I did not find it I assumed I threw it out.

Q You assumed. Now you are certain you did not throw it out. A How can I be certain of anything?

Q I have the letter. A Then you have the letter. I was just certain I did. I'd have no reason to keep such a letter.

Q Did your husband ever tell you that he wrote to

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Sylvia Danziger

Edith Levitov? A No.

Q How did your husband usually address his letters?

How does he write? A What do you mean?

Q You know. A Does he write? You mean his handwriting?

Q Yes. A He usually writes.

Q When he writes -- you received letters from your husband? A Many years ago.

Q You mean he hasn't corresponded since you have been married -- when he's away? A I do not remember having corresponded.

Q Come, come, you love your husband, don't you? A I certainly do. I spent \$80 on those calls when we were separated.

Q That's what I mean. A I do not recall any letters.

Q Just show me. When he sends a letter to you, show me just how he writes his name. A How does he write his name?

Q No, how would he address you, not his name, how would he address you? Write it as though he were writing a letter to you. How would he address the envelope, the name and address -- your name and address and your place. A You mean where we live now?

Q Yes. That is where he would write it, I assume. You don't have any hesitancy in that? A I am trying to remember how he would write.

Sylvia Danziger

Q You know your own name. Go ahead. Is the address there? You have an address. And the city.

(Hands Mr. Lane envelope. MARKED G.J. EXHIBIT 5, this date.)

Q Suppose he were going to write to Edith Levitov, how would he address it? I will give you the address. You show me how he would address it. A Miss Edith Levitov.

Q 2135 Lee Highway, Arlington, Va. A How does she spell it -- "o-f-f"?

Q Levitov, you know how she spells it, Levitov. A "o-v" -- what was it?

Q 2135 Lee Highway, Arlington, Va. Now, if your husband -- hold that -- does your husband ever address a letter to you and print it? A Print it?

Q Yes. A I don't think so. I don't know.

Q Suppose he were going to, how would you print a letter to that woman? You print it. You print out the first name, Miss Edith Levitov, and then write the rest out in your own handwriting. You don't spell Edith that way. Edith is spelled "E d i t h". Print out Miss Edith Levitov, 2135 Lee Highway, Arlington, Va. Now, I show you Grand Jury Exhibit 3, and I ask you if you have ever seen that before? That is a photostat. A No.

Q Never? What is the answer? A No.

Q You never saw it before? A No.

Q Did you ever mail a letter to Edith Levitov? A No, sir.

(TWO ENVELOPES WRITTEN BY WITNESS MARKED GRAND JURY EXHIBITS 6 and 7, this date.)

Q I show you Grand Jury Exhibit 2, and I ask you if you have ever seen those envelopes before? A No.

Q Never saw them? A No.

Q Do you recognize the handwriting or the printing on either one of those letters? A Can I see that first one?

Q No, no, take a look at it. Do you recognize the handwriting on either one of those letters? A The printing looks familiar.

Q But you don't recognize it? A It looks --

Q It looks like the printing on the exhibit that you just saw? A No.

Q I show you Grand Jury Exhibit 3.

(Cont. by B⁺)

Rel.LB
10/18/50

(Mr. Lane)

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S. Danziger

A It looks something like this.

Q It looks like the printing on Government Exhibit 3?

A Yes.

Q But you don't recognize it? A No.

Q Do you know Helen Sobell's writing? A No, I don't.

Q Printing? A No, I don't.

Q Well, do you recognize the writing on Exhibit 2 that I have shown you? A No.

Q Now, do you know Abe Survell? A Who; Sobell?

Q Survell. A Survell; yes, I know him.

Q Do you know him very well? A Well, I have seen him.

Q Did you and your husband attend meetings at his house?

A Not to my knowledge.

Q Did your husband ever attend a meeting? A Not to my knowledge.

Q Did you attend a meeting? A I don't recall ever having a meeting at his house.

Q Well, talk loud, now, as loud as you can. Did you ever attend a meeting at this man's house; Abe Survell?

A I don't recall attending a meeting at Abe Survell's house.

Q Did you ever visit with Abe Survell? A Survell?

Q Yes. A I think I did.

Q You think you did? A I think I visited him.

Q At his home? A At his house.

Q And was your husband with you? A I think so.

Q Well, I thought you said you never attended any

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meetings at his house. A Well, he had twin boys and I think I visited after he had the twin boys.

Q You mean you visited him socially? A Yes, at his house. He bought a house, didn't he?

Q I don't know. I'm asking you, did he? A Yes, I'm pretty sure I visited there.

Q Do you know what he did in Washington? A Well, he worked for the Government.

Q What did he do? A He was an artist, wasn't he?

C Well, you are telling me. I'm asking the questions.

A I'm sorry. I think he was an artist.

Q Did you know he belonged to the Communist Party?

A I don't think I knew that.

Q You didn't know that? A No.

Q Did you know he was chairman of the Communist Party unit? A No, I didn't know he was chairman.

Q Was he in the same unit that you were in? A You keep saying that.

Q Well, was he or wasn't he? A He wasn't anything to me.

Q Were you in the same unit that he was in, the Communist unit? A No, sir.

Q Was your husband in it? A How can I answer for my husband? But I don't think my husband --

Q Just say as far as you know. A As far as I know.

Q As far as you know, your husband was not in any

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Communist unit? A That's right, as far as I can tell, my husband wasn't.

Q And as far as you know, you weren't in it? A As far as I can remember, no.

Q You didn't belong to any Communist cell unit down there in Washington? A Mr. Lane, I don't recall ever having belonged to anything like that down in Washington.

Q Now, we'll just stick to Washington and the question. The question was did you belong to a Communist cell in Washington? A I told you I don't recall ever belonging to a Communist cell in Washington.

Q Did you ever attend a Communist Party meeting in Washington? A I don't think I ever attended a Communist Party meeting in Washington.

Q Do you know David Levitov? A Who?

Q David Levitov. A Is he related to --

Q Yes, a brother. A No, sir, I don't.

Q Do you know Edith Levitov? A Yes, I do.

Q Did you ever correspond with Edith Levitov?

A No, sir.

Q Did you ever send an envelope through the mail to Edith Levitov? A No, sir.

