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H A R R Y D. B E L O C K, called as a witness, having first been duly sworn by the Foreman, testified as follows:

BY MR. LANE:

Q Mr. Belock, what is your home address?

A 7829 221st Street, Bayside, Long Island.

Q And your telephone number? A HOLLIS 5-0013.

Q And what is your business address? A 14th Avenue and 112th Street, College Point.

Q And do you have some name of the company? A Yes; Belock Instrument Corporation.

Q And how long has that been in existence? A About a month.

Q Now, you are married, are you? A Yes.

Q Any children? A Two.

Q And how old are you? A The girl is eight and the boy is four.

Q How old are you? A Forty-three.

Q Now, where did you go to school, Mr. Belock?

A I went to grammar school in Brooklyn, then went to Brooklyn Prep for a while; I went to Pratt Institute, nights.

Q And you are an engineer? A Not by degree, but by examination by the State of New York, licensed professional engineer.

Q Now, were you in the service? A During the war I was employed as chief of the fire control and radar section,

that we used to call the data control section, at Camp Evans.

Q Camp Evans? A At Belmont, New Jersey.

Q Now, you were connected with the Reeves Instrument Corporation a while back, weren't you? A Yes, sir.

Q When did you first become associated with Reeves?

A I started with Reeves Instrument -- it was not Reeves Instrument; it was Hudson American when I went into it. I started just a little before the end of -- D-Day -- the European war was pretty well over and they released me out of the laboratories and I felt that I could do better if I went into industry and carried on development work there. So it was I think -- I left Camp Evans in October, '44, I believe. Yes, the company -- Reeves is just six years old.

Q And you went in as what; vice president? A No. I just went in on a handshake. And when Claude Neon took it over I became executive vice-president and general manager.

Q Now, were you born in New York City? A Yes, sir.

Q How long have you -- no; I'll ask you this: As executive vice-president and general manager of the Reeves Instrument Corporation what were your duties? A Well, I was in charge of all the engineering, all the production, all of the development, all of the design; because when we started the thing there were just about six of us and we developed, ourselves, and designed most of the equipment we did at the time.

Q And did you have charge of the employment, too?

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A Yes, I had all the engineering and for quite a while I hired all the men in the shop.

Q Now, did you know this man Elitcher? A I met Max Elitcher when I started at Reeves, I met him up at the Bureau of Ordnance.

Q And did you hire him? A Yes, I did.

Q Is he a competent engineer? A Max is very competent. I hired him from the knowledge he had in naval ordnance work.

Q Now, this Morton Sobell; how long have you known him?

A I knew Mort back from the days at Camp Evans. I was assigned to do a certain job by the War Department, I was supposed to make a survey on certain equipment used in fire control and in radar. I went up to see Sperry, G. E. and Bell Labs--Bell Laboratories, rather. I went up to the aero-marine division where I saw -- I think it was his officer. We called him "Tiny" Fink; as a matter of fact, I don't even remember his first name. And he brought Mort down from the lab up on the roof and we were talking about these different projects. As things went along -- we designed a job at Camp Evans for the Air Force and it just happened that Mort Sobell was assigned to do the job. Things went along. I did not see Mort or hear of him until I brought in Sid Godet who later took Dr. Fink's job who Mort worked for. Godet came with me and then things got a little pressing and we started looking for engineers and we knew of Sobell's capabilities and Mort came down from Schenectady, we had a talk

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and we came to an agreement, and then and there Sobell went to work for Reeves.

Q And what did he start at, do you recall? A I think Mort started about six thousand to sixty-five hundred; it was in there some place, in between.

Q Now, did he recommend Max Elitcher? A No, he did not. The story of Max Elitcher is this: Max worked up at the Bureau and he was up there for quite a while, long after V-J Day, and we had this one system that we developed with Dr. Draper of M. I. T. Meanwhile Max Elitcher was working on another fire control system which was developed by M. I. T. the section known as radiation laboratory; he was the project engineer for the Bureau of Ordnance in the aircraft fire control section. Well, the system was pretty well finished and developed, it was going out to sea and was being produced, and when anything goes into production at the Bureau of Ordnance they automatically take it out of the research and development group and bring it down to the production group. We were very anxious to see this system which we had developed with Dr. Draper get as far as it could possibly get. Max Elitcher, knowing Navy projects and knowing Navy procedure, and so forth, I approached him to come with me. He did not approach me; I approached him.

Q When was that? A Gee, I forget the date.

Q Roughly. A I think Max was with us for about two and a half years. It's within that vicinity. I don't know

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if it's two or two and a half years. It's around there, possibly less. Well, I went up to his section head -- or, no; I told Max to see his section head, who was Commander Mustin, U. S. N. -- he was an Annapolis graduate -- and I told him to tell Mustin that if it was all right with him, I was going to take Max and put him on^{as} a project engineer on this new system that we call gunner --

Q What was his name; Mustin? A Commander Lloyd Mustin. And we agreed. As a matter of fact, I don't think I even spoke to Lloyd about it any more. I think Lloyd went out to sea. But it was agreed between Elitcher and myself that he finish up what he had to do at the Bureau before he came in.

Q Now, as far as you know, were Sobell and Elitcher -- were they friendly? A Well, they lived close by each other. I don't know how friendly they were at the Bureau. As a matter of fact, I didn't even know Elitcher went to school with Mort Sobell until conversation came up with Elitcher one day and Mort saying, "Well, Max and I went to school." As a matter of fact, it just happens that a lot of the boys at Camp Evans happened to be in the same class with Mort, I believe, at C. C. N. Y.

Q Do you know any one of them that were their classmates? A Well, I just remembered, since Sam Levine told me, Sam was a classmate of his. I think Aaron Coleman was, down at Camp Evans, was a classmate of his.

Q Sam is outside? A Yes. There was one other one; I

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think Johnny Ruze; he is up, I think, at Harvard now.

Q Tell me, did you ever visit the Sobells or the Elitchers socially? A No. I had very little to do with anybody in the plant, socially.

Q Now, did you know that about two years ago Sobell was the subject of investigation by one of the Government agencies? A Yes, I did. As a matter of fact, I was one of the few people that did when the Federal Bureau of Investigation came up, by the way. The way I knew about it is, when we put through a PSQ form --

THE FOREMAN: What's that?

THE WITNESS: A personnel security questionnaire.

A (Cont'g) We had a letter back that he was -- there was some doubt of his clearance -- I don't remember the exact wording -- and we tried to find out what it was about. And, generally, when we got back anything in any doubt about their security, if it was necessary we had to let him go. We couldn't commit anybody that -- and never tell him that it was due to their clearance that we had to let him go. But the way we used to approach the thing -- if the person went about their work, you just couldn't up up and fire him. I mean, you would break the morale of the place. So the only excuse we had was that their clearance just hadn't come through as yet. But in the case of Mort Sobell, he had been with us quite a while and the last thing I had ever suspected was his security, because he was up at

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General Electric, in the aero-marine division, for so many years, working on the same equipment we have, which is gun fire control equipment. Some of it is secret, some of it not. I mean, most of it is every-day fire control work that you could read in magazines or books. Then the Federal Bureau of Investigation came up and they brought the thing up to me there. There was one other person -- there were very few in the plant that knew about it except this fellow Hank Aldrich, and possibly -- we call everybody by nicknames; I forget the first name -- there might have been possibly someone else. Well, when this Federal Bureau of Investigation man came up and he told me about it he says, "What do you want to do about it?" I said, "Look," I says, "the man has a lot of capabilities. He is very intelligent. He is arrogant. I have no trouble handling him." And I didn't. I mean I could -- to me, he would always listen. I says, "If you let him out of here, if he is guilty he can do you more harm than he can do you good." I said, "What the man don't know isn't worth while knowing." The jobs he was working on, the projects he was working on at Reeves might have been classified "Secret" and any engineer that's been in the same type of business, we would have no trouble imagining such a system. I mean, it might not be with the finesse that we did, but it's just like building two cars: You get a Chevrolet and a Cadillac; you could sell either car. If you want the better one, you'll get the Cadillac.

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So I talked to him for about two hours. I said, "Why don't we leave him in the plant here and just keep him under surveillance? If he makes a move, you've got him."

Q Do you remember who the Agent was? A No, I don't. There were three of them.

Q Was it a big fellow? A I think it was the tall chap.

Q Schroder? A To tell you the truth, I don't remember the name. Well, the conversation ended by him saying he would like me to meet his boss, and he thought I had some good ideas to the effect of how to watch the man. I says, "If you take him out of here you'll never know anything." Well, things went along for about a year, I believe, a year and a half; and for a person working -- there was nobody who worked harder than Sobell, nobody had so much energy.

Q Well, did you ever express an opinion whether you thought Sobell belonged to the Communist Party? A No, I never talked about those things.

