

E.V.S.'S STORY

STATE OF NEW YORK }
 COUNTY OF KINGS } SS

E—V—S— being duly sworn, deposes and says that: I am a resident of the Borough of Manhattan, City and State of New York.

On Oct. 2, 1940, Miss Gladys La Vance, a casual friend whom I had met in the fall of 1939, and who I knew has been employed by the Ford Motor Co. at the New York World's Fair during the summers of 1939 and 1940, telephoned me to ask if I were available for a job with the Ford Co.

When I said that I was, she asked for whom I intended to vote. I replied evasively to the effect that I never permitted my politics to interfere with my earning a living or my earning a living to interfere with my politics.

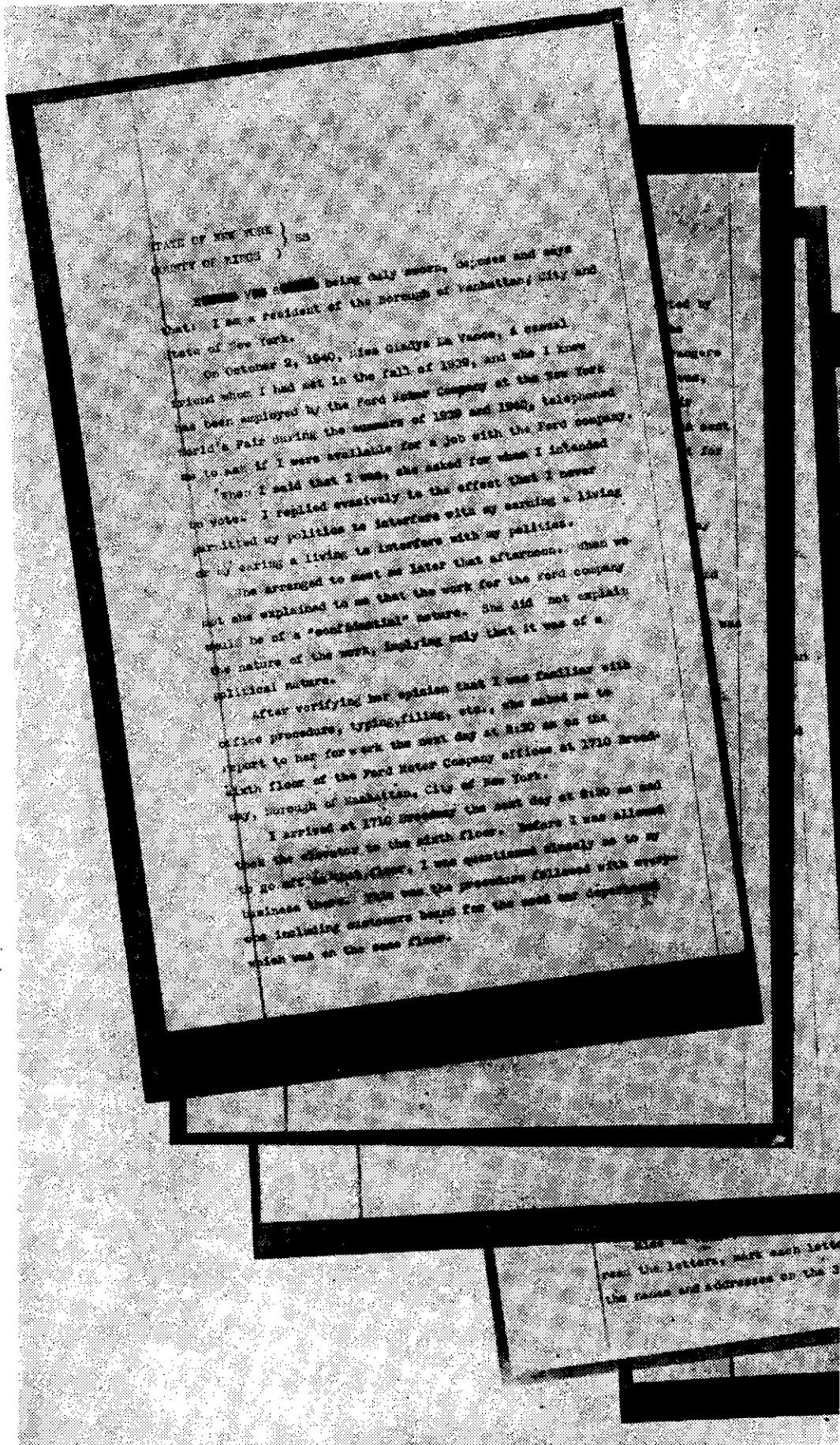
She arranged to meet me later that afternoon. When we met she explained to me that the work for the Ford Co. would be of a "confidential" nature. She did not explain the nature of the work, implying only that it was of a political nature.