Q Do you know whether your husband ever did or not? A No, sir.

Q Did he ever tell you that he did? A No, sir.

Q Did anyone ever tell you? A No, sir.

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S. Danziger

MR. LANE: Any questions, ladies and gentlemen?

Incidentally, Mr. Reporter, would you mark this as an exhibit.

[An envelope, containing writing, was marked Grand Jury Exhibit No. 4, this date.]

Q One more question. Here are six envelopes. Take a look at all of them. Do you recognize the handwriting on any of those envelopes, or the printing? Or would you like to compare it with this other? A It looks familiar.

Q Well, do you recognize it? Did you ever see them before? A These envelopes?

Q Yes, the writing on the envelopes. Did you ever see the envelopes before? A I didn't see the envelopes.

Q Did you ever see the writing on the envelopes before? A Is this my husband's?

Q I'm not telling you what they are, whether they are Sobell's or Levitov's or anyone's. I'm just asking you whose handwriting that is. A It looks kind of like my husband's.

Q Can you identify it as your husband's? I'm not talking about the handwriting. I'm talking about the printing, this part. A The printing?

Q Yes. I don't mean the handwriting. The handwriting I'll concede is your husband's. I'm talking about the printing. A No, I can't.

Q You can't recognize that? A No, he doesn't print like that. He does engineering work, and he blueprints.

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S. Danziger

Q Do you recognize that? A Well, that's how he would print, if he printed, because they all print that way.

MR. LANE: The witness is identifying one of the exhibits, Exhibit 1-A. She identifies something that looks like her husband's printing.

Q Do you recognize it as your husband's? A It's so hard to recognize the printing.

Q Well, did you ever see your husband print like that before? A Yes, whenever he prints anything on his stuff he prints like this, I mean capital letters, and like this, that's how he would do it.

Q And do you think that's his envelope and his printing on the envelope? A I wouldn't know if it's his envelope, but it might be.

Q Does it look like his printing? A It looks like the way he would print.

Q Did you ever receive a letter like that from him? A Well, Bill generally types things.

Q Or writes them out, I assume. A He has a very bad handwriting.

Q Do you recognize that as his handwriting? A I say it might very well be.

Q But you would have difficulty in recognizing it? A Yes, sir.

Q How about this here; do you recognize that? A Now, this is -- is that the same one?

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S. Danziger

MR. LANE: I have shown the witness Exhibits 1-B and 1-C and I asked her if she could identify the handwriting there.

Q Can you identify that handwriting? Is that your husband's or is it Sobell's? A It looks very much like my husband's handwriting.

Q But can you positively identify it? You have seen your husband write before, haven't you? A I have seen him write. He is a very sloppy writer.

Q Does that look like his writing? A It looks very much like it, yes.

Q And Exhibit 1-D, does that look like his writing? A Yes, it looks like his writing.

Q Now, does the printing on Exhibit 1-D look like his printing? A No, I would say he wouldn't use printing like that.

Q Exhibit 1-E, does that look like his printing? A That would look like his printing.

Q And Exhibit 1-F, does that look like his printing? A I would say it might very well be.

Q Is there any reason why your husband should be shielding Sobell? A No. I think my husband ought to take Sobell and choke him.

THE FOREMAN: Why?

THE WITNESS: Because how can anybody let somebody come out to his house when he knows he is running away?

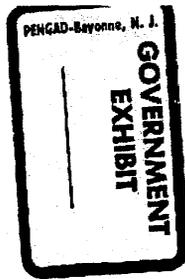
Q Well, now, Mrs. Danziger, those tears don't -- I don't think they affect the Jury at all. What we want to know from you, what is more effective than tears, is why your husband acted as a mail drop for the Sobells. Now, if you can explain that satisfactorily I think we can disband. And if you can't, I'm going to ask the Jury to take appropriate action. Now, do you have an explanation? A He would be a damned fool if he ever did.

Q Well, that's the way you put it. Then you think he is being rather silly in what he is doing? A I'm sorry; to me, it would be the most ridiculous thing I ever know of.

Q Well, then I'm going to ask the Foreman to excuse you and your husband until next Wednesday, at which time I want you back. And between now and Wednesday whatever this Jury will do I think will depend in great measure upon the influence you have with your husband in getting him to tell the truth for a change. That's all. I'm convinced your husband is lying, I'm positive, and no one can change that, because there are certain facts that are unexplained and he is the only one that can explain them. A Did he write those letters to Levitov?

Q I'm not asking you to answer any questions. I'm telling you something. You are smart, you are intelligent. You talk to your husband about that, not me.

(To the Foreman) So, Mr. Foreman, unless there are some questions -- and the hour is getting a little late --



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I think we ought to excuse her until next Wednesday.

THE FOREMAN: You are excused until next Wednesday. And I would like to say, as Foreman of this Jury, we are all trying to help you -- just keep that in mind during the week -- we are all trying to help you. We are not trying to get anybody into any trouble at all. We all realize your position. So try to be open and tell everything, because you can imagine what things might be if you don't. And we are with you. Feel that we are with you to help you. Will you do that?

So that you will be here next Wednesday; that's on the 25th.

MR. LANE: Your husband is to come back the same time, at eleven o'clock.

[WITNESS EXCUSED]

US vs John Doe

LB-1

October 26, 1950

Surovell

A B R A H A M J . S U R O V E L L , called as a witness, having first been duly sworn by the Foreman, testified as follows:-

BY MR. LANE:

Q Will you give me your full name and age? A My full name is Abraham Jacob Surovell. I am 30 years old.

Q Your address? A 1102 46th St., southeast, Washington 19, D. C.

Q And your employment? A Pardon?

Q Your present employment. A I am self-employed.

Q Doing what? A I have a drafting firm called Sangster Surovell Associates, Inc. I am the vice president.

Q How many people do you have working for you? A At present we have --

Q Well, roughly; don't give me exactly. A Nine people.

Q Are you married? A Yes, sir.

Q How long have you been married? A I have been married for eight years.

Q What is your wife's maiden name? A Her name is Ester Shaick.

Q Do you have any children? A Yes, sir.

Q How many? A Three.

Q How old? A One is $4\frac{1}{2}$; the other are twins, 20 months old. All boys.

