

Dear Jim, Personal files - addendum on Lil

12/26/76

After I finished the letter to which this is attached Lil expressed an interest in withheld Document 23 in the State files, said to be on her. She told me something I had forgotten, "They have to have a file on me because I applied to Alger Hiss for a job in San Francisco when the UN was organized." Here is the background from those days of the Great Depression:

Lil was unemployed. She went to the Congressman, then Davey Lewis. He sent her to the just-organizing RFC, where she was interviewed by a nice type, Peter Ward. (He had a secretary named Watts Lil also liked.) Ward sent her to one Higginbottom, approx., whose interest in women was primitive and not the RFC's interest. Lil went back to Ward who told her to go up on Capitol Hill, where the munitions committee was just starting. He told her who to see, what salary to ask for and not to take less. She got the job. Among those she worked for was Alger Hiss. When the committee ended she went to Civil Service, which sent her to Interstate Commerce, which hired her.

Then the Wheeler Railroad investigating committee was set up by the Senate, beginning with much of the munitions staff. One of them, Tex Goldschmidt, went down to Interstate Commerce to ask Lil back. They went to her supervisor and she was detailed to the Senate. When that committee ended she was hired by the RFC, first as a stenographer. She had the rep of the best steno in RFC. She transferred to an insurance division, the one that collected claims for the government. It was all-men, and not good ones, except for one other woman, who became Lil's friend. First the wheeler-dealer types tried to end that division which, naturally, cost the big insurers money, particularly Lil and Betty, who neither came from them nor expected to return to them. I learned about this and was able to abort that through the Bureau of the Budget. Then they decided to reduce the staff, naturally no men were let go. And they could not fire Lil, who had tenure. So they pulled a typical bureaucratic dirty trick. They offered her a job elsewhere in RFC, at grade 5. She was then a grade 10. As an alternative they told her they would keep her on and let her friend Betty go. Betty did not have tenure, Lil did. Marcantonio wanted Lil to go to work for him so she did, leaving Betty with the job in insurance.

She was not fired on loyalty grounds although she remembers some inquiries then. She was not fired Period.

Was Marcantonio was finally ousted from office the Republican and very conservative floor leader of whip, Wadsworth, father of the later ambassador, asked Lil to go to work for him.

She and I had many conservative friends. One of those days was Grace Humphreys, whose husband Bob, a former reporter, was the GOP national committee's p.r. man. Lil knew Grace because they both worked for the House at the same time and had mutual friends, including Marcantonio's other secretary.

It was a different world and the House was what to most would be a strange animal. I met the most conservative Members through Marc. The liberals with whom I became friends I did not meet through him. We used to drink together and extensively. I met Joe Martin through Marcantonio and was with them the day Martin was afraid to let any party-liner use the first proof of FDR's violation of the Neutrality Act. It was in accord with Marc's beliefs so he did make that speech. It led to a real sensation of that time. It has, as I recall, to do with supplying England with warplanes. I met the original Tom Fish this way. A number of others. The old sanctimonious superpatriot faker Sol Blom. (In order for Marc to get time on the lend-lease debate he had me investigate Sol. I learned his daughter had been decorated by Mussolini so Marc got the time he was entitled to and had been denied.) I used to write speeches for Adolph Sabath of Chicago, chairman of the House Rules committee. He wanted me to join his staff, I wanted independence so I declined, but I still did speeches. They had a party for me. I don't remember all the Congressmen but I do some, the day I beat Dies in court. It was at the Strillon. I think Lil was the only woman there. It last long after legal closing hours. I remember Congressman Hook sang a song "The Dies of Texas Are Upon you and I think Joe Casey of Mass, "Starnes Fell on Alabama." Stranes next to Dies. I was first-

The cold war part is particularly clear. I had only excellent efficiency ratings, beginning as a buck private who had a first lieutenant as his chauffeur. I was hired for my expertise on cabbels and on axis and in investigating and I was good at it, earning these ratings, which extended to character and personality. Even those of opposite political view go into my helpfulness and pleasantness. Once the cold war began I was suddenly without qualifications for the job, all very nebulous and all coming from those who knew nothing about it. No one person who knew was asked. Even the head of eggheads for Eisenhower was not asked and he was one of my references. He was an editor for whom I had worked. I brought him and many others to Washington.

(I was so unpatriotic I persuaded the magazine, Walter Annenberg's to have a regular department, Your Government Reports. The OWI woman remembers this and tells the spooks. They even record the magazine's change of policy on it. Walter Annenberg was against regular reports to the citizens by their war-time government and I am a loyalty risk!)

The spooks tried to make impossible my work on a paper for the UN on Nazi and Falange influence in Latin America. The name is in caps and underscored.

If there is ever testimony on this it will be wild! There was one of us and to the best of my knowledge only one of us who had ever been a Communist. I did not know it then. Later he told the Un-Americans to engage in sexual self-gratification. He took no amendment when he testified and they left him alone. His name is Irving Goldman. He was one of Margaret's boys and a fine one. (He looked like Mauldin's classic character, Sad Sack.) They try to make something sinister of what I'd forgotten if it was ever true, that at the end I was assigned to him. Well, this is how Kremlin-oriented he was: he gave me the job of identifying every possible Communist in either trade unions or positions of influence in the countries within his jurisdiction, I believe the east coast of South America. I did so thorough a job all the other area chiefs wanted it. They did not go to the spooks because they wanted to know what the diplomats should know, not propaganda. Goldman also assigned me to pick out all the basis for charges of Yanqui imperialism in Paraguay during a revolution there so the diplomats could know. My work was this good: I predicted in advance that there would be a change in the dictatorship's army and who would become the commanding general. I was right. It happened and the man I said became the boss. How many times do you think anybody ever does that? And I did not even speak the language.

Compare this with the spooks, who could not stay in the heat of my kitchen. I remember enough. The CIA could not even get the two major parties straight. Their Ivy League types did speak the language. Naturally they decided and reported that the Colorado Party was the Reds and the Blancos were the conservatives. It happened that neither was red, the Colorado the right and the blancos the liberals. The FBI was in on it, too. There was a University of Iowa graduate student doing a thesis on the Falange. You guess it, he was a Falangist.

You were talking about suing for invasion of privacy. I think it is premature until they have decent time to respond but then I think there may be a basis in the deliberateness with their setting out to ruin me. These records establish it. To this extent. When Thurman Arnold wrote Puerifoy (he had to have become a real spook to become ambassador to Guatemala in the 50s and you know what happened there) that while our names had not been disclosed we would be ruined our names were leaked to the old Time-Herald, where it was the banner-headline story of the day. Not in the files given me or even referred to. (Puerifoy was so wild he even knocked people down on the stairs as he ran.) On Arnold: they read all the issues of Click for the year before and the year after my work as well as that work. They did not report all the official raves over it, published in a full page of them, and where the stories even have a picture of me taking a bulging bag of photostats of proofs into Arnold's DJ office they did not interview him or anyone in DJ Anti-Trust or anyone else about me or my work. The deliberateness is that obvious. It was really spectacular work. They refer to Congress and the Congressional Record, which is indexed. But not to all of these stories going into the Congressional Record, with raves, including by the dean of the House. Great stuff! What a study in authoritarianism, in how the police mind controls policy! Best,