

Q. Yes.—A. That's right. To their political stand and connections with various societies.

Q. Did they ask you if to your knowledge any of these people had ever said anything over the air, or done anything in connection with broadcasting?—

A. No.

Q. They didn't ask you that, did they?—A. No.

Q. Were they apparently interested in what we would call overt acts of these people, or primarily interested in their opinions, beliefs and background?—A. They had several scripts which were questioned. Apparently people had written in and they had questioned various broadcasts, and they had the copies of those broadcasts.

Q. And they questioned you about them?—A. They questioned me whether I had seen the broadcast before they went on the air, or whether I sat and listened to the broadcasts; whether I actually knew what was said on the air.

Q. Did you go back there again?—A. I went back altogether, four times. Altogether I went there four times.

Q. And each time for approximately how long?—A. Two hours, 2½, 3 hours; 2½ hours.

Q. Each time Mr. Fenner asked you most of the questions?—A. Yes.

Q. And were there any other people that you recall being present at the two subsequent interviews?—A. Mr. Guest was there every time. The last two times there was Mr. Fenner and Mr. Guest, it seems to me.

Q. And was there any change in the character of the questions they asked you?—A. No.

Q. They just took that long to cover all the personalities at the station?—A. Let's see. There was Mr. Brunner; they went rather thoroughly into his history and soon; then Oetgen, Miss Troja, Karl Heins.

Q. Do you recall if they asked you if you had visited any of these people at their homes?—A. They asked me whether I knew any of Mr. Brunner's friends.

Q. Did they ask you whether you knew these people well enough to have dinner with them, or social occasions such as that?—A. Yes. I had been with Mr. Brunner on his boat. I spent once a week end with him and his wife, and once or twice they did bring that out. They did ask me whether I had been in his home.

Q. Did they ask you to give the general tenor of conversations that you may have had at his home, with his wife and himself?—A. No.

Q. What did they ask you about?—A. They asked me whether I met any of his friends there.

Q. And to tell the names of the people that you met there?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you tell them the names of any people?—A. No. I didn't know anyone.

Mr. GAREY. Mr. Belli. Mr. Chairman, will you be good enough to swear the witness.

**TESTIMONY OF LIDO BELLI (RIZZIERI RELI), PRODUCER IN
RADIO INDUSTRY, NEW YORK, N. Y.**

Mr. GAREY. Your name is Rizzieri Reli, is it not?

Mr. BELLI. That is right.

Mr. GAREY. And your professional name on the radio is Lido Belli?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. Mr. Belli, will you tell us when and where you were born?

Mr. BELLI. I was born in Portoferraio, Italy, on the 23d of May 1904.

Mr. GAREY. And what year did you immigrate to the United States?

Mr. BELLI. November 2, 1926.

Mr. GAREY. So you have been here approximately 16 or 17 years?

Mr. BELLI. Seventeen years.

Mr. GAREY. And what has been your business here?

Mr. BELL. I worked for 4½ years on tunnel construction, and then I went on the radio at the end of 1931 or the beginning of 1932.

Mr. GAREY. You went in the radio business?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And you are a producer in the radio business?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. Will you tell us rather briefly what the nature of your work is as a producer?

Mr. BELL. Well, it is to contact the clients if they want to advertise on the radio, get the time necessary for their account on the station, and arrange the program they want—music or drama or anything they want to have for their particular program.

Mr. GAREY. And you have engaged in that business from the time you have stated up to the present time?

Mr. BELL. No. When I started I was an announcer for somebody else. I started my own business in 1933.

Mr. GAREY. You still do a certain amount of announcing, do you not?

Mr. BELL. Absolutely. I do most of it.

Mr. GAREY. And during the years you have been engaged in this business you have built up a fairly substantial business, have you not?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. Now I am going to take you, if I may, to December 1941. I take it you have a pretty good recollection of what happened in December 1941?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. On or about December 9, 1941, what, if anything, happened to you?

Mr. BELL. I was taken to Ellis Island.

Mr. GAREY. Will you tell us just what happened on that day, or rather night?

Mr. BELL. Well, I made a special program that night.

Mr. GAREY. On the radio station?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. What station was that?

Mr. BELL. WBNX.

Mr. GAREY. What time were you on the air that night?

Mr. BELL. I was on from 9:30 to 11 o'clock.

Mr. GAREY. And after your work at the station was completed for that day, what did you do?

Mr. BELL. Well, I tell you, maybe you like to know I relinquished 10 to 10:30 for President Roosevelt to speak.

Mr. GAREY. You relinquished that portion of your radio time?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. Then what did you do?

Mr. BELL. Then I make a special appeal for bonds, because I thought that was the time we should all stick together because we were at war.

Mr. GAREY. There came a time that evening, however, when your work at the station was completed?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And you left the station?

Mr. BELL. I went home.

Mr. GAREY. What did you do when you got home? Were you playing cards with your friends?

Mr. BELLI. They didn't give me a chance to play.

Mr. GAREY. Three agents of the Government came to your home, did they not?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And they took you to a police station?

Mr. BELLI. I think they took me to this building.

Mr. GAREY. First you were taken to a police station, were you not?

Mr. BELLI. First to a police station; yes.

Mr. GAREY. What happened at the police station?

Mr. BELLI. They come in there and that is all; they relinquished me to the F. B. I.

Mr. GAREY. They booked you, too, didn't they?

Mr. BELLI. I don't know what they do. They were writing down something.

Mr. GAREY. Did you ever find out what charge you were booked on at that police station?

Mr. BELLI. Never; no.

Mr. GAREY. And from the police station you were brought by these three Government agents, were you, to the Federal Building?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. What happened there?

Mr. BELLI. They took my picture, my fingerprints, then they put me in a wagon and took me to the Battery.

Mr. GAREY. This was about what time in the morning?

Mr. BELLI. I was arrested about a quarter to twelve or eleven thirty, and for all those preliminary things between this building and the police station and South Ferry took about 5 hours. It was about 4:30 when they took me to Ellis Island.

Mr. GAREY. And you remained at Ellis Island for a number of days?

Mr. BELLI. Fourteen days; 13 days, rather.

Mr. GAREY. I am going to turn at this point, Mr. Chairman, with your permission, to the files of the Federal Communications Commission, and I want to read from those files a portion of a report which is found therein.

Under the caption "Lido Belli" and the subcaption "History of the case," the following appears in the files of the Commission, to which I have made reference:

During the year 1941, the Special Defense Unit of the Department of Justice prepared a list of dangerous aliens, classifying them in three categories: A, B, and C. Each category was divided into two groups—(1) and (2), number (1) indicating the cases with strong evidence; number (2), those with less evidence.

Lido Belli had been classified B (1). The basis of this classification is not known. There seems to be a remark in Mayor LaGuardia's survey, June 1940, which says that Lido Belli is Fascist inclined.

On December 9, 1941, Lido Belli was taken into custody. Pursuant to a telegram of the Attorney General, a hearing was set by the United States district attorney, Mr. Correa. On the basis of this hearing and a report prepared by his assistant, Mr. Correa recommended, December 23, 1941, that Lido Belli "be released immediately and paroled in the custody of W. C. Alcorn."

The committee will recall that Mr. Alcorn is the manager of radio station WBNX. [Resuming reading:]

He stated "that there were no facts of any substance whatever indicating activities of a suspicious nature on the part of this alien." The Attorney General adopted the recommendation by telephone and it was put into effect the same

day. Mr. Alcorn was selected as sponsor upon the "activity of the alien in that the sponsor is the owner of the radio station over which his programs are broadcast." (Alcorn is general manager of the station and a member of the board of directors.)

A memorandum of January 28, 1942, prepared by the Reviewing Section, Alien Enemy Control Unit, came to the conclusion: "There is no evidence to indicate any Fascist sympathy on the part of the alien or any anti-American tendencies. The recommendation of the hearing board and the action taken by the board were appropriate and should be approved."

It is worthy of note, Mr. Chairman, that this finding was made by the Attorney General of the United States on January 28, 1942, and I direct this finding to the attention of the committee in view of what the testimony that will be presented today will show subsequently happened in this matter. [Resuming reading:]

Upon the basis of this memorandum, on January 30, 1942, the Attorney General issued the order "that said alien enemy be paroled in the custody of said W. C. Alcorn, that the parole be conditioned upon the alien enemy's reporting his activities to his sponsor twice a month and to the district parole officer once a month, that the said parole be further conditioned upon the execution of and compliance with the sponsor's and parolee's agreements provided by the Immigration and Naturalization Service." Following this order, Lido Belli's status was changed from that of an interim parolee to that of a regular parolee on February 5, 1942.

Now, on or about December 23, 1941, Mr. Alcorn came down to Ellis Island, did he not, Mr. Belli?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And he became your sponsor?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And you were paroled, as the report of the Federal Communications Commission which I have just read into this record indicates?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And then you went back to your business, did you not?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And you resumed the operation of your business the same as you had been conducting it before you were apprehended?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. So that the committee will have some knowledge of what the various agencies of government, and particularly certain people whose activities are already fairly well known to the committee, were doing after Mr. Belli was released, I am going to place into this record today certain documents, or documentary evidence, which we find in the Commission's files.

We probably will never know all that these people did, Mr. Chairman, but we find their footprints on these pieces of paper they have left behind them, so that from these pieces of paper the committee can see the unlawful degree to which the conspiracy against this witness proceeded. It is probably one of the most shameful pages in the history of the Commission, and I want the committee, so far as is possible, to know about it.

We find in the files of the Federal Communications Commission a confidential memorandum to the Chairman, dated January 22, 1942, from E. K. Jett, Chief Engineer of the Commission. The copy of the memorandum to which I refer, and which I now hold in my hand, indicates that a carbon copy of that memorandum was transmitted on the same day to the general counsel of the Commission and to a Mr. Free.