Q What sort of work do you do with this company of yours? Whom do you work for? A We are a general drafting

company. We can do any kind of drafting work that's needed and commercial art work.

Q Were you employed in the Navy Department at one time? A Yes, sir.

Q How long ago was that? A I believe that I first started at the Navy Hydrographic Office on February 8, 1942; it was the month of February; I believe it was the eighth.

Q How long did you work there? A I enlisted in the United States Navy on November 24th, 1942. I donned a Navy uniform -- I wonder if everyone can hear me?

Q Speak a little louder. The acoustics are a little poor here. A I joined the Navy and was in uniform from November 24, 1942, but was reassigned back to the desk I had had as a civilian to perform the same duties I was performing. I stayed in uniform until February of 1942, when I was discharged from the Navy and went back to the same job I had obtained with the Navy. I stayed in that job until June 30th, 1947.

Q What were your duties in the Navy? A I was a draftsman.

Q A draftsman? A Yes, sir.

Q What sort of drafting did you do? A Maps.

Q Maps of what? What sort of maps? A At one time they were large scale maps to go into a publication called The Naval Air Pilot. I was then transferred from that and put in charge of a publication called the Weather Summary for the United States Navy Air Pilot.

Q Did you do any work for Naval Intelligence while you were there? A No, sir.

Q None at all? A No.

Q Where were you stationed while you were in the service? A At the United States Navy Hydrographic office except for a very brief period, October 10th, 1945 -- I remember the date because it is my wedding anniversary -- and I was sent somehow to an office that was already in the process of being decommissioned. By the time I got there it was just about decommissioned, so I came back in November of the same year.

Q Was that on temporary orders or permanent orders?

A I never was quite sure. They called it rotation for men there who had been there for so long --

Q I know. Did you go out on temporary orders or did you go out on permanent orders? A I am sure I must have gone on temporary orders because at that time I had enough points for discharge, so I do not imagine they expected me to stay so long. They seemed anxious to get the others back.

Q When were you discharged? A I think the date was February 16th, 1946.

Q You got an honorable discharge, of course?

A Yes, sir.

Q Do you know William Danziger? A I must decline to answer that question, sir, on the grounds that it might tend to incriminate me.

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Surovell

Q You mean the fact that you know him you think would tend to incriminate you? The next question I ask could or could not, but the fact that you know him could not very well tend to incriminate you any more than ^{if} you knew former Pres. Roosevelt or if you know Joe Stalin. The fact that you know him could not very well tend to incriminate you. Association with a person might tend to incriminate you, but the fact that you know a man doesn't. A I am afraid I must decline to answer.

Q You have counsel, have you? A Yes, sir.

Q What is his name? A His name is Kalman Gottesman.

Q What is his address? A Empire State Building.

Q Telephone number? A I do not know it, I am sorry.

Q Have you paid him a fee? A Yes, sir.

Q Have you known him before? A No, sir.

Q When did you meet him for the first time? A Yesterday.

Q How long has he practiced law? A I don't know.

Q Is he a member of the Bar of the State of New York?

A I believe so.

Q Who recommended you to him? A My Washington attorney.

Q What is his name? A They are a law firm, called Cobb & Weisbrod.

Q Which one is your lawyer? A Both, actually.

Q What is their address? A 1822 Jefferson Place, N.W.

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Surovell

Q Do I understand that you prefer not to cooperate in this case? A I have been advised by my attorney --

Q I appreciate that.

THE FOREMAN: You haven't answered the question. Are you going to cooperate or are you not going to cooperate -- yes or no?

THE WITNESS: I am afraid I cannot anticipate --

THE FOREMAN: The answer is yes or no. Are you going to cooperate or not?

THE WITNESS: I will cooperate to the fullest of my extent.

Q Well, if your skirts are completely clean -- we are inquiring into this espionage and the atom bomb business -- if your skirts, as I say, are completely clean, you can cooperate; but if you think you are vulnerable in any way, if you think you are involved, if you think perhaps you might be indicted for espionage, why it might be advisable for you to refuse to answer questions. But at the same time -- you put yourself in the position of these jurors -- you come in here, an American citizen -- I assume you are, aren't you?

A Yes, sir.

Q Well, I assume you feel like the rest of us. You would like to preserve this country. You come up here, and when we try to ask you questions that we might in some way delve into the activities of people who have tried to sell the country down the river, so to speak, you suddenly say,

"Well, I refuse to answer on the grounds it may tend to incriminate me." Now, what would you think if you were a juror? A I have retained counsel and he has advised me and I think that I should follow his advice.

Q Well, you haven't answered my question. I understand that. I said, what would you think, what alternative does it leave these people as far as you are concerned? What are they going to think? What? A I don't know.

Q You prefer not to tell anything about Danziger that you know? Will you answer that question? Do you prefer not to say anything about Danziger? A Yes, sir.

Q On the grounds it would tend to incriminate you? A That's right.

Q Didn't you talk to the FBI Agents in Washington? That doesn't incriminate you because you did talk to them. I have the Agents in mind whom you talked to, so you cannot very well say the fact that you answer yes or no to that would tend to incriminate you, because that is a fact -- didn't you? A Yes, sir.

Q Well, everything you told to the Agents we know, so that wouldn't tend to incriminate you. If it would incriminate you, it would have incriminated you long ago, wouldn't it? In other words, you told the Agents you knew Danziger. Now you come before a grand jury and say you do not want to testify on the grounds it will tend to incriminate you. It is not consistent. I do not know what your lawyer based his

argument upon, but did you tell your lawyer you told all this to the FBI? A I think I would decline to answer that question too.

Q You decline to answer that on what ground? A I wonder if I might see my attorney?

Q Yes, you will see him in time, but what is your answer to the question? A I wonder if I might consult with him before I answer that question.

Q In other words, did you tell your lawyer -- you have already told me and I know that you have talked to the FBI -- now my question to you is, did you tell your lawyer what you told the FBI Agents? A I really would appreciate it if I could consult with my lawyer.

Q Do you know Julius Rosenberg? A To the fullest extent of my memory, I honestly believe that I have never seen him in my life.

Q Do you know Morton Sobell? A I can say the same about Morton Sobell: I have never in my life seen him as far as I can recall, not once.

