

September 20, 1950

Re: John Doe

Vago

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(Presented by Thomas J. Donegan)

O S C A R     J O H N     V A G O ,     called as a witness,  
having first been duly sworn by the Foreman,  
testified as follows:

BY MR. DONEGAN:

Q Mr. Vago, my name is Donegan. I am a Special Assistant to the Attorney General. This is a Federal Grand Jury sitting in the Southern District of New York. Do you understand that? A Yes.

Q You are here in response to a subpoena, is that correct? A Right.

Q With reference to your appearance before this Grand Jury, have you consulted an attorney? A Yes.

Q Will you give us his name and business address? A Arthur B-a-l-y - - I am sorry; that's right - B-a-i-l-y. I do not know his address exactly; it is somewhere on Lexington Avenue.

Q Is it in New York City? A Yes.

Q Do you have an idea of the street? A Somewhere in the Grand Central district.

Q Now, the Grand Jury would be interested in having some information on your background, so in your own words, very briefly, tell them where you were born, what education you had, and where you have been working.

A I was born in Budapest, Hungary, on February 27, 1898. I finished my schools in Budapest - high school and college education. I received my degree from the University of

Budapest. At the end of 1924 I emigrated to this country.

Q What was your specialty, what degree did you receive? A Structural engineering.

Q You are an engineer? A Yes, I am a structural engineer.

Q Go ahead. A I arrived in this country in 1925. Then I spent some time in various offices; all of them I don't remember any more.

Q You worked as a structural engineer? A Yes, I worked as a structural engineer in various offices, doing architectural and structural work.

Q Now, did you attend any school in this country? A For a short period I took a short course at Pratt Institute in 1925.

Q Was that an engineering course? A Yes.

Q When did you become a citizen? A In '39, in September.

Q In the Southern District of New York? A Yes.

Q Right in this building? A Not in this building, but in Washington Street - 641.

Q Are you married? A Yes, I am.

Q Is your wife a citizen? A Yes, she is.

Q Where was she born? A Also in Budapest.

Q Do you have any children? A I have two children.

Q What age? A Twelve, and four and a half.

Q Now, do they attend school? A Yes, they do.

Q Where do they go to school? A The little Junior High School.

Q Where? A In Rego Park.

Q Have you made any trips outside of the United States since you arrived here? A Yes. I made one trip to visit my family.

Q In Hungary? A Yes.

Q What date? A I returned to this country in January, 1933.

Q You left when? A I left in 1929.

Q And you returned in '33? A Yes.

Q You were away approximately four years?

A Something like that.

Q When were you married? A In 1928.

Q Did your wife go with you? A No, she came later.

Q When you went back to Hungary your wife did not accompany you, is that right? A No, she did not.

Q And when did she go to Hungary? A In 1932.

Q So that you were in Hungary from '29 to '32 alone, is that right? A Yes.

Q And she stayed over until '33? A That's right.

Q And she came back with you? A That's right.

Q When did she become naturalized? A In '31.

Q Do you know an individual named Harry Gold?

A Yes.

Q When did you first meet Mr. Gold? A I met Mr. Gold somewhere around early in 1947.

Q Describe to the jury where. A At my place of work.

Q What were the circumstances, who introduced you to him? A Mr. Brothman.

Q Was Mr. Gold at that time working for Mr. Brothman? A He was to be employed by the firm.

Q Now, in order that we may get first things first, when did you meet Mr. Brothman? A I met Mr. Brothman some time around 1943, the early part of '43.

Q And how did you meet him, what were the circumstances? A I was working on 42nd Street for an architect, and he called me up. He needed the services of a structural engineer, and someone recommended me to him, so he called me up to perform some structural engineering services, which I did forthwith.

Q I would like to interrupt for a moment, Mr. Vago. You said you have consulted a lawyer with reference to your appearance before this Grand Jury? A Yes.

Q Did your lawyer explain to you your rights in appearing before this Grand Jury? A That's right.

Q I take it that he explained to you that you have the right to refuse to answer any question which might

incriminate or degrade you - is that right? A Yes, that's right.