The subject of the memorandum is translation of an article by Ettore Manfredi which appeared in *La Parola*, Italian-language newspaper of New York City.

The activities of Manfredi in certain respects, and the nature and character of the paper *La Parola*, have already appeared to some extent in the testimony that has been produced before this committee, and need no further comment from me other than to make reference to the fact that the committee's record now contains certain information respecting not only this publication and its owner, but also the person known as Manfredi.

The memorandum to which I make reference is in these words:

The attached translation of the article by Mr. Manfredi explains the Fascist relations of the employees of Stations WOV, WBNX, and WHOM, all located in the New York City area. References are made also to the proprietors and co-proprietors of these stations, Messrs. Bulova, Alcorn, and Lang.

This translation is sent for your information.

The memorandum is signed "E. K. Jett, Chief Engineer."

Now, the translation of the article referred to in the memorandum, for our present purposes, makes but one brief reference to this witness, and that reference is found on the first page in these words:

At Station WBNX Mr. Lido Belli, well-known propagandist and protector of the good Samaritan [Michele Ansaldi] acts as supervisor.

That is, as the committee will recall, a translation of an article written by Ettore Manfredi, appearing in the newspaper *La Parola* on January 10, 1942. The translation was made, according to papers which I hold in my hand, by J. P. Kenendo of the International Division of the Federal Communications Commission.

The next document that I want to call to the committee's attention is found in the files of the Commission and is dated March 18, 1942. It consists of a confidential memorandum to the Chairman of the Commission from E. K. Jett, Chief Engineer of the Commission, and carbon copies, it appears from a notation on the copy, were sent to the general counsel of the Commission and to Mr. Free.

The memorandum is on the subject of "Foreign Language Broadcasts—WBNX—Italian Language." The memorandum, after stating the subject matter, reads as follows:

WBNX, located in New York, N. Y., and licensed to WBNX Broadcasting Co., Inc., broadcasts approximately 132 hours monthly in the Italian language. The program entitled "Italian Varieties" is heard on Sundays from 4:30 to 7 p. m., is announced by Ugo Neri and Lido Belli and is sponsored by Gambarelli and Davitto, wine merchants.

Mr. Belli, Davitto was a client of yours, was he not?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY (resuming reading):

Recordings of this program for March 1, 1942, were requested and have been reviewed by the International Division of the Engineering Department. The program consists of news, advertising, popular Italian music, drama and a review of the world situation by Edward Corsi. The news, taken from International News Service dispatches, is all from United Nations sources, Axis items being omitted entirely. There are several appeals to buy Defense bonds.

The review of the war by Edward Corsi seems to be anti-Axis in tone. The program as a whole is harmless. Both Ugo Neri and Lido Belli are said to have been Fascist propagandists, but such a sentiment does not seem to be evident in the present program.

These recordings were made at the request of Mr. Lee Falk, of the Office of Facts and Figures, and the English translations have been submitted to him for his information.

That memorandum, Mr. Chairman, is signed "E. J. Jett, Chief Engineer." In it we find the beginning of the same familiar characters proceeding to take their respective parts in the Lido Belli matter; and you will observe from that memorandum that the Chairman of the Commission was advised on that date that these programs were entirely harmless.

On April 16, 1942, the files of the Commission indicate that James Lawrence Fly, the Chairman of the Commission, wrote J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, this letter:

MY DEAR MR. HOOVER: In cooperation with other interested Government agencies, the Commission is undertaking a continuing survey of the wartime programs of standard broadcast stations, particularly in the fields of news and news commentary. In this connection, it would be extremely helpful if the Commission could have access to whatever relevant materials may be available in the files of the Bureau.

At the present time we are interested in obtaining information concerning the following broadcasters and commentators:

The two names that I will now read will be significant to the committee. The others I will omit, with your permission, Mr. Chairman.

One is Lido Belli, who is identified as "Associated with WOV, New York," and the other is Andre Luotto, who is identified as "Associated with WHOM, Jersey City." [Resuming reading:]

It will be greatly appreciated if you will advise me what arrangements can be made to secure these data. Inasmuch as we may have occasion from time to time to make similar requests upon the Bureau, may I suggest the desirability of establishing a satisfactory informal procedure under which responsible members of the Commission's staff may obtain access in the future to the results of the Bureau's investigations which may be related to this phase of our work.

That letter, Mr. Chairman, is signed "James Lawrence Fly, Chairman."

The CHAIRMAN. What is meant by the phrase in that letter, "responsible members of the Commission's staff"?

Mr. GAREY. I take it it means Mr. David and his associates in the War Problems Division, Mr. Chairman.

Then we find in the files of the Federal Communications Commission a letter on the letterhead of the Office of Facts and Figures, dated at Washington on April 15, 1942, addressed to Mr. Nathan David, of the Federal Communications Committee, by Mr. Lee Falk, as Chief for Radio, Foreign Language Division. That letter reads as follows:

Enclosed is our report on the foreign language radio stations in New York City. A little additional material concerning Boston, Pawtucket, has been included.

This report should serve as a basis for further complete investigation. I know you will agree with me that quick action is necessary.

That is signed by Lee Falk.

The report referred to, insofar as it deals with the present phase of our investigation, is found on the first page under "1. WBNX" and it reads:

WBNX has a rather special situation. Some 5 hours of the station's time daily have been bought by Lido Belli.

Was that a correct statement, Mr. Belli?

Mr. BELL. It was bought by me for my clients.

Mr. GAREY. Yes. [Resuming reading:]

He uses them as he sees fit, acting as his own program director, announcer, news commentator, actor, etc. He spent a week on Ellis Island following Pearl Harbor. He boasted at the time that he would be released within a week. He was. Rumor has connected him with the agent, Andre Luotto (see WHOM)."

The CHAIRMAN. What is that you just read, Mr. Garey?

Mr. GAREY. That, Mr. Chairman, is from a report that was transmitted on April 15, 1942, by Lee Falk to Nathan David.

The CHAIRMAN. What interest could Mr. David have had in the behavior of this man as a broadcaster?

Mr. GAREY. The Commission's position has been outlined in various of the documents that have been here introduced in evidence, to the effect that because of the public interest, convenience, and necessity clause they were interested in what went on in a station and had power to act as they did act. With that position, of course, I am in entire disagreement.

Then the next record we find to indicate what these people were doing is another confidential memorandum dated May 26, 1942, from Mr. E. K. Jett, the chief engineer of the Commission, to the Chairman of the Commission, on the subject of Foreign Language Broadcasts—WBNX—Italian language. After stating the subject, the memorandum proceeds to say:

WBNX, located in New York City, N. Y., and licensed to WBNX Broadcasting Co., Inc., broadcasts approximately 132 hours monthly in the Italian language. The Morning Parade, heard Monday through Saturday, from 9 a. m. to 12 noon, eastern war time, is announced by Ugo Neri, a native Italian, and Lido Belli, a native Italian, who has taken out naturalization papers. Twenty advertisers are the sponsors.

Recordings of this program from April 13 to 18, 1942, inclusive, were requested and have been reviewed by the International Division of the Engineering Department. The program consists of three news broadcasts, a drama, advertisements, and appeals to buy defense bonds, to aid the fund to help antiaircraft fighters and to buy church emblems for the Italian-American soldiers.

A study of the 18 newscasts leaves the impression that the announcer wants the listener to know that in spite of reverses the Axis Powers still might not fare so badly. He is supposed to read the news as translated, but he nearly always begins with a summary and often interpolates a word or two or feints a comment in the news bulletins. Several times he omits important news for the Allies, which make the front pages of all newspapers. A news bulletin from a United Nations source usually begins: "It is reported from New York * * *" or "A dispatch from London says * * *." Always from the Axis capital an item begins: "Via the German (Tokio or Rome) Official Radio-Telegraph * * *" as if to give the news authenticity. During the three newscasts he repeats certain items in order to drive home his point. He likes to mention arrests of aliens by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, clandestine radio stations, the threat to the Allies of the ascendancy of Laval, the inconvenience of black-outs and pessimistic statements of Allied leaders. All but 3 of the 18 newscasts end with an ominous note for the Allies—a bad news of some sort. Sometimes he makes an obvious error in order to deflate a bulletin favorable to the United Nations.

An article by Ettore Manfredi in La Parola (January 10, 1942), says that Lido Belli is a well-known Fascist propagandist. Mr. Salvemini accuses Ugo Neri likewise in his article in the New York Times (October 12, 1940).

In my memorandum to you on March 18, 1942, I noted that the evening newscasts of these two announcers contained no items from Axis sources, and that part of the program seemed anti-Axis in character.

That is signed by Mr. Jett, with a carbon copy being forwarded to the general counsel of the Commission and to Mr. Graves, Jr. I assume the Mr. Graves, Jr., whose name is there noted is Mr. Graves of the F. B. I. S.

The next date to which I wish to direct the committee's attention is May 30, 1942, which, you will recall, was Decoration Day, Mr. Chairman, and Mr. Alcorn, when he was on the stand, told us of the first visit of Mr. Edmund P. Silver, an employee of the Federal Communications Commission, to his station on May 30 and 31, 1942, and you will recall Mr. Alcorn's testimony of Mr. Silver's activities at the station on that day.

The next significant date, as we move along to find out what was going on, is reflected in the analysis of the German-American housewife hour broadcast over Station WBNX, and Dr. Truman's report on Station WBNX. That report is in evidence. I merely call attention to the fact that on June 17, 1942, the famous Dr. Goodwin Watson transmitted Dr. Truman's report on WBNX to Sidney Spear.

You will recall that Sidney Spear is the gentleman who went to Mr. Richards and suggested an illegal procedure that he wanted Mr. Richards of the Office of Censorship to cooperate with him in, for the purpose of removing what they regarded as undesirable people from the air. That was where Mr. Falk was to go to a radio station and tell them they should fire somebody just at the time a station license was up for renewal; and this Mr. Spear to whom Dr. Watson transmitted a copy of the report on WBNX is the same Mr. Spear who went to Mr. Richards to enlist his assistance and cooperation in the unlawful scheme which he outlined to him.