Q What? A Not once in my life, as far as I can recall.

Q Do you know Mrs. Sobell -- do you know Sylvia -- Mrs. Sobell? A I am almost positive again that I have never met her.

Q Do you know Sylvia Danziger, Danziger's wife?
A I decline to answer that question.

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THE FOREMAN: Isn't that inconsistent?

Q On what grounds? A I decline to answer that question.

Q On what grounds? A On the grounds it might incriminate me.

Q Do you refuse to answer -- I will ask you this question: Will you answer any questions with reference to William Danziger or Sylvia Danziger? A No, sir; on the grounds they might incriminate me.

Q You want to consult with your attorney? A If I may.

Q You go down to the fourth floor, you know where he is. You better sit down and have a heart to heart talk with that lawyer. I do not know what his experience is, but I think you better have a heart to heart talk with him. Did you bring your things up with you from Washington? A No, sir.

Q You have nothing with you if you have to stay over for some time? A No, sir.

(WITNESS EXCUSED)

Oct. 26, 1950

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Levitov

D A V I D Z . L E V I T O V , called as a witness,
having first been duly sworn by the Foreman, testified
as follows:-

BY MR. LANE:

Q Mr. Levitov, how old are you? A 30 years old.

Q Are you married? A No, sir.

Q Your present address? A 2135 Lee Highway.

Q Arlington, Va ? A That's right.

Q You live with your folks? A With my mother.

Q Your father living? A No, sir.

Q Do you support your mother? A Yes, sir.

Q How many brothers and sisters do you have? A I have
two brothers and two sisters.

Q The sisters are who? A Edith and Helen.

Q How long have you lived at your present address?

A Roughly 17 years save for the time I was in the service.

Q Where were you, in the Army or Navy? A In the Army
Air Forces.

Q How long were you in the Army Air Forces? A About
four years -- 51 months.

Q Where were you stationed? A You mean all the places?

Q No, I mean some of the places. A Well, I mean,
Fort Monmouth, N. J., and then McCord Field, Washington,
Bakers Field, Cal., Fresno, Cal., and overseas, I went --
there are several other places.

Q Were you in England? A No; I went to the South
Pacific.

Q What was your rank? A I went in as a Private and I came out the same way.

Q What did you do? A My military specialty was teletype operator.

Q Where are you presently employed? A When I was overseas on Iwo Jima, my father died, and as soon as I could I came home and I took over the grocery store.

Q That's his business then? A Yes, my mother and his.

Q How many people work in the grocery store?
A Myself.

Q You run it alone? A Well, my mother is there.

Q You are the brother-in-law of Morton Sobell, is that right? A That's right, sir.

Q What members of your family were living at your Arlington, Va. home during the months of June and July 1950? Which members of your family were living with you in 1950, June and July? Your mother, yourself, either one of your sisters live with you during that period? A I know Helen did not -- June or July -- Edie might have lived there but I don't know.

Q Well, this was just after the Sobells left for Mexico, would that refresh your recollection? A Yes. I mean, she came back, I think it was July.

Q Sometime in July? A I think so, sir.

Q Now, when Edith wasn't living at home, do you know

where she did live? A It has always been my impression that she lived with Helen.

Q Did you visit them there at Sobells? A One time.

Q When was that? A Oh, a year and a half, two years ago.

Q Was Edith there at that time? A Yes.

Q When Edith returned to your home in July of this year, did she tell you anything about the departure of the Sobell family? A No, sir.

Q Didn't say anything? A Here is the whole thing: this is a pretty tough subject --

Q I appreciate that fact. A But my kid sister, I mean, you can't talk to her for any length of time.

I mean, I couldn't talk to her like I talk to you, for instance.

Q What I was getting at, it is normal when some member of the family leaves on a long trip to say, "Brother or Sister is going somewhere." A That depends on the family.

Q I understand. But did she say anything about the fact that the Sobells had left for Mexico? A I mean, natural when she came home we asked where Helen and Mortie were, and she told us that she did not know.

Q Did she tell you where they had gone? A Well, we gave her, I mean, we wanted to find out ourselves, I mean, and Mom wrote a letter pleading, "Please tell what happened.

I mean, she thought they had got in an automobile accident or something.

Q She thought that who got in an automobile accident?

A My brother-in-law and my sister.

Q How could they get in an automobile accident when they left by plane? A She knew absolutely nothing about the whole thing.

Q Who? A My mother.

5 Q Yes, but didn't your sister tell your mother that they left for Mexico? She certain should have known. She was there that night when they left. A We asked her, "Where is Helen and Mortie?" And she told us that she did not know.

Q You see, I don't know whether you appreciate the fact that you are under oath and that the answers you give are subject to the penalties of perjury. I want you to realize that. I appreciate the fact that it is kind of a tough spot for a brother to be in, to have to come before a grand jury. But, nevertheless, the business that they are involved in involved millions of Americans, and we have to go through this thing, and I know if I were in your shoes and my sister was involved in this in any way, I'd feel the same way you do, a little reluctant, but nevertheless it would be my duty, I'd have to testify to those facts or else take the consequences. Now, bear that in mind when I ask these questions. I ask you rational questions which call

for rational answers. Now we have jurors here that are intelligent. I think they are going to find it a little difficult to believe that a member of the family comes down to the home of her brother and her mother and then suddenly doesn't know where the brother-in-law and sister happen to be. When as a matter of fact we have definite evidence that she was present the night they left. She knew where they were going. So it doesn't add up. I ask you about it and you say, "Well, she did not know where they went." This is your opportunity to tell us whether she in fact did tell you where they were. A I am under oath, sir. I will repeat what I just said.

Q Did she tell you why they had left? A No, sir.

Q Didn't she say anything about them? A No, sir.

She's, you know, she -- my mother asked her how is the baby and all that sort of stuff, and all she would say is, they are fine.

Q When is the last time prior to June 22, 1950 that any member of your family in Virginia heard from Helen or Morton Sobell? A I don't know exactly, sir. We got a couple of letters and all of a sudden the letters even stopped.

Q Did Helen or Morton Sobell ever tell you or any member of your family that they were planning to go away prior to June 22, 1950? A No, sir.