Q Did you continue to work for Mr. Brothman for a period of time? A From that time - - that was one small job I had done for him; he needed a structural engineer's services for a project he was engaged in; and from that time on we met for lunches periodically, irregularly, and later on, some time in '44, he approached me with a proposition of joining him in a venture, setting up a chemical and engineering consulting office, and he invited me, describing the prospects in very favorable terms, and asked me whether I would leave my particular special field.

Finally, late in 1944, he approached me to the materialization of this proposition, and we set up the organization.

Q And you went to work for him? A I went to work as a partner.

Q Do you know Miriam Moscovitz? A Yes.

Q And where did you meet her? A She was employed by the organization late in 1944 or early '45, as a secretary.

Q Mr. Vago, are you at the present time, or have you ever been, a member of the Communist Party? A I wish to decline that answer.

Q On what grounds? A On constitutional grounds, that it might incriminate or degrade me.

Q When you went to Hungary - - and I think you said it was '29 - - A Yes, '29.

Q - - where did you obtain your visa? A I was not a citizen then.

Q You didn't approach the Embassy? A No.

Q Not the Hungarian Embassy? A Yes, I did. I had a Hungarian passport.

Q You were traveling on a Hungarian passport? A Yes.

Q Had you at that time filed your declaration of intention? A No.

Q You had not? A No.

Q You didn't file your declaration of intention until you returned from Hungary? A That's right.

Q At that time had your wife filed her declaration of intention? A At that time?

Q Yes. A Yes, she did.

Q So you had no occasion to approach any representative of any foreign Government at that time in this country, is that right? A No.

Q When you returned from Hungary, were you in contact with any representative of any foreign Government? A No.

Q I am talking about an official, consul, embassy or anything of that sort. A No.

Q Have you ever been in contact with any official

of any foreign government, up to this date? A No.

Q Where are you employed at the present time?

A At the present time I am employed on a professional basis by Mr. Aronow, who in turn is consulting engineer for a real estate concern.

Q Do you know an individual by the name of Sol Fanschel? A Yes.

Q Was he employed by Brothman? A Yes, he was an employee of Brothman.

Q When have you last seen or talked with him?

A Maybe a few weeks ago.

Q When were you first interviewed by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation? A I believe it was in May.

Q Now, have you had any conversation with Mr. Fanschel concerning the questions asked of you by the Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation? A Yes. I just told him that I was being questioned in this connection with Brothman.

Q Did you tell him what questions were asked?

A In a general way.

Q Did he ask you for that information, or did you volunteer it? A I just told him what developed, thinking that he would be as a person interested.

Q Did he tell you that he had been questioned by Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation?

A Subsequently I think he mentioned it.

Q Did he mention it on that occasion when you volunteered the information to him that you had been?

A No.

Q Where did you meet him when you had that conversation? A I happened to know where he works, and I called him up.

Q Was that the purpose for which you called him up? A Yes.

Q To tell him about that? A Yes.

Q And when had you seen him previously? A Previously I hadn't seen him since he was leaving the employ of Brothman.

Q Have you told him that you have received a subpoena to appear before this Grand Jury? A No.

Q Have you had any conversation with him concerning your appearance before this Grand Jury? A No.

Q Did you tell him that the Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation asked you whether you were present with him and some other individuals, including Brothman and Gold, during the course of which meeting there was a discussion concerning Gold and Brothman appearing before a Grand Jury? Now, if you don't understand that question, because it is a long question, I will be glad to break it up. A It is very involved, but I think I can answer it - - no, I never attended such a meeting.

Q Well, perhaps you misunderstood my question because of its length. Did you tell him that the Agents questioned you about such a meeting? A I didn't tell him because I don't recall that they questioned me about such a meeting.

Q Have you at any time, under any circumstances, ever had any conversation with Gold, Brothman, or any other individuals, concerning the appearance of Gold and Brothman before a Grand Jury? A No.

Q Have you at any time, under any circumstances, overheard any conversation, either of Gold, Brothman, or any other individuals, concerning their appearance before a Grand Jury? A No, I have not.