In the same report there was also transmitted directly from Truman to Spear, under date of June 16, 1942, a so-called further report on WBNX. Since those reports already appear in the record, I shall just make this reference to them, so that you may follow the sequence of events.

The next date is June 18, 1942, which is the date, the committee will recall, George Brunner was put off the air, at Mr. Falk's direction, on station WBNX. You will recall on that date Mr. Silver was calling WBNX, looking for Mr. Falk. Mr. Alcorn went to luncheon with Mr. Falk on that day, and during luncheon was directed to put George Brunner off the air.

Mr. Belli, do you know a Dr. Brunori?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. What is his first name?

Mr. BELL. Nicola.

Mr. GAREY. Now, Nicola Brunori had certain time allocated to him on your program, did he not?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And he had been using that time from around the beginning of January 1942, had he not?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. How did he come to get the time from you?

Mr. BELL. He came to my office and he asked me for that time for a particular reason. He said we were at war and he thought it would be good to have a nutrition program to tell the people how to conserve themselves by using better and less food. I didn't think about it very

much, but I thought it was a good idea. I took 15 minutes and gave it to him.

Mr. GAREY. That was time you bought and paid for from the station?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And then you gave it to Dr. Brunori without charge?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And he began that program sometime in January of 1942, did he not?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. I won't take the time, Mr. Chairman, with your permission, to read this letter, but I would like to have this letter from Dr. Nicola Brunori to the witness, dated January 15, 1942, deemed read into the record.

The CHAIRMAN. All right. Let it go in.

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

NICOLA BRUNORI, M. D.,
New York, N. Y., January 15, 1942.

Mr. LIDO BELL,
Radio Station WBNX,
Bronx, N. Y.

DEAR MR. BELL: On May 26, 27, 28, 1941, in Washington, D. C., the first National Nutrition Conference for Defense took place. Almost 900 delegates answered President Roosevelt's call to this conference. The conclusion of the proceedings was the promulgation of a chart of recommended daily allowances for specific interests.

In the American Public Health Association Convention held November 19, 1941, Dr. W. H. Sebrell, of the United States Public Service, told the delegates: "We must place food on a parity with guns."

In the same convention Dr. Sebrell called upon State and local agencies to cooperate with the Government in its educational effort to prove the eating habits of the people.

On November 27, 1941, the Office of Defense Health and Welfare Services of Washington, D. C., Director Federal Security Administrator, Paul McNutt, sent a letter to the physicians of the United States as the following:

"To the Physicians of the United States:

"As a defense measure, the President, by Executive order of September 3, has made the Office of Defense Health and Welfare Services responsible for the development of a coordinated national program in these fields. This is a tremendous responsibility and one which I, as Director, feel is beyond anyone's capacity to discharge successfully unless the full assistance of all interested groups can be enlisted.

"Because so much of the program lies within the professional range of interest of the physician, I have wanted to make an appeal first to the physicians of the United States to support this program wherever there may be an opportunity to do so.

"One of our major objectives is to improve the nutritional status of American citizens. The National Nutrition Conference brought out the extent to which the nutritional level of the American people will depend on the advice which they receive from their personal physicians. Accordingly, I have sought some means by which this situation could be brought directly to the attention of each individual physician in the country.

"The enclosed letter, representing the joint views of the Committee on Food and Nutrition of the National Research Council and the Council on Foods and Nutrition of the American Medical Association, I feel, serves this purpose better than anything I could say. I send it for your consideration.

"Sincerely yours,

"Director."

The program of the organized plan of the Health Welfare and Related activities more clearly explained is as follows:

1. Reinforcement of the activities of such agencies as have nutritional programs.

2. Measures for increasing the food purchasing power of low-income group.
3. Efforts to improve the nutritional qualities of cheap staple foods, especially flour and bread.
4. Widest publicity to promote information on selection of food.
5. Solicitation of assistance of professional groups, including physicians, dentists, nurses, social workers, and teachers.

Dr. J. C. Geiger, director of public health, city of San Francisco, writes:
 "The necessity of fully maintaining and developing our Nation's resources and human strength in planning the defense program brings the problem of national nutrition sharply into focus as a defense factor.

"Our armed forces, but also our workers and all civilians, must be adequately nourished to keep the Nation at maximum efficiency. Nutrition is no longer an individual responsibility but a national one."

In reply to the appeal of the Defense Health Office, I thought of doing a daily program on the theme of nutrition without any compensation on my part.

I thought that you, Mr. Belli, can cooperate by offering the necessary time on your Station WBNX free of charge.

I believe at this moment of ideological contrasts, the Italians could take advantage of a program well in tune such as the Government of the United States wishes to have.

What do you think?

Very truly yours,

NICOLA BRUNORI.

Mr. GAREY. Dr. Brunori had that program from the date you have told us until about June 17, 1942, did he not?

Mr. BELLi. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. Did you have difficulty with him on the program?

Mr. BELLi. Yes; almost daily.

Mr. GAREY. What was he doing that caused you concern?

Mr. BELLi. Well, he was doing what he pleased. First of all, he never timed his program. Instead of taking the 14 or 15 minutes allotted to him, sometimes he took 17 or 18 minutes. Time after time I said, "Dr. Brunori, other clients have to come in after you. It is a shame to take time from them."

He said, "How can I do it?"

I said, "Take out your watch and look at the time that is coming to you."

Then for a day or 2 days he was all right, and then he would take more time again. Several times I talked to him and talked to people at the station.

One day I said, "Now, look, Dr. Brunori, if you not have your program timed I will start other programs and cut you off."

I went to the studio one day and his time was up. I let him run a half minute, a minute, a minute and a half, and then I told the station engineer to cut him off.

Mr. GAREY. So on June 17, 1942, you put him off your station entirely?

Mr. BELLi. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And on that day you wrote him a letter, did you not?

Mr. BELLi. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And this is the letter you wrote him, is it not, Mr. Belli:

DEAR MR. BRUNORI: Due to your inability to present your program within the allotted time, we regret to inform you that your broadcast period has been canceled as of today.

Very truly yours,

LIDO BELLi RADIO PRODUCTION Co
 By LIDO BELLi, President.

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. The chairman will recall that through Mr. Lupis we learned that Dr. Brunori made what he called an affidavit and transmitted it to him, and that he forwarded it to the authorities in Washington.

The next date that has significance to the committee is July 3, 1942. At that time, according to Mr. Alcorn, Mr. Clift, an attorney for the Federal Communications Commission, went to Station WBNX and spent 3 days there. Mr. Moore of Station WBNX will probably be a witness here, and he can tell the committee what transpired during Mr. Clift's visit to the station on July 3 and 4 and for 1 or 2 days thereafter.

The next document we find in the files of the Federal Communications Commission is a letter dated July 7, 1942, from Lee Falk, Chief for Radio, Foreign Language Division, Office of Facts and Figures, Office of War Information. The letter is addressed, Mr. Chairman, to Mr. Nathan David, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D. C., and it reads:

DEAR NATE: The enclosed is a transcript of a series of conversations between Lido Belli and Dr. Brunori. Brunori worked under Lido Belli on WBNX.

You might pass this on to Bon Phillips after you have looked at it.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

LEE.

With the permission of the chairman I am not going to encumber the record with the enclosure that was attached to the letter I have just read. In a later document which will be presented today some of the trash that appears in this enclosure will appear in another report, and that will probably be read into the record so that we won't have to get it in twice.

The next date that is significant for the committee to consider is August 1, 1942, on which date Station WBNX was put on a temporary license basis.

Then we come, Mr. Belli, to the 27th or 28th of August 1942. Do you recall what happened at that time?

Mr. BELLI. Yes. I was called to Ellis Island and given a paper that from that day on I was to cease all radio activities.

Mr. GAREY. You were called by Mr. Diana, of the F. B. I.?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And you were asked to report to Ellis Island with your sponsor, Mr. Alcorn?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And you appeared there as requested?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And at that time you were asked to assume new conditions affecting your parole?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. This further condition was added to your parole on August 27, 1942, was it not?

I understand that the parolee has been ordered to temporarily cease all radio broadcasting activity. This includes the preparation or control of any material used in radio broadcasting or the engaging by him in any way in any activity relating to radio broadcasting.

You assented to that condition, did you not?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And consequently you were again released, and left Ellis Island with Mr. Alcorn?

Mr. BELL. That is right.

Mr. GAREY. Now, the effect of this new condition which was imposed upon you was to prevent you from speaking to anybody about your business; is that true?

Mr. BELL. Absolutely; that was very clear.

Mr. GAREY. You couldn't hire anybody?

Mr. BELL. No.

Mr. GAREY. And you couldn't fire anybody?

Mr. BELL. That is true.

Mr. GAREY. You couldn't look at your own books?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And you couldn't even go into your own office?

Mr. BELL. That is right.

Mr. GAREY. As a matter of fact, Mr. Belli, you were prevented from entering the building in which your office was located, were you not?

Mr. BELL. I don't remember that, but I remember by ceasing all activity I should not even make any telephone call.

Mr. GAREY. I will go back and read the balance of the report which I didn't read earlier, on Lido Belli, as found in the files of the Federal Communications Commission. You will recall I read that portion of it dealing with the history of the case, up to the point where Mr. Belli's status was changed from that of an interim parolee to a regular parolee on February 5, 1942. Then the report continues as follows:

On July 23, 1942, Mr. Lee Falk of the Office for Emergency Management sent a memorandum to the Alien Enemy Control Unit of the Department of Justice, pointing to the dangerous nature of Lido Belli's activities.

