

February 7, 1951

Danziger

10528

(Re: John Doe)

Presented by Myles J. Lane, Esq.

W I L L I A M      D A N Z I G E R ,      recalled as a witness, having again been duly sworn by the Foreman, testified as follows:

BY MR. LANE:

Q Mr. Danziger, you know Morton Sobell, do you not? A Yes, I do.

Q You have known him for quite some time?  
A Yes, sir.

Q Now, I direct your attention to the events of June, 1950, and specifically to a visit which you made to the home of Morton Sobell on 73rd Avenue, Queens. Do you recall that night? A Yes.

Q Was that the night that Sobell left for Mexico?  
A It was my impression that he was leaving that night.

Q Well, did he tell you that he was leaving?  
A Yes, he did.

Q And the sister-in-law was there at the time?  
A Yes.

Q Did you see her drive the car as you left?  
A No, I didn't see her drive the car.

Q Did Sobell tell you how long he would be away?  
A Well, I don't recall whether he mentioned it specifically. I was under the impression it would be several weeks.

Q And was it at that time that he told you about these plans for communicating with relatives and friends back here? A No, he made no mention of it at that time.

Q Now, do you recall the exact date of that visit?

A No.

Q Was it the 22nd? A I think that is approximately right. It was in the latter part of June.

Q That was June 22, 1950? A That is approximately right.

Q And that was around nine o'clock in the evening, was it? A Yes, sir.

Q Now, about the week after he left did you receive a letter from him? A Yes, I did.

Q Do you recall, can you tell the jury about that letter, how it was addressed and where you received it? A Yes. It was addressed to me care of my place of employment, at 4849 Broadway.

Q Was that the Academy Electrical Products Company? A Yes, the Academy Electrical Products Company.

Q Do you recall the stamp on it - was it post-marked Mexico City? A Yes, I recall that, or something like that.

Q And you opened the letter? A Yes.

Q Before you opened it, wasn't there a return address on the outside? A Yes, there was.

Q How did that read? A As far as I can recall, it read "M." or "Morty Soell."

Q And there was some address on it, that you don't recall? A That's right.

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Q In Mexico City? A Yes.

Q Inside of the envelope, what did you find?

A Well, there was a letter addressed to me personally, and a note - - actually, there were several notes - - and there was one note addressed to his sister-in-law. There was one enclosure - - if I can recall the name of the sister-in-law, or her address in Arlington - - there was an enclosure, "Dear Mom and Pop," with his parents' address on it, and there was a note asking me to please deliver these or forward these to the proper people; and also a request asking me to deliver his address, as he listed it on the sheet, to a Mr. Pasternak, whose address he gave.

Q Now, all in all you think there were about four separate enclosures, separate letters, in there?

A I think so.

Q And one was addressed to Sobell's parents?

A Yes.

Q And that began "Dear Mom and Pop"? A Yes.

Q And the second one was addressed to "Der Edie, Rose and Davie" - - do you remember that it was written "Der" instead of "Dear"? A I don't recall that specifically.

Q Now, I show you a photostatic copy of a letter and I ask you if that is a photostat of the letter which you received from Sobell at that time? A If I can recall, I think that was it.

Q You identify that? A Yes.

Q Now, do you know whether this is yours, are you sure whether this is yours, or was that somebody else's?

A I think that was somebody else's (indicating).

Q You are not positive of that? A I don't recall having any reason for putting that on there, so that it - - it doesn't look like my hand, and I am fairly certain I didn't write that.

Q Unless you had three or four of these; you might want to know when you are going out to mail them, which one you would send. A No, I don't think I did.

MR. LANE: Would you mark that for identification?

[Marked Grand Jury Exhibit 1, this date.]

Q Now, when you got this Grand Jury Exhibit 1, did you put it in an envelope? A Yes, I did.

Q And did you address the envelope? A Yes, I did.

Q Now, I show you the envelope - two envelopes - - do you recall that that is your handwriting and printing, and that that is the envelope that you used in sending the letter to Edith? A Yes, that is a copy of it.