Q Did you ever suspect that he did belong? A No, I never had an idea of that until this situation came up at the time when we had trouble with his clearance.

Q Well, now, did Sobell ever remark to you that he was working under a terrific strain and he felt his nerves would crack? A No. He was working with this engineer from Watson Laboratories, which is an Air Force laboratory, and the only thing he complained about was that it was pretty tough getting along with this project engineer.

Q But he never said that he was nervous? A No. The only time I ever had any inclination of him breaking down -- as a matter of fact, he took a two weeks vacation at one time and I told him to take an extra week because we were pushing pretty hard at this job. Why, I don't know. They just wanted to get it out. And none of us ever saw any exceptional need for the thing except that it was a commitment and everybody tried to meet it.

Q What was he working on the latter part of June?
A He worked on the same job, the Air Force job. He was cleared by the Air Force.

Q When was he cleared by the Air Force? A Reeves has the record. It was a letter that the Air Force ^{had} cleared him for confidential work.

Q He was cleared. Are you sure of that? A I'm almost certain. I saw the letter. The letter is in the file.

JUROR: Mr. Lane, "Confidential" is a very low established --

THE WITNESS: It goes through three: "Confidential," "Secret" and "Top Secret."

JUROR: That's what I mean.

THE WITNESS: We had the top-secret work at the plant.

Q "Confidential" would be termed as routine?
A Well, almost everything you do, unless it's a -- top-secret is what you call phenomenal; something you are looking

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for and never hope to find.

Q But they cleared him in Reeves for secret work, too, I think, didn't they? A That's right.

Q But he wasn't cleared for secret? A I think it was "Confidential" or "Secret." The thing could be checked very easily, because the letter is in the files at Reeves.

Q Well, we'll check that. A Whatever the job called for, that's what he was cleared for.

Q Was the job that he was working on at the end of June cleared up? A The job was absolutely completed except for two small parts of the system which still isn't cleared up until today, because he worked on it and he was being pressed by this other job, I mean the main part of the job, and we had some trouble getting some of the equipment from the Air Force assigned to us to try this thing out. As a matter of fact, it's still being worked on till today.

Q Now, as I understand it, you invited Sobell to come to New York to work for Reeves; is that correct? A That's right.

Q And you say that you never had any indication or reason to believe that Sobell was Communistic? A I never did.

Q Did you ever tell anyone that? A I never -- well, after he was taken out -- not even after he was taken out. When I heard about it I wasn't even convinced then that the man was Communistic. As a matter of fact, I approached the FBI this way and I think this is why we decided, as a matter

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of fact, to leave him there. At the time that -- there might have been any tendency to be a member of the Communist Party. I think everybody in the country will remember it was quite a fad. I remarked I used to go through the park with the children and there would be a girl 14, 15, 16 years old with somebody talking about the Party. It was a tremendous -- it was a tremendous swing quite a few years ago. I remember while I was out in California people talked about the Party, "the Party." And at the time things started -- I told the FBI man, I says, "At the time that things started getting pressing about the Communist Party a lot of people have changed their mind and maybe dropped it. Maybe some of them kept on thinking that way." I said, "What was in his mind, I didn't know. I had no inclination that the man would ever be involved with the Communist Party." But as I put it to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, "I wouldn't put it past anybody to, at that certain period of time, for anybody to try to slide over to the Communist Party."

Q How about you? You never did? A Oh, they sent me a paper one day. I told them if they didn't stop sending it I would get the FBI after them.

Q What was that, the Daily Worker? A No. I think it was a Labor paper.

Q Did Sobell ask for a vacation during June of 1950?

A I don't remember.

Q You don't recall he ever asked you for it? A No.

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Q Did he indicate that he was sick or needed a vacation, or anything like that? A No. The only indication I had that he cracked up was that -- I went to see the P. G. A. golf tournament at Columbus --

Q When was that? A I know it was the week he left the plant.

Q That would be June or July -- June of 1950.

A Probably yes. I'm trying to recall the date. But it was during when I went to see the P. G. A. tournament with Al Cuicci of Fresh Meadows. When I came back I found a letter on the desk and I opened it up and there was a very fine letter from Mort and he said he was taking a little vacation, his nerves sort of let loose, and he will be back in a few weeks and then he will decide what's what. Well, I just put the letter on the desk and forgot about it.

Q Was the letter postmarked in some way? A It was postmarked, but I didn't even look at it. It was written out in longhand.

Q Was it sealed? A Oh, yes.

Q And what sort of paper was it on? A The funny thing is, I remarked about the paper. It was just some -- an ordinary piece of writing paper with the blue lines on it, something a school child would write a letter on to her mother from school. I'll admit one thing: It looked like a letter that was written in an awful hurry. And after I got the letter, I don't think it was an hour later when I

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asked my secretary to call Sobell's house and see if he was sick, because generally if any of the boys are sick or anything I wanted to know what was the matter with them; if they needed any help, try to help them out in some way. Well, the girl told me that she got no answer. So I went in to Elitcher and I said, "Look, Max, when you go home at night take a walk over and see how Mort is." Well, I just couldn't figure out that if I got a letter today if the man was sick and he left so soon. Well, Max went over and he came back and he says, "There is nobody home." So I said, "Well, I guess he went away for a few weeks." And that's where we let the thing set. As a matter of fact, I went back to look for the letter for the FBI. I couldn't find it. Because -- I remembered very carefully I had put it under my blotter and knowing the case -- I didn't know; I just had a hunch -- I'm very psychic at times -- that something might come up and I would want this letter. And I just couldn't find it. I turned through the desk inside out and I just couldn't find that letter; and I have a pretty good file system.

Q Well, now, to the best of your recollection, what did the letter say? A It was very short, it was about two paragraphs long. That he had felt tired and that he wanted to take a trip or take a vacation for a while, that his nerves had cracked up, that the job was in pretty good shape as far as he knew; which I agreed with him, except for the

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one piece which I told you about. That was pretty well finished, according to his mind, and the boys working for him knew how to finish it; and that he would see me in a few weeks and then decide what to do.

JUROR: The stamp on the envelope didn't attract you in any way?

THE WITNESS: No.

THE FOREMAN: Did you show this letter to Max? Did Max see this letter?

THE WITNESS: No, nobody saw the letter.

Q Did your secretary see it? A Well, she didn't see it, because all she did was put the envelope -- gave me the mail in the morning.

Q She must have seen the letter. A Oh, she didn't open it.

Q But she must have seen the letter. A She probably did see it.

Q What was her name; Adler? A No. Grace Daniels.

Q Who? A Mrs. Grace Daniels. She was the first person that started with me when I started with Reeves Instrument.

BY THE FOREMAN:

Q But you did tell Max you did receive a letter? A Oh, yes. I looked at the letter and I went over to Mrs. Daniels and I said, "Do you mind calling up?" I said, "I want to call Mort, see how he feels, and see if there is

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anything I can do." And then I told Max, "It's funny, if the man is sick, that I can't get him on the phone."

BY MR. LANE:

Q Well, was the letter written in lead pencil or ink?

A I think it was written in ink, if I remember.

Q Was it on lined, notebook paper? A It was on -- it looked to me like a shorthand pad.

Q Lined? A Yes, lined paper.

Q And what sort of an envelope? A Just an ordinary envelope.

Q Stamped envelope or -- A No, I don't remember. I never looked at the stamp.

Q Well, you could tell if it was a foreign stamp.

A Well, I don't know. I have looked at a lot of foreign stamps in my life, but that didn't look like one to me. I'll tell you why I look at foreign stamps. I happen to be a radio amateur and I get cards from all over the world, and this boy across the street from me has a mania for collecting stamps; so, when the stamp looks like it's something he likes, I tear it off.

Q So we can probably assume it was a United States stamp on there? A It probably was.

Q Because otherwise you probably would have torn it off. A Well, if it was a foreign stamp, it would have hit me pretty fast; because the foreign stamps, I'll tell you, generally are larger stamps than the American stamps, I believe, in some cases, and this didn't look unusual to me,

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and it didn't look like an airmail stamp and it wasn't a special delivery stamp, because the only large stamps I know in this country when you can't get one large value stamp you get a series of stamps; so the only large stamp I know is an airmail stamp or a special delivery stamp.

Q Now, did you hear anything from Sobell from that time on? A I never heard a word.

Q Have you talked to him since? A No.

Q Have you communicated with him in any way? A His wife called at the office one day, by the way.

Q How long ago? A I think it was a few weeks after he was brought back from Mexico.

Q Did you talk with her? A And I didn't talk to her, for the simple reason was I was tied up with some Navy officers.

Q Did she tell you what she wanted? A No. I asked the girl to ask her what she wanted, but she said she would call back.

Q Has anyone gotten in touch with you for Sobell, his lawyer or anyone? A No. If they did, it wouldn't do them any good, because I wouldn't talk to them.