Q Now, in June or July 1950 did you or any member of your family receive any letters from Morton or Helen Sobell?

A The only thing I can say about that, sir, is when the FBI men came around I gave them the letter and the envelopes and all that sort of stuff, I mean, everything that I had in my possession.

Q Yes, I know that, and apparently in that respect you were cooperative. But where did you get those letters?

A Where did I get those letters?

Q Yes, those envelopes and the letters? A I mean, the letters came in and I put them on the side, and when, I mean, it was a letter, I mean, I didn't attach any importance to it, I mean, outside of, you know, the usual family stuff, and when they came on in, that's all I knew, I mean, they wanted them and they wanted the envelopes.

Q Yes, but when the letters first came to the house, you gave the letters to Edith? A I don't even think Edith was home at the time.

Q Who opened the letters? A I did -- either my mother or myself. I mean, that's the only person.

Q You read them? A Of course I read them.

Q Now, this is an exhibit, Govt's Exhibit 3. This is a photostat, I believe, of the letter. I think that is what you gave the FBI. Do you recognize it? A Yes.

Q These are the two envelopes. That's Govt's Exhibit 2, I think. A Well, I mean --

Q Those are photostats. A Yes.

Q Of the letters which you gave the FBI. A Yes, they look like them.

Q Did you ever give Edith either one of these exhibits? A No.

Q Never? A No.

Q You read them yourself? A I read the letters, yes.

Q Did they have any particular significance? A Not to me.

Q What happened to the other letter that was in? A I mean --

Q Those are the only two you had? In other words there were two envelopes in one letter? A Yes.

Q Wasn't there another letter enclosed in the second envelope? A Of course there was, but, I mean, where or what it got -- where it got to, I have no idea. I mean, I am not a methodical sort of person. I didn't file them away.

Q In other words, you opened these letters then and read them to your mother? A I opened the letters and I read them and then I gave them to my mother for her to read.

Q Did you give them to Edith? A Edith was not home, I don't think.

Q Did she ever read them? She come home sometime? A I think by the time -- wait a minute -- right at that time, it is pretty close, where I gave the letters to the FBI men, or Edith came home and I wanted to ask her what this was about, I don't remember.

1/1/50

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Levitov

Q Do you recall that she read the letters? A No, sir,
I do not.

Q You never saw her reading the letters? A I don't
know.

(Cont. by IFG)

October 26, 1950

IFG-1
(From LB)

Re: John Doe
(Mr. Lane)

D. Levitov

Q Will you tell me why you opened the letter addressed to Edith? A I would have opened - - I didn't even give it a second thought at the time. I mean - -

Q What do you mean? A I mean, out of a clear blue sky a letter comes from New York, and addressed to Edith, and naturally I thought it was from my sister Helen, and naturally I opened it.

Q You thought it was from your sister Helen?
A Yes. I don't know anybody in New York.

Q What made you think it might be from your sister Helen, if it was addressed to Edith and postmarked "New York"? A (No answer.)

Q That is a poser, isn't it? A Yes, it is.
Well, I mean - -

Q Come on now, tell me the truth. A Look, I intend to. This is something that I have never thought of before. You ask me a question, and I am figuring, why did I open the letters, and I have to look back; and I would have opened the letters, regardless.

Q But you said you thought it was from Helen.
A Well, - -

Q Why did you think it was from Helen? A Well, looking back, the letters were from Helen.

Q Is that Helen's handwriting on the envelope?
A I don't know, but I think so.

Q Did she print that way all the time? A I

don't know.

Q Didn't you ever receive letters from her before?

A Yes, I have received letters from her before.

Q Were they printed? A Yes, she sometimes prints.

Q And you say that that looks like her printing?

A I think so.

Q Well, for your information it is not. A It isn't?

Q No, of course it isn't. A What do you mean, "Of course it isn't."?

Q Just what I said: "Of course it isn't."

A It looks like it to me, sir.

Q Come, come, let's not fence. You know it isn't and I know it isn't. A Whose could it be, then?

Q I know it isn't your sister's. A Then that only leaves my brother-in-law.

Q You said you thought it was from your sister, when this letter came in. How about the second letter, the one where it has printing and writing on that - - did you think that was from your sister, too? A Now that I see them both together, I see that they aren't the same thing.

Q You see that they couldn't have been from your sister? A Sir?

Q You see that they couldn't have been from your sister? A I mean, - -

Q What is the answer? A I don't know, sir. If I knew I would tell you.

Q Well, my question was: You see that they couldn't be from your sister - - what is your answer to that? A That they couldn't be from my sister?

Q Yes; from the writing on the outside. A Well, I tell you the only person I know in New York is my sister.

Q But you still haven't answered my question. A What is that, sir?

Q The question is: Looking at the two exhibits, the envelopes, you see that they couldn't have been from your sister, from the handwriting? A Looking back - -

Q Now, answer the question and let's not fence. We are wasting time. A From the dates - -

Q You still haven't answered my question. Why don't you answer questions, instead of trying to rationalize here? A I don't know who they are from.

Q Take a look at the envelopes. Government's Exhibit 2 - is that your sister's handwriting? A I think so, sir.

Q From what you have seen of your sister's handwriting, you would say that is your sister's handwriting? I am pointing to "2135 Lee Highway, Arlington, Virginia," on a letter postmarked July 2nd. You think that is your sister's handwriting? A I think so.

Q You do? A Yes, sir.

Q Now, take your seat.

A JUROR: Mr. Lane, were there two envelopes?

MR. LANE: Yes, two envelopes. One is post-marked July 2nd.

A JUROR: Why did you have two envelopes, and one letter - why would you be holding an envelope?

THE WITNESS: The whole thing is sometimes - - why would I be holding an extra envelope?

A JUROR: Yes.

THE WITNESS: I don't know, sir. The fact is, I had an extra envelope, and when the F. B. I. men came around I picked one up and gave it to them. I don't know where the other letter went to.

A JUROR: How long was it before, that you received the letter, before the F. B. I. men came in?

THE WITNESS: About two or three weeks.

A JUROR: Why would you hold the envelope?

THE WITNESS: My mother cherishes the words, of my sister.