And note this next significant sentence, Mr. Chairman:

It is based mainly on the analysis made by the Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service and the testimony of Dr. Brunori.

I termed the analysis made by the F. B. I. S. as the acme of asininity when I read it into this record. Dr. Brunori's motives can be easily gleaned from this witness' testimony.

I resume reading the report:

On August 21, 1942, Mr. Ellis, director, alien enemy control unit, ordered Mr. Thomas McDermott, acting supervisor, alien enemy paroles, to prohibit Belli from broadcasting pending reexamination of his case. Pursuant to this instruction, Lido Belli and his sponsor, Mr. Alcorn, were requested to sign agreements which contained the following condition:

"I am to temporarily cease all road broadcasting activity. This includes the preparation or control of any material used in radio broadcasting or the engaging by me in any way in any activity relating to radio broadcasting" (August 27, 1942).

During the fall, Lido Belli got the Office of Censorship interested in his case. Apparently, it made representations to the Department of Justice, which are hinted at in a letter of September 25, 1942, addressed to Mr. Alan Cranston of the Office of War Information by Mr. Ennis. This letter contains the following statements: "Strong representations are made in his (Belli's) favor. On the other hand, I believe that your office or the Office of the Censor, whichever may be charged with the responsibility of these matters, is better equipped by experience to decide the question of which persons should be allowed to engage in the very crucial work of broadcasting to our alien enemy population, and if

you will take the responsibility, I am entirely willing to place your decision in effect without examining all of the evidence myself."

That letter, it appears from this report, was from Mr. Ennis to Mr. Cranston, who was Lee Falk's chief. [Resuming reading:]

On October 29, 1942, the Office of Censorship invited Messrs. Cranston, Falk, Truman, and Spingarn to discuss the case. Messrs. Bronson and Richards of the Office of Censorship indicated that they would need additional evidence "were they to consider any other course in recommending relief of parole conditions." Messrs. Cranston and Spingarn promised to obtain additional evidence.

Finally, on November 12, 1942, Mr. Ryan, of the Office of Censorship, sent a letter with a memorandum to the Alien Enemy Control Unit, recommending that Lido Belli be relieved from the condition of his parole (copy attached). This memorandum purports to examine only the specific charge made against Lido Belli of being a Fascist. It is based on the report of a private agency which has been retained by the Office of Censorship, a monitoring undertaking by the Review Division in the Foreign Language Section of the Office of Censorship, a personal interview by Lido Belli, Alcorn, and E. Fenton, and the material used by Mr. Lee Falk. The memorandum says that the Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service report is nebulous—

That is a charitable description of it. [Resuming reading:]

that the broadcasts monitored by the Office of Censorship "uncovered no evidence of censorship violations"; it impeaches the credibility of Dr. Brunori by revealing a conviction in 1913—

This Dr. Brunori who is referred to in this report and in your testimony, Mr. Belli, was convicted of attempted extortion in the courts of this city, was he not?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And sentenced to from 3½ to 6½ years in the State penitentiary; is that correct?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY (resuming reading):

disparages the Mazzini Society; takes an unclear position on the employment and subsequent dismissal of Garofalo; and comes to the final conclusion that it is not established that Lido Belli is a Fascist.

Mr. Lee Falk answered these arguments in a letter addressed to Mr. Ennis of November 18, a copy of which is attached. He says that the Office of Censorship "ignores completely the Brunori side of the argument"; emphasizes that a conviction obtained 19 years earlier is not sufficient to discredit Brunori's trustworthiness; objects to the disparagement of the Mazzini Society by pointing to the support given to this organization by the State Department and shows that the Garofalo incident has not been analyzed correctly. An affidavit from Albert Tarchiani, the national secretary of the Mazzini Society, is enclosed, which denies Lido Belli's assertion that the Mazzini Society unsuccessfully tried to have Lido Belli become a member of their organization.

In the course of the reexamination of the case, the Department of Justice asked the field office to investigate Lido Belli's compliance with the condition of the parole. Mr. Thomas D. McDermott, Acting Supervisor of the Alien Enemy Paroles, reports in his letter of December 4, 1942, that Lido Belli now "is observing a technical compliance with the restriction." He says that the condition of the parole is too nebulous to be enforced, and recommended either internment or canceling of the condition of the parole.

On December 10, 1942, Congressman Marcantonio, Father X (name not known), and Mr. Belli called upon Mr. Cooley, of the Department of Justice. Mr. Marcantonio stated that he had gone into all the facts thoroughly. He said that Belli's business was in danger of being ruined; that a censorship report should be of a great deal of value on the final decision; that he would not come here for Belli if he thought he was a Fascist; and that the fact that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has not been able to find anything against him is a guarantee that there is nothing against him. In the course of the conversation he gave a long talk on the dangers of the Mazzini Society, its members, its

ambitions, etc. On the same day, Mr. Ryan wrote a letter to Mr. Ennis asking him whether a final decision in the Lido Belli case had been made.

And there the report ends. It is incomplete insofar as being brought down to date, but all that I have now read, data up to December 10, 1942, was in the possession of the F. C. C., and they had knowledge of everything that is therein contained, at the time they were engaging in the activities which will now come before the committee.

Then we find in the files of the Commission a written "Report on attendance at meeting at the Office of Censorship on Thursday, October 29, 3 p. m." That report reads as follows:

This meeting was devoted to a discussion of what action should be taken in the case of Mr. Lido Belli, time broker on Station WBNX, New York City.

The Office of War Information presented evidence of Belli's activities to Mr. Ryan and Mr. Richards, of the Office of Censorship. The evidence consists largely of an analysis by the Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service and a statement by Dr. Brunori. A telephone call was received from Mr. Alcorn, manager of Station WBNX, and Alcorn alleged that Brunori had been convicted on a criminal charge many years ago. Ryan felt that this fact, together with the strong commercial rivalry that existed between Belli and Brunori, would tend to discredit Brunori's evidence. He decided that the evidence was insufficient and adjourned the meeting for a week or so, so that more conclusive evidence could be produced.

The Commission was represented by Dr. Truman and Mr. Spingarn. Neither participated to any great extent in the proceedings, but in response to their questions it was found that the Alien Enemy Control Unit of the Department of Justice had annexed as a condition to Belli's parole, a prohibition against all participation in radio activities or the pursuit of his old business of radio time broker.

There follows on the same page a "Report on Telephone Conversation with Ed Ennis, Friday, October 30," which is in these words:

After the record conversation with Ed Ennis I found that he agreed with Office of War Information that Belli should be kept off the air. He says, however, that he does not have time to investigate the case himself and regards himself merely as a jailor rather than as the judge, and will act upon a recommendation of any competent agency which states that Belli would do more harm than good on the air. He said that it may not be necessary for the letter to state that Belli was definitely a Fascist. It may be enough to state that there was a suspicion, and that he should, therefore, be kept off the air.

Now, Mr. Belli, the last time I put questions to you I discussed the fact that you signed a new agreement over at Ellis Island on August 27, 1942. Now, after you came back from Ellis Island, what did you do?

Mr. BELL. Nothing; nothing at all.

Mr. GAREY. Did you make any effort to find out why these new parole conditions had been insisted upon?

Mr. BELL. I did so.

Mr. GAREY. Whom did you see?

Mr. BELL. The people in the Department of Justice.

Mr. GAREY. Whom did you see in the Department of Justice?

Mr. BELL. Mr. Cooley. I tried to see Mr. Ennis, but they directed me to Mr. Cooley. One time I saw Mr. Cooley and Mr. Tubridy.

Mr. GAREY. Do you recall when you first went to the Department of Justice?

Mr. BELL. Not exactly. Before going to Washington I had to go to Ellis Island or call Mr. Diana to see if I could go. I didn't know what agency I should see. Finally I decided I should see the Department of Justice.

Mr. GAREY. You couldn't find out what had happened to you?

Mr. BELLI. No.

Mr. GAREY. And you couldn't find out what agency to go to to find out what had happened to you?

Mr. BELLI. That is right.

Mr. GAREY. No agency of the Government had told you of anything improper you had done?

Mr. BELLI. No, sir.

Mr. GAREY. So you went to see Mr. Diana at Ellis Island?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. What did he say?

Mr. BELLI. He said he had orders from Philadelphia, and he didn't know what department was behind it.

Mr. GAREY. How many times did you see Mr. Diana?

Mr. BELLI. Two or three times.

Mr. GAREY. Who else did you see?

Mr. BELLI. Mr. Cooley in Washington, about six or seven times.

Mr. GAREY. And did you see Mr. Ennis?

Mr. BELLI. No; I never could see him.

Mr. GAREY. What did Mr. Cooley say to you?

Mr. BELLI. Mr. Cooley didn't say very much. He answered "yes" or "no"; he couldn't do much about it.

Mr. GAREY. Did you find out from him who had made any charges against you?

Mr. BELLI. He said he couldn't say.

Mr. GAREY. When you couldn't get this information from Mr. Cooley, what did you do?

Mr. BELLI. Then I went to my friend Mr. Marcantonio.

Mr. GAREY. Where did you see Mr. Marcantonio?

Mr. BELLI. In his office in Washington.

Mr. GAREY. Did Mr. Marcantonio do anything for you?

Mr. BELLI. Yes. He was the man that opened my case again.

Mr. GAREY. When did you first go to see Congressman Marcantonio?

Mr. BELLI. I think it was around September or October 1942.

Mr. GAREY. And whom did he get in touch with? Did he get in touch with somebody at the F. C. C.?

Mr. BELLI. I guess he spoke to Mr. Nathan David quite a few times.

Mr. GAREY. Then what happened?

Mr. BELLI. Well, he told Mr. Marcantonio that my case was at that time under investigation by the F. C. C., that they were tracing back my record to see what they would do about me.

Mr. GAREY. That was some time in September?