Q Did he say in the letter that he was going to any particular place for a vacation? A No; just taking a trip.

Q He didn't say when he would be back? A I remember distinctly he said he would be back in a few weeks.

Q He said that in the letter? A Yes.

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Q Now, did you report that to anybody? A No, I did not.

Q Well, how do you take care -- how did you take care of things like that? A Well, I was going to wait to see what happened, say for about ten days, if I found out where he was and then get ahold of Aldrich downstairs, who took care of all our security with the Government. And how it got out, I don't know; but Aldrich, as a matter of fact, knew about it, because Aldrich came up to me.

Q Knew about what? A Knew about Sobell leaving. As a matter of fact, some of the boys remarked to me that he left so suddenly. And I asked one particular engineer if he had seen Sobell and he said, "Yes. He looked pretty bad. He looked like his nerves were pretty well shot." So I spoke to Aldrich. I said, "Let's wait to see what happens, for about ten days or so and," I said, "then we'll do as you suggest. We'll just have to go to the FBI, or whoever it is, to notify them that Sobell is no longer here."

Q Well, did you notify the clerk that Sobell was on the sick list or vacation? A Well, the engineers, you never notify the sick leave. We ran an organization in this manner: that an engineer knew of no hours there, and I have had engineers there who were in the hospital for a month, sick for three, four, five weeks; they always got paid.

Q Well, did you inform Sobell's supervisor? A I was Sobell's supervisor.

Q I see. And did you report the absence to anyone?

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A I didn't have to report it to anybody, because I ran the plant. The only one I talked to about it, I believe, was Aldrich. And he was very -- I'll tell you the truth; he was pretty impatient about reporting it to the FBI. And I felt this way: Instead of going in and trying to make a mountain out of a small molehill, give it at least ten days, two weeks; see what happens. You just can't go out and start propoganda to an organization with a thousand people and start gossip and rumors going.

Q Well, what did Aldrich say? A Well, he agreed with me. We never talked about things at length, because the less it was talked about the thing the better the situation was, for the simple reason is this: That if you start spreading gossip about things like that, the place gets in an uproar.

Q Well, what I'm getting at, to sort of pin-point this a little better: Did Aldrich tell you that he suspected Sobell of anything? A Well, Aldrich couldn't tell me he suspected Sobell of anything because Aldrich knew as much about Sobell as I did and at times he probably knew more, because I got most of my information there for a while from Aldrich, because -- I told the Federal Bureau of Investigation Aldrich was the man they should contact, because if -- for any clearance in the place, everything went through Aldrich. After he left the personnel development, if there was any clearance that came in for a person --

Q Well, you may recall that you said Aldrich was impatient to tell the FBI immediately that Sobell was --

A Well, he was impatient in this form: where he came up and said, "Do you think we should notify the FBI now?"

I says, "No. Let's wait a while."

(Continued by I FG)

IFG-1
(From BD)

December 14, 1950

Belock

Re: Morton Sobell

10326

(Mr. Lane)

Q Well, did he give you any reason as to why he wanted you to notify the F. B. I. right away? A Well, he knew he was under surveillance; we both knew.

Q Here is what I am getting at: Here is a man who leaves, and he is gone, apparently, with his little notification - - he isn't home - - he is supposed to be sick, and he disappears suddenly; and Aldrich is anxious to tell the F. B. I. that he is gone. Now, what I am getting at is, why the anxiety of just one engineer missing? A Well, for the simple reason - - I think I can figure out Aldrich's viewpoint on the thing: ^{After all,} /We were ninety-eight percent Government in the plant, and we worked pretty close with the F. B. I. on this particular thing, and there were some other things up there that didn't pertain to anybody in the Communist Party; and I think his view was that the faster we told the F. B. I. the better position Reeves Instrument would be in.

Q You say that the less you told the F. B. I. - - A He figured that the faster we told the F. B. I. the better position the company would be in.

Q Now, Mr. Belock, what was Aldrich's job there? A Aldrich took care of most of the Navy communications, and all the security.

Q What was his job there - was he a manager, or what? A No. He was down in the sales department, and he was an administrator. How Aldrich came into the company -

he was a Lieutenant-Commander in the Navy, as a Naval Inspector at Ford Instrument, representing the Bureau of Ordnance - -

Q What did you say you did with that letter?

A I placed it under my blotter. I remember that very distinctly.

Q You don't remember having destroyed it, or thrown it away? A No. I destroyed the envelope; that I remember.

Q Was there any reason for that? A No - just as a matter of habit. I still do it today.

Q But you can't account for the letter, as to where it disappeared to? A I remember distinctly that when the Federal Bureau of Investigation came up and wanted the letter, I went and looked under the blotter, and I went through some folders I had on that desk, because I have had papers on that desk for years. You could find everything, from a screw driver to everything I had written back in the War Department - -

Q Now, Mr. Belock, was this Sobell matter of absence handled in the same way you handle all other matters of that type? A That's right.

Q There was nothing unusual about it? A Nothing unusual.

Q Do you recall seeing Sobell at work on June 16, 1950? A If I said I did I would be a liar. The

only time I saw Sobell in the plant was when I wanted to get something done, or we had something to talk about. I can tell you, on this particular project he was on, we talked to each other quite a few times a day, over the 'phone.

Q Well, do you recall seeing him at his home or at work on either June 15 or 16th - - that is Thursday or Friday? A It would be pretty hard to remember. If you run a plant with a thousand people, and you know most of the people as well as I did, I could just as soon say "yes" as "no," because if I walk through the plant - - I am trying to say how hard it is to remember if I saw him or not at that time.

Q This letter that you received, was that received some time after Sobell had departed, or was it the first day that he was missing? A I don't know, for the simple reason that I know that Sobell was in the plant the day before I left for Columbus.

Q Sobell was in that plant the day before you left for Columbus? A That's right; before I left for Columbus, Ohio.

Q And that was on a weekend? A I know it was on a weekend because Al Cuicci got into Columbus, I believe it was, a Wednesday night, and we went to see the tournament Thursday, and we saw the tournament Friday, and we were supposed to leave on a five o'clock plane and the

plane didn't leave until about two o'clock in the morning.

Q And you got in Sunday? A No, we got in early Sunday morning.

Q And you were back at work on Monday? A That's right.

Q And that is when you found the note? A That's right.

Q And when you left for the tournament, Sobell was there? A That's right; he was working.

A JUROR: Was he the only man under surveillance at that time?

Q Were there any others under surveillance at that time? A Well, Max Elitcher's name was mentioned by the F. B. I.

Q Anybody else? A

Q But he was being investigated? A We had some trouble with his clearance, which is a very funny situation.

Q Well, did you give Sobell any company documents or company booklets, or any papers, after June 16, 1950? A No, I did not. As a matter of fact, I will tell you this, about the booklets and the security in the plant: We had "Secret," "Top Secret" and "Confidential" reports down in the library, and the librarian had a list of the people that were cleared to get the different reports.

If you were cleared for "Confidential," you couldn't get a "Secret" or a "Top Secret" report, and if it got out it was strictly the librarian's responsibility.

Q Who was the librarian? A I don't remember. Yes, I think I do - it was Green.

Q Mrs. Green? A Yes, Miss Green.

Q But up to the time you had left with Cuicci for the golf tournament, you hadn't given any documents to Sobell, is that right? A No. As a matter of fact, I don't believe I ever gave him any. The only documents I gave him was with reference to the work he was doing.

Q Did you mail anything to Sobell after he left?

A No.

Q You had no communications with him at all?

A No.

Q Did you ever tell any employees or officials at Reeves that Sobell was Communistic, or that you knew he was Communistic? A No, I didn't mention it; but how the grapevine gets working I will never know, and I think neither will anyone else know, but there used to be talk about it; but I felt pretty good as to the fact that we kept it quiet in the plant.

Q Was it the policy of the company to have all the employees take the vacations at the same time? A No. It all depended upon how the work-load was. One year we closed the plant up, and at other times it was split up -

Q What was the vacation period for 1950? A I think we had the first two weeks in August.

Q Well, would a vacation a month previous to that be out of the ordinary? A No, I don't believe so, for the simple reason that in a few cases, through the years - - there were never any large vacation periods, but there would be some individuals - one, two or three - that would try to get an extra week and drive across the country and wanted to get back to the plant when the rest of the plant got back, so we would let them take a week or two before.

Q Did you ever have such a case where a man went away and then sent a letter - - that was unusual, wasn't it? A Yes, it was very unusual. Here I saw the man Friday, and I work as hard as anybody, and you just don't collapse - -

Q You weren't there Friday. A Not the Friday I left - - I left on a Wednesday, and I say if he left on a Friday, when he was in the plant on Wednesday or Tuesday before - -

Q You see, Friday was the 16th, and you left on Wednesday, the 14th. A I left on Wednesday afternoon.

