

February 7, 1951

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Stella Page

S T E L L A P A G E, called as a witness, having first  
been duly sworn by the Foreman, testified as follows:

BY MR. LANE:

Q Mrs. Page, were you born in New York City?

A Yes, I was.

Q And when? A On April 21, 1917.

Q And did you go to school in New York City?

A Yes, I was educated in New York City.

Q In the public schools? A In the public schools in  
New York City.

Q And what high school? A I went to Washington Irving  
High School.

Q And after that? A Then I went to Hunter College.

Q Did you graduate? A Yes, I graduated from Hunter  
College, and then I went to Teachers College at Columbia  
and got my Master's degree.

Q When did you get your Master's degree? A In 1938.

Q And did you teach? A Yes, I taught in Newark and  
in the New Jersey area temporarily.

Q High schools? A Junior high schools and elementary  
schools.

Q And what did you teach: English? A Home Economics.

Q Cooking, is that it? A Yes, and sewing.

Q Now, how long have you been married? A I have been  
married since 1938. That's 12 years, past 12 years.

Q And you have one child? A One child.

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Q How old is he? A Six years old.

Q Boy? A Girl.

Q Now, after you graduated was that all you did, teach school? Did you do any other work? A Once in a while I did some demonstration work with foods in department stores. But most of my work has been confined to teaching. And then I did some volunteer work during the war, teaching nutrition to adult groups.

Q Tell me, do you know the Rosenbergs, Julius and his wife? A I refuse to answer that question on the ground that I think it might tend to incriminate me.

Q The fact that you just know them? A I think that would incriminate me.

Q You really believe it would? A I really believe it would.

Q Have you talked with a lawyer before you came here this morning? A Yes, I did.

Q Who is the lawyer? A Morris J. Kaplan, 135 Broadway, New York City.

Q And did he advise you to refuse to answer all questions that were asked you? A No, he didn't advise me to refuse to answer all questions.

Q Well, I mean any question that had reference to the Rosenbergs. A I feel that whatever my lawyer and I discussed together, isn't that our --

Q No; it's privilege as far as the lawyer is concerned.

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A I see. Well --

Q That won't incriminate you, will it, as to what advice you got from a lawyer? A I still would feel better if I didn't answer that question.

Q You feel that the very fact that you knew the Rosenbergs would incriminate you, that by itself? A I feel that answering that question would incriminate me.

Q Well, do you consider yourself a good American citizen?  
A I certainly do.

Q Well, isn't it a little incongruous to say that you are a good American citizen and then you don't want to assist in the prosecution of a man who has been indicted for the worst offense that could be committed against the Government?  
A I am assisting to the best of my ability, Mr. Lane.

Q And this is your idea of assistance? A Yes, it is, sir

Q Refusing to answer questions? A I refuse to answer questions which I think may tend to incriminate or degrade me.

Q I understand that. But, I mean, is that your idea of assisting? A Yes, I believe so, I think it is.

Q Well, it's a little vague reasoning, it's hard for me to follow it. So you refuse to answer all questions pertaining to the Rosenbergs? A I refuse to answer all questions pertaining to the Rosenbergs.

Q On the ground that any questions pertaining to Rosenberg or his wife would tend to incriminate you?

A That's my answer.

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Q Do you know Morton Sobell? A No, sir.

Q Do you know David Greenglass? A I refuse to answer that question on the ground that it would tend to incriminate me.

Q David Greenglass? Do you know David Greenglass' wife?

A I refuse to answer that question for the same reason.

Q It would tend to incriminate you? A That's right.

Q When you were married what name were you married under? A I was married under my husband's -- the name of Pogarsky.

Q And was that changed legally? A Yes, sir.

Q When was that? A I couldn't give you the exact date, but it was around 1940, maybe a year and a half or two years later.

Q Now, where did you live after you were married?

A We lived in Brooklyn the first time, in Williamsburg, at 111 South Third Street, and then we moved back into Manhattan again where we had lived before we were married, on Madison Street, 153, I think the number is 153 Madison Street, in New York City.