Mr. BELLI. From September on. I went to Washington 8 or 9 times and was there about 30 days altogether.

Mr. GAREY. You spent 30 days in Washington trying to find out why these conditions were imposed upon you preventing you from taking care of your business?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And at that time you were unable to take care of your business?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. By the way, Mr. Belli, I think you told the committee staff that the cost to you of being kept out of your business was \$90,000?

Mr. BELLI. It was more than that for 11 months.

Mr. GAREY. It was a cost of more than \$90,000 to you for a period of 11 months?

Mr. BELLI. Yes; that is right.

Mr. GAREY. It might be appropriate to put in the record here a letter dated November 16, 1942, Mr. Chairman, addresseed to Mr. E. J. Ennis, Director, Enemy Alien Control, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., by Lee Falk, Acting Chief, Foreign Language Division, Office of War Information. It reads:

DEAR MR. ENNIS: In the field of domestic foreign language radio personnel, the Office of War Information recognizes the Office of Censorship as the principal regulatory authority.

However, in reference to the final report on Lido Belli (Belli Rizzleri) dated November 11, 1942, and submitted to the Department of Justice by Mr. J. H. Ryan, Assistant Director of Censorship, we feel that some pertinent comments are in order.

On page 2, a report of the Dr. Brunori-Lido Belli controversy ignores completely the Brunori side of the argument. The fact that Brunori was convicted of extortion in 1913 might prejudice his testimony in a court of law. However, 19 years later, October 1942, an affidavit by Brunori on a matter like this might be given some professional, if not judicial, consideration.

This is a new kind of consideration, Mr. Chairman, that I have never heard of before, and I am quite certain that in your long experience at the bar and on the bench you never heard of a "professional, if not judicial, consideration" being given to the testimony of a convicted extortionist. [Resuming reading:]

At the bottom of page 2, a Mr. Garofalis is mentioned as employed by Lido Belli. This is Capt. Pietro Garofalo, a notorious admitted Fascist. The report does not mention that this man worked for Belli for about 4 years. The report does state that Belli finally fired him at the request of Mr. Alcorn, the station manager. The Office of Censorship evidently considers this fact insignificant."

Did Garofalo work for you for 4 years?

Mr. BELLI. Never; not even for a day.

Mr. GAREY. (resuming reading):

The following sentence at the bottom of page 2 is completely confusing: "Mr. Garofalis (Garofalo) made charges that Lido Belli was a Fascist." I don't know where this evidence originated, but from Garofalo's activities (as manager of Cine Roma, etc.), it would seem that if he called anybody a Fascist he would intend it as a compliment.

On page 3, the paragraph numbered 4 deals with the Mazzini Society which made the charge that Lido Belli is a Fascist. The report states: "Informants with whom our investigators talked, however, regard the organization poorly, and felt that it included to a certain extent, people of a questionable character."

In June 1942 the Under Secretary of State, the Honorable Dean Acheson, addressed a meeting of the Society in Washington. On November 14, 1942, the Assistant Secretary of State, the Honorable A. A. Berle, addressed a meeting of the Mazzini Society and the Italian-American Labor Council in New York City, a meeting to which the Attorney General of the United States, the Honorable Francis Biddle, has also sent a message. The Mazzini Society would seem to be well regarded in some quarters. The society has cooperated wholeheartedly with this office, with the War Production Board and other governmental agencies.

This paragraph continues: "We (the Office of Censorship) have obtained evidence that the Mazzini Society has been trying to have the subject (Lido Belli) become a member of their organization for the last 2 years, and that the subject has steadfastly refused to do so, not for political reasons but for purely personal reasons. If this is true, the charges made against the subject by the Mazzini Society might be inspired by these failures to initiate him as a member."

Enclosed is an affidavit from Albert Tarchiani, national secretary of the

Mazzini Society, which categorically denies the statement that the Mazzini Society has ever tried to enlist Belli as a member. The Office of Censorship has obviously been misled by biased informants.

I felt that these facts should be brought before you. The disposition of this case should be handled in whatever manner the Enemy Alien Control Division of the Department of Justice sees fit.

Yours sincerely,

LEE FALK,

Acting Chief, Foreign Language Division.

Mr. GAREY. We might take a recess here, Mr. Chairman, for 10 minutes.

The CHAIRMAN. All right. We will recess for 10 minutes.

(Short recess.)

The CHAIRMAN. Proceed, Mr. Garey.

Mr. GAREY. Mr. Chairman, I neglected, in following the chronology of dates, to read into the record a memorandum from Lee Falk to Alan Cranston on the subject of Lido Belli, dated July 23, 1942. And perhaps the record should show that the memorandum which I am about to read into the record now is found in the files of the Federal Communications Commissions. It reads:

Lido Belli is a time broker and purchases about 5 hours per day on WBNX, New York City. He acts as his own program director, announcer, news commentator, etc. He spent a week on Ellis Island following Pearl Harbor. He boasted at that time that he would be released within a week. He was released in about that length of time on parole, and was sponsored by W. C. Alcorn, who is vice president and general manager of WBNX.

By the way, Mr. Belli, did you boast that you would be released within a week at the time you were on Ellis Island?

Mr. BELL. No; I didn't really boast. People were telling me not to do as I was doing, not eating and all that, because they said I had a long time to stay there. I said, "I don't think I will stay long, because when they investigate me I will be released."

Mr. GAREY. You were certain that no just ground existed for your incarceration, and that if anybody looked into the matter you would be released?

Mr. BELL. That is right.

Mr. GAREY (resuming reading):

These Italian programs of Lido Belli's have been monitored and analyzed on several occasions within the past few years. In December 1940, it was noted that: "One very frequent and lengthy announcement refers to single performances at the Cine Roma." (This theater is operated by Capt. Pietro Garofalo, a notorious Fascist, who was later fined and imprisoned for defrauding the Government of amusement taxes.) The persistently advertised films included newsreels of the Rome Institution, L. U. C. E., a film production institute controlled by the Italian ministry of press and propaganda.

Seventeen programs were analyzed in 1941 and 1942—two in March 1942, and six in April 1942. Following are the conclusions from the analysis of these programs: "It is apparent from this analysis that the newscasts of WBNX leave a great deal to be desired. Generally they are subtly pro-Axis or passive in character. The pro-Axis slant is effected chiefly by the insertion of items or phrases of questionable import, by the failure to exercise caution in handling news from Axis sources, and by the selection and arrangement of topics. The strongest pro-Axis aspect of the programs is a consistent anti-British line, dangerous because it reinforces existing attitudes among the Italian-Americans which are hostile to our ally.

"War bond appeals, moreover, are brief, infrequent, and uninspired. Omissions of significant events are not numerous, but these are largely unfavorable to the Axis or to suspected elements in the United States. Particularly significant is the fact that the station has not shown the improvement in handling news

material which might have been expected to follow American entrance into the war.

"A few significant omissions occur. No mention whatsoever is made of the Postmaster General's cancellation of the mailing privileges of Social Justice. Even in a station serving a largely Catholic audience, this is a significant omission. Of less importance are the failure to mention the statements by Donald Nelson that war production in the United Nations equals that of the Axis and the omission of Secretary Stimson's promise of an early Allied offensive. In the foreign field the only significant event not reported is King George's decoration of the entire population of Malta, which suggests a tendency to minimize Allied strength in Italian theaters of the war."

Analysis of the news items indicate "A strong anti-British bias on the part of this transmitter." * * * "The obvious effect of these items is to minimize British effectiveness and to emphasize the strength of the Axis defenses." * * * "An occasional item seems aimed directly to undermine the British-American alliance." * * * "Handling of American military activity in the far eastern theater is generally satisfactory." * * * "In some cases the reports are so garbled as to maximize an Axis claim" * * * "Or to minimize United States strength."

"While these unfavorable items on the Far East may not be intrinsically significant, viewed in the context of the audience they seem important. Among Italo-Americans the war with Japan is comparatively popular, and a radio transmitter would have no choice but to support that view. If, however, the announcer is hostile or passive toward the United Nations, it would be entirely reasonable for him to try, by such means as the items cited, to minimize the effectiveness of United Nations activity in the Far East as well as in the other war theaters."

"In treating a few other United Nations items WBNX emphasizes an unfavorable, almost defeatist, tone. Presenting the President's address to the Latin American diplomats, the broadcast of April 15 says, 'The American Nation has learned today that it will take at least 3 years to defeat the Axis.' There is no emphasis in the rest of the report on the confident tone of the President's remarks."

And all this, believe it or not, Mr. Chairman, is contained not in a report on Station WBNX, but in a report on the activities of this witness, without showing he had any connection whatsoever with what they called criticisms. [Resuming reading:]

In the treatment of Axis news sources, "The material indicates a strong inclination to accept Axis claims at their face value."

In comparing the percentages of favorable, unfavorable, and neutral news items used on WBNX before and after Pearl Harbor, the analysis reaches this conclusion: "It is reasonable to conclude that the news treatment by WBNX was more neutral during the period of American nonbelligerency than it was 4½ months after Pearl Harbor. The fact that military events during the earlier period were relatively favorable to the Axis gives this conclusion added validity * * *."

"The evidence presented indicates at most a luke-warm support of the foreign policy of the United States and a passive attitude toward the fortunes of the United Nations prior to Pearl Harbor." * * * "The later newscasts seem to represent less a vestigial isolationism than an increasing hostility to the cause of the United States and its allies."

"It is, of course, not clear why this trend has developed. Possibly the persons responsible for these programs, if they were sympathetic with the Axis, proceeded cautiously after Pearl Harbor for fear of losing their access to the radio, but, as the months passed without steps being taken against them, became increasingly bold in taking a position hostile to the United Nations."

It must be remembered that these Italian news broadcasts were all under the direction of Lido Belli.

The above analyses were made by the Foreign Broadcasting Monitoring Service of the Federal Communications Commission.