Q Have you at any time ever had any conversation with anybody concerning Brothman being engaged in espionage activity? A No.

Q Have you at any time - - and I wish to point out to you, if you don't clearly understand<sup>it,</sup> that I mean from your first conscious moment up to this minute right now, sitting in the Grand Jury chair - - have you at any time ever had any conversation with anybody concerning Gold being engaged in espionage activity? A No.

Q Now, Mr. Vago, I think you are not taking sufficient time to listen to my questions and to give them some thought. It is very important that you carefully listen to the questions; if you don't understand them, say that you

don't, and you can have them re-read until you fully understand them, because while you are here you are testifying under oath - - you understand that? A Yes.

Q And you are subject to the laws of perjury, or any other violation. A I understand.

Q I think you are overlooking the fact that you undoubtedly must have had some conversation concerning the arrest of Brothman, which appeared in the newspapers; or the arrest of Gold, which appeared in the newspapers.

A Oh, I am sorry, I misunderstood the meaning of your questions. Of course, since it appeared in the press, and since people knew I was connected with Brothman, naturally there was some conversation; but that does not mean to imply that I knew about their activities.

Q I am trying to phrase my questions so that you will not be confused. A Please rephrase them.

Q Have you had any conversation with anybody - - and I will limit the time, since the arrest of Gold, concerning his espionage activities? A Yes.

Q Now, will you name those people. A I could not name them all. Of course, my wife and members of my family, and some friends who knew of my business connection.

Q Now, let us leave out the members of your family and let us leave your wife out. How about the other people? A I could offhand list a whole list of my personal

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friends, because there is quite a likelihood, after I had been connected with the firm for four years - -

Q Have you had any conversation with Miriam Moscovitz? A No.

Q Did you consult any attorney or anybody else - - and when I say "consult," I mean somebody you go to for advice - - have you consulted anybody for advice, whether it is an attorney or somebody else - - maybe it is a personal friend that you might go to and ask for advice - - since the arrest of Brothman or Gold? A Yes; my attorney.

Q Have you consulted anybody else, besides your attorney? A No.

Q When did you first consult your attorney - - mind you, I am not asking you what you said to him, or what he advised you or what you asked him - - I am just asking you, when did you first consult your attorney? A It must have been just around the time after the arrest of Mr. Gold.

Q That was before the arrest of Mr. Brothman? A That's right.

Q Did anybody inform you that, prior to the arrest of Brothman or Moscovitz - - did anybody inform you that Brothman was appearing before a Grand Jury? A No.

Q Did you have any knowledge that he was appearing before a Grand Jury? A Not except what I read in the newspapers.

Q Did anybody -- and I will include Brothman or Moscovitz or anybody else -- communicate with you concerning their appearance before a Grand Jury? A No.

Q Or concerning them being interviewed by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation? A No. I wish to mention that I separated from Brothman and his organization after a deep-going break -- a personal and business break -- in June, 1948, which was legally concluded through the assistance of my attorney a year later; it was concluded in an agreement of separation. Ever since our break, I have never met any one of them, or any intermediary.

Q Is that the same attorney that you consulted at the present time? A Yes.

Q Since your break, which I believe you informed the F. B. I. you had with Brothman, have you had any contacts with Miriam Moscovitz? A None whatsoever.

Q Or with Brothman's wife? A Neither.

Q Now, have you ever heard from any source whatsoever that Brothman or Gold had received an award from the Soviet Union? A No.

Q Was that question asked of you by the F. B. I.? A Yes. That was the first time I heard about it.

Q You had never heard of that before? A Never heard of it before.

Q Did you have any conversations with any of the

employees of Brothman's firm concerning either Brothman or Gold receiving an award from the Soviet Union? A No.

Q Did you have any conversations with anybody else, excluding employees of Brothman's firm, about Brothman or Gold receiving an award from the Soviet Union? A No.

Q And do you understand what I mean by "award"? I mean a medal or any kind of recognition. A Yes, that's right.

Q You have been employed by the Government, Mr. Vago? A Yes.

