

So they did.

I say, "Look. After all, my program is commercial. It is not only a matter to put an announcement over. We have to sell the product. If we don't sell we lose the client and we lose the program. We can't even do anything for the war effort any more."

I say, "When I go back, if you send me back, I think I will look for business like I had in the past. I can build it up again. I will add the couple of people you want me to add and keep the old people."

I just had a few people on my pay roll.

They said, "All right. You go back to New York. You do some changing on the program. It is up to you. We can't suggest anything. If we approve the change, we make the recommendation."

Mr. GAREY. Make a recommendation that your parole be lifted so you could go back and run your business?

Mr. BELLI. That is what they mean, I guess; yes.

Mr. GAREY. Did they suggest to you who you were to hire?

Mr. BELLI. I was the one who ask them, because I said, "Look, now. I am going to fire somebody because you don't think it is proper to keep them on the radio right now. Suppose the people I'm going to hire, they won't approve with your sentiments; so, I am in all over again."

I say, "I wish you suggest some people that you know, as far as you are concerned they are good people for me to deal."

They did so. They give me one name.

Mr. GAREY. About when was this talk?

Mr. BELLI. This talk, I think, was in March.

Mr. GAREY. So, you then had been off the air and out of your business for some 7 or 8 months?

Mr. BELLI. About.

Mr. GAREY. Did they ask you how much you could pay?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. To the person they would recommend?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. Did they suggest you go and see a particular person?

Mr. BELLI. Well, they give me one name.

Mr. GAREY. What was that name?

Mr. BELLI. Mr. Renzo Nissim.

Mr. GAREY. Renzo Nissim?

Mr. BELLI. Yes. They tell me he knows quite a few people in New York, and he will be able to help me out in choosing the people.

Mr. GAREY. Did they ask how much you could afford to pay Renzo Nissim?

Mr. BELLI. Yes. I told them we were losing about a thousand dollars a month; that maybe I could start him with thirty or forty dollars a week.

Mr. GAREY. You told them you would start him at thirty or forty dollars a week?

Mr. BELLI. That is right.

Mr. GAREY. By the way, it might be just as well to place on record now, you did pay him \$50 a week, didn't you?

Mr. BELLI. I start him with forty; the second week I raise him to fifty.

Mr. GAREY. They told you that Nissim was a man that they could trust?

Mr. BELL. That is right.

Mr. GAREY. And that if you hired Nissim, and the men he would suggest, they would then get your parole lifted?

Mr. BELL. No. They didn't promise me that. They promised me, after I would make the change, if the change would meet their approval—

Mr. GAREY. First, you were to go back to New York and make certain changes?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And then if the changes met with their approval—

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY (continuing). Then they would have your parole lifted?

Mr. BELL. And take care of my business again.

Mr. GAREY. And so you came back to New York?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. Now, do you recall anything else that was said at that time? For instance, do you recall that before you went over to see Falk and Cranston and Facci, that Marcantonio told you that David had told him to have you go over and see them?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. Do you recall that when you came in to see these three men at the Office of War Information they said that your program was too passive in character?

Mr. BELL. That is what they say exactly; it was too passive, too sentimental, and too musical.

Mr. GAREY. They said what they wanted you to do was to put on a propaganda program?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. What they called a prodemocratic propaganda program?

Mr. BELL. I told them the type of propaganda we had was fairly good. I said that I knew my public.

Mr. GAREY. They told you they weren't satisfied with it?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. That is when they suggested to you that they wanted you to put new people on your program?

Mr. BELL. Yes, sir.

Mr. GAREY. Did Falk say anything about whose orders he was following?

Mr. BELL. No.

The CHAIRMAN. Did you need these new people or were you just taking them as a price that you had to pay to get back in business?

Mr. BELL. I didn't need anybody. I had enough on my staff.

The CHAIRMAN. In other words, just a form of blackmail?

Mr. BELL. More or less.

Mr. GAREY. You had three men on your staff at that time, did you not? One was Hugo Neri?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And the other was a man named Lamberti?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And a third was a man named Capaloni?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. At this meeting with Falk, Cranston, and Facci, did you discuss each of these three men?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And did you ask them what they had against Neri?

Mr. BELL. They tell me that prior to Pearl Harbor, quite a few times on his news broadcasts he got some news taken from the *Il Progresso Italiano*.