After verifying her opinion that I was familiar with office procedure, typing, filing, etc., she asked me to report to her for work the next day at 8:30 AM on the sixth floor of the Ford Motor Co. offices at 1710 Broadway, Borough of Manhattan, City of New York.

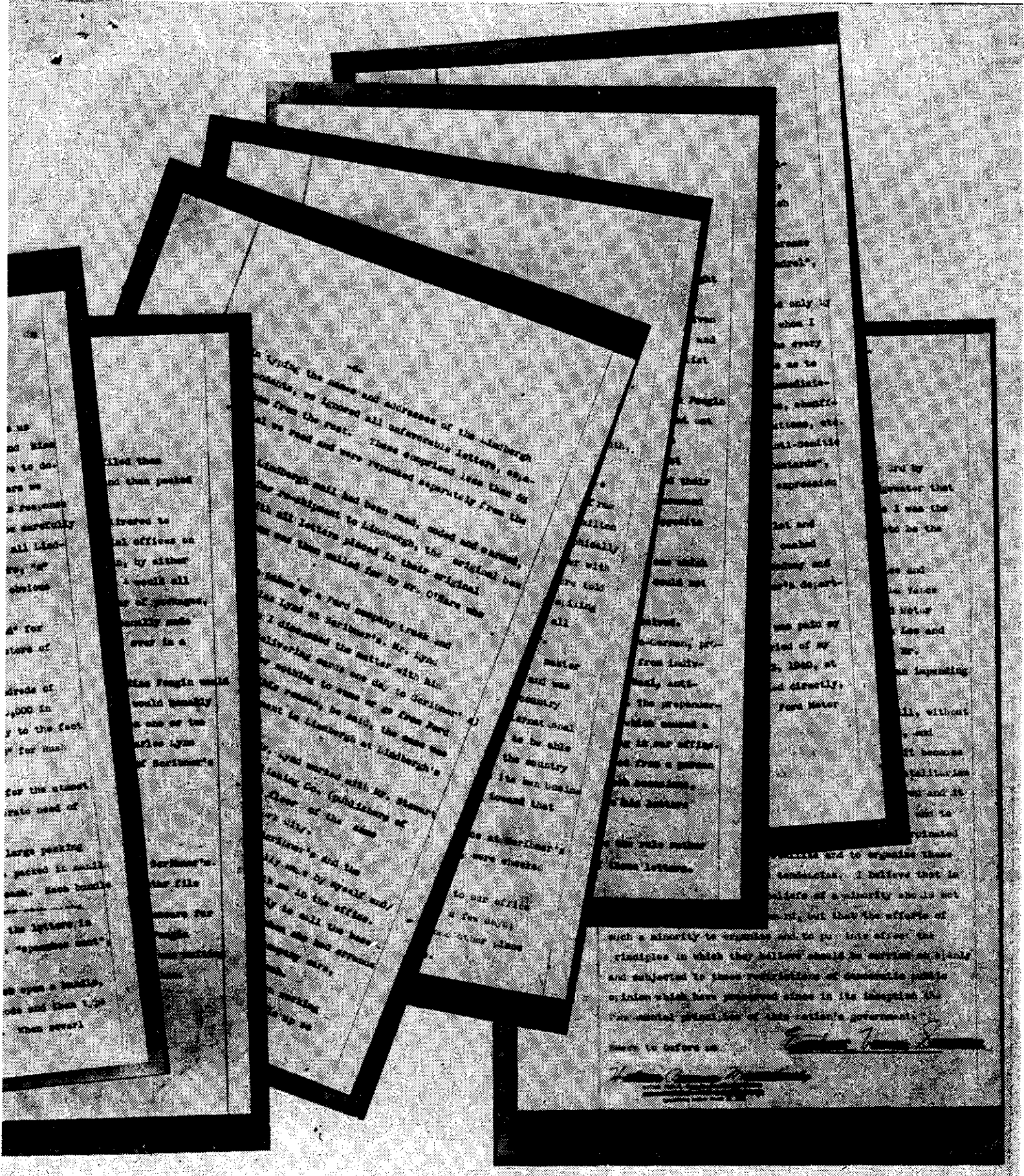
I arrived at 1710 Broadway the next day at 8:30 AM and took the elevator to the sixth floor. Before I was allowed to go off on that floor, I was questioned closely as to my business there. This was the procedure followed with everyone, including customers bound for the used car department which was on the same floor.