Q On the 14th? A If that is the date we left for the tournament; but what I am trying to bring out is that it is unusual for a man to collapse in four days, unless the strain was so heavy on him that he couldn't

take it.

Q Did he look all right to you when you left for the golf tournament? A He always looked all right to me. He didn't look any worse than I did.

MR. LANE: Do you have any questions?

THE FOREMAN: When you told Max that you got a letter from Mort, did he look surprised or knowing, on his part?

THE WITNESS: No. Well, the only thing I said is that "I have a letter from Mort, that he wants to take a couple of weeks off, and I can't get him on the 'phone. Just drop by his house in the evening."

THE FOREMAN: It is nothing unusual for a man to get sick?

THE WITNESS: That's right, it is not unusual, but for a man to collapse is unusual.

A JUROR: But for a man who is under surveillance, wasn't that unusual to you?

THE WITNESS: No, that didn't strike me at all, because at the time he had left there was no situation that I was aware of, that would even bother him.

Q Did you ever hear Sobell's name connected with Julius Rosenberg? A No, I did not. As a matter of fact, the only thing I knew about Rosenberg was when I read

about Sobell in the paper, and that is the only way I knew there was any connection.

MR. LANE: Could the witness be excused temporarily? I want to bring another man in, and we may have another question or two after that.

THE FOREMAN: You may be excused temporarily.
Thank you.

(WITNESS EXCUSED)

December 14, 1950

Levine

Re: Morton Sobell

10334

IFG-1

(Mr. Lane)

S A M U E L L E V I N E , called as a witness,
having first been duly sworn by the Foreman,
testified as follows:

BY MR. LANE:

Q You are Samuel Levine? A Yes, sir.

Q You are employed by - - is it the Evans Signal
Laboratory? A That's right.

Q As Deputy Chief of the Systems Section?

A That's right.

Q At Fort Monmouth, New Jersey? A That's right.

Q Where did you go to school? A College of
the City of New York.

Q When did you graduate? A June, 1938.

Q Are you married? A I am married.

Q Any children? A Three children.

Q How old are you? A Thirty-four years old.

Q What is your home address? A 98 Beechwood
Avenue, West Long Branch, New Jersey.

Q And your telephone number? A Long Branch
6 - 5775J.

Q And what is your telephone number at Fort
Monmouth? A Eatontown 3-1060.

Q Now, you were in the Army during the war?

A No, I was not.

Q Or in the Navy? A No, I was not.

Q Where were you employed during the war? A I

was employed at the Signal Corps Laboratories at Fort Monmouth.

Q Now, in your class at City College did you know Morton Sobell? A I did.

Q Did you know Julius Rosenberg? A I did.

Q Did you know Max Elitcher? A I did.

Q Did you know William Perlmutter, Bill Perlmutter?

A You mean Mutterperl?

Q Did you know him? A Yes, I did.

Q Did you know them all very well? A As well as I knew any other classmate.

Q Did you know a man named Sarant - was he in the same class? A I do not recall that name.

Q Now, do you recall that Sobell and Rosenberg were fairly close during those days? A No more than anyone else.

Q Well, did you notice that they associated together? A Occasionally.

Q And did you notice that Mutterperl associated with them, too? A Not particularly.

Q Well, have you ever seen them together? A I probably did.

Q Do you recall that you definitely saw them together? A I would say, since they were in the same classes.

Q Do you know whether they belonged to any clubs or organizations or groups? A All of the individuals you

mentioned?

Q Yes. A No.

Q Do you know whether some of them belonged to various clubs? A It was my impression that Rosenberg belonged to the Young Communist League.

Q And how about Sobell and Mutterperl? A I didn't know of any organization that they belonged to.

Q Did you know Sobell very well? A Fairly well.

Q Will you tell us how you happened to know him, and what you know about him? A Mr. Sobell was a member of my classes, primarily in the junior and senior year in electrical engineering, and we would discuss problems together in connection with our classes; and that is essentially the extent of my association with and knowledge of Mr. Sobell.

Q Well, did you see him after you graduated from college? A On various sporadic instances, yes.

Q Did you ever have any conversations with him? A Very brief, and very casual.

Q Did you ever visit him at his home? A No, I did not.

Q You did not go out with him socially in any way? A No, I never did.

Q How about Max Elitcher? A I did not.

Q Did you know that Sobell worked at the Reeves

Instrument Company? A I did.

Q Do you know Mr. Belock very well? A Yes, I do.

Q How long have you known him? A Since about 1942.

Q Do you know him quite intimately? A Well, fairly well but not intimately.

Q Do you know him socially? A I did while he was working at the Signal Corps Laboratories.

Q When was that? A In the period of 1942 to approximately 1945.

Q Did you visit at his home and so forth?

A No, I never visited at his home, because he lived in New York, and I lived out in New Jersey.

Q Did he visit at your home? A He did.

Q Very often? A Only occasionally.

Q Now, this is strictly confidential in the room here, and I wouldn't want it to get outside, even to him - and I don't say this with the purpose of casting any suspicion on Mr. Belock, because I don't intend to - - but did he at any time ever discuss the Communist movement?

A Never.

Q Did he ever discuss Sobell? A Never.

Q Never? A Oh, he never discussed Sobell during the time I worked in the Laboratories.

Q But after that? A Yes.

Q Will you tell the jury just when he discussed Sobell, and where, and what he said? A I had a discussion with Mr. Belock concerning Mr. Sobell at the Reeves Instrument Corporation, I would say approximately in September of this year. I went to Reeves in connection with a contract which my organization had with Reeves, and I went in to see Mr. Belock to get his opinion on whether Mr. Sobell had, or could possibly have had, contact with our particular work, and whether there was any abrogation of security in connection with our work; and I spoke to Mr. Belock and asked him that particular question, and he replied that he didn't think that Sobell had any information concerning our particular work, or ever had any access to it.

He told me further that apparently the F. B. I. or some other security agency had contacted him concerning Mr. Sobell, prior to his having been arrested, and that the -- well, the gist of it was that they suspected him of being a Communist, and that they were keeping an eye on him while he was working there.

Q In other words, did he tell you that the company suspected or that the F. B. I. suspected that Sobell had Communistic tendencies? A Well, he told me that the F. B. I. or some other security agency gave him information that Mr. Sobell was suspected of being a Communist.

Q Did he say "a Communist" or "subversive" -- which, if you recall? A I think it was "a Communist."

Q And do you recall anything else that he told you? A Well, he told me about an offhand statement that he made to the security people, and that he thought it would be a good idea, instead of firing Mr. Sobell, to keep him there so that they could keep an eye on him while he was working there.

Another statement that he made was that he couldn't see how Mr. Sobell was a dangerous character, or disloyal, because of the manner in which he worked, because he worked very hard on the work which he was doing.

Q Now, is there anything else you can tell us about Sobell? A Well, as I mentioned before, I have seen Sobell once or twice, several times, since I got out of college. I met him once on a train, coming back from Washington, in 1942. I recall that incident because I was coming back from my honeymoon, with my wife, and he came over to me and said "Hello," and we reminisced about old classmates; and he indicated that he was going to school to get his Master's degree.

Subsequent to that, I think when he started to work for the Reeves Instrument Corporation, I met him one time at the Evans Signal Laboratory, in the corridor, and I greeted him and asked him where he was working and what he was doing there, and he said he was working for the Reeves Instrument Corporation.

Then, since I have had communication with the

Reeves Instrument Company, because of my work, I was at the Reeves plant once or twice, and I saw Mr. Sobell there, in the same room with the engineer whom I had business/which with, was Mr. Perry Seay.

Q Did he ever give any indication to you that he was Communistic, or had tendencies that were - - did you ever suspect him? A I had no definite indication that he was Communistic, but during school it was ^{my} impression that he was either a liberal or had radical tendencies.

Q Is that from the utterances he made? A Yes.

A JUROR: Was Bill Danziger a member of the same group that you spoke of - a classmate?

THE WITNESS: I do not think so.

Q Does that name "Danziger" recall anything to you, did you ever hear it? A Yes, he was a classmate of mine.

Q Did you ever know him? A Yes, I did.

A JUROR: How was your work classified, that Reeves was doing for you?

THE WITNESS: "Secret."

A JUROR: Then Sobell had access to it, if he was working with the engineer who worked on your job, didn't he?

THE WITNESS: He did work with the engineer on that particular job, and his desk was alongside of his.

Q Who was the engineer with whom you worked?

A Mr. Perry Seay.

Q And his desk was next to Sobell's? A Yes.

Q So that, as the juror stated, he would have access to that "Secret" material that you would bring over there, is that correct? A It would not be difficult, I would say, for him to have access to that.

Q Well, at various times when you brought that "Secret" material over - - A I never carried any "Secret" material with me.

Q Well, this Seay was working on "Secret" material, wasn't he? A Yes, he was.