Mr. GAREY. By the way, while we are discussing Neri, Mr. Chairman, I will show you the kind of information F. C. C. has in its files upon which it relies.

We have here under the heading of "Hugo Neri," this information in the files of F. C. C.:

True name, Alphonso Uanacore. Born September 14, 1886. In the United States since 1923. Originally a school teacher. Since 1940 employed by Lido Belli Radio Productions Co., as announcer and radio writer. He sells radio time to sponsors. Letters of an unknown person addressed to Mr. Lupis, March 25, 1940—

Again you find Mr. Lupis appearing, you will observe—

and April 7, 1940, concerning Hugo Neri's broadcasts at 9 a. m. on March 24 and 29 and April 5, 7 and 10. The news is pro-Axis through selection of news items, inflection, and choice of adjectives.

And then, note this:

La Parola, December 19, 1942: Neri is a Fascist. He indulged in character assassination of Spanish Loyalists leaders.

Now, tell us what you told them you knew about Neri.

Mr. BELL. Well, I told them that Neri was one of the men that I could depend blindly on, because he was very honest; he never had any connection with the pro-Fascists; he was a very good worker.

Mr. GAREY. Did you ask them what evidence they had to show that your judgment was wrong and theirs was good?

Mr. BELL. Well, they tell me that that was not right for me to ask it.

Mr. GAREY. Repeat that answer, will you, Mr. Belli?

Mr. BELL. They tell me that that was—in other words, it wasn't my business to tell them what they have against Neri.

Mr. GAREY. In other words, they weren't going to tell you what information they had against Neri, if they had any?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. They asked you to accept their judgment that he was no good and to fire him?

Mr. BELL. That is right.

Mr. GAREY. What did you say?

Mr. BELL. I said to them that if they give me the chance, as they asked me to do the change, or add some people, maybe I could save Neri, too.

They repeat again, "It is up to you, because your release will depend on it."

The CHAIRMAN. In other words, they weren't going to recommend that?

Mr. BELL. To fire him? No; not directly.

Mr. GAREY. He had to stand and deliver first before he got any consideration.

Now, did they talk to you about Lamberti?

Mr. BELL. Well, about Lamberti and Capaloni, and they tell me there was good idea to get them to get a job in defense—tell them in a nice way that there was a lot of jobs in defense, and they should quit radio for the time being.

Mr. GAREY. They wanted you to go and tell them that they should go to work in some defense plant?

Mr. BELL. Never mention to them because I told them, unless they can prove something against those people, that they have my sympathy for fascism, or that they are undemocratic on the broadcasts, I would act; otherwise I won't.

Mr. GAREY. And did you ask them why they had any feeling against Lamberti or Capaloni?

Mr. BELL. I tell you, I didn't have very much chance to ask many questions because I was the one to be questioned.

Mr. GAREY. That is, you were there taking orders?

Mr. BELL. That is right.

Mr. GAREY. And they told you if you would go back and change your programs and your personnel in a manner to meet with their approval, they would, to use the words I think you have previously given to me, they would do their part?

Mr. BELL. That is right, with the Department of Justice.

Mr. GAREY. You came back to New York, did you not?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And you sent for Nissin?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. Had you ever known him before?

Mr. BELL. No.

Mr. GAREY. Did you make any investigation about him?

Mr. BELL. No.

Mr. GAREY. Did you hire him?

Mr. BELL. Yes. I sent him a letter to come to my office, and I offered him the job, and he accepted.

Mr. GAREY. Did you learn that he was working for O. W. I.?

Mr. BELL. He tell me so himself.

Mr. GAREY. What work was he doing for the Office of War Information?

Mr. BELL. Well, he never tell me that. I never know it.

Mr. GAREY. Did you ever find out what he was doing over there?

Mr. BELL. Not for the O. W. I.

Mr. GAREY. And you fired Neri?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And you put Nissim on in his place?

Mr. BELL. Not exactly in his place, because Neri was an announcer. Instead I put Nissim as a censor.

Mr. GAREY. After Neri was fired, was he thereafter allowed to enter the studios or offices of WBNX?

Mr. BELL. I don't think in the studio. I kept Neri as a salesman on my staff.

Mr. GAREY. He was not permitted to enter the studio or offices of WBNX; was he?