Q When were you first employed by the Government?  
A It was in the middle of 1938. I was employed by the then Procurement Division, which later became the Public Buildings Administration.

A JUROR: We can't hear you.

THE WITNESS: That was the Procurement Division, which was later transferred to another department, under the name of Public Buildings Administration.

Q Where were you employed? A In Washington.

Q And what was your grade and your salary?

A My grade was what was called E-3, at thirty-two hundred dollars a year.

Q And what was your technical classification?

A I believe it was called Assistant Engineer, but I am not absolutely sure of that.

Q I think you have already stated it, but I have forgotten - - what date did you start that employment with the Government? A I don't know the exact date. It was about June or July of 1938.

Q And how long were you so employed? A About a year and a half. I believe it terminated in December, 1939. The appropriations for the work I was employed on expired.

Q Now, with reference to that employment, was that a civil service position - did you take an examination? A No, I did not.

Q Did you fill out an application form? A Later on, in the course of my employment, I did make an application form, a so-called - - they had some - the Civil Service Commission has some term which implies a rating being given on the basis of record and experience, without an examination.

(CONTINUED BY LB)

I think you have already stated it, but I have

to get - what date was that employment with the Government? A - I was

*[Handwritten signature]*

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S.D. of N.Y.

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And how long were you an employee? A - About

one year and a half. I believe it terminated in December,

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expired.

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that a civil service position - did you take an examination?

A - No, I did not.

Did you fill out an application form? A - Later

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mission has some term which implies a rating being given

on the basis of record and experience, without an examina-

tion.

(CONTINUED BY LB)

Q Were you subsequently employed by the U. S. Government after the termination of that employment? A Yes, after the termination I was employed in the War Department, Quartermaster Corps.

Q Where was that? A Also in Washington, D. C.

Q When did you start that employment? A On the same month.

Q What type of work were you doing? A Structural engineering designing, reinforced concrete -- in general, on structural design.

Q How long did you keep that job? A I resigned from that job in May 1941.

Q That was a period of how many years, approximately? A Altogether another year and a half.

Q Were you employed after that by the Government? A No; then I returned to New York.

Q Why did you resign that job? A Because the prospects were very good in New York for employment in private industry.

Q In reference to your War Department job, was that civil service? A No; that was the same type of job as the other one.

Q You fill out an application form? A That I cannot tell for sure in which period it was. I do know that I did file an application form for this unlisted or unclassified, I do not know, some kind, I do not recall the term, examination, which was an examination purely based on my

experience record.

Q On the application form did you give background concerning yourself and activities? A Yes.

Q The fact that you were a naturalized citizen and so forth? A Yes.

Q Prior to you filling out the application form for either one of those two Government positions were you a member of the Communist Party? A I wish to decline to answer that question on Constitutional grounds that it might incriminate and degrade me.

Q Did the application form that you filled out -- that you made out -- ask the question as to whether you belong to any organization? A I wouldn't be sure. I do not believe there was such a question in that form.

Q Was that application form made out with an affidavit or an oath? A I don't remember that.

Q Did that application form ask you to state whether you had been associated with any organization which concerned or advocated the overthrow of the government by force and violence? A I do not believe that application form did have such a question.

Q Have you seen any Government application forms which had asked a question of that type? A I don't think I have seen any Government application forms ever since, and I can't answer that question because I don't know.

Q With reference to -- I believe you stated the year before and I have forgotten it -- you became naturalized what

year? A 1939.

Q Prior to the time that you became naturalized, that is, taken an oath as a United States citizen, had you been a member of the Communist Party? A I decline to answer that question on Constitutional grounds, that it might incriminate and degrade me.

Q At the time you became a citizen and took the oath as a citizen in 1939, were you at that time a member of the Communist Party? A I wish to decline to answer that question on the Constitutional grounds that it might incriminate and degrade me.

MR. DONEGAN: Mr. Foreman, the grand jury's time is running out and there is quite a bit -- the examination is quite lengthy, of this witness -- and since it is such an important matter I would appreciate it if you as Foreman of the grand jury would instruct him that he is to continue under subpoena and that he is to be back, to appear before this grand jury at the next session of the grand jury, which I believe is Wednesday, September 27th, at 10:45 a.m.