MR. LANE: Would you mark that?

[Marked Grand Jury Exhibit 2, this date.]

Q You at another time sent another letter to Edith, that you had received from Sobell? A That's right.

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Q Now, did you write a note to Pasternak?

A Yes, I did.

Q And you put the letter from Sobell to Pasternak in an envelope, did you? A Well, it wasn't actually a letter from Sobell to Pasternak.

Q What was it? A This single sheet, which asked that I forward the stuff, said at the bottom, "Please also forward my address to," and I just recopied the thing on to a card and put it in an envelope and addressed it in my own hand, and that went to Mr. Pasternak.

Q Which Pasternak was it - was it Louis Pasternak? A I think it was Max Pasternak.

Q Do you know Louis Pasternak? A Yes, I think I know him.

Q And was that a plain envelope? A Yes.

Q Any writing on the outside? A No; except for the name and address.

Q The name and address of Pasternak on the outside? A Yes.

Q Did you have a note from you in there? A No.

Q Did you go to his home? A Yes.

Q At 4142 42nd Street, Queens? A That's correct.

Q What did you do when you got to that place? A Well, I rang the bell, and there was no answer, and I went upstairs and rang the bell again, and there was no

answer, so I slid the thing under the door.

Q Do you recall where you mailed the letter to Edith Levitov, which is Grand Jury Exhibit 1 - - do you remember that? A I don't recall. It was either - - probably around where I work - - either upper Manhattan or around the Bronx, where I live.

Q That was July 11, 1950? A Yes.

Q Did you mail it the same day that you received the letter? A I don't recall that.

Q The note that was included for Sobell's parents - - do you recall that? A I recall only that it was brief and it said, "Dear Mom and Pop - Had a nice trip," or something like that. It was a very short note.

Q Did you take that to them? A Yes, I did.

Q Was that the same day? A I doubt it very much. I don't recall when it was, but I would say it was probably several days later. Since I know his parents, I dropped off at the house, but there again there was nobody home, and I left a little note saying I would call again later in the week, which I did, but not successfully; there was no answer.

Q Did you put your note, with the letter, in an envelope? A I don't think I did.

Q Where did you leave it - under the door?  
A Yes, under the door.

Q Now, do you recall where they live? A They

live over on Trinity Avenue; I think the number is 600.

Q And you signed your note "Bill," is that right?

A Yes, that's right.

Q Now, in Sobell's letter to Pasternak - - I mean, in Sobell's letter to you, he asked you to advise Pasternak of his Mexico City address, is that right?

A Yes.

Q And you wrote out a note which to your best recollection was what? A I think I just wrote "Morty Sobell can be reached at" or "as," and I copied the address.

Q As what? A "M. Soell."

Q And then you put down the Mexico City address?

A That's correct.

Q Now, on or about July 4, 1950, did you send a letter to Sobell? A Yes.

Q In Mexico? A Yes.

Q What address and what name did you use when you sent that letter to Sobell? A Well, if I can recall I used his return address - - that is, the return address which appeared on the envelope which I previously referred to.

Q And the name was what? A Soell.

Q And what did the letter say, that you sent to him - - that you had delivered the notes or messages, or something like that? A No, I don't think I made any reference to that. It was just a letter which was social

in content.

Q Now, around the middle of July - say, around the 10th or 15th of July - did you receive another letter from Sobell? A Yes.

Q And was that also addressed at your place of employment? A Yes, it was.

Q Now, was the name and address on the outside of that second letter that you received from Sobell different from that of the first? A As well as I can recall it, I think it was different.

Q And it was another alias? A It was either the same or - - I have some recollection of it being Levitov - - as I recall, it was different.

Q But it wasn't Sobell or Soell? A No, it wasn't.

Q And the address was different? A Yes.

Q Do you recall that the address or street was something like Cordova or Corboda? A Yes.