Q And you were over there discussing that particular project with him, which was classified as "Secret," sometimes? A That's right.

Q And while you were there, discussing it with him, wasn't Sobell there at various times, because his desk was next to Seay's? A Yes, I think he was there.

A JUROR: Did he ever say anything to you about Sobell being cleared for the work that he was doing, because it was of a "Secret" or "Confidential" nature?

THE WITNESS: I brought the question up about the people in that room in general, to Mr. Seay, and he gave me the impression that every one in that room was cleared.

Q You mean he told you that? A I can't say definitely that he did.

Q Well, did you ever ask him if the people were cleared for "Secret" material? A I don't recall the exact words of my question, but the first time I came up there, in order to enter that room, I had to be escorted by a guard, and I couldn't get into this particular room where the engineers were located unless I was escorted.

Q What did they call the room? A It was no particular name, just a room where most of the engineers on that project were.

Q Did you have to have a clearance for that? A I had to have a clearance in order to enter the Reeves plant.

Q You had to have a document? A That's right.

Q I suppose there was a letter of some sort on file with the Reeves plant, that you were qualified for clearance purposes to look at "Secret" material? A That's right.

A JUROR: When you knew about Sobell having left, you were exercised over the fact that you thought he had seen some of the "secret" work, is that right?

THE WITNESS: Yes. I thought it was possible that our project might have been compromised by his having been there.

Q When was that? A When I went to Reeves?

Q No; when you thought your project was compromised. A Well, when I first heard about Mr. Sobell being picked up.

Q That was in September? A Was he picked up in September?

Q No. That was in July, wasn't it,

(CONTINUED BY BD)

bd 1

Levine

MR. LANE: (Cont'g) I think, wasn't it?

JUROR: No. Late August.

MR. LANE: Yes, that's right, it was.

BY MR. LANE:

Q But, at any rate, when he was picked up you immediately went to the Reeves Company -- or, did you go to your boss? A No. My immediate supervisor went to -- Mr. Coleman went to see some of the authorities in our own organization and told them that they thought it was possible that our project had been compromised because Mr. Sobell worked in the same office with Mr. Seay.

Q What was the project? A Can I say that here?

Q Well, is it still super-secret? A It's secret, yes.

Q Well, did it have something to do with a gun or fire or something like that? A It was concerned with defense systems.

Q Well, that's enough, then. It was super-secret, though, and -- A It was secret and it was concerned with the defense system.

Q And it was important to the defense of the country?
A Yes.

Q Well, that's good enough, I think, for our purposes.
I don't think we ought to discuss --

JUROR: It was classified "Secret," though?

THE WITNESS: Yes.

Q And I assume that a report was sent to Washington

bd 2

Levine

about that, too, wasn't it; the fact that you thought it was compromised? A I'm not aware of any report, but I presume that a report was sent.

Q Well, I think that's very important, and you ought to keep that in mind: Try to refresh your memory and get as much detail on that as you can. I think that's very important for the purposes of this case. A Yes.

BY THE JURY:

Q Were these desks so close together that it was possible for Sobell -- A Well, Mr. Seay sat at a desk like this (indicating) and there was a space in between and Mr. Sobell's desk was right there (indicating).

Q Wouldn't you think that a rather sloppy arrangement, with so many men in the room with work classified "Secret" and "Confidential"? Wasn't that a rather sloppy arrangement to have at Reeves? A I feel so.

BY MR. LANE:

Q Well, I think you figured they were cleared for "Secret." A Yes, they were cleared for "Secret," I assumed.

Q While you were there did you ever see Sobell come over to the desk and talk with Seay, while you were there? A No, - didn't see that.

Q And would there be plans and charts and typewritten material that Seay would have there? A Primarily, it was my impression, they kept the classified material in safes, in combination safes.

Q True; but when you got over there they would take it out, wouldn't they? A They would take some of it out and put it out.

Q And did everyone have access to the safes?

A I do not know. The safes were not in that same room.

Q And what floor was the room on, do you recall?

A The second floor.

Q Any number or name to the room? A No.

MR. LANE: Well, I think if there are no further questions we can excuse Mr. Levine.

THE FOREMAN: Thank you very much.

[WITNESS EXCUSED]

bd 1

Seay

P E R R Y A L E X A N D E R S E A Y, called as a witness, having first been duly sworn by the Foreman, testified as follows:

BY MR. LANE:

Q Your address, Mr. Seay, home address?

A 192-28 67th Avenue, Flushing.

Q And your telephone number? A OLympia 8-4414.

Q Now, how old are you? A I was born in '21; I'm 29.

Q And are you married? A No. I'm single.

Q Were you in the service? A No, I wasn't.

Q Where did you go to school? A I went to school at Albama Polytechnic Institute, also at the University of Texas.

Q And how long have you worked for the Reeves Instrument Company? A Three years.

Q And where did you work before that? A I was with the University of Texas two years previous to that.

Q Teaching? A No. I was working, research work.

Q What sort of research work? A I was doing research on a Government project. It was not classified.

Q What was it? A It was on radar.

Q What was your work -- what did your work consist of at the Reeves Company? A Well, I'm engineer in charge of a number of projects we have there.

Q Now, are these projects classified as "Confidential," "Secret" or "Top Secret"? A None of them are "Top Secret." They are all either "Secret," "Confidential" or "Restricted."

bd 2

Seay

Very few non-classified projects.

Q Did you know Morton Sobell? A Yes, sir.

Q How long did you know him? A For the time that I was at Reeves. I met him there for the first time.

Q Were you intimate with him in the sense that you visited him socially? A No. I was in his home once.

Q When was that? A Shortly after I moved out to Flushing. He didn't live so very far from there and I dropped over one Sunday afternoon.

Q Did you meet his family? A Yes, I met his wife, and I believe they had a little girl at the time.

Q And did you meet his sister-in-law? A I don't believe so. No. It seems to me that there was someone else present at the time, but I believe it was a neighbor from across the way.

Q Did you know Max Elitcher? A Yes, I know Max. He is at the plant.

Q He lives close to -- A Yes, he lived across the way. I was never in his home.

Q Now, you know Sam Levine? A Yes, I do.

Q You worked on projects with him? A That's correct. He was engineer in charge of certain phases of projects for the Signal Corps in which I was in charge of at the plant.

Q Were they "Secret" or "Top Secret"? A No. They are classified "Secret" and "Confidential." I have no "Top Secret" classification.

bd 3

Seay

Q How did that system of clearance work up there? Were some cleared for "Confidential" and some for "Secret" and some for "Top Secret"? Do you recall or do you know?

A To the best of my knowledge, there are very few "Top Secret" clearances. That work -- the general type of work we have doesn't require that type of clearance. But I believe that most of the fellows are cleared for "Secret." Some are cleared for "Confidential."

Q Well, when a man comes in, like Mr. Levine, and he is coming over to discuss with you a secret project --

A He has specific clearance for that day.

Q He has, for that day? A Yes.

Q And he comes in -- he is escorted into the building?

A Yes.

Q He is escorted into your room where you are? A Yes.

Q Now, when he gets in there you have got to get the plans or specifications or material that you are going to discuss with him from somewhere. Now, where did you get that from? What's their procedure? A That material is generally kept in the contract office and files which they have.

Q Is that a safe or files? A Yes, they have a file.

Q And do you have to get it through a requisition of some sort? A Well, I have access to those files through that secretary. That secretary keeps up with what is done, but I don't have to sign any papers.

bd 4

Seay

Q You mean you can just walk in and take papers out?

A Yes, from the files which I'm concerned with.

Q And no one stops you? You just walk in and take them out? A I believe that's correct.

Q You don't check them out at all? A No; that's correct.

Q What I'm getting at is, supposing I was classified or cleared for "Confidential" -- A Yes.

Q -- you are cleared for "Secret" -- A Yes.

Q -- would there be anything to prevent my going into that same place and taking them out? A Well, yes.

Q What would prevent it? A Well, only those people who have a position in the plant such as mine --

Q I'm assuming that I'm working in the plant, I'm working in the plant, in the same room that you are, but I'm classified as "Confidential" and you are classified for "Secret." A Well, I don't think you would be able to go in and get the "Secret" file.

Q Well, what would prevent me from doing that, under the situation you described? A Well, the people in the office.

Q Well, who would know that I'm "Secret" and you are "Confidential"? A Well, our security officer is in an adjacent office to that office in which the files are kept.

Q But does he supervise, does he watch? A He is in charge of security for the plant.

bd 5

Seay

Q I know; but in this particular room where all the plans are kept, all the data is kept, what would prevent one person from getting the same material as you get?

A Well, I suppose the only thing that could keep it from them would be the instructions which the secretaries have in that office.

Q Well, who are the secretaries in the office?

A They are the secretaries to the vice-presidents in the organization.

Q And they are in the office in which the material is kept? A Yes.

