

December 5, 1944

PERSONAL HISTORY STATEMENT

Harold Weisberg

I have just been given an honorable discharge by the army. My last assignment was as a presentation editor in the C.S.S.

Prior to entering the army, I spent about three and a half years as a free-lance writer and about three years as a member of the staff of the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Education and Labor, better known as the Senate Civil Liberties Committee.

It was the duty of this committee to investigate interferences with labor's rights. I began as an investigator for the committee and later became editor and assistant secretary, holding these jobs simultaneously.

As an investigator, I prepared and organized the presentation of cases, searching out and interviewing potential witnesses and developing the required information.

As editor, I was responsible for the organization, editing, printing, indexing, and circulation of the committee's record. In this capacity I handled over 20 million words of testimony, exhibits, and reports and had about 25 employees working under my supervision. I had probably the best knowledge of the committee's record and findings. I was also liaison between the committee and witnesses and between the committee and government agencies, labor organizations, and the press. Thus I had (and still have) a large acquaintance among leaders and members of many international and local unions throughout the country.

As assistant secretary, I represented the committee in the famous Harlan County, Kentucky, conspiracy cases prosecuted by the Department of Justice.

After leaving the committee, I became Washington representative of Click Magazine, working on a free-lance basis, and also wrote for several other magazines. I did a considerable amount of original work on Nazi cartels and their interference with our defense preparations, un-American activities both by Nazis and native Americans, resistance to the Nazis in the occupied countries of Europe, and Japanese imperialism and its menace to the world (pre-Pearl Harbor). Much of my material was used by various government agencies, including the Department of Justice and forerunners of the C.S.S.

Prior to working for the Civil Liberties Committee, I was a government clerk, a newspaper feature-writer, reporter and correspondent, a salesman and a laborer.