THE FOREMAN: Did you hear that? You are to appear here a week from today. Today is the 20th and that will be September 27th, at 10:45 a.m., for further examination, and you are still under subpoena.

MR. DONEGAN: You understand that, that you are under subpoena that has been served on you and you must appear here next Wednesday, do you understand that?

THE WITNESS: Yes.

MR. DONEGAN: You are excused for today.

(WITNESS EXCUSED)

O S C A R        J O H N        V A G O , recalled.

THE FOREMAN: You will remember, sir, you are still under oath.

THE WITNESS: Yes. Mr. Foreman, I wish to make an amendment to my testimony made last week.

BY MR. DONEGAN:

Q Well, since you testified before the grand jury on September 20th, 1950, have you consulted somebody concerning your testimony? A My attorney.

Q Now you state you wish to make an amendment?

A Yes.

Q Did your attorney advise you to make an amendment?

A He did not advise. I wish to make an amendment. I checked with him whether it is proper.

Q Are you adding something to the testimony you gave?

A No, I wish to alter it.

Q I want to advise you that the testimony which you gave to this grand jury under oath stands. In other words, if you want to further explain your testimony, or if you want to supplement your testimony -- A No. I discovered something and my attorney advised me that it may be proper if I am allowed to amend it.

Q I want to question you. Before you leave the grand jury room here this morning the grand jury will allow you an opportunity to say what you want to say, but I would like to continue the questioning of you first. A All right.

Q Mr. Vago, have you ever contributed any money to the Communist Party? A I wish to decline to answer this question on Constitutional grounds, that it might incriminate and degrade me.

Q Have you ever had any discussion or talk with Abraham Brothman concerning the Communist Party? A No.

Q Have you ever had any discussion or talk with Miriam Moskowitz concerning the Communist Party? A No.

Q Mr. Vago, you testified under oath before this grand jury on September 20th, 1950 that you left the United States in 1929 and went to Hungary, and that you were out of the United States until January of 1933. Now, I would like you to furnish this grand jury with information concerning your entry into the United States, your original entry into the United States. You entered the United States in 1924, is that right? A '25.

Q In '25 -- what month? A January.

Q In January 1925, and at what port did you arrive? A New York.

Q Do you recall the name of the ship? A We left Hamburg -- Mongolia. That was a ship of the Hamburg-American Line.

Q On what basis did you enter? Did you enter as a student? A Yes.

Q For how long a period of time? A I am sorry, I did not get that.

Q How long a period of time were you allowed to stay in the United States? A That I do not remember. I believe it was for the duration of my being a student.

Q Where were you going to be a student? A At Ann Arbor.

Q Did you go to Ann Arbor? A No, I did not.

Q What kind of a course did you state you were going to take at Ann Arbor? A Structural engineer.

Q Where did you go? A I went to Pratt Institute.

Q How soon after your arrival in the United States did you go to Pratt Institute? A Within the next few months.

Q Few months? A Within the next few months of my entry.

Q Approximately how many months? A I do not know; from two or three months.

Q Then did you advise Immigration and Naturalization that you were going to Pratt Institute? A I do not remember whether I did, but I did communicate with Ann Arbor University to exchange -- and I asked them to permit -- where I got the permit I do not remember now.

Q And you attended Pratt how long? A For one session.

Q Then were you employed? A Yes.

Q For how long a period of time were you employed?  
A Continuously.

Q Continuously until what year? A That is the point where I wish to make the amendment.

Q You answer my questions now. Until what year?

A Until 1932.

Q Until 1932? A Yes.

Q Where were you employed? A First I was employed with an architect named Felson.

Q Where was he located? A That time it was on 57th Street.

Q Do you recall the address? A That was the corner of Eighth Avenue; I think it was the Fiske Building.

Q How long did you work for him? A About a year.

Q That was about 1926? A Right.

Q And then where did you work? A Then I worked with the White Construction Company.