Mr. BELL. That I don't know. I never see him in the studio, I know that much.

Mr. GAREY. The only reason you hired Nissim, without any investigation whatsoever, was because Falk, Cranston, and Facci told you to?

Mr. BELL. Yes; they recommend it.

Mr. GAREY. You had to get some other personnel; didn't you?

Mr. BELL. Yes; because I had to hire the new translator.

Mr. GAREY. Who was that?

Mr. BELL. Mr. Franci.

Mr. GAREY. Did you fire him?

Mr. BELL. Well, I didn't fire him exactly. I offered him a job as a monitor. They told me to translate—they told me he translate the news too much to the letter.

Mr. GAREY. You are referring now to Angelo Franci?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. Didn't they tell you you should put two men in in place of the one you had?

Mr. BELL. Yes. I did so.

Mr. GAREY. By they, I mean, and I take it you mean, Cranston, Falk, and Facci?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. They told you you should hire two men where previously you had hired one?

Mr. BELL. Well, they won't tell me to put two men instead of one, but to put at least two of the men they recommended.

Mr. GAREY. When they sent you to New York, did they give you any address for Mr. Nissim?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And I think you have already told the committee you didn't know Nissim?

Mr. BELL. I never saw him before.

The CHAIRMAN. And you didn't want him, but had to take him?

Mr. BELL. Well, I was fighting then to go back in my business and keep all I have, because the persons I had working for me for years were trustworthy to me.

Mr. GAREY. You didn't want to let any of your old people out; did you?

Mr. BELL. No; because I trusted them more than the people outside.

Mr. GAREY. How long after you hired Nissim did you hire these other two men; a week or immediately?

Mr. BELL. Immediately; the day after.

Mr. GAREY. The day after you hired Nissim you hired these other two men?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. Who were they?

Mr. BELL. One is Mr. Nissim, one is Mr. Ettore Rava. He also worked for O. W. I.

Mr. GAREY. He also worked for the Office of War Information?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. By the way, is he a citizen of the United States?

Mr. BELL. I don't see the report he gave to the station. I don't believe he is.

Mr. GAREY. You didn't make any investigation of him before you hired him, did you?

Mr. BELLI. Well, when I hired the people I didn't have any right to do much about it. I didn't have the right to ask questions.

Mr. GAREY. You hired him because Nissim told you to?

Mr. BELLI. I wasn't put back to my duties yet.

Mr. GAREY. You weren't put back in charge of your business?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. So Nissim was really the person who hired him?

Mr. BELLI. For those few days; yes.

Mr. GAREY. Who else did you hire?

Mr. BELLI. Nino Di Salle.

Mr. GAREY. Nino Di Salle?

Mr. BELLI. That is the man who took the place of Mr. Neri.

Mr. GAREY. And he was an employee of O. W. I., was he not?

Mr. BELLI. Oh, I never knew that.

Mr. GAREY. By the way, Rava still works for O. W. I., doesn't he?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And don't you know Di Salle still works for O. W. I.?

Mr. BELLI. No.

Mr. GAREY. Di Salle was a relative of Carlos Tresca, was he not?

Mr. BELLI. So Mr. Nissim tell me.

Mr. GAREY. You made no investigation of Di Salle before you hired him or before Nissim hired him for you?

Mr. BELLI. No.

Mr. GAREY. So they went to work for you?

Mr. BELLI. Yes. Mr. Nissim was in charge of investigating the character.

Mr. GAREY. He was running your business?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. What work was assigned to Rava by Mr. Nissim?

Mr. BELLI. News translator and broadcasting the news that he translates.

Mr. GAREY. What work was assigned to Di Salle to perform?

Mr. BELLI. Announcer on the morning program.

Mr. GAREY. You paid them—both were paid out of your moneys by Nissim?

Mr. BELLI. No, by me, the whole three, through my office. My secretary was the one paying the people.

Mr. GAREY. I think you told us that you yet had not been placed back in charge of your business?

Mr. BELLI. During the time I was off, Mr. Alcorn and my secretary handled the commercial side of my business.

Mr. GAREY. Did you hire any actors or any other personnel on your programs that were suggested by Nissim?

Mr. BELLI. Yes; a dramatic company.