That Monitoring Service has been raised in stature and dignity, and is now called the Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service. The only

way they could get intelligence in it, Mr. Chairman, was by incorporating it in the name. [Resuming reading:]

A. Dr. N. Brunori conducted an Italian program on nutrition on WBNX. On March 10, 1942, he spoke on the commemoration of Giuseppe Mazzini, in which he stressed the ideas of the United Nations and the "four freedoms." Belli objected to this program. Brunori said: "The Government in Washington repeats to us every day that the difficult fight of today against race imperialism will be crowned by a future peace, a peace of both the victors and the losers." Belli replied to this: "The Government in Washington today, yes; but what do you know of the future? If there should be another form of government, your talks today may be used against me. I was sent to Ellis Island for things said by others on this station 10 years ago. I say that tomorrow, I might be called upon to account for what you say today."

Brunori said: "All right, then, whatever you say. I will not concern myself with politics according to Washington. But, here on this station, don't we urge people every day to buy bonds to fight the 'Rising Sun'?"

Belli: "That which is read is sent to us directly from Washington and we must read it."

Brunori: "I understand, we of our own volition, cannot cooperate * * *"

Belli: "We can't, in view of the possibility of a different government." I promised then that I would not speak of politics any longer.

In June 1942, Lido Belli finally fired Dr. Brunori, who was a well-known anti-Fascist.

That is the end of that report.

Then we have had reference made this morning to the report of the Office of Censorship, and in the files of the Federal Communications Commission we find this letter dated November 12, 1942, addressed to Mr. E. J. Ennis, Director, Enemy Alien Control, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C.:

Case: Lido Belli (Rizzleri Relli).

DEAR MR. ENNIS: We have made an exhaustive survey of this case, supplementing material provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Office of War Information, and the Federal Communications Commission with additional evidence gathered through our own efforts, and we wish now to recommend an immediate relief of the terms of parole which have been in force in the case of Lido Belli since August 26, 1942.

The committee will remember that the Office of Censorship is the only department of our Government charged with removing people from the air, and here is the authoritative agency of Government, and the only agency of Government who had any authority to speak on the subject, now speaking. [Resuming reading:]

At the present time, it is our understanding that Mr. Belli's parole conditions require that (1) he refrain from radio broadcasting in the United States and (2) he refrain from conducting the affairs of his business, known as Lido Belli Radio Productions, Inc., in any form. Specifically, we submit that these conditions of parole should be canceled and that he be restored his former privileges and freedoms in such respects. Whether or not he is continued on a parole status after restoration of such liberties is effected, is a matter to be determined by you, of course, and not a province into which this Office wishes to venture.

We believe a review of our activity in studying the Lido Belli dossier might be helpful to you, and we believe further than justification for our recommendations should be contained in your files on the case. Therefore, we are enclosing herewith a summary of our actions in the matter.

I wish to thank you for your patience and consideration in withholding action until this time. We look forward to continuing help from your unit with the hope that we can reciprocate it in some measure.

Cordially,

J. H. RYAN,
Assistant Director of Censorship.

The document that is referred to is captioned "Final Report, November 11, 1942, Lido Belli, Reli Rizzieri." It reads:

Lido Belli, which is the name assumed by Reli Rizzieri for professional purposes, resides at 490 West One Hundred and Eighty-seventh Street, New York City, and is the operator of Lido Belli Radio Productions, Inc., a broadcasting business. In the operation of this enterprise, the subject leases time from various radio stations and sells it to commercial sponsors on program and spot announcement basis. Prior to August 26, when he was required as a condition of his parole as an alien to withdraw from all broadcasting activity, he leased approximately 4½ hours of time daily on radio station WBNX in New York City, and comparable periods on other stations in New Haven, Boston, and Jersey City. As of November 10 his business included about 2 hours daily on WBNX alone.

The Office of Censorship has undertaken to review all data concerned with the subject's case in an endeavor to determine whether or not the subject should be required to continue the present conditions of his parole, which deny him an opportunity to broadcast on the air or in any other manner to engage in the broadcasting business.

It has been charged that Lido Belli is a Fascist and, as such, is unfit to broadcast or engage in the broadcasting business during the present emergency. It has been our sole purpose to evaluate the validity of this specific charge.

Sifting through the various reports which have been made available to the Office of Censorship by the Office of War Information, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Federal Communications Commission the following salient factors were found to be the most preponderant evidence supporting the charge.

Now we get to what is the worst that could be said against this man. [Resuming reading:]

In noting these items of evidence, we have attempted to give an informal estimate of their value in our opinion, in some cases supporting this estimate with additional evidence we have gathered through our own resources.

1. Broadcasts made by the subject during 1941 and 1942, 25 programs in all, have been analyzed by the Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service, a subsidiary organization of the Federal Communications Commission. This analysis, we feel, does not contain conclusive evidence that Lido Belli has been broadcasting in a manner that is inimical to the war effort of the United Nations. In a meeting held October 29 in the Office of Censorship, at which Mr. David Truman of the Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service, who was responsible for the aforementioned report was in attendance, we emphasized the nebulous nature of the Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service report and the difficulty we had encountered in finding anything in the report which would substantiate the serious charge of fascism levied against the subject. Mr. Truman himself admitted that he had experienced some difficulty in making a case against Mr. Belli—

Just imagine that; that he had experienced some difficulty, Mr. Chairman, in making a case against Mr. Belli. [Resuming reading:]

because the general tone of his broadcast was most emphatically pro-American, that he had only taken exceptions to certain isolated phrasology which "tended to indicate a neutral attitude."

Our own Review Division in the Foreign Language Section of the Office of Censorship monitored 6 weeks of Lido Belli's broadcasts, and in reporting uncovered no evidences of censorship violations. This report was supplemented by the monitor's comment that Mr. Belli did the best job of selling bonds and making United Service Organizations appeals of all the Italian commentators to whom she had listened.

In conclusion it was our judgment that very strong positive evidence was necessary to substantiate the indefinite charges mentioned in the Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service analysis.

2. Dr. Nicola Brunori, a New York physician, at the request of Lido Belli, was given a period of time on the WBNX morning Italian program in which to discuss the subject, Nutrition and the War. The proposed subject matter was definitely outlined in a letter written to Mr. Belli by Dr. Brunori before the

series of programs opened. After the series had run for a period of weeks, Mr. Belli began taking issue with Dr. Brunori with regard to:

A. That he, Brunori, was running over his allotted time in making his broadcast; and,

B. That he, Brunori, was discussing political subjects in a program which was supposedly devoted to nutrition.

On a subsequent date Mr. Belli canceled Dr. Brunori's program for these two reasons, according to his testimony, as well as that of Brunori himself. It was some time after this that Dr. Brunori reported in a statement to the Office of War Information that Mr. Belli had impeded his, Brunori's, efforts to broadcast "prodemocratic material."

The CHAIRMAN. He was broadcasting on gratis time, wasn't he?

Mr. GAREY. He certainly was, Mr. Chairman; time that this witness was paying for. [Resuming reading:]

Dr. Brunori swore to the truth of his statements in an affidavit obtained in October 1942.

That was the affidavit that was transmitted by Giuseppe Lupis to Washington. [Resuming reading:]

In our investigation of the Brunori statement we learn that Dr. Nicola Brunori had, in fact, departed from his original plan to discuss nutritional subjects; and had, in fact, broadcast material of a purely political nature. Further, we discovered that Dr. Nicola Brunori was prisoner No. 63572, received at Sing Sing Prison, July 7, 1913, from New York City Court of General Sessions, with a sentence of 3 years 6 months to 6 years 6 months for attempted extortion. We felt this fact weighed heavily against the value of Dr. Brunori's testimony.

3. At one time a Mr. Garofalis was employed on the Italian program conducted by Lido Belli to make news broadcasts under the sponsorship of the De Nobili Cigar Co. Mr. Garofalis, at the time he joined the WBNX staff, was to use on his news program only those dispatches which came to the station over the leased wires of International News Service. It was discovered after he had broadcast for a short time that Mr. Garofalis disobeyed these instructions, getting part of his material from United Press and Associated Press dispatches appearing in New York newspapers. He was discharged by Mr. Belli at the request of Mr. Alcorn. Subsequent to this, in letters and in conversation, Mr. Garofalis made charges that Lido Belli was a Fascist.

Our investigation has shown that Mr. Garofalis is known to have been caught in smuggling activities in Italy during the Ethiopian war, and is believed to have fled that country.

The De Nobili Cigar Co., which made representations in behalf of Mr. Garofalis at the time of his difficulty with WBNX, is owned by Mark E. De Nobili, who, it might be mentioned in passing, was convicted 2 days ago of income-tax evasion.

We felt that the charges made by Mr. Garofalis, and supported by Mr. De Nobili, were somewhat open to question.

4. It has been said that the Mazzini Society, with offices at 1775 Broadway, New York City, has made the charge that Lido Belli is a Fascist. Our investigation shows that this is an international Italian society made up, for a great part, of refugees from Italy and extremely anti-Fascist politically. Informants with whom our investigator talked, however, regarded the organization poorly, and felt that it included, to a certain extent, people of a questionable character, many of whom quite high handed in their activities, especially since Pearl Harbor.

That is an interesting finding, Mr. Chairman, in view of the various references that have been made in these hearings to the Mazzini Society. [Resuming reading:]

It has been said that the certain members of the Mazzini Society consider Lido Belli a Fascist. We have obtained evidence that the Mazzini Society has been trying to have the subject become a member of their organization for the last 2 years, and that the subject has steadfastly refused to do so; not for

political reasons but for purely personal reasons. If this is true, and all the information at our hands supports it, there appears a possibility that the charges made against the subject by the Mazzini Society might be inspired by these failures to initiate him as a member.

