

September 1, 1950

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(Mr. Lane)

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Sidorovich

M I C H A E L S I D O R O V I C H, called as a witness,
having first been duly sworn by the Foreman, testified
as follows:

BY MR. LANE:

Q How well do you know Julius Rosenberg? A Quite well,
I knew him quite well.

Q Have you worked with him on different projects?

A I worked with him on one project.

Q What was that? A That was when we were both working
on an experiment or, rather, development at the Williams
Aeronautical Corporation, I think it was called.

Q What sort of an experiment was it? A Well, this
Mr. Williams had an idea for a type of aircraft which
employed a different principle and we set up the apparatus
in a loft that he had rented, we made our own equipment and
we ran tests on this experiment that he was trying to develop.

Q Well, what sort of an experiment was it, what prin-
ciple? A Well, I believe it was the Brinouli principle
that he was employing. The experiment was to determine the
amount of lift that he could get on a flat surface, using
a propeller to create a form of vacuum, and the experiment
was the measurement of that vacuum to determine whether he
could get sufficient lift to develop an aircraft that could
operate on that principle.

Q Now, when was this, Mike? A This was in '39.

Q 1939? A 1939.

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Q Did you work with him on any other experiments? A No.

Q Did you ever take any pictures for him? A No.

Q Did you ever develop any pictures for him? A No.

Q Did you ever do any copying for him? A No.

Q Did you ever do any drafting for him? A No.

Q Did you ever make any notes for him? A No.

Q Did you ever deliver any material to him? A No.

Q Did you ever deliver any material to anybody that you obtained in Cleveland? A No.

Q Did you ever act as a courier for anyone? A No.

Q Rosenberg spent some time at your place at Chappaqua?

A He came up with his wife and his first-born right after we moved out. He spent, I believe, a month or a little more than a month with us at the cottage we had in Chappaqua.

Q Do you know Alfred Sarant? A No.

Q Do you know Joel Barr? A No.

Q Do you know Russell McNutt? A Russell I met.

Q Met? A Yes.

Q Do you know his brother? A I know his brother Waldo.

Q Yes. What does he do? A Waldo is a farmer.

Q Is what? A A farmer.

Q And what is Russell? A Russell is an engineer.

Q Whom does he work for? A I don't know.

Q Do you recognize this picture? A No.

Q Have you talked to the Rosenbergs since they were arrested? A No.

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Q Did you talk to any representative of the Rosenbergs since they were arrested? A No.

Q Have you talked to Perl since you were subpoenaed? A No.

Q Did you ever talk to Perl? A No.

Q Do you know him? A No.

Q You still insist that you don't? A I can't recollect having met him.

Q You still say there was nobody with you on the Sunday that you bought that car from Mr. Pflieger? A That's right, sir.

Q And you still say that when you returned from your little trip around the square there was another car in the driveway? A As I recall, there was another car in the driveway.

Q Well, did you pull your car up in the driveway, too? A No. I pulled up on the side near the sidewalk, because, as I recall, that other car was in the driveway, it was pulling out of the driveway.

Q Was there any car in front of the house except for the one that you pulled up in? A I don't recall.

Q You pulled the car up to the curbstone in front of the house? A That's right.

MR. LANE: Any questions, Mr. Foreman?

THE FOREMAN: Any further questions?

You may be excused.

Q Just one more thing. This is your last opportunity,

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Mike; you will never get another chance to come back here and tell the truth. A I told the truth.

Q You still insist upon it? A I do.

Q All right. Do you recall my confronting you and Mr. Pflieger the other day out there? A I do.

Q Do you recall what he said to you? A Not exactly.

Q Well, in substance do you recall what he said?

A Well, he said that there was someone else with me.

Q And he also said, "You know, Mike" -- in substance -- "you know that's not so, when you say there wasn't anybody with you." Do you remember him saying that? A He said that. And I told him that he was mistaken.

Q No, I don't think that's what you said, Mike. That's what you might have meant. You correct me if I'm wrong. As I recall your statement to him, you said, "I'm not going to change my testimony." A No, I didn't say that.

Q Didn't you? Well, I thought you did. Maybe your recollection is better than mine.

MR. LANE: Well, if there are no further questions--

THE FOREMAN: I would just like to say, before you leave: The other day you might have thought that there was a little feeling here in the Jury. Now, I want to say that, again, as Foreman, on behalf of the Jurors and confirming Mr. Lane's statement, you could still be our friend, we still could be friends. Now, you still want to stand on all that you have told us?

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THE WITNESS: I do.

THE FOREMAN: Because we are trying to help and help you, we are trying to help your wife and the children.

THE WITNESS: And I'm here, gentlemen, to help you, too.

THE FOREMAN: You say that sincerely?

THE WITNESS: I say that sincerely.

THE FOREMAN: So help you God?

THE WITNESS: So help me God.

THE FOREMAN: That's part of the oath that you made.

THE WITNESS: That's right.

Q Now, Mike, one more question. You say you want to help us, sincerely. Have you ever been affiliated with the Communist organization? A I have.

Q When? A I was a member of the YCL, that is the Young Communist League, from about '35 or '36 until my -- until about '41 or early '42.

Q And you got out of it then? A And I dropped out of it then. And I haven't been a member of either the Young Communist League or the Communist Party or any other organization associated with them since then.

Q Has your wife ever been a member of either? A I'll say this: that to my knowledge -- and as her husband I'm speaking as her husband -- my wife has never been a member either of the Communist Party or the Young Communist

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League or any other organization that I can recall that is associated with or dominated by them.

Q Did you meet the Rosenbergs while you were a member of the Communist Youth Movement or League?

(Cont'd by LB)

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A I met the Rosenbergs when I was -- rather, I met Ethel Rosenbrrg when I was a member of the Young Communist League.

Q Wasn't she quite active in that organization?

A Ethel Rosenberg I met at a Young Communist League social. I mean, this may seem as though I am trying to dodge it. I do not know whether she was a Communist or Young Communist League member. When you meet someone at a social they may or may not have been, or they may have been brought there as contacts to be introduced to the organization, and I never bothered to ask any of these people whether they were in the same group with me or not. I assumed they might be, and I did not worry about it. But Julius I had met before, I think I had met him once before that. I went to high school with Julius. I did know Julius in college, and when I met him again I believe I met him at a Young Communist League Social.

Q Didn't Julius talk about the Communist principles all the time? A Well, I imagine he did, because I believe I spoke about them at the same time, about the same thing at the same time.

Q Do you still believe in the principles? A No, I do not believe in the principles.

Q When did you change your views? A Well, it is not a question of changing my views. It is a question of growing out of them. I never broke with them in the sense that I am

violently opposed to communism or communists. I feel it is a personal choice that the people must make, and I don't find that I can think in parallel direction with them, so I dropped out.

Q And you dropped out when? A In '41 or late or early '42, shortly after my marriage.

Q Now, Julius Rosenberg visited you at your place in 1943? A That's right.

Q At that time he was a very active member in Communist activities, I believe he was a member of the Communist Party and also a member of the Young Communist League, he was very active in those days, so I assume he must have discussed it with you in 1943? A No, we did not talk about communism as such. I mean, after the war started there were so many other things to talk about without bringing in the question of whether this was right or that was right, although I recall that I went to one, I believe this was in '41, I went to one meeting that was held to urge the opening of a second front where some Russian General, I forget his name, gave a talk on the relative strength of the Soviet Red Army, and there was a collection made of course to help Russian War Relief, and I recall that I was there with Julius, or, rather, Julius was there.

Q When was that, 1943? A I believe it was in '41.

JUROR: We weren't in the war, how could we have a second front at that time,

THE WITNESS: Then I am wrong. It must have

been later. It was while I was still in New York.

Q Did you know that Julius had been active in these espionage activities? A I did not know that Julius had been active in these espionage activities until the FBI came to me and told me about it.

Q Did you know the Greenglasses -- Ruth Greenglass? A I will tell you frankly, I do not recall Ruth Greenglass at all. I do not even remember meeting her. But I knew Dave because I met him at the same social that the Young Communist League used to run, and where I met his sister too.

Q At the same time? A At the same time or about the same time; it was in that period.

Q Is there any reason why you should be protecting this fellow Perl? A Pardon?

Q Is there any reason why you might be protecting this man Perl? A I can't recall having met Mr. Perl and I can't think of any reason why I should.

(WITNESS EXCUSED)