Q Who are they? A And to Mr. Aldrich. I don't know them all by name.

Q Well, how many are there? A There are some four, at least.

Q And you say you think that they know the ones that -- the names of the people who can go in and get the "Secret" material? A Yes. They won't let people have information out of the files, I don't believe.

Q Well, you don't know, as a matter of fact.

A I don't know. It's outside of my jurisdiction, really, it isn't my position to act in that manner. I know that they will -- they supply me with any information on the project to which I'm assigned, and which I want.

Q Well, you say you can go in and get it. Don't you ask someone for it? A Yes, I get the information and they

know that I take it. I don't take it without their knowing it.

Q You show it to them? A Yes, that's right.

Q Well, that's what I'm getting at; I want to know what the check is on that system.

JUROR: May I interrupt you, sir. Are you permitted to go direct to the files yourself, or do you have to ask the secretary to get it for you?

THE WITNESS: At times I have gone directly to the files, yes.

JUROR: And others do the same thing, too, don't they?

THE WITNESS: Well, I don't know what they are doing.

Q No; the question is this; Could anyone else in that room where you are go to the same file and take out the same thing that you take out? A I don't know, sir. I know that I can.

JUROR: Do the secretaries always stay in the room, do they watch everybody that goes to a file, or is it possible that they might be talking between themselves or looking the other way and somebody might go into a file and pick out something that they weren't supposed to pick out? I think that's what we are getting at.

THE WITNESS: I think it's possible that it could happen.

bd 7

Seay

Q Well, now, look; let's not be difficult. A I'm sorry. I want to cooperate all I can.

Q Could you, for instance, go over to any file in that place and take out anything you wanted and bring it back to your desk? Would there be anybody there to stop you from doing it? A I believe I could probably get it.

Q Well, then there is no check. Anybody could go over and take it. It's in this room, this particular room that you are working in. There is no close check on it, then. The files are all there. You are going to go over to one file, but you could take an envelope out of another and go back to your desk and no one would stop you, would they, no one would question you? A Well, I don't think it's quite that loose, sir.

Q Well, then, you tell us. A I believe the information which I have given you is correct.

Q Well, where is the check-up? The files are on one side of the room, aren't they? A Yes.

Q Is there anybody guarding the files? A No, there is no one standing there guarding the files.

Q So, therefore, anyone could, in that room, go over and take out something from the file, and there is no one guarding it. Who is going to stop them? A Those files are the files which are in the custody of the officers in the company, who have the adjacent office, and their secretaries are located in that --

bd 8

Seay

Q That's the adjacent office, but I'm talking about the room where you are. The secretaries are outside. For instance, you don't know what they are doing outside in the anteroom now, do you? I don't. I can't see through the wall. So there is nothing to prevent you from going over or anyone else from going over to the files and taking that out and look at it. That's not an accusation. I'm trying to find out something. A Yes, I think that's possible.

JUROR: Your files aren't kept locked so that if you want a certain envelope, they have to unlock that file for you?

THE WITNESS: Not in the daytime, no, sir.

Q They are all unlocked in the daytime, as I understand it. A They are never left without someone in the room, to the best of my knowledge. I don't have custody over the files, so I can't --

JUROR: Well, isn't there a regular file clerk in that office and don't you have to put in a requisition charging the case that you take out to you for the length of time you have it?

THE WITNESS: No, ma'am.

Q No. It's just an open file, no one guarding it, and there is no check there and anyone can take it out.

A There is a check, through the secretaries being there in attendance at those files, a verbal check; that's the check.

Q Oh, now, look; you just said the secretaries weren't

bd 9

Seay

in the room; isn't that correct? A No, I did not, sir.

Q You said the secretaries were in an adjacent room.

A No. They-- the officers in the company, who have these files in their possession, are in an adjacent room to the files. The secretaries to these officers are in the room with the files and they have custody of the files.

BY THE JURY:

Q The only question I had was supposing you are on your way out for a file and the secretaries know you and you tell the secretary you want a certain file. Now, I'm working at an adjacent desk to yours and I'm busy and I ask you, "Mr. Seay, when you are out there will you pick up this file for me?" And you tell the secretary, "I would like to pick up this file for Mr. X." Would they give you that file, and bring it back to me, saving me the trip out there so I wouldn't have to stop doing my work?

A Well, that has never happened in my case.

Q No, I don't mean that. I mean would it be possible to do it? A I think it might be possible.

Also,
Q /Would there be a way of knowing whether it was "Confidential" or "Secret"? In other words, when you walked into the room, and the secretary was there, would you have to be designated? Would she know whether you were "Confidential" or "Secret"? Would there be a check on that?

A Yes, through my position in the company, yes.

Q Each time is it always the same? It isn't always

bd 10

Seay

"Secret" or "Confidential." Doesn't it change? A I have a general clearance for "Secret" with the Joint Board.

BY MR. LANE:

Q All right, let's get along with this. Sam Levine came over on a "Secret" project, several "Secret" projects, didn't he? A Yes.

Q This one had particularly to do with the defense of the United States. A Yes.

Q Now, at various times when he came in Sobell was at the next desk; isn't that correct? A Yes.

Q And at times Sobell would leave that desk and go over and talk to you and Levine; isn't that so?

A He may have talked with us, yes. Not in connection with the project.

Q But he has seen the stuff that you have got on your desk, in connection with the project. Hasn't he ever discussed it with you? A The details of the projects which we have, which relate to many projects in the plant, are generally discussed by all the engineers. That is the --

Q So that -- A Not the tactical aspects of a given project, but the details of a project such as the type of amplifier or something like that might be used. In any projects in a plant it might be desirable for a coordinated development.

Q Well, when Levine would be present, discussing this material, wouldn't Sobell discuss it, too, with you? He was

bd 11

Seay

at the next desk. A If it happened to be a portion of the system which didn't require the clearance. A detailed portion of a project which does not reflect the over-all tactical use of the project generally doesn't have the same classification as the project as a whole has.

Q Did Sobell ever work on a project with you? A No.

Q He never worked on any? A Not with me. He has used items such as amplifiers and that sort of thing which I have developed in projects which he is working on.

Q Has he used any material which has been classified as "Secret" that you worked on? A Not to my knowledge.

Q Well, now, you have talked with the FBI about this matter, haven't you? A Yes.

Q And didn't you tell the -- or, did you tell the FBI that you had worked on a project, a document which was dated June 19, 1950? A What is this?

Q Did you tell the FBI that you worked on a document dated June 19, 1950? A Oh, yes. yes.

Q Now, do you recall what that document was? A Yes, I know specifically.

Q What was it? A It was a scheme for accomplishing a switching operation, a relay switching operation.

Q In connection with what? A It wasn't in connection with any specific project in the plant. But we have a number of applications for the use of relays. And, as a matter of fact, Mr. Sobell had a project coming up which he

bd 12

Seay

had indicated he would need such a device and if anybody had any ideas on it, he needed that sort of information. And I had anticipated giving him a copy of this sketch which I made; and the FBI man asked me if I did, and I couldn't recollect whether I actually did or not. I had intended to, because it was something that I felt he could use.

Q Well; the document, you say, was dated June 19, 1950.

A Yes.

Q Now, would that indicate that you completed it on that day? A That's the date which I wrote on it. I can't swear that that date is correct.

Q Well, why would you write an incorrect date on it?

A I would not write an incorrect date on it intentionally.

Q So that you could swear to the best of your recollection that June 19 would be the date that you completed it?

A That's correct; to the best of my recollection.

Q And that would be on a -- A That was on a Monday, sir. We went through this.

Q You recall that? A Yes.

Q Now, did you give a copy of that document to Sobell?

A I can't say whether I did or not.

Q Do you recall ever giving him a copy? A I went into great detail in checking where I was during that period and tried to recollect at the time and tried to determine whether I did or not, and I wasn't able to satisfy my mind as to whether I had or not.

bd 13

Seay

Q Well, do you recall whether you did give it to him?

A No, I do not.

Q Do you recall ever sending it to him? A Well, I'm psotive I never sent it to him.

Q Did you know that Sobell was leaving for Mexico?

A No.

Q Did you know he was leaving work? A No.

Q Now, this chart or sketch of a switching operation, what did that have to do with -- what sort of a switching operation, in connection with radar? A It had to do with electrical computing operations.

Q And you could use it in connection with what?

A You could utilize it possibly in connection with the type of computations which are required for --

Q For what? A I'm trying to get the best words to put it in. You would utilize it for, possibly, say this cyclone process which we have at the plant, which has recently been declassified; it might be used in conjunction with that.

Q Well, at the time that you got it up would you say that this sketch or document was classified? A No, I don't think it was.

Q It wasn't classified? A No, I don't think it would be. I didn't classify it; and I would have been the only one that could have at the time.

Q Did you ever hear of any utterances by Sobell that

would indicate that he had Communistic tendencies?