A JUROR: Why would she cherish the envelope, and not the letter?

THE WITNESS: I don't know. Perhaps, in cleaning up, it went astray.

A JUROR: Have you ever opened your sister's mail before?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

A JUROR: That is rather unusual, isn't it?

THE WITNESS: Not in our family, no.

A JUROR: Then it is an unusual family.

Q Now I show you Government's Exhibit 2, the one which contains the printing - that is the July 2nd - and the other contains printing and a little handwriting on there. Now, which one of those two envelopes contained this letter which is Government's Exhibit 3? A I think it was the bottom one.

Q You think it was the bottom one? A Yes, sir.

Q What makes you think it was the bottom one?

A I have no reason for my - - I mean, I just think.

Q In other words, you are just guessing? A Yes, sir.

Q But you don't know? A No, sir.

Q Did you turn the two envelopes and the letter over to the F. B. I. Agents in Washington? A Yes, sir.

Q And you say again that these letters came to your address, and that you opened them? A Yes, sir.

Q Did you know where your sister was at that time - Edith Levitov? A No, sir.

Q No, sir? A No, sir.

Q You didn't know where Edith was at that time?

A At the time I received the letters?

Q Yes. A I think she was with Helen.

Q Well, didn't you figure that she was with Helen at that time? A When she lived in New York, she always was with Helen.

Q So that, when you got the letters you figured she was with Helen? A That's right.

Q Then why didn't you put the letters in an envelope and send them to her? A (No answer.)

Q Well, - - A I think at that time we called up and received no answer. I mean, after we read the letters and all that sort of stuff, we called the Sobells and received no answer.

Q After you received the letters you called the Sobells and received no answer, is that right? A Yes.

Q What number did you call? A Olymbia 8-0829.

Q As a matter of fact, you were worried, weren't you? A Of course we were worried.

Q Your mother had thought that they had gotten into an accident, on the way to Mexico? A Strike out that last statement.

Q That is a question, not a statement. Don't strike it out. A We didn't know where they went.

Q Where did you suspect that they were going? A We had no reason to suspect; we thought they went on vacation.

Q You thought that they had gone on vacation, when you called them up? A Look - my mother is quite old, and she wanted to know where they were, and naturally she would call. I mean, any port in a storm.

Q You said she called them up because she thought that they had gone on vacation, and your mother was worried - - is that what you said? A Yes; and it doesn't make sense when I hear it back.

THE FOREMAN: We are trying to cooperate with you now. Just take it a little easy. We appreciate the position you are in. Try not to answer just to make an answer, but try to have it have some continuity.

A JUROR: Didn't you think it was peculiar that the letters should come to your sister at your house, when she was residing in New York, and you said she hadn't lived there for years - - why should she get mail there?

THE WITNESS: You see, this is something - -

Q No - answer the question. A I don't see any reason why she should get mail there, but the fact is that she did receive mail there, and I opened the letters. Whether it was breach of etiquette or anything - -

Q You are the letter-opener of the house, is that right - you just open letters promiscuously? A (No answer.)

A JUROR: You didn't think it was strange?

THE WITNESS: Well, what is strange?

A JUROR: Did she get other letters there?

THE WITNESS: I don't think so.

Q Let me ask you a question: You said that you thought that this was a letter from Helen, is that right?

A That's right.

Q You have already testified to that? A Yes.

Q You also said that as far as you knew, Edith was living with Helen? A Yes.

Q So will you tell the jury why, if Edith was living with Helen, she would send a letter addressed to Edith down at 2135 Lee Highway, Arlington, Virginia?

A Here - -

Q Answer the question; don't give me arguments.

A I will answer the question. I think the only reason I opened the letter was because I thought the handwriting was my sister Helen's handwriting.

Q Yes; but you were so worried as to where they were that you said you called New York immediately. Here is a letter from New York, with a New York stamp on it, and you say that you thought it was from Helen, who was in New York - - but at the same time you knew that Edith was living with Helen. So here is a letter from Helen to Edith. Why would she be writing to Edith in Virginia, when they were living in the next room? Will you reconcile that with

the statement you made? A I can't answer your question directly; I will have to give you a little background on me.

Q What is wrong with you? A On account of to make it more plausible.

Q Plausible? A Look. Helen got married, and she went away, and she is living her own life. I have my mother to take care of. My kid sister This is a great big thing to you, and I would like to help you, but - -

Q This is just another case to me. A Then it is a big thing to me.

Q I should think it is a very big thing to you, because from what you have told us this morning you are so in danger of being indicted for perjury it is not even funny. Your sister is in trouble, your brother-in-law is in trouble, your other sister is in danger of being in trouble. If you want to make it one hundred percent, it is up to you. You have a mother to support, and you are in a serious situation. You have a mother to support - now, whom do you think you are kidding? A Look - you can't reveal stuff that you don't know.

Q That is true, but you can reveal stuff that you do know. A But this was a little matter. A letter comes, and you open a letter. You make it a big thing. What was in that letter so important - what did I care about that?

Q You explain this thing to me. Now, "Helen is away at the movie with Syd." What does that mean? A Helen is away with her daughter, whose name is Sydney.

Q When you got this letter, where did you figure she was away? A Sir?

Q What movie was she at, what city? A I think it was New York.

Q "So I'll write. All is well and we are comfortably located - Maid and all." What did that mean to you? A "We are all comfortable."

Q "We are all comfortably located - Maid and all." What did that mean to you, when you opened the letter? A I thought that Morty was doing very well for himself.

Q And he had a maid? A Yes.

Q You knew he didn't have a maid in all the time he was married, didn't you? A Of course I knew.

Q And you thought he could afford a maid? A I have a maid twice a week.

Q I am talking about Morty. A All right, so I figured that he was doing very well.

Q I see. So he had a maid for this three- or four-room house of his, and you thought that that is what that letter meant, that he had a maid in New York?

A That's right.

Q "Mark is walking." What did that mean?

A They have a little baby boy, and he started to walk.

Q "Helen is well and so is Syd." What did that mean? A Helen is all right and Sydney is all right.