Q See if this refreshes your recollection - - would the address on the outside have been 153 Cordoba? A It could have been, yes.

Q And could the name have been Manuel DeLos Rios? A No, it couldn't have been.

Q It was something like Levitov, you think? A Yes. I recall that vaguely, but it wasn't Rios.

Q Do you recall what the second letter said?

A Well, as I recall it, he referred to the fact that he had moved and had found a new place to live, and he was comfortable, and having a nice time.

Q Did he say when he would be back? A No. As I recall, he made no reference to that.

Q And did he suggest that you send a letter to Edith Levitov? A Yes, he did.

Q So that there was an enclosure in that, too? A Yes, there was.

Q And the enclosure was to be sent to whom? A To Edith Levitov.

Q And did you send it to Edith Levitov? A Yes, I did.

Q Directing your attention again to Grand Jury Exhibit 2, the second envelope is postmarked around July 10th -- would that be the envelope in which you put the enclosure? A Yes, sir, it was.

Q And you addressed it to Edith Levitov, at 2135 Lehigh Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia? A That's right.

Q Do you recall whether you had a return address on that? A No, I don't recall.

Q Now, did you then send a second letter to Sobell in Mexico City? A Yes, I did.

Q At this new address? A Yes.

Q And addressed as it was addressed on the

return part of the envelope? A Yes.

Q To this fictitious name? A That's correct.

Q Now, in this letter to Sobell, did you say anything particular in it about these letters? A No, I don't recall that I made any particular mention of it.

Q Do you recall what your letter was about?

A No. Probably, whatever was going on, what I was doing and what the kids were doing. It was fairly short.

Q Now, in that first letter that you received from Sobell did he say something about that he would explain all of this mysterious business, if and when he saw you? A Yes. He said something like that -- when he asked me to forward these things, he said, "Please forward these for me, and I will explain when I see you."

Q Now, in the letters that you sent to Sobell, do you recall that they were typed, or handwritten?

A Well, I recall that the first one was typed, and the second one I don't recall whether I typed it or handwrote it.

Q Did you send them both airmail? A Yes, I think I did.

Q Did Sobell request that at that time? A No, I don't recall that there was any mention made of that.

Q Now, have you seen this letter of August 9th before? A No, I never have.

Q Now, you have known Julius Rosenberg since your college days, is that right? A Yes.

Q Have you seen much of him? A No.

Q Have you been contacted since you appeared before the Grand Jury before, by anybody? A No, I never have.

Q Did you think it was strange, when you received these letters from Sobell, with all of these aliases? A I thought it was rather strange.

Q And did you connect him at that time with this Rosenberg case? A No, I didn't.

Q Not at all? A No. It seemed to be rather simple and rather innocuous, and although it was strange I just shrugged it off.

Q Now, is there anything else that you can tell the Grand Jury about Sobell, or anything that you think might be particularly helpful in this matter? A No, I don't think so.

Q Or any connection with different people that might be involved in espionage? A No, I don't think that there is anything I have to add.

Q Are you sure now? A Yes.

Q Or do you recall anything else about his departure? A No.

Q Or anything that he said? A No, I am sorry, I don't. My best recollections are in the record.

Q Did he appear to be excited on the night that he left? A No, I didn't detect anything that seemed to me

to be other than a normal group of people going off on a vacation.

Q Did he tell you how much money he was taking with him? A No, he didn't.

Q Did he appear to be quite affluent? A Well, I don't know whether I have any answer to that. He seemed to be his usual self.

MR. LANE: Does the jury have any questions?

A JUROR: Do you recall the letter that you left at Merton Sobell's parents' - - do you remember how he addressed that envelope?

THE WITNESS: My best recollection is that it was not in an envelope, it was just a note as it stood, and I think I wrote right on the back that I would be there later in the week.

Q You wrote that on the back of Merton's letter?

A Yes.

Q And you put that under the door, is that correct? A Yes.

MR. LANE: Well, if there are no further questions, I think we can excuse you.

(WITNESS EXCUSED)