

✓ printed transcript, p. 1177) He said without hesitation that he had used that name at the time he was employed by Tass, as his Moscow superiors did not want people working for them in the U.S. to be associated with any radical movements here. In order to deceive them, he used the name Robert Evans. Later, the identity of Robert Evans was disclosed when Freeman had some difficulties with his Russian superiors.

I showed Freeman the poem which appeared in the New Masses in December 1926 under the name of S. Bert Cooksley and told him about the book review in the same number under the name of George Cronyn. I asked him if he could identify either of these authors as Chambers. He said that he could not tell but that he thought neither of them was Chambers. He said that there was a George Cronyn who contributed to the New Masses. He also pointed out that the poem signed by Cooksley was not in the form of heroic couplets but was a sonnet. During our conversation, he talked considerably about the case and said that he was very much on Hiss's side. He said that he has spoken with a number of literary friends who have been for Chambers but were now for Hiss. He put the problem very simply: If Chambers did not know Hiss, what he has done was certainly a dirty trick and if Chambers did know Hiss, it was even more so. I asked Freeman whether he could help us in determining the whereabouts of Chambers during the years 1933 and 1934. He said that he did not know where Chambers was during this time but that the man who most probably would know was Mr. Trachtenberg who was then and/or is now a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party in America.



Throughout the conversation, Freeman made it quite clear that he considers Chambers to be unbalanced mentally. He suggested that we have a psychiatrist sit at the counsel table during the trial of the libel action. I did not ask him point blank whether he knew of Chambers having been in any institution, but I am quite sure that he would have told me in the course of our conversation if he had any such information.

Freeman indicated that he became disillusioned with Communism at the time of the Moscow trials which I think occurred about 1939. He said that ~~there~~<sup>he</sup> had been a dues-paying member of the party prior to that time. He also made some cagey remark that there are no members of the party any more and that they don't have cards so I cannot tell whether he is still a Communist or not.

Freeman seemed to be particularly interested in what Chambers could have been doing in Washington. He said that collecting dues would be a mere clerical function which would not require any great executive talent. He said that dues were normally paid in cash so that there would be no record of checks. I told him that Chambers had stated that he collected ten per cent of the salaries of the members of the group in Washington as their dues and asked him whether this amount seemed excessive. Freeman said that the amount varied in accordance with the means of the member and that ten per cent would not be too high for a person receiving a substantial salary. Freeman gave me several names of persons who knew