Q "If you haven't transferred the car title then don't do so until I let you know further." What did you think that meant? A Well, I was going to buy a car for my kid sister, from a guy who lives next door, and on one of our telephone conversations I informed them that I was seriously thinking of buying an automobile for Edie, and that is what I thought when the letter said about the car title.

Q "Hope you got things straightened out at home - as well as could be." What did that mean? A He must have been referring to my business.

Q And the next line is: "Don't be too concerned. For we are not." What did that mean? A I guess he was philosophizing.

Q That was all in the handwriting of whom - the first part? A That is Morty's.

Q And this printing I am going into next: "Having a good rest, hope you are all well - Much love to you all." What did you think that meant? A Having a good rest.

Q "Hope you are all well - Much love to you all." What was that, "having a good rest"? A With the maid, naturally she would rest more.

Q And you thought it meant in New York? A Yes.

Q "We're having lovely weather here and all of us are relaxing and taking it easy." What did that mean?

A I thought they went outside, into a little yard that they had.

Q In New York? A Yes.

Q "You know us, Mom, easy-going impulsive birds, so don't worry about us. We'll make everything come out all right." What did that mean? A What did it mean?

Q Well, what did that convey to you, when you read this letter? A That everything was all right. This stuff about "impulsive birds" reads like poetry.

Q What did that mean to you when you read it?

A Just Helen's way of putting over a point.

Q What point? That is what we are getting at. When you read that, what did it mean to you? A Just what I said.

Q I will read it again: "You know us, Mom, easy-going impulsive birds, so don't worry about us. We'll make everything come out all right." What did that mean when you read it? A When I read it, it was just the way Helen talks.

Q About what? A That I didn't know, and I still don't know, as far as that goes.

Q "Syd & Pipsy are doing very nicely - Pips says 'aubt' meaning 'out' and 'ot' meaning 'hot.'" What does

that mean? A That is kid stuff - a mother showing off her baby.

Q Now, what does this mean: "P.S. To Edie - You know all the things I want to tell you so act upon them - Special love, Your Helen."? A That I can give you an answer very readily. Edie was [REDACTED] and that is what I thought it was all about, and that is what I still think it is about.

Q Now, when you got the letter and you knew that Edie was up at Helen's house in New York, and you read this, did you still think that Helen was home in New York?

A Looking backwards, I don't think so.

Q I don't think so, either. A No.

Q Then what did you do? A I figured that they had taken a trip.

Q Where had they gone? A I had not the slightest idea.

Q Then you called New York right away, didn't you, as soon as you got this letter? A We did call New York.

Q And whom did you try to get in touch with?

A I mean, after we spent so much time, and we didn't receive any word, and Helen usually called up every Sunday, or my mother called her up, we called up her place; and I think my mother at one time called up where Morty worked.

Q What did your mother say to you when you got

the letter? A I don't remember, sir.

Q Did you read the letter to her or did she read it herself? A She can read it.

Q Do you know anyone named Pasternack? A I know a dentist in Washington.

Q Do you know anyone in New York by that name? A No, sir.

Q Did you ever go to Camp Unity? A No, sir.

Q Did you ever write a letter to Camp Unity? A No, sir.

Q Did you talk to your sister when she got back to Washington, about Camp Unity? A No, sir.

Q Did you talk about this letter, Government's Exhibit 3 - - in other words, you showed her the letter when she got back, didn't you, because it is addressed to her? A I think so. I would have shown it to her, but I don't remember whether I gave it to the F. B. I. men before she came back.

Q You talked to her about it, didn't you? A Yes, I asked her about it.

Q What did she say about it? A She had nothing to say about that.

Q No comment? A I mean - -

Q Answer the question. A No comment.

Q Did you ask her where she thought they had gone? A Yes.

Q Did she tell you? A She wouldn't tell me.

Q Why? A She just clammed up.

Q Why? A I don't know, sir.

Q You mean she wouldn't tell you where they had gone, and she clammed up? A She never did tell me where they went.

Q Did you ask her where they went? A Yes, I did.

Q And what did she say? A That she would rather not say, or something like that.

Q Did you think that was peculiar? A Whether it was peculiar or not - -

Q Well, did you think so? A Yes, at the time.

Q Did your mother ask her where they had gone?

A Yes.

Q Did she tell her? A No.

Q Why? A For the same reason she wouldn't tell me.

Q Here is your mother, who worries about Helen, and she is so worried that she calls New York when she gets this letter, and eventually Edith goes back to Arlington and your mother asks her where your sister Helen has gone, and you say she clams up and wouldn't tell her. Is that a fact, did I recite that correctly? A That's right.

Q And that makes sense to you? A (No answer.)

A JUROR: I would like to ask him about the

name of the man next door he was going to buy the car from, and what kind of a car it was, and the details of that transaction.

THE WITNESS: A '38 Pontiac, four-door, two hundred dollars. Do you want anything else, sir?

A JUROR: The man's name and address.

THE WITNESS: Eggerton - Clinton O. Eggerton.

A JUROR: And the address?

THE WITNESS: 21 - - it must be 2133 or 2131 Lee Highway.

A JUROR: Whom were you going to buy that car for - Edith or Helen?

THE WITNESS: For Edith.

A JUROR: This letter was from Helen - why would she be talking about the car?

THE WITNESS: I called up New York, at the time they were all there, and I told her that I might buy a car for Edie; I told Helen that.

A JUROR: What kind of trouble was Helen and her husband in, that your mother would be concerned about?

THE WITNESS: (No answer.)

A JUROR: What kind of trouble was your sister Helen and her husband in, that your mother would be concerned about? That is mentioned in the letter. There must have been some kind of

trouble, because she said, "Don't worry about anything, it is all working out," or something like that.

THE WITNESS: I had no knowledge of any difficulty.

Q This letter is addressed to "Dear Edie and Davie and Rose." Who is "Davie" - you? A Yes.

Q And who is "Rose"? A My mother.

Q And who is "Edie" - Edith? A Yes.

Q Did Edith tell you anything about the departure of your sister for Mexico? A No, sir.

Q Did you ask her about it? A I talked to her as much as I could.

Q Have you talked with her since? A Of course I have.

Q Did she tell you the details of how they left for Mexico? A Helen has told me something.

Q What has Helen told you? A The only thing Helen told me was how they were picked up across the border from Laredo.