Mr. GAREY. And the people who were employed in those little plays or playlets were hired by or at the suggestion of Nissim?

Mr. BELLI. He hired them himself.

Mr. GAREY. You knew nothing about them?

Mr. BELLI. I just paid them.

Mr. GAREY. Just paid them?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. After you had accomplished these various matters that you have been testifying about, did you have any more trouble with the Federal Communications Commission?

Mr. BELLI. No.

Mr. GAREY. Did you ever have any more trouble with the Office of War Information?

Mr. BELLI. No.

Mr. GAREY. Are these men all on your pay roll?

Mr. BELLI. Mr. Rava quit because the O. W. I. changed his time over there, which coincided with the WBNX time, so he could not keep the two jobs at the same hour.

Mr. GAREY. But the Office of War Information and the Federal Communications Commission have never come back?

Mr. BELLI. No.

Mr. GAREY. How did you get your parole conditions lifted?

Mr. BELLI. I received a letter from Ellis Island with the parole changed.

Mr. GAREY. You made a report, did you not, to Mr. Guest, first?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. You made a written report to him?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. That's Mr. Guest of the Federal Communications Commission?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. That letter, Mr. Chairman, is dated April 5, 1943, and it reads:

DEAR MR. GUEST: The following are the different changes that have already taken place on my radio programs:

Re: personnel:

We have taken Hugo Neri from the air and have replaced him with Mr. Nino Di Salle, an American citizen having a well-known anti-Fascist background.

You were learning some of the words and phrases that would be pleasing to the Federal Communications Commission and its allies, were you not, Mr. Belli?

Mr. BELLI. Well, I don't understand what you mean.

Mr. GAREY. All right.

Mr. BELLI. You mean about their anti-Fascist work?

Mr. GAREY. Yes. You were learning some of the phrases, were you not?

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Garey, it is a little difficult to believe that such tyranny would be tolerated, much less practiced, by people in the name of government.

Mr. GAREY. It isn't difficult to agree with you in that, Judge. [Resuming reading:]

Mr. Angelo Franci, the news translator, was replaced by Mr. Ettore Rava holding a position with the Office of War Information in New York.

Mr. Renzo Nissim: Censor and supervisor—

By the way, was Nissim a citizen?

Mr. BELLI. No.

Mr. GAREY. He had only been in this country a couple of years, hadn't he?

Mr. BELL. I guess he came in '39 or '40.

Mr. GAREY (resuming reading):

is a doctor of law with an anti-Fascist background. He has been working for the Office of War Information, Washington, in the preparation of scripts of anti-Fascist propaganda which are on the air on all Italian-language stations throughout America. The most important is "Victory For America—Freedom For Italy" which is scheduled weekly on this station.

Mr. Ettore Rava being a good announcer (besides being the translator) is also the newscaster of the entire morning program namely at 9 a. m.; 9:30 a. m.; and 11 a. m.

And then, the letter proceeds:

Re new features:

Monday, 10:15 a. m., news commentary of the week reviewed by Renzo Nissim.

Friday, 10:15 a. m., Mrs. Carla Pekelis, assistant of Commander R. Pacciardi, will speak on different subjects of anti-Fascist and prodemocratic nature; namely episodes of the Italian renaissance followed by short comments emphasizing the difference of the Italian life of today.

Re tentative program to be scheduled during the week:

Interesting talks by different prominent doctors on subjects connected with the war effort; and on the health duties of all Americans during wartime.

I quote a few—

Prof. Roberto Funaro, children's specialist.

Prof. Mario Volera, general medical internist.

Dr. Claudio Gerbi, general medicinal internist.

Dr. Oscar Landi, skin specialist.

Contacts have been made with prominent members of the Mazzini Society, to have them featured for different talks on prodemocratic and anti-Fascist appeals.

Were any of these people whose names I have just read, including the Mazzini Society, paying for the time you were giving them on the air?

Mr. BELL. No.

Mr. GAREY. You were paying for the time, weren't you, Mr. Belli?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And giving it to them?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY (resuming reading):

Re Second War Loan campaign:

Special consideration has been given to the Second War Loan campaign to be launched on April 12 by the Government for the selling of the second series of War bonds.

A special announcement has been made from April 1 to the mothers of Italian origin who have a large number of sons in the United States service. We will choose a certain number and have them make a special appeal to the audience for the selling of said bonds.