The above recital includes the most significant charges made against Lido Belli, and in each case it is our opinion that the counterevidence offsets any strength the indictment might have. Dates and specific data regarding these subjects can be found in our files or in the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

On October 29 we invited to the Office of Censorship, Mr. Allen Cranston, and Mr. Lee Falk of the Office of War Information, upon whose specific recommendations the conditions of parole in question were enforced by the Enemy Alien Control Unit. Present also were Mr. Truman, mentioned above Mr. Spingarn of the Federal Communications Commission, Mr. Bronson, and Mr. Richards. At that time we told Mr. Cranston that our information to date did not support the charge made against Lido Belli, and that we would need additional evidence were we to consider any other course in recommending release of parole conditions. Mr. Cranston said that he could obtain and would obtain affidavits from leading Italo-Americans in New York supporting the charges of fascism against Lido Belli, and Mr. Spingarn of the Federal Communications Commission said that his office would undertake an immediate supplemental investigation. Mr. Spingarn called 2 days later to say that this investigation would take at least 3 weeks and possibly longer, and we felt that this was too long to delay a matter which should be cleared up.

For that reason we retained a private agency to undertake the investigation immediately. This report is now in our hands and available for examination. We have not received the affidavits mentioned by Mr. Cranston, and presume he will forward these directly to the Enemy Alien Control Unit when he obtains them.

Subsequent to our review of all information and our additional efforts in monitoring Lido Belli broadcasts, and investigating his background, we had a meeting with the subject in New York City on November 10 at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. Present also were Mr. Alcorn, manager of WBNX, and the parolee's sponsor, Mr. Edward Fenton of Edward Fenton and Associates of the Chrysler Building in New York. (Mr. Fenton is a friend of Belli, a husband of Marie Gambarelli, the Metropolitan singer, and has made frequent representations in Belli's behalf. He places business on Belli's program for the Gambarelli Wine Co.)

At this meeting we read to Mr. Belli the specific charges that were made against him and he denied them categorically. He has been classified 1-A and his draft board in New York, we are informed by Mr. Alcorn and Mr. Fenton, is awaiting disposition of his case insofar as his parole is concerned before taking any action. Mr. Fenton said Mr. Belli would seek a 60-day deferment in order to wind up his business affairs in view of the fact that he has not been able to conduct his business during the last 2 months, in the event he is made available to the draft.

In summary, it is our conclusion that the case against Lido Belli is not supported by sufficient evidence to warrant the extreme conditions of his parole. We feel that failing the presentation of new evidence, these conditions should be canceled at the earliest possible moment.

And that is signed by J. H. Ryan, Assistant Director of Censorship.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Garey, how do you explain the difference in attitudes as between the Office of Censorship and the O. W. I. and the F. C. C. as regards these people who are broadcasting over these various foreign language broadcasting stations in the city of New York?

Mr. GAREY. The Office of Censorship was properly discharging its duties, with a fair regard for the manner in which an office of Government should be conducted and the powers of Government exercised, and they were acting within the scope of the authority conferred on them by law. The Office of War Information and the Federal Communications Commission were not. They were engaged in unlawful activities in the execution and pursuit of a common conspiracy. There as a little group in each of those agencies who desired to engage in

private warfare against people who, without any evidence, their suspicions were turned against, and they wanted to destroy them. They were unlawfully using the powers of Government conferred upon them.

The CHAIRMAN. I have thus far found in the testimony no differences of opinion as between the agents of these two agencies of the Government when a poor fellow was marked for slaughter.

Mr. GAREY. On December 1, 1942, Seymour Krieger, who was chief of the field section of the War Problems Division, received a report from Alan M. Fenner, field attorney of the F. C. C. in New York City, in which, among other things, Mr. Fenner wrote Washington:—

At 2 o'clock, Mr. Manfred, radio announcer on WBNX, was at my office, and he continued telling me about the personnel on WBNX, which he had started Friday last.

Manfredi was one of the informers of the Commission as to whom I had difficulty getting information from Mr. Guest, who didn't like the fact I characterized Mr. Manfredi's relation to the Commission as that of an informer.

The committee will bear in mind that what is being put in the record this morning consists of documents from the files of the Federal Communications Commission.

The next is a memorandum dated December 16, 1942, from Alan M. Fenner, field attorney for the F. C. C., New York City, to Marcus Cohn, Chief, Field Section, War Problems Division, on the subject "Lido Belli Parole Violation." That report reads:

In accordance with the request made by Mr. Spingarn, over the telephone, that we try to obtain counteracting evidence on Lido Belli's proposed parole lifting, I am enclosing notes on the interview I arranged with Mr. James Crapanzano. He is the gentleman I have referred to in previous letters as having reported that he had transactions with Lido Belli concerning radio announcements in the fall of 1942.

In that same file we find Notes on Interview with Dexter Halle, announcer and producer on Station WBNX, held December 17, 1942, from 2 to 5 p. m."

And note who were present: "Dexter Halle, Mr. Lupis (Il Mondo), Dr. Brunori (formerly had program on WBNX), Charles Hubert, Alan M. Fenner."

The last two, of course, are attorneys for the Federal Communications Commission; but present at the time these two Government agents were examining Mr. Dexter Halle were Mr. Lupis and Dr. Brunori.

The subject is "Re: Personnel on Station WBNX." The report proceeds in these words:

Mr. Halle is an announcer and producer on Station WBNX, on a salary basis, employed there for the past 7 years.

He states that Lido Belli has been at the station for the last 7 years. Prior to Belli's present monopoly of the Italian hour, he was announcer for Ben J. Davella, who had a pharmacy in Newark, N. J. Through Belli's maneuvering, Davella's contract with the station was abrogated on the ground that Davella's salesmen were undersealing the station, contrary to their contract. Since Davella has been out, Belli has had a monopoly of the Italian hour.

Belli has a yearly contract with the station. The contractual terms are on a page headed "Remarks." He has a signed contract for so many hours and is allowed to sell to anyone so long as he does not sell time lower than the station rate. Belli can put anyone on without asking the station. Up to 1939, no record was kept by Belli of his sponsors, only participating sponsors' log was kept.

Thereafter, the management issued a letter requesting the listing of sponsors. This occurred after an inspector (r. i.) came around.

Only Belli's and the announcer's name appeared on the logs. No one could tell from the log who the sponsors were.

Fingerprinting of the personnel of the radio station commenced in the early part of 1942. Prior to that, no investigation or questioning was done of the personnel. Station WBNX is on the third floor and Belli has his present offices on the fourth floor where he moved about 3 years ago. Prior to that time he had desk space in the studio, where he did his own announcing.

Complaints: All mail is opened by Alcorn (Alcorn has correspondence file of the complaints) and any card with reference to complaints on the Italian hour was turned over to Belli, who tore them up. No complaints went to the production manager, Ervin, unless they were so addressed. Halle does all the work for the production manager, Ervin, and the program manager.

Last year was the best that Belli had.

Since August 27, 1942, when Belli's parole went into effect, Belli has come two or three times at least each week to the studio to confer with Mr. Alcorn and Mr. Moore in Mr. Alcorn's room in the studio. (See John Biscardi, office boy for Belli. Lupis will bring him down.)

This sinister figure appears all through the investigation your staff has been making, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Garey, will you be able to reach, before the day is over, the witness who is engaged to censor the Biblical story of the birth and life of the Prince of Peace before it can be told over the radio to the children of America?

Mr. GAREY. No, Mr. Chairman; we will not be able to reach him, although he will make his appearance in the testimony of today.

On December 10, 1942, we find in the files of the Commission a daily report from Alan M. Fenner, field attorney in New York, to Marcus Cohn, Chief of the War Problems Division, and the portion of it which is of interest to this particular phase of our investigation I will read into this record:

Cupelli—

Cupelli is the assistant editor of *Il Mondo*, owned by Giuseppe Lupis. [Resuming reading:]

Cupelli has left with me also the June, August, and November issues of *Il Mondo*. In the August 1942 issue, on page 9, there appears the following:

"* * * The record of the Italian Barbers' Benevolent Society during the decade 1930-40 shows the following: * * *

3. Sponsored and attended the Fascist rally at Madison Square Garden called by Consul General Gaetano Vecchiotti to celebrate the conquest of Ethiopia, on June 13, 1936; its social events in 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, were marked by the singing of Fascist songs and by the presence of the Fascist consular authorities in New York and of high ranking Fascist propagandists as Genoroso Pope, Domenico Trombetta, Pietro Pupino Carbonelli, Giuseppe Pressolini, Lido Belli of Station WBNX, etc."

The name Lido Belli is underscored, and the report shows "underscoring mine." [Resuming reading:]

Also states that a Fascist rally of November 23, 1929, "attended by an imposing array of ringleaders, such as Consul General Vecchiotti, Genoroso Pope * * * Lido Belli, of WBNX, Fascist time broker."

There, again, Lido Belli is underscored, with the explanation "underscoring mine." [Resuming reading:]

Cupelli also brought the *Fifth Column Is Here*, a booklet written by George Britt, published by Wilfred Funk, Inc., in 1940, which deals with the various fascistic organizations formed after the banning of the Fascistic League of North America. The pertinent material is on pages 68 to 75. On page 72 there is some reference to radio and the source quoted is *Il Mondo*. It may not be

inadvisable for the foreign-language section to turn to those pages for background and direct material. It is on the same lines as the survey, consisting of 25 pages, on the Fascist fifth column in New York, made by Mr. Cupelli, copy of which is now in the foreign-language file in Washington. The original was brought by Mr. David recently from this office to Washington for typing, and copies were made for the files.

Mr. Cupelli has been very helpful to the New York office and drops in occasionally to call my attention to various factors in the Italian field. He is, in my opinion, the one person who knows more about anti-Fascist activities in the Italian field than anyone else that I have run across so far. It is regrettable that he has been ousted as station monitor from WOV. A reading of his memoranda to the station manager perhaps shows the reason why. The sales manager at that station, a Mr. Nardella, as I have stated in one of my earlier reports, is retrenching himself at the station since Mr. Hutton, the manager, has left, and Nardella is bringing back some of the old crowd.