A Not to my knowledge, no.

Q Do you know why he left work so suddenly? A He seemed rather upset before he left. I think he had been ill, I think he had been physically ill. As to why, I don't know. I didn't --

Q Well, what led you to believe he was physically ill and upset? A Well, the expression on his face, his attitude; somewhat nervous.

Q You realize that a man by the name of Rosenberg was arrested just about then? A Yes.

Q It could be that, too, couldn't it? A It certainly could.

Q But you didn't see any signs that he was breaking up? A No, I didn't. He had complained a number of times about the room that we were in at the plant. It was a so-called air-conditioned room. But it was -- from the standpoint of health conditions, why, it was very poor. And none of us had had colds and he had a couple of bad colds and he had been sneezing and coughing and he was out a day or two in connection with it, although he was very busy at the plant.

MR. LANE: Well, now, do you have any questions?

BY THE JURY:

Q Did he have a lower classification than you had for clearance purposes? A No, I don't think so. He had

"Secret" clearance.

Q You considered that he and you had the same clearance. Therefore, it would have been possible for him to have access to anything you had on your desk and you would normally give him anything you were working on, because you knew he had the same clearance? A I think I probably would have.

Q Therefore, he could have gotten it without stealing it; is that it? A I believe so, yes.

Q Well, this particular sketch that you speak of was not classified. A That's right.

Q And you intended to give it to him. A Yes, it was my intention to give him a copy of it. As to whether I did or not, I can't recollect.

(Continued by IFG)

IFG-1
II
(From BD)

December 14, 1950

Seay

10362

Re: Morton Sobell

(Mr. Lane)

BY JURORS (Continued):

Q There was no reason why you should not have given it to him, if that would have been necessary? A That would have been quite proper.

Q Would it have been proper to have taken such a sketch away from the plant? A Yes, I think so, considering its status.

Q Do you think you would have been negligent? A I think I drew it up at home, as a matter of fact.

Q But after, having drawn it up, do you think you were negligent in not having classified it? A No, I don't think so.

Q In other words, you didn't know the classification of any of the engineers with you, whether they were "Confidential" or "Secret," to your knowledge? A Yes. I don't think that can be said. The men whom I had any dealings with, I knew what their clearance was, "Secret" or "Top Secret."

Q And you think he was cleared for "Secret"? A Yes.

Q To your knowledge? A Yes.

Q You are under the impression that he was? A Yes.

Q Wasn't a list of the men who were entitled to see your papers on the "Secret" projects kept? A Well, there is a list available in Mr. Aldrich's possession; that lists all the men.

Q On a project classified as "Secret," how much of the project would you give, if any, to a man who is classified not as "Secret"? A You mean "Confidential"?

Q Yes, "Confidential." A You could - - generally, there is a listing as to what extent you can operate a lower level, on a "Secret" project. In other words, there are certain phases of the project which - - let us say technicians are involved in that, and which don't encompass the overall technical aspects of the problem.

Q In other words, you give him part of a circuit? A Yes, his work on a circuit.

Q Could you give him ninety percent of the circuit? A You would have to use your judgment on that. I think the line of demarcation is whether the information you give him is sufficient for him to understand the overall tactical use of it.

Q In other words, all the men who were classified as "Confidential" were supposed to be in one room, and the other men in another room? A No.

Q All the men in that room were "Secret," is that right? A I believe they are, but I don't - -

THE FOREMAN: If there are no more questions, we will excuse the witness.

(WITNESS EXCUSED)

December 14, 1950

Merritt 10384

Re: Morton Sobell

(Mr. Lane)

R O S S C . M E R R I T T , called as a witness, having first been duly sworn by the Foreman, testified as follows:

BY MR. LANE:

Q You are the comptroller of the Reeves Instrument Corporation? A That's right.

Q Now, you received a subpoena duces tecum, addressed to the Reeves Instrument Corporation, to produce certain records? A That's right.

Q Do you have those records here? A I have.

Q Will you produce them, please? A (Witness does so.) These are^{all} the records which were requested.

Q You wanted to make some statement, did you, to the Grand Jury? A Just to this effect: that in the case of Mr. Sobell, the records I do not believe can be used in his case to establish that he was at the plant at any definite time, merely because the record may be so signed; the reason for that being that the greater part of our employees are handled, naturally, as they are in all plants, with time cards and so forth, but Mr. Sobell occupied a position that was called a project engineer - - in other words, he headed up a job, and had an executive position - - he was not paid by the hour and he was paid by the year; and he could be working at any time in any one of four locations. So that, for that reason, there is

not the check on him that there would be on a machinist.

In other words, he could quite easily come into the plant, sign in, disappear for the day, come back and sign out at night, and we would not know that; because the people in one location would assume that he was at another location, and the difference between those locations could be between 91st Street and Roosevelt Field.

For that reason, I do not believe that the attendance record can be taken as evidence that he was in the plant on any one day. We had considerable difficulty with Mr. Sobell in that regard, in the fact that he did not like paper work, which is not an unusual thing in an engineer, but he carried it almost to its ultimate conclusion; and we had a great deal of difficulty in getting him to mark up the records, and for that reason he might not fill in his attendance sheet for two or three days, and then fill in three or four days at once. I don't think that he at any time filled them in in advance, although that is not impossible.

Therefore, the only thing that can be said is that the record is of no evidence in his particular case.

Q Do you have anything to establish that he was not present at any particular day, or that he was present?

A I don't believe we have. The only thing is whether anyone actually saw him there or not.

Q You are excused.

THE FOREMAN: Thank you very much for bringing them.

(WITNESS EXCUSED)

December 14, 1950

Garrett

Re: Morton Sobell

10360

(Mr. Lane)

E D W A R D J . G A R R E T T , called as a witness, having first been duly sworn by the Foreman, testified as follows:

BY MR. LANE:

Q Mr. Garrett, you are employed as an engineer by the Reeves Instrument Company, is that right? A Yes, that's right.

Q What is your address? A 85 Allen Road, Rockville Center, Long Island.

Q Phone number? A Rockville Center 6-1635.

Q Do you know Morton Sobell? A Yes, I do.

Q How long have you known him? A Since his employment at Reeves Instrument Corporation, which is approximately three and a half to four years.

Q Did you work with him? A Yes, I worked with him very closely on several projects which he was conducting at Reeves Instrument Company.

Q Did you have occasion to telephone him on Tuesday or Wednesday, following his last day of employment at the Reeves Company? A Yes; I telephoned him on Wednesday.

Q That is June 16th, I believe. A I believe I telephoned him on Monday, June 19th, and on Wednesday, June 21st.

Q You called him first on June 16th, is that right? A Yes, on June 16th I called him first.

Q What happened on that call? A On that call he told me he would be in to work the following Monday. I think the 16th was on a Friday.

Q Let's just get this straight: The 16th was on a Friday, you say? A Yes, I believe it was.

Q All right. You telephoned him on the 16th, which was the first day, the Friday? A That's right.

Q And you talked with Mrs. Sobell? A I talked with Mrs. Sobell. I called him - - there were about three 'phone calls involved altogether, and I couldn't get to talk to him the first time I called, but I did get to talk to him the second time I called.

Q And what did he say? A The second time I called we spoke at length about one of the projects in which he was involved, and this project had been delayed for some time, and we had troubles - engineering troubles - which only he could straighten out because of his familiarity with the project. He told me that there wasn't much he could do until he got back to work, and he said he would get back to work the following week.

Q Monday? A The following Monday.

Q Did he mention that he was taking a vacation or leaving the city at that time? A No, he didn't say a word about it.

Q On the following Monday, did you telephone again? A No, I did not.

Q When did you next telephone him? A I expected him in that following Monday, and when he didn't appear I went in to see Mr. Belock, who was the general manager of the plant at that time, and told him that Mort Sobell had promised to be in to work on that Monday and he didn't come in to work, and I wanted to know if he had heard anything about it; and he said he had received a letter from Mort Sobell, and he held it up to me and I just read the first few lines, which said he would not be in to work for an indefinite period, because he didn't feel well, and he was going to take some time off.

Q Is that what it said? A In substance. I don't remember the exact wording.

Q Did he say where he was going? A No, it didn't.

Q Can you describe the paper - did you notice anything unusual about it? A Well, as I remember it it was an ordinary sheet of 8 by 11 paper, and it was written.

Q Was it plain or lined, or what? A That I don't remember.

Q Was it in lead pencil or ink? A I don't remember whether it was in lead pencil or ink.

Q Do you know how it was addressed? A It started, "Dear Harry."

Q Did you see the signature? A No, I didn't, and I didn't read all the way down. Mr. Belock just held

it up to me and I glanced at it, and then he folded it up and put it away.

Q That was on the 19th? A That was the Monday following the Wednesday that I called him and talked to him. I believe that was the - - well, the 19th was on a Wednesday, and that was the 26th, I believe. That was the following Monday, when he was supposed to come in, that I saw the note.

