

bd 1

Belock

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?

bd 3

Belock

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

bd 4

Belock

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

bd 5

Belock

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

bd 6

Belock

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

bd 7

Belock

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.

bd 8

Belock

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

bā 10

Belock .

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

bd 11

Belock

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.

bd 12

Belock

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

bd 13

Belock

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

bd 14

Belock

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

bd 15

Belock

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,

bd 16

Belock

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.

bd 17

Belock

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?

b2 18

Belock

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

[REDACTED]

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)