When I got off at the sixth floor, I was directed by the elevator man to an office at the south end of the floor. During all the time I worked there, all strangers who asked for the sixth floor, including Ford employees, were asked their business. Even the typewriter repair man couldn't get in to our office; A Ford porter was sent to the office and took the typewriter to the basement for repair.

I walked across the floor which was the used car department, weaving in and out of automobiles on display before reaching the door of the office where I was to work. The door to the office was locked. I knocked and



THE STARTLING DOCUMENT. Above is the affidavit which tells E—V—S—'s story. It describes the mysterious goings-on that occurred on the sixth floor of the Ford Motor Co. building at 1710 Broadway in Manhattan. Special guards were stationed at the elevator to take extraordinary precautions with all employees. No unauthorized



person was allowed to reach the double-locked door at the south end of the floor. Cartons of letters to Lindbergh were coded and filed by a staff sworn to secrecy. After coding, the letters were sent to Lindbergh's home at Lloyd's Neck, L. I. Letters to Cong. Hamilton

Fish were also in the lot. Bessie Feagin, of Scribner's Commentator, directed the work. Why were these letters coded and filed away? What are Lindbergh and Ford plotting? Congress should demand the answers to these questions.

was admitted by Miss La Vance.

Miss La Vance introduced me to Miss B— L—, who was to work with me. As soon as the introductions were completed, Miss La Vance telephoned Mr. William Edmunds, a Ford executive with offices at the Ford Edgewater, N. J., plant, and told him in my presence that she and two girls were ready to begin work.

Miss La Vance then explained to Miss L— and me that for the present we would be engaged in reading and coding letters received by Col. Charles A. Lindbergh in response to his radio addresses; and typing the names and addresses of the letter writers on 3 x 5 cards for reference and filing.

Miss La Vance told me on the first day that these names and addresses were to be used for circularizing political material in behalf of the presidential candidacy of Wendell Willkie.

Miss L— and I were warned by Miss La Vance several times that day to avoid any mention to anyone of the nature of our work

—not even to members of our families and closest friends. If anyone did ask, she said, we were to say that we were engaged in "studying the feminine appeal of the Ford car." Twice during that day Miss La Vance said that if it were to become known what was being done in our locked office, "We'll be raided by the FBI."

Since Miss La Vance is a very theatrical person, given to over-dramatizing herself and anything with which she is connected, I paid little attention to the remark. However, she repeatedly told me that the door to our office was to be kept *locked* at all times and cautioned both Miss Lee and myself to admit no one except the colored porter; the maintenance superintendent, Mr. O—, and Mr. Edmunds of the Ford Edgewater office. Miss La Vance told us that the "department" in which we were working was responsible only to Mr. Edmunds, who was responsible for the "department's" work only to Mr. Henry Ford.

Later that day (Oct. 3, 1940) Miss Bessie

Feagin of *Scribner's Commentator* came to our office. Miss La Vance explained to Miss L— and me that Miss Feagin was directing the work we were doing. Miss Feagin, she said, was associated with Douglas Stewart, one of the publishers of *Scribner's*. Miss La Vance then told us that it would be all right to admit Miss Feagin.

Miss La Vance said that all our work would come to us from *Scribner's* through Miss Feagin, added that she and Miss Feagin had had previous discussion of the work we were to do.

Miss Feagin then explained to us that the letters we were to work on had been written to Colonel Lindbergh in response to his radio addresses, and that each letter was to be carefully read and coded. She said that the code letter for all Lindbergh mail was "A" with a sub-coding of small letters, "a" to "j", according to information about the sender, obvious or inferred from the letter's contents.

For example: "Aa" for wealthy individuals; "Ad" for officers of organizations or clubs;



YOU DON'T GET MEDALS FOR NOTHING. When Henry Ford reached seventy-five, the Nazi government honored the manufacturer by awarding him the Grand Cross of the German Eagle. Karl Kapp, former Nazi consul at Cleveland, is pinning the medal on the billion-

aire. Fritz Heiler, then Nazi consul in Detroit, is looking on. America First has tried to keep its connections with Ford secret. But Spivak made the tie-up clear. The government should inquire further into the details of Ford's association with America First.



THE HERALD has a directorate that interlocks with Scribner's Commentator. It is more than reminiscent of Julius Streicher's filthy, anti-Semitic sheets. At the right you see cartoons from the Nazi publication, Der Stürmer, with their usual rabid anti-Semitism. At left, you have two typical Herald cartoons. Note the Streicher-like caricature of Congressman Dickstein. Note too, the mention of Felix

Frankfurter, Harold Laski, Secretary Morgenthau, in the other cartoon. The old Jew-baiting smear. This is the type of newspaper which Hitler devised to overthrow the Weimar Republic. The United States government may well inquire into the motives and financial backing of the Herald, and investigate the mysterious setup and secret goals of Scribner's Commentator.