The question of hiring or having Mr. Cupelli to do some research work for the Commission on a part-time basis should be seriously considered by the Washington office.

And you will recall that it was denied under oath from the witness stand in these hearings that the employment of Giuseppe Lupis to do work the Commission was to compensate him for services which he rendered as an informer. You will recall that the testimony shows that a contract was made to employ Mr. Lupis, and that the person who rendered the service for which he was employed was Mr. Cupelli. Here you have the evidence as to the reason and purpose for which Lupis was hired as a translator. [Resuming reading:]

Regarding WBNX, it seems that some of the bad actors, such as George Brunner and Else Troja, are endeavoring to get back on the station. As a matter of fact, Arthur Manfred, German announcer on United Diathermy's program over WBNX, phoned me just now to advise me that Else Troja will be on again within a week. She has had in the past strong pro-Nazi associates and has been tied up with Brunner, Octtgen, and Foerster. The interview that I had with Mr. Manfred 2 days ago, notes on which you will receive in a day or two, will show some of her background and affiliations.

I am advised by Mr. Conrad Woelfel, of the German-American Congress for Democracy (see memorandum enclosed) that Brunner has been to see him to request help in regaining his former position at WBNX. Brunner has also gone to Mr. Goldstein, now publicity manager of WMCA, formerly publicity manager of WBNX, to obtain his intercession for reinstatement on WBNX. It should be borne in mind that Brunner was removed from the station on June 27, 1939. We do not know how many other persons he may have tried to have you and intercede for him.

Concerning Homer Chaillaux—

By the way, he is head of the American Legion committee formed to fight communism—

Concerning Homer Chaillaux, I had a telephone call yesterday from Miss Waring of the Nonsectarian Anti-Nazi League who said that volume I of the Dies committee hearings, dated August 12-18, 1938, contains for August 17, testimony of Mr. Chaillaux before the Dies committee. The testimony gives a list of organizations with which he is or was connected. I presume you are already aware of this source.

There is a strange community of interest that constantly runs between the different names that occur with consistent frequency in all these matters, Mr. Chairman. Whether the Anti-Nazi League or the Anti-Defamation League or Short Wave Research or Nathan David or Marcus Cohn, you will find the same thing running all the way through.

One thing worthy of comment, in the learned analysis of the broadcasts on Station WBNX made by F. B. I. S., one of the programs characterized as being pro-Nazi in that analysis was the program of this informer Manfred.

The next matter I want to direct your attention to, Mr. Chairman, is a memorandum dated December 23, 1942. You will recall there is in evidence here a copy of a contract made on December 23, 1942, between Miss Frances Keene, of New York, and the Federal Communications Commission.

That contract, as I have said, is dated December 23, 1942. In the files of the Commission we find that, in violation of law, Miss Keene actually went to work on December 21, 1942, and was paid for services and expenses from that date, 2 days before the contract was signed.

Before I read certain memoranda connected with Miss Keene's activities in connection with her contract, it might be well to read into the record briefly some of the things she claimed she did.

In the files of the Commission appear certain vouchers for per diem and for reimbursement of expenses incident to official travel.

One voucher shows that on December 21, 1942, Miss Keene was on duty in Washington reviewing files and consultation.

On December 22, 1942, she was engaged in doing the same work.

Now, we might turn to what she was doing, so that the committee will know, because we find that she was very busy.

On December 23, 1942, she made two memoranda to Mrs. Shea. The first one is dated December 23, 1942, the date of her contract. It is to Mrs. Shea from Frances Keene; subject, Personal Usefulness in Legal Division. And this is the way it reads:

After reading over your files for the past 2 or 3 days, I find that the various stations broadcasting in the Italian language are, according to my criteria, well represented, and the initial discussion of their tendencies and personnel seems much fuller than our conversations (yours and mine) had led me to expect. All I can add, as you know, is comments both of a generic and a specific character derived from the personnel of the various stations, and the free-lance radio "artists" working in the Italian-language field. A full statement as to my general utility to this section would consist, then, largely in an enumeration of the Italians with whom I have either professional or personal contacts. As I have indicated to you in the past, I am on "speaking terms" with nearly every Italian station-staff employee at WOV, WHOM, and WEVD. The station at WBNX is different, as we are both aware. There, the only person with whom I am acquainted, aside from artists hired on a free-lance basis and in no way responsible for the policy of the station, is Lido Belli himself. Mr. Belli first came to me shortly after his release from custody at Ellis Island. He asked that I examine the documents he had brought with him; "proofs" of his undoubted prodemocratic views. These consisted in letters of commendation from various New York political figures, including Edward Corsi and Poletti commending him for his success in a scrap collection drive, his participation in the advertisement and sale of War bonds, his cooperation in raising money for the Red Cross. All this your office is acquainted with. From Belli himself I may be able to obtain some further light as I intend to see him tomorrow in New York and, if possible, to draw him out. I am attaching to this a more specific review of the Belli files.

That is signed Frances Keene.

Memorandum No. 2 is likewise dated December 23, 1942. It is to Mrs. Shea from Frances Keene; subject, Lido Belli Case. It reads:

The following material will be sent to me in your office or direct to you:

1. Duccio Tabet's unsigned memorandum (prepared for PM) on the present nature of Fascist radio activity. This is the material we discussed (yourself, Mr. Neuner, and I) on December 22 and decided it would be a good source for section II in your outline.

2. Sworn statement from Paolo Milano to the fact that Lido Belli, as head of the Italian radio for WBNX, was unwilling in December of last year and even

later to cooperate in giving public-service time to prodemocratic programs (Mazzini Society and others).

By the way, all these "prodemocratic programs" wanted free time. This man was to buy time and give it to them. [Resuming reading:]

Only after Mr. Lee Falk, now of the Office of War Information, personally intervened, would WBNX agree to use the same type of material from the same source.

You see, Mr. Chairman, the common scheme all the way through. It doesn't make any difference what station you are discussing or what person, you find the same scheme. [Resuming reading:]

3. Material, if any, from *Il Progresso* on Belli's collection of money and rings for the Ethiopian campaign. Quotation from the same paper as to Belli's presence at the meeting of the Italian Benevolent Barbers Society, mentioned on page 3 of the second section of Mr. Neuner's memorandum.

4. Additional material from *Salvemini* (or his assistant, Tagliacozzo) on Lido Belli's past broadcasts in Boston and in New York.

5. Statement on the nature of Dr. Brunori's conviction, to be sent from Pavia, lawyer for the Mazzini Society.

6. Copies of Mr. Tarchiani's statement for the Office of Censorship, about Lido Belli's relations with the Mazzini Society.

You have now from Mr. Neuner biographical notes on Trombetta, Prezzolini, Ansaldo, di Giura, and in the files some material on Manfredi, Garofalo, and Oettingen. Unfortunately, Mr. Neuner learned from his research this morning that Dr. Ansaldo would make a poor witness in the case as he himself has been an avowed Fascist in the past.

Working from the original memorandum we discussed yesterday and from this additional material (provided it is all forthcoming, and I shall continue tomorrow in New York to check up on its speedy transmission to you), it would be useful to stress the context of Fascist activities which is implicit in Lido Belli's presence on the air. Personalities are easily established in radio, and Belli has had about 10 years of active broadcasting as well as his more recent work as a time broker. All Italian listeners recognize his programs in the New York area and his radio bias is familiar to them. "The radio is the most effective of all forms of propaganda (with the Italians) since, besides hammering Fascist misinformation into the heads of housewives all day long, it also reaches those who do not know how to read." (*Salvemini* booklet, p. 9). It is, therefore, vital that marked nondemocratic (i. e., "neutrals") personalities as well as openly antidemocratic (admitted Fascists) be kept from influencing public morale in wartime. I believe the strongest thing that can be said against Belli is that no activity of his since Pearl Harbor can possibly expugn the impression his previous years of relentless Fascist interpretation of the news will have left in the minds of his listeners.

NOTE—I hope that if the material listed above is not forthcoming as rapidly as you wish, you will reach me at Shortwave Research and tell me what is missing. I am keeping a copy of this list to facilitate your acknowledging the material by number when it arrives.

That is signed Frances Keene.

On January 17, 1943, Mr. Guest wrote to Marcus Cohn in Washington on the subject of Lido Belli, and this is what he said:

There are enclosed some additional loose ends bearing on the Lido Belli report. And they were aptly described. They are certainly "loose ends." [Resuming reading:]

(1) A report made by Rocco D. Mandaci to Frances Keene, pursuant to her request that he conduct a "Gallup poll" among the Italian-speaking community. The report is not particularly significant and does not appear to be very exhaustive. Miss Keene had prepared a set of questions to ask persons being interviewed, but the attached report does not indicate that Mandaci was able to get very far.

(2) Correspondence from the files of WBNX, indicating to a certain extent, at least, lack of station control over the Italian hour.

(3) Amended notes on interview with Alcorn, Ervin, Moore, and Johnson at WBNX.

At the time the Belli report was forwarded to you, we sent only one copy of the original notes of the interview. The attached notes have been revised and they have been put in order, according to subject matter discussed.

Four copies of all the foregoing are enclosed.

That is signed "J. Alfred Guest."

We might adjourn here for lunch, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. All right. We will recess for 1 hour.

(Thereupon, at 1 p. m., a recess was taken until 2 p. m.)

AFTERNOON SESSION

The CHAIRMAN. Are you ready, Mr. Garey?

Mr. GAREY. Yes.

Mr. Belli, will you take the stand?

TESTIMONY OF LIDO BELLI (RIZIERI RELI)—Resumed

Mr. GAREY. Mr. Chairman, in the files of the Federal