And this time was time that you were paying for but not getting anything for the use of, were you?

Mr. BELL. Well, I figure we get a lot of use if we could sell a lot of bonds.

Mr. GAREY. But, you were paying for the time?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And you weren't getting anything for it in the way of money?

Mr. BELL. I didn't mind that.

Mr. GAREY (resuming reading):

The Progressive Radio Advertising Co., is going to present a very significant souvenir to every mother invited who will appear on the program. The souvenir

consists of a jeweled pin with a number of stars, according to the number of sons in the service.

With the sponsorship of the O. W. I., we expect to have on the day of the inauguration of said campaign some of the most prominent artists of Italian origin of the Metropolitan Opera House, and make a special broadcast on behalf of the campaign.

And then, these are the concluding words of the letter, Mr. Chairman:

I hope these changes will meet with the approval of the Office of War Information; the Federal Communications Commission; and other Government agencies interested in my activities.

Sincerely yours,

LIDO BELLI.

That letter was sent to Guest on April 5. What happened after that?

Mr. BELLI. Well, nothing very much happened because——

Mr. GAREY. On April 9 your parole conditions were modified, were they not?

Mr. BELLI. No. It was modified in May.

Mr. DAVID. Mr. Chairman, would you be good enough to ask the witness if it isn't a fact that identical letters, the same wording as that one, was also sent to the Office of Censorship, the Department of Justice, as well as to the Office of War Information?

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. David, the committee will get around to you in due time.

Mr. DAVID. This isn't something I can testify to, Mr. Chairman. It is something the witness knows. I am so informed. I don't know whether it is so or not. I think that's an actual fact. We won't have this witness here 6 months from now. He is the only one who can testify to that.

Mr. GAREY. Mr. Belli, you will observe from the paper I hand you that it is dated April 9, 1943, do you not?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And it bears your signature?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And it is captioned "Immigration and Naturalization Service, File No. 99613-852" is it not?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And then it is captioned "Parolee's agreement," is it not?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. Does that refresh your recollection as to the day or date that your parole conditions were modified?

Mr. BELLI. But, it was modified to the extent that I could engage in hiring or firing people, not to go back to my business.

Mr. GAREY. Yes; that is right. But you did get a modification?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. That modification provided that you might engage in any form of radio activity except that you might not prepare any radio scripts or material for broadcasting or supervise or assist in their preparation, or that you might not broadcast or conduct any broadcast; but you were free to undertake the management of your business, were you not?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. That is, you could again decide who you were going to hire and fire and who you were going to do business with?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. Nissim, I take it, after this date continued along more or less in control of your business, did he not?

Mr. BELL. Oh, yes; because I couldn't do anything.

Mr. GAREY. And then did there come a time when there was another change on the conditions of your parole?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. Do you know how that was accomplished?

Mr. BELL. No.

Mr. GAREY. Did Nissim have anything to do with it?

Mr. BELL. He tell me that he spoke to Washington a couple of times, and he recommend to them that I should be released to my business.

Mr. GAREY. That is, your employee recommended to Washington that you should be further freed from the restrictions that you were still subject to?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And be permitted to increase your activities in connection with your own business?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And was that done?

Mr. BELL. Well, it was done, but I don't know through who.

Mr. GAREY. It was done?

Mr. BELL. In May, I think, 23 or 24.

Mr. GAREY. That was after Nissim told you he had arranged to bring that about?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. Nissim still works for you?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. You know something about publication La Parola?

Mr. BELL. Well, every time there was something bad about me I receive a copy of it.

Mr. GAREY. You received a marked copy of the paper?

Mr. BELL. Yes; with red pencil.

Mr. GAREY. That was also sent to Mr. Alcorn, was it not?

Mr. BELL. At the same time; yes.

Mr. GAREY. Did the same thing happen with respect to articles attacking you that appeared in the publication Il Mondo?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. In other words, if there was a vicious attack made on you in either one of these publications accusing you of being a Fascist, marked copies were sent to you and to Mr. Alcorn?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. Do you know Lupis?

Mr. BELL. Never met him.

Mr. GAREY. Do you know Valente, the owner of La Parola?

Mr. BELL. No; never met him either.

Mr. GAREY. Let me take you back, if I may, to January of 1943.