"Ac" for directors of business, etc.

Miss Feagin told us that there would be hundreds of thousands of names to be listed and spoke of 500,000 in the immediate future. She also referred briefly to the fact that there would be other code letters such as "B" for Rush Holt mail, "F" for Hamilton Fish, etc.

Miss Feagin also emphasized the necessity for the utmost secrecy in our work and talked about the desperate need of "saving the country from Roosevelt."

The letters we worked on came to us in a large packing case, a yard or more square. The letters were packed in manila paper packages in bundles of several hundred each. Each bundle had been marked by Colonel Lindbergh and his staff with marks indicating

what disposition had been made of the letters in that particular bundle. These markings were: "speeches sent," "replied," "file," etc.

Miss La Vance, Miss L—, and I would each open a bundle, read the letters, mark each letter with a code and then type the names and addresses on the 3 x 5 cards. When several thousand cards had been typed, I personally filed them alphabetically and arranged them by states and then packed them in a box, or boxes.

As the cards were completed they were delivered to Miss Feagin at Scribner's Commentator editorial offices on the fifteenth floor of 654 Madison Ave., Manhattan, by either one or all of us. Miss La Vance, Miss L—, and I would all make the delivery when there

were a large number of packages, and any one of us when there were a few. I personally made several deliveries to Miss Feagin, taking them over in a Ford Co. car, driven by a Ford chauffeur.

After setting up a mailing from the cards, Miss Feagin would notify Miss La Vance by telephone and one of us would usually be driven over to pick up the cards, although on one or two occasions Miss Feagin herself, assisted by Mr. Charles Lind of the P. & S. Publishing Co. (publishers of Scribner's Commentator), made the delivery to us.

The procedure was this:

1. Letters read, coded, cards typed by us.
2. Cards filed alphabetically by states.
3. Cards delivered by us to Miss Feagin at Scribner's.

4. Cards returned to us for inclusion in master file in our office.

On several occasions we worked under great pressure for several days at a stretch, particularly when Miss Feagin reported to us personally or by telephone that she was waiting for the cards so that she could make a mailing on them.

In typing the names and addresses of the Lindbergh correspondents, we ignored all unfavorable letters, separating them from the rest. These comprised less than five percent of the total we read and were repacked separately from the rest.

When the Lindbergh mail had been read, coded, and carded, and was ready for reshipment to Lindbergh, the original box was repacked with all letters placed in their original wrappings. The box was then called for by Mr. O— who sealed the box.

The box was then taken by a Ford Co. truck and delivered to Mr. Charles Lind at *Scribner's*. Mr. Lind personally told me when I discussed the matter with him and Miss Feagin (while delivering cards one day to *Scribner's*) that he thought it best for nothing to come or go from Ford direct to Lindbergh. For this reason, he said, the case was to be sent to him for reshipment to Lindbergh at Lindbergh's Lloyd's Neck, L. I., home.

Miss Feagin told us that Mr. Lind worked with Mr. Stewart in the offices of the P. & S. Publishing Co. (publishers of *Scribner's Commentator*) on the ninth floor of the same building at 654 Madison Ave., New York City.

Deliveries of finished cards to *Scribner's* and the pick-up of lists to be typed were usually made by myself and/or one or more of the girls working with me in the office. The reason for this: Miss La Vance had only to call the basement for a Ford Co. car and chauffeur when she had errands to be done. We rode to *Scribner's* in Ford Co. cars, whereas Miss Feagin would have to take a taxicab.

When Miss La Vance, Miss L—, and I had been working about two and a half weeks, the work began to pile up so that it became necessary to get more help. Miss La Vance then arranged for the transfer to her department of Miss D— B—, secretary to Rex Ryan, assistant manager of the Ford exhibit at the World's Fair. I was told by Miss L— and Miss B— that they were both transferred from the Ford fair exhibit to 1710 Broadway and that their salaries of \$165 and \$130 a month, respectively, were unchanged.

After several weeks of work on the Lindbergh mail, we began to receive from Miss Feagin lists of names taken from mail received by Sen. Rush Holt and Cong. Hamilton Fish. These came over alphabetically but not geographically arranged and we filed them in the master file together with the cards obtained from the Lindbergh letter. We were told by Miss Feagin that the master card file we were compiling at the Ford offices would be the master list for all future mailings by her from *Scribner's Commentator*.

