

Oct. 26, 1950

10118

Levitov

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

BY MR. LANE:

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

Q Are you married? A No, sir.

Q Your present address? A 2135 Lee Highway.

Q Arlington, Va? A That's right.

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

Q Your father living? A No, sir.

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

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

Q The sisters are who? A Edith and Helen.

Q How long have you lived at your present address?  
A Roughly 17 years save for the time I was in the service.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q Was Edith there at that time? A Yes.

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

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

Q I appreciate that fact. A But my kid sister, I mean, you can't talk to her for any length of time. She's neurotic and she has these spells when she wants to kill herself and all that sort of stuff. I mean, I couldn't talk to her like I talk to you, for instance.

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

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

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

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

Q She thought that who got in an automobile accident?

A My brother-in-law and my sister.

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

Q Who? A My mother.

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

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

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

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

Q Didn't she say anything about them? A No, sir. She's, you know, she -- my mother asked her how is the baby and all that sort of stuff, and all she would say is, they are fine.

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

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

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

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

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

A Where did I get those letters?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q Those are photostats. A Yes.

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

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

Q Never? A No.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1/1/50  
Levitov

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

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

(Cont. by IFG)

October 26, 1950

IFG-1  
(From LB)

Re: John Doe  
(Mr. Lane)

D. Levitov

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

don't know.

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

A Yes, I have received letters from her before.

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

Q And you say that that looks like her printing?

A I think so.

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

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

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

A It looks like it to me, sir.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q You do? A Yes, sir.

Q Now, take your seat.

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

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

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

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

A JUROR: Yes.

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

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

THE WITNESS: About two or three weeks.

A JUROR: Why would you hold the envelope?

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

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

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

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

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

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

THE WITNESS: Not in our family, no.

A JUROR: Then it is an unusual family.

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

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

Q What makes you think it was the bottom one?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q No, sir? A No, sir.

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

A At the time I received the letters?

Q Yes. A I think she was with Helen.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE WITNESS: You see, this is something - -

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

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

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

THE WITNESS: Well, what is strange?

A JUROR: Did she get other letters there?

THE WITNESS: I don't think so.

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

A That's right.

Q You have already testified to that? A Yes.

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

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

A Here - -

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q And he had a maid? A Yes.

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

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

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

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

A That's right.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q In New York? A Yes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A Looking backwards, I don't think so.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q What did your mother say to you when you got

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q No comment? A I mean - -

Q Answer the question. A No comment.

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

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

Q Why? A She just clammed up.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q Did your mother ask her where they had gone?

A Yes.

Q Did she tell her? A No.

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

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

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

A JUROR: I would like to ask him about the

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

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

A JUROR: The man's name and address.

THE WITNESS: Eggerton - Clinton O. Eggerton.

A JUROR: And the address?

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

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

THE WITNESS: For Edith.

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

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

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

THE WITNESS: (No answer.)

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

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

THE WITNESS: I had no knowledge of any difficulty.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q Did she tell you where they stayed in Mexico?

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

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

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

A No.

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

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

Q Yes. A (No answer.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q Fine and good? A That's right.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q Were you present when she talked? A Yes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q What is the address? A 2135 Lee Highway.

Q What is the telephone number? A Chestnut 1522.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q Do you have any brother? A Yes.

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

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

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

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

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

THE WITNESS: No, sir.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q Do you approve of him? A Who?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q About Morton Sobell? A No.

Q About Edith Levitov? A No, sir.

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

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

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

(WITNESS EXCUSED)