Q When did you live at 111 South Third Street, Brooklyn?

A From the time we were married, November, 1938, until around the summer time, maybe June or July -- I'm not quite sure of the month -- of 1940.

Q And whom did you live with? A Well, we lived alone. We rented a room, alone, for a while.

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Q No; but who owned the place? A I don't know. I don't remember, now. Maybe I did know at one time, but I don't remember.

Q Didn't Julius Rosenberg own the place? Didn't you people live with Julius Rosenberg at one time? A We rented a place from a landlord whose name I don't know. And the janitor who had arranged for the renting, his name is Smith. That's what I do remember. It was a four-room apartment.

Q You mean -- didn't you ever live in the same place with the Rosenbergs? A I refuse to answer that question.

Q Well, I mean, I don't care whether you answer it or not. Your husband has already answered it. A Well, whatever he says, it's his own business.

Q Well, do you still refuse to answer that question on the grounds it would tend to incriminate you? A Which question, sir?

Q As to whether or not you people lived in the same apartment as the Rosenbergs lived? A I refuse to answer that question.

Q On the ground that it would tend to incriminate you?  
A Yes, sir.

THE FOREMAN: You must admit it's -- and you lived with your husband. Doesn't that sound kind of funny? And you are a teacher.

THE WITNESS: I don't care how it sounds to you. I'm doing as I see fit, and that's all I can do.

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BY THE JURY:

Q Mrs. Page, we are very eager for you to understand that we are friendly towards you. You can relax and just think about what the question is and just deliberate in your own mind as to whether it will or will not incriminate you. Otherwise, you make a poor impression. A I'm trying to do that.

Q Yes, just relax.

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

THE FOREMAN: No, because it seems impossible.

MR. LANE: I think the record is clear that the woman is a recalcitrant witness, extremely hostile, and I think it's quite evident that she is apparently doing everything she can to stymie or to hurt the investigation.

JUROR: Yes.

ANOTHER JUROR: I may add, un-American, Mr. Lane. I might add, distinctly un-American. That's my reaction.

THE FOREMAN: That's following a line, so it doesn't make any difference.

Q Mrs. Page, do you think that you can wish yourself out of this Rosenberg case? A I don't see how I'm in it.

Q Well, that's the very point. You aren't in it, if you tell the truth. But by not telling the truth or by not

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talking at all you are now wishing yourself into the case. And it would be much easier for you if you were to tell Mr. Lane what you really know. Because we don't think you are in the case; but we are beginning to think that you are, if you continue to resist Mr. Lane's questions. You are just pushing yourself into the case where you may have to be a defendant, and that means more trouble than you think you could wish yourself out of by saying you don't know anything about Rosenberg, when we know you do. It's poor thinking. You are an intelligent girl. A whatever you say, it's a matter of opinion, sir. You see it your way, sir, and I have to see it mine, according to my conscience as an American. And I feel -- and I know that I am a good American.

Q You are disproving it now.

Q (Another Juror) Mrs. Page, did you ever rent a room in your apartment? A I refuse to answer that question on the ground that it may tend to incriminate me.

BY THE FOREMAN:

Q And you taught school? A Yes, sir.

Q Supposing your pupils answered these silly questions-- I mean silly answers, what would you think? You might excuse them because they are young. But you are intelligent, a graduate of Hunter and undoubtedly you have a degree, several degrees. It just doesn't make any sense. As  says, you are wishing yourself right into something that there is no reason that you should.

MR. LANE: I think that we might excuse her for the moment, but she is still under subpoena and not excused from the subpoena.

THE FOREMAN: All right.

THE WITNESS: Do you wish me to stay today, sir.

MR. LANE: No, not today. I don't want you any more today, but we'll want you later on.

THE FOREMAN: You are excused temporarily.

THE WITNESS: All right.

[WITNESS EXCUSED]