Miss Feagin explained to us one day that the master file would eventually number "millions of names" and was intended to weld together people throughout the country who were of similar opinion on national and international affairs. She said that it was a wonderful thing to be able to get together the names of people throughout the country who all wanted to see the United States "mind its own business" and "stay out of war" and who would work toward that end.

All cards sent to us, which had been done at *Scribner's* or elsewhere before Ford undertook the work, were checked by us against our cards for duplicates.

On several occasions Miss Feagin came to our office and said that she would be out of town for a few days; that she was flying to Washington or to some other place and would return with more lists of names. On one occasion she returned with an additional list of 60,000 names. On still another occasion Miss Feagin brought us what she called "a highly specialized list." This was a list of Lutheran ministers which she said had been given her by a personal friend, himself a Lutheran minister, and "deeply devoted to the cause." She told us that this list of ministers was almost one hundred percent tested.

The word "tested" was used rather loosely by Miss Feagin but later she explained it meant letters had been sent out by *Scribner's* to names listed and favorable responses received. She also explained that such a mailing list needed constant checking because people often changed their minds. She said that while people might write to commend your stand one week, the next week might bring an opposite response from the same person.

This list of Lutheran ministers, she said, was one which was "extremely important" and composed of men who could not be swayed by changes in public opinion, etc.

I read approximately forty percent of the letters received. Thousands of these letters were anti-Semitic, pro-German, pro-Nazi, and pro-fascist. The letters came mostly from individuals. A sprinkling of letters came from pro-Nazi, anti-Semitic, pro-fascist, or pacifist organizations. The preponderance of names were of Germanic origin, a fact which caused a good deal of discussion among the girls working in our office. Once in a while a favorable letter was received from a person with an obviously Jewish name. On several such occasions, Miss La Vance remarked: "He should know where his letters are winding up."

The anti-Semitic letters we handled were the rule rather than the exception. A small percentage of these letters were not openly anti-Semitic but had overtones of anti-Semitism, such as: "I know you will keep fighting, dear Colonel Lindbergh, this international menace which threatens to engulf us." Letters also violently and obscenely attacked President Roosevelt, such as a reference to him as "President Rosenfeld," or "that dirty scoundrel," or "that mad man."

The anti-Semitic tone of the letters was matched only by the anti-Semitic feeling of the Ford employees with whom I came in contact at 1710 Broadway, New York City. The everyday expressions of anti-Semitism were so commonplace as to be taken for granted. This was particularly true immediately preceding the election, when most of the employees, chauffeurs, salesmen, clerks, porters, displayed lapel buttons, etc., for Willkie and against Roosevelt. Some of the anti-Semitic expressions of the Ford employees included: "Jew bastards," "Lousy Jews," "Goddam Jews," "Dirty kikes," and one expression I hadn't heard in twenty-five years: "dirty sheenies."

I received my paychecks semi-monthly on the first and fifteenth of the month from the Ford Motor Co. and cashed them immediately at the Corn Exchange Bank at Broadway and 55th Street after countersignature by the paymaster's department.

Although I worked in the Ford building and was paid my salary by the Ford Motor Co. during the period of my employment from Oct. 3, 1940, and to Dec. 3, 1940, at no time did I ever do any work whatever connected directly, indirectly or remotely with the conduct of the Ford Motor Co.'s business.

I was notified on the morning of December 3 by Miss La Vance that she received notice from Edgewater that her staff was being "cut down by one" and since I was the last to come on the Ford payroll, I would have to be the first to go.

About December 23 Miss B— L— and later, Miss D— B—, told me that Miss La Vance had told them their employment with the Ford Motor Co. would terminate on December 31. Both Miss L— and Miss B— told me that Miss La Vance said that Mr. Edmunds had told her this was made necessary by an impending FBI investigation of their work.

I am giving this affidavit of my own free will, without any coercion on the part of any person whatsoever, and without any remuneration whatsoever. I am doing it because I want to do it, because I feel strongly that a totalitarian trend in this country is being fostered and nurtured and it appals and frightens me to have seen in operation, and to know that there exists in this country, a well coordinated movement endeavoring to crystallize and to organize these totalitarian sentiments and tendencies. I believe that in a democracy the political beliefs of a minority should not only have the right to be heard, but that the efforts of such a minority to organize and put into effect the principles in which they believe should be carried on openly and subjected to those restrictions of democratic public opinion which have preserved since its inception the fundamental principles of this nation's government.

(Signed) E— V —S—.

Sworn to before me

(Signed) W— P— M—

Commission expires March 30, 1942