Aug. 22, 1974

Dear Allen:

Allen W. arrived at East on Aug. 15. We liked him very much. He looked every bit like the "new" professor, young, forward looking and pragmatic. We must have spent about eight hours together in two sessions.

The main question is how much I added to what he already knew. I thought that the really "new" information I gave him concerned the actual number of years that Chambers was in the C.P. I put it at about 2 1/2 years from early 1925 to late 1927.

The main importance of this fact is that it differs considerably with Chambers statements that he was a communist from 1925 to 1938. This fact should also reduce considerably any judgement about Chambers so-called dedication to "Communism". Chambers not only admitted in his book that he was out of the C.P. several times, but he bragged about his political differences with the party.

It goes against any belief that such a politically unreliable person could have been "assigned" to carry on the work that W.C. claims to have done in Wash. That is

not the way the C.P. worked) — when I knew it. As for the Sen. Hill. hotel — they were funnier than Keystone Cops!

Could W.C. have been asked as "a good sympathizer" to make contacts and raise money among professional people? Very likely. He might have also done some free lance "courier" work. But a some free lance "courier" works. But a C.P. & Sov. agent? Absolutely ridiculous!

I think that whether or not W.C. was a trusted fiduciary would have the greatest bearing on the kind of relationship he would have had with Olgin etc. For one thing, if he wasn't, he couldn't have recruited A.H. for the party, etc. The same would be true of any other so called "apparatus".

This gives you some idea of my line of thinking and reasoning while talking to Allen.

He says he'll be out again in the Fall.

Allen said you would probably co-author the book. We sure hope you will.

Best to you and Joan from

Sam & Sadie