Q That isn't what you said - you said Helen told you something of the details about how they left for Mexico. A I take that back.

Q Tell the truth. A I don't know how they left.

Q Did she tell you how they left? A No.

Q Did she tell you why they left? A No.

Q Did she tell you when they left? A No.

Q Did she tell you where they stayed in Mexico?

A She had a match-box with a hotel on it.

Q What was the name of the hotel? A I don't remember.

Q Did she tell you who told them to go to Mexico?

A No.

Q She didn't tell you that? A No.

Q Did you ask her why she went to Mexico? A With everything breaking in the papers?

Q Yes. A (No answer.)

Q Did you ask her or didn't you ask her why they went to Mexico? A (No answer.)

Q Is that so hard to remember? A I think I did.

Q And what did she say? A She didn't say.

Q She refused to say, to even tell you? A She didn't refuse.

Q Well, she didn't say, so she must have refused.

A Well, if my sisters want to talk to me, fine and good, and if they don't want to talk to me - -

Q Fine and good? A That's right.

Q So that when you asked her why she went to Mexico, she remained silent? A That's right.

Q Did you press it? A That's right.

Q So that, as far as you know, you don't know why they went to Mexico? A That's right, I don't know why.

Q When did your mother call the Reeves Instrument Company, the place where Morty worked? A I don't remember that.

Q After you got this letter? A I think so.

Q Whom did she talk with? A With some fellow there, and he was out to lunch.

Q Were you present when she talked? A Yes.

Q He was out to lunch? A He said Morty was out to lunch.

Q Someone at the Reeves Instrument Company said Morty was out to lunch? A That's right.

Q After you got this letter? A Yes, sir.

Q Do you know who the party was at the Reeves Instrument Company, that said that? A I don't know.

Q Did your mother tell you? A She didn't ask his name.

Q What time did she call the Reeves Instrument Company? A I think it was lunch hour.

Q At the store the call was made? A That's right.

Q What is the name of the store? A Lee Highway Market.

Q What is the address? A 2135 Lee Highway.

Q What is the telephone number? A Chestnut 1522.

Q And was it a person-to-person call you put through? A My mother put through the call.

Q To this Reeves Instrument Company? A Yes, sir.

Q Do you remember the number at the Reeves Instrument Company? A No, sir.

Q Are you in the habit of opening other people's mail? A People that are near and dear to me.

Q Do you open your mother's mail? A She only gets advertisements.

Q Do you open your sister's mail? A Yes.

Q Do you have any brother? A Yes.

Q Do you open your brother's mail? A Here is the only thing with my brother's mail - the telephone is listed in my brother's name, so naturally mail comes to my brother.

Q Are you a little curious - is that why you open the mail? A The majority of the mail I get is so little that - - there is nothing of any great importance in the letters I receive.

Q I am talking about the mail that your mother receives and your sister receives and your brother receives. Why do you open that? A Well, in the first place, my mother does not receive any.

Q The question is: Why do you open it? A Because I am the only one there to open it.

A JUROR: Don't you hold it for them, or forward it to where they are?

THE WITNESS: No, sir.

Q And you have told the absolute truth here today? A Yes, sir.

Q KNOWing that you are subject to the penalties of perjury? A Yes, sir.

Q Would you perjure yourself for your sister? A I don't think so; no, sir.

Q You are not sure, though? A No, sir, I would not.

Q You realize that it is a very serious charge against your sister, don't you - that is, against your brother-in-law and not your sister. A Yes; thank God for that.

Q Would you perjure yourself for your brother-in-law? A In a minute.

Q Don't you like him? A Well, outside of being Helen's husband, he means nothing to me. I met the guy three or four times.

Q Do you like him or dislike him? A I neither like him or dislike him. The only thing I want out of him is to make my sister happy, and he really made a mess of that, didn't he?

Q I don't know; you tell us. A I don't know, either.

Q Do you approve of him? A Who?

Q Your brother-in-law. A Do I approve of him?

Q Yes. A No, I don't approve of him.

Q Any reasons why? A Well, I have nothing except what I have read in the papers about him.

Q Do you know anything about any of his Communist activities? A No, sir.

Q I assume you yourself are not a Communist?
A Definitely not.

Q Well, is there any reason you can give for your reluctance to answer these questions today? A The only reluctance is, I want to get it straight, and I don't know a lot of these things, and I am trying doubly hard, and I am not used to speaking before - -

Q For the record? A Of course not. Who is?

Q Is there anything else you want to tell this jury? A No, sir.

Q About Morton Sobell? A No.

Q About Edith Levitov? A No, sir.

Q About Helen Levitov - - any explanation of these letters, or this letter? A I did the best I could.

Q And you still think that that looks like your sister's handwriting on the bottom of that envelope, to the best of your recollection? A Yes.

MR. LANE: Well, Mr. Foreman, the time is passing, and I think perhaps we can excuse this man, unless there is some question.

(WITNESS EXCUSED)

October 26, 1950

Surovell

(Mr. Lane)

A B R A H A M S U R O V E L L , recalled, testified
as follows:

BY MR. LANE:

Q You realize that you have been sworn? A Yes,
sir.

Q You have talked with your lawyer, is that
right? A Yes, sir.

Q Do you recall the question I asked you:
Do you know William Danziger? A Yes, sir.

Q What is your answer? A I asked him a ques-
tion you had asked me, with reference to whether I had
communicated with him, and he advises me that all communi-
cations I have had with him are confidential.

Q Well, you can advise him from me that he had
better look up his law, because the relationship between
client and lawyer is one which the lawyer can raise, and
not you. Is that what he told you? A Yes, sir.

MR. LANE: We will excuse this man for one
week, Mr. Foreman, and I will talk to his lawyer
downstairs and I will just inquire when he passed
the bar.

THE WITNESS: I asked him about that, too,
with reference to the question you asked me - -

Q When he passed the bar? A He was a member
of the bar for eighteen years, and was Assistant Chief
Counsel for the O. P. A. Enforcement Division in New York.

MR. LANE: May he be excused just for the day? He is to return next Wednesday.

THE FOREMAN: Would you just step out for a second and wait, and we will tell you when to appear again.

(WITNESS EXCUSED)