Q You said you called him the first time on the 16th, which was a Friday? A The first time I called him was on a Friday.

Q The 16th? A That's right.

Q Now, on Monday he didn't come in? A No.

Q And did you call him again? A I didn't call him that week that he didn't come in because I had talked to Mr. Belock and he said Mort Sobell was out of town.

Q You talked to Belock on Monday, the 19th? A No, on the 26th.

Q What happened in the meantime - didn't you talk to him at all? A Yes, I had talked to him during that week.

Q You talked to whom? A I talked to Morton Sobell on the 21st, which was a Wednesday. I had talked to him personally, but prior to that I couldn't get him, because his wife had answered the 'phone and said he was too

ill to talk on the 'phone.

Q He left work on the 16th? A The last time I saw Mort Sobell was the previous week, when he was in for a few days.

Q You talked to him on the telephone on the 16th? A No. I called his home and spoke to his wife. I actually spoke to him once, and that was during the week of - - it was on a Wednesday, which was the 19th.

THE FOREMAN: Wednesday was the 21st.

THE WITNESS: Well, I spoke to him on Wednesday - I might have the days mixed up.

Q Let us start all over again. The first time you called him on the telephone was on Friday, the 16th?

A That's right.

Q Because he wasn't in? A That's right.

Q You say you couldn't get him on the telephone and you talked to his wife? A That's right.

Q And she said he was sick? A That's right.

Q Then on Monday, the 19th - - A I called him again, and couldn't get him either.

Q Did you talk to his wife? A That's right; and she said he was still sick and couldn't come to the 'phone.

Q And then you told Belock about it? A Yes, I told him.

Q On the 19th? A I told Belock about all my

my calls with Sobell.

Q You told him on the 19th that Sobell wasn't in, didn't you? A That's right; because Belock - -

Q Let us start all over again, and get it straight once and for all. On the 16th this man Sobell was not in?

A That's right.

Q So you telephoned him? A That's right.

Q And you talked with his wife? A Yes.

Q And she told you he was sick? A Yes.

Q There was nothing more? A That's right.

Q The next time that you called his home was when? A It was on a Monday.

Q Was it the Monday that was the 19th? A That's right.

Q Whom did you talk to on the 19th? A Mrs. Sobell.

Q What did she say? A He was too ill to speak on the telephone.

Q And did you then tell Belock about it? A I told Belock that I had called Sobell and that he was sick.

Q You told him that on the 19th? A I told him that on the 19th.

Q Now, the next time you called was the following Wednesday, which was the 21st? A That's right.

Q And you talked to Mrs. Sobell first? A Yes.

Q And she was reluctant to let you talk to

Morton, wasn't she? A That's right.

Q Finally Morton got on the telephone? A Yes.

Q What did he say? A He said he was feeling very bad and he had a very bad cold and that he didn't think he would be in to work until the following Monday; and I asked him several questions about the job on which he was working, and he said that there was nothing he could do about it and it would have to wait until he got back to work on Monday, and then he would dig into it.

Q And then he gave no indication that he was leaving town or going on a vacation? A None at all.

Q You didn't speak to Mr. Belock that day, did you? A Yes; I told him I had talked with Mort Sobell and he had promised to be in on Monday. I told Mr. Belock that he had promised to come in the following Monday.

Q And what did Belock say? A O. K.

Q Then, the following Monday, now is the 26th?

A That's right.

Q And on the 26th you again put in a call to Sobell's home? A No, I didn't.

Q What did you do on Monday? A On Monday I went in to Mr. Belock - - first I tried to get Mr. Sobell in the building the first thing Monday morning. I had him paged several times, and I went down to his office, and the secretary there knew nothing of his whereabouts and didn't know whether he was coming to work that day; and then I

told Mr. Belock that I had tried to get Mr. Sobell in that morning and I couldn't get him.

Then Harry said he wouldn't be in for quite some time because he had just gotten a note from him stating he would be gone for quite some period; and he held up the note and I read a few lines, and then he put it away.

Q Did you see where he put it? A He put it under his blotter. He has a large blotter on his desk.

THE FOREMAN: Under or on top?

THE WITNESS: Under.

Q Did you think it was strange that Belock had this note saying that he was going away, in the light of your conversations with Sobell? A Yes. It came to me as a surprise. I told Mr. Belock I couldn't understand why Sobell should say he was coming in on Monday, and then he should go away; and I did ask Mr. Belock who should take over the work of Mr. Sobell while he was gone, and Mr. Belock said he would assign another engineer to take over that job pending the return of Mr. Sobell. It came to me as a complete surprise; I didn't expect that at all.

Q Have you seen or heard from him since? A I haven't heard from him. I have heard from his wife since. She was up to visit me.

Q Are you quite friendly with her? A No.

Q When did she come to visit you? A About three weeks ago.

Q What was the purpose of the visit? A The purpose of the visit was to raise bail, and she asked would I or would some other people in the company, who knew him personally, contribute money toward raising one hundred thousand dollars bail. She explained that she had raised seventy-five thousand dollars toward the one hundred thousand dollars required, and that she was trying desperately to raise the balance. She explained to me that the way it would be done would be to buy Government bonds in her name, and the bonds would be returned to me when the trial was over.

Q Well, did she talk about the case at all?

A Yes. She showed me copies of both the original warrant that was sworn out by Mr. Schroder, the agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and she also showed me a warrant - a copy of the indictment - and she explained to me that nowhere in this indictment did the name of Morton Sobell appear, and that in view of the fact that there was nothing in the indictment to the effect that Morton Sobell had committed any wrong, she was positive that he wasn't guilty of any wrongdoing, as charged.

I did read the indictment, and failed to find his name there; and she went on to explain that his health was deteriorating very rapidly, and that he was stationed in the Tombs, and she was trying desperately to raise this money to get him out of jail, so that he would have his

health at the time he came to trial, because she felt if she didn't get him out of jail his health would seriously impair his defending himself at the time of the trial.

Q You didn't see his name in the indictment?

A I saw it only on the top.

Q Did you read the body also? A Yes, I did.

Q Did you see his name there? A I don't think I did.

Q Well, it is in there, for your information. You probably read the overt acts. Did she say anything else about the case, as to how she was going to win it?

A She made a statement to the effect that they did have something which they would introduce at the trial, which she believed would win the case for them, but she didn't state what it was.

She tried to convince me that they had gone to Mexico because his health had been failing him, and he was heading toward a nervous breakdown; and I asked her why a person who was ostensibly suffering with a nervous breakdown would go to Mexico. I told her that I believed the best place for a person in that condition would be at home, and she said that she had been to Mexico before and she knew that they could live very cheaply down there, and they had gone down there under their own name, and they had rented an apartment in Mexico under their own name, and that they had made no attempts to conceal the

fact that they were down there; and that Mort Sobell had been recuperating very well down there.

Up until that time I didn't know that he had been suffering from a near nervous breakdown, because when I spoke to him the previous week the only thing he mentioned was a cold; and she denied the fact that he wasn't suffering from a nervous breakdown, and that they had gone down to Mexico for his health, and for that alone.

MR. LANE: Are there any further questions?

I think that is cleared up very well.

THE FOREMAN: You are excused. Thank you.

(WITNESS EXCUSED)

December 14, 1950

Kearns

10377

Re: Morton Sobell

(Mr. Lane)

M I S S K A T H R Y N K E A R N S , called
as a witness, having first been duly sworn by
the Foreman, testified as follows:

BY MR. LANE:

Q What is your address? A 1155 Woodycrest
Avenue, Bronx.

Q Do you have a 'phone number there? A Jerome
7 - 4422.

Q You are employed by the Reeves Instrument
Corporation? A That's right.

Q As a secretary? A No; as a comptometer ope-
rator and labor analysis.

Q Now, I understand you had a conversation with
Miss Adler with reference to Sobell? A That's right.

Q Will you tell the jury just what that con-
versation was? A Well, when I check on these boys that
don't send in job cards - - they send in job cards every
day for the type work that they do - - I find out why they
don't send in the cards; and I called Mrs. Adler to ask
her why Sobell hadn't sent in his cards, and she said as
far as she knew he had left for California on a leave of
absence.

Q When was this? A Probably about a week
after, because we work about a week behind schedule.

Q A week after he had left work? A Yes.

Q Who is Miss Adler? A She is a secretary in

one of the engineering offices.

Q And whom is she secretary to? A That I couldn't tell you. There are quite a few men in the office and I couldn't tell you whom she is assigned to, or whether she is assigned to the whole group.

Q She is out sick now, isn't she? A Yes.

MR. LANE: I don't have anything more to ask, other than that. I am going to call Mrs. Adler when she is better.

THE FOREMAN: You are excused. Thank you very much.

(WITNESS EXCUSED)