Strike that question.

I think probably it is worthy of record that on July 13, 1943, the Office of War Information wrote this letter to Mr. Belli:

MY DEAR MR. BELL: I should like to express great appreciation of the Office of War Information for your generosity in allowing the magnificent collection of

Italian recordings which you have assembled to be used for special Office of War Information broadcasts abroad.

Rest assured that this is a real and valuable contribution to the war effort, which will be put to the best possible use.

With best wishes, I remain,

Cordially yours,

MACKLIN MARRO,
Music Director, Overseas Branch.

The CHAIRMAN. The cat, after she claws your hide, then purrs over you for a moment.

Mr. GAREY. Do you recall the time, which I think was January of 1943, you were examined by representatives of the F. C. C.?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. That was sometime in January in 1943, was it not?

Mr. BELLI. Yes. I think it was in the beginning of the month.

Mr. GAREY. You were examined by Mr. Hubert and Mr. Fenner?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. There was a stenographer present, and a record made of what you told them?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. You were examined for 1 entire week, were you not?

Mr. BELLI. Five days, from Monday to Friday.

Mr. GAREY. Monday to Friday?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. You were examined from 9 o'clock in the morning until 9 or 9:30 in the evening?

Mr. BELLI. A little earlier than that in the evening.

Mr. GAREY. First Fenner asked you questions and then Hubert asked you questions?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And I think you told me that one got tired, the other started at you?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. Let's see if we can place on record here a picture of what information they were seeking to get from him.

First, they sought to obtain your entire life history from the date of your birth to the current date?

Mr. BELLI. Almost.

Mr. GAREY. And they wanted to know all about your political beliefs, did they not?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. They asked you at great length about your political beliefs?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. They asked you what religion you were a member of and what your religious faith was?

Mr. BELLI. I don't recall, but I guess they did.

Mr. GAREY. They examined your books?

Mr. BELLI. I don't know if they did that.

Mr. GAREY. Did they examine your bank books?

Mr. BELLI. Yes; I guess they did that.

Mr. GAREY. They also examined your secretary for some 5 hours, did they not?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. They examined all your employees?

Mr. BELL. Every one of them.

Mr. GAREY. Did they obtain a list of your sponsors—that is, the people with whom you were doing business?

Mr. BELL. Yes; from 1933 on, I guess.

Mr. GAREY. That is, they made a list of every person with whom they found you had done business from 1933 on to the date you were being investigated or examined?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. Did they also interview your sponsors?

Mr. BELL. I don't know. That I can't tell you.

Mr. GAREY. Let me direct your attention to one of your sponsors by the name of Franco.

Mr. BELL. Oh, yes. I don't know who went there. Some officer went there. He don't know who it was. He asked him why he broadcast on WBNX instead of WOV or WHOM.

Mr. GAREY. He was one of your customers?

Mr. BELL. He said he got more business out of my program; that is why he stayed with me.

Mr. GAREY. These investigators wanted to know why he was broadcasting over WBNX instead of WOV?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. Did they ask you all about the barbers' association?

Mr. BELL. Oh, yes.

Mr. GAREY. Did they ask you whether or not you have ever spoken before it?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. What did you tell them?

Mr. BELL. I tell—they were talking specifically about the 1939 affair, the star ball of the barbers' association.

Mr. GAREY. Yes.

Mr. BELL. And I told him—told them—

Mr. GAREY. Did you tell them that you did not talk?

Mr. BELL. I wasn't present. I was invited by the barbers' association. I sent a telegram and excused myself. I said, "Due to previous engagements, I am not able to attend your meeting."

Mr. GAREY. Who spoke in your place?

Mr. BELL. The vice governor, Poletti, he took my place.

Mr. GAREY. That is, Lieutenant Governor Charles Poletti?

Mr. BELL. That is right.

Mr. GAREY. Did they take copies of your broadcasts?

Mr. BELL. It wasn't a broadcast.

Mr. GAREY. These investigators, Fenner and Hubert—

Mr. BELL. Oh, yes; I think they did. They got this from my office, I guess. I knew I went down to the station and I got quite a few of them.

Mr. GAREY. They took 500 of your recordings, did they not?

Mr. BELL. I think they got that through Mr. Alcorn.