Q You testified that you left the United States in 1929. On what ship did you leave? A That is the subject of my proposed amendment.

Q When you testified to this grand jury on September 20th, 1950 that you left the United States in 1929, did you testify falsely? A Well, if you wish to put it in those words, then the answer is Yes.

Q In other words, you committed perjury when you testified that you left the United States in 1929? A I wouldn't put it in those words, Mr. Attorney.

Q Mr. Vago, will you please answer my questions? I will read your testimony. "Q Have you made any trips

outside of the United States since you arrived here? A Yes.

I made one trip to visit my family. Q In Hungary? A Yes.

Q What date? A I returned to this country in January 1933.  
Q You left when? A I left in 1929. Q And you returned  
in 1933? A Yes. Q You were away approximately four years?  
A Something like that. Q When were you married? A In  
1928. Q Did your wife go with you? A No; she came later.  
Q When you went back to Hungary your wife did not accompany  
you, is that right? A No, she did not. Q When did she go  
to Hungary? A In 1932. Q So that you were in Hungary from  
1929 to 1932 alone, is that right? A Yes."

Was that testimony you gave before this grand jury true  
or false? I might remind you, Mr. Vago, as I reminded you  
on the 20th of this month when you testified before this grand  
jury previously, that you have the right to refuse to answer  
any questions in this grand jury if the answers might  
incriminate or degrade you, and you have indicated that you  
are fully aware of that right since you have already refused  
to answer some questions on that ground, that they might  
incriminate or degrade you. So with that in mind I will  
repeat that question. (Question, "Was that testimony you  
gave before this grand jury true or false?" read to the  
witness.) A It wasn't true, but I made that testimony --

Q Your answer is that testimony was false? A It  
was not deliberate falsehood.

Q I am not asking you whether it was deliberate or  
not. The grand jury heard your testimony and your testimony  
is a matter of record. I am asking you, was that testimony

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you gave before this grand jury on September 20th false?

A It was.

Q When did you work for the White Construction Company? A From 1926 to 1932, with one interruption.

Q You worked for the White Construction Company until December of 1932, isn't that correct? A Correct.

Q And the fact is that you remained in the United States in an illegal status until 1932, is that correct?

A Correct.

Q And your testimony to this grand jury that you left the United States in 1929 was false, isn't that correct?

A Right.

Q At that time were you a member of the Communist Party? A I wish to decline to answer that question on the Constitutional ground that it might incriminate or degrade me.

Q When was the last time you were in Washington, Mr. Vago? A In 1941.

Q 1941? A No, that was I think a year later, my wife paid a visit to some friends and I went there to bring them back.

Q You testified last Wednesday that you have had no contacts with any representatives of any foreign governments. I will read the question and answer that was asked you at that time. "Q When you returned from Hungary were you in contact with any representative of any foreign government? A No. Q I am talking about an official consul,

or embassy, or anything of that sort? A No. Q Have you ever been in contact with any official of any foreign government up to this date? A No." Is that testimony true? A Yes.

Q Is it true and do you tell this grand jury under oath, as you have testified to everything else, that you have had no contacts in any manner whatsoever with any representatives of any foreign government within the last five years? A That's true.

MR. DONEGAN: I suggest we excuse this witness at this time for a short period of time.

THE FOREMAN: You are excused.

(WITNESS EXCUSED)

(The witness, Oscar John Vago, was later recalled.)

BY MR. DONEGAN:

Q You will remember, Mr. Vago, that you are still continuing under oath. A Yes.

Q Have you ever been on the steamship which was known as the Conte di Savoia? A Yes.

Q When were you on board? A On my trip returning to the United States.

Q When was that? A That was on the first days of January, 1932.

Q When? A 1933, I mean.

Q Now you say you came into the United States in 1933. What month? A January.

Q January 1933 on the Conte di Savoia? A Yes.

Q Arriving in New York? A Yes.

Q Where did you board the Conte di Savoia? A In Genoa.

Q About what date? A It must have been the last days of December or first days of January.

Q You cannot fix it more definitely than that?

A It might have been the first of January, I am not sure.

Q That was at Genoa, Italy, you boarded that? A Yes.

Q How long had you been in Genoa, Italy, prior to the time that you boarded the Conte di Savoia? A Two days.

Q Where were you previous to that? A Previous to that I think we stopped over at Trieste for one day.

Q And before Trieste, where were you? A In Venezia - Venice.

Q How long were you in Venice? A Two or three days.

Q Before Venice? A I was in Budapest.

Q Where did you spend Christmas 1932? A In Budapest.

Q How long before Christmas of 1932 had you been in Budapest? A About three weeks.

Q So you were in Budapest on or about December 10th, is that correct? A Som-thing like that.

Q What? A About that.

Q When did you arrive at Budapest? A At that time, on that day.

Q What day? A I mean, that same time.

Q Give the approximate date in December. A Around the 10th of December.

Q Where had you been previous to your arrival in Budapest? A I had been on my way from the United States to Budapest.

Q Let's go back slowly to when we got into Budapest that time. Where did you arrive in Europe when you went to Budapest, what port? A It must have been Genoa, because I went to the same steamship company.

Q When did you leave the United States? A About either the first days of December or the last days of November in 1932.

Q Were you in the United States Thanksgiving of 1932? A That I don't remember.

Q You do not know? A I do not remember.

Q What ship did you sail on when you left the United States? A The Rex.

Q Rex, of the Italian Line? A Rex of the Italian Line, the same company.

Q From what port in the United States? A From New York.

Q Were you alone? A No; I was with my wife.

Q Your wife was with you? A Yes.

Q She also sailed on the Rex. Under what name did you sail? A Under my own name.

Q That's Oscar John Vago? A In Hungarian my name is not exactly the same.

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Q Well, give it as it was. A In Hungarian my name is Vago Oszkar (spelled by witness).

Q And you used that spelling when you took passage on the Rex? A Yes, because that is the way my name is spelled.

Q Did you use that spelling? A Yes.

Q Listen to my questions. If you do not understand them ask to have them repeated, but please give an answer to them. Had you used that spelling of your name while you were in the United States? A No.

Q That was the first time in the United States that you used that spelling of your name? A Yes.

Q And you say you sailed from New York to Genoa? A Yes.

Q You went from Genoa to Budapest? A By train.

Q And you say it was the latter part of November 1932 or the first part of December 1932 that you left New York? A Yes.

Q Now with reference to Thanksgiving, haven't you any recollection as to whether you were in New York City Thanksgiving 1932? A I have no direct recollection, but I just judge because I couldn't think of any other place I could have been.

Q Have you talked with your wife concerning when you left the United States on the Rex in 1932? A I did not get that question.

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Vago

Q Have you talked with your wife concerning the time you left the United States? A When?

Q In 1932. A You mean whether I talked with my wife at that time?

Q At any time. A Yes.

Q Has she any recollection of whether you were in the United States Thanksgiving of 1932? A I couldn't tell.

Q Then you went to Budapest and stayed in Budapest for three weeks? A Yes.

Q And came back to the United States. You said you arrived January 1933? A Right.

Q On the Conte di Savoia? A Right.

Q Did you advise the Naturalization Service that you had been out of the territorial limits of the United States, that is, that you had been in Europe from 1929 to your arrival on the Conte di Savoia in 1933? A No, I have not.

Q Did you advise the FBI that you had been outside of the United States from 1929 until 1933? A At what time? At that time? Or recent times?

Q Did you inform the FBI that you had been outside of the United States at any time from 1929 to 1933? A Yes.

Q Did you ever advise the FBI that you had been in the United States from 1929 to either the latter part of November or the early part of December 1932? A No.

Q Reading from your testimony to this Federal grand jury on September 20th, 1950: "Q When were you married?

~~A In 1928. Q Did your wife go with you? A No; she~~  
came later. Q When you went back to Hungary your wife did  
not accompany you, is that right? A No, she did not."

Was that answer you gave to that question in this grand  
jury room under oath a false answer? A Yes.

Q "Q So that you were in Hungary from 1929 to 1932  
alone, is that right? A Yes." Was that answer to that  
question in this grand jury room on September 20th, 1950, a  
false answer? A Yes.

Q When was the last time you were in Washington,  
Mr. Vago? A It must have been sometime in 1942 or  
thereabouts.

Q Nineteen what? A '42.

Q You had not been in Washington since 1942? A No.

Q Have you talked with anybody from the White  
Construction Company within the past month? A No.

Q Have you talked with anybody concerning your  
employment with the White Construction Company since you  
appeared before this grand jury on September 20th, 1950?  
A No.

Q Do you have a brother in Hungary that has an official  
position in the Hungarian government at the present time?

A No.

Q Have you any relatives in Hungary who have any  
positions in the Hungarian government at the present time?

A No.

Q Have you any relatives in Hungary who are in the employ of or are members of the Communist Party? A I couldn't tell -- answer that question.

Q It seems to me to be a clear question. A Well, I can't answer for my brother's actions in Hungary today.

Q I am not asking you that. I am asking you as to your knowledge. I am not asking you about your brother's actions. I am asking you. A To my knowledge, no.

Q Have you been advised from any source whatsoever that any of your relatives in Hungary are associated with, affiliated with, or members of the Communist Party in Hungary? A No.

Q Have you at any time furnished any information to any representatives of any government concerning your relatives in Hungary? A No.

Q (Question read as above to witness at the request of Mr. Donegan.) A No.

Q Have you advised any government agency, including Immigration and Naturalization Service, that you were a student in the United States during the entire period of time from your arrival in 1925 until 1929? A I do not remember what kind of procedures I followed, what I had to do. I do not remember at this time.

Q Did you make any statements either in writing, orally, or under oath, to any representative of the United States government that you were a student in the United States

and were not employed during the period from 1925 to 1929?

A I do not remember, but I do not believe I did, since I paid income tax during the period.

Q I didn't hear that. A I paid my income tax during that entire period, I do not believe I made that; I do not remember.

Q Why do you say you paid your income tax during the entire period? A I beg pardon?

Q Why do you say that, in response to my question? A Because that would indicate I was employed.

Q Are you endeavoring to tell this jury that if you did make any statements to any government officials that you were a student, that they should have been put on notice because you paid income taxes that you were not a student? A That is something I do not understand.

Q I do not understand why you volunteered that you paid your income tax. That wasn't the question I asked you. A I do not remember. Please read the question again and I will answer it again directly.

Q (Question, "Did you make any statements either in writing, orally, or under oath, to any representative of the United States government that you were a student in the United States and were not employed during the period from 1925 to 1929?" read to witness by reporter.) A I do not remember.

MR. DONEGAN: As it is apparent to the grand jury, this witness will be necessarily before the grand jury again. I understand the grand jury is meeting Tuesday of next week. Tuesday of next week is October 3rd. If the Foreman will instruct this witness before the grand jury that he is continuing under subpoena and must appear before the grand jury October 3rd, I will appreciate it. ~~THIS IS A~~ ~~WITNESS~~ ~~EXCUSED~~ ~~BY~~ ~~THE~~ ~~COURT~~ ~~ON~~ ~~THIS~~ ~~DAY~~ ~~AT~~ ~~10~~ ~~45~~ ~~A~~ ~~M~~

THE FOREMAN: You are still under subpoena and you are to appear here again October 3rd at 10:45 a.m.

BY MR. DONEGAN:

Q Do you understand that? A Yes, I do.

Q You understand that you are under an obligation to be in this room next Tuesday? A I understand. May I ask a point of information?

Q Yes. A To what degree am I bound to secrecy?

Q You are not bound to secrecy as to your own testimony before this grand jury. You can discuss your testimony with your attorney. A May I discuss it with my wife?

Q I cannot instruct you on that. I will leave that up to you, but you have the right to discuss your testimony with your attorney and your attorney can advise you as to whether you may discuss it with your wife or anybody else.

A All right.

Q You are excused and you are to be here next Tuesday, do you understand? A Yes. (WITNESS EXCUSED)