Mr. GAREY. Did they take copies of your continuities?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. Did they ask you all about your employees?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. How long they had worked for you?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And what you knew about their history?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. What you knew about their political and religious beliefs?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. Was anything said about the fact that everything that was going on here was supposed to be secret? Is that correct?

Mr. BELLI. Well, not to me, but I think that they mentioned that to a few of my employees.

Mr. GAREY. To your employees?

Mr. BELLI. Yes. I never knew they had my office boy downtown.

Mr. GAREY. You recall I read to you the letter you had written to Guest of the Federal Communications Commission. It has been suggested by Mr. Nathan David of that Commission that you wrote letters substantially similar in character to the Office of War Information, to the Office of Censorship, and to the Department of Justice; is that true?

Mr. BELLI. I don't know. Maybe I did. I got to see that in my file. I am not sure of it.

Mr. GAREY. Is there anything I haven't asked you, Mr. Belli, that you would like to tell this committee?

Mr. BELLI. Not that I know.

Mr. GAREY. Unless the chairman has some questions, then I have no further questions of this witness, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. I have no questions to ask him myself. I think his testimony speaks for itself. It paints an awful picture.

Where did you get all this documentary proof you put in? Where does it come from?

Mr. GAREY. It is all from the files of the Federal Communications Commission, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, we have a witness subpoenaed here by the name of Miss Frances Keene.

The CHAIRMAN. May the witness go down?

Mr. GAREY. Yes; this witness may be excused.

I would like to have Miss Keene directed to appear before the committee at room 1506, 63 Wall Street, at 4:30 o'clock this afternoon, and that this present session be adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The CHAIRMAN. All right. The committee takes—

Mr. MARKS. I would like to ask one thing. Is that a recess of this meeting? Is that a public hearing downtown?

Mr. GAREY. You haven't any interest in what this committee is doing.

Mr. MARKS. I am merely asking. I don't know.

Mr. GAREY. This session is now adjourning until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning. There will be another hearing before the committee at 4:30 o'clock at room 1506, 63 Wall Street.

The CHAIRMAN. All right. The committee will recess until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

(Thereupon, at 3:25 p. m. on Tuesday, August 24, 1943, a recess was taken until Wednesday, August 25, 1943, at 10 a. m.)

STUDY AND INVESTIGATION OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 1943

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SELECT COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE,
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION,
New York, N. Y.

A subcommittee of the select committee met at 10 a. m. in room 705, Federal Court Building, Foley Square, New York, N. Y., Honorable E. E. Cox presiding.

Present: Representative E. E. Cox (chairman); Eugene L. Garey, general counsel to the select committee.

The CHAIRMAN. All right, Mr. Garey.

Mr. GAREY. Mr. Chairman, I would like to read into the record two brief excerpts from the so-called confidential report of the Federal Communications Commission on Lido Belli, which appears to be dated March 27, 1943.

At the outset of the report, this statement appears:

In the course of the investigation of Lido Belli, 50 persons have been interviewed, 21 publications and agencies consulted (see listing in appendix I) and their material considered. For purposes of evaluation there is set forth a description of the background and attitude of each person supplying information which has been used as source material.

The CHAIRMAN. It looks like they use an entire regiment on this fellow.

Mr. GAREY. Yes; they did.

It may be of interest to the committee to have included in the report at this point, without taking the time of the committee to have it read in, the listing of the persons interviewed and the publications and agencies consulted, which are referred to in appendix I.

(The document above referred to is in words and figures as follows, to wit:)

Alcorn, William C.
Ansaldo, Dr. Michele M.
Ansaldo, Mrs. Marguerite.
A'Prato, Carlo.
Belli, Lido.
Biscardi, John Philip.
Brunori, Dr. Nicola.
Britt, Benjamin H.
Bologna, Robert.
Capelloni, Mario.
Cantelmo, Frank.
Cantorella, Dr.
Colombo, Arrigo.
Cupelli, Albert.

Cornetta, Tito.
Constantino, Ralph.
Crapanzano, James.
Dasella, Benjamin.
DiGia, Mauro.
Ervin, Edward.
Fama, Dr. Charles.
Franci, Angelo.
Filletti, Reverand.
Gugliotta, Enzo.
Halle, Dexter.
Holmes, Walter J.
Lamberti, Antonio (Morette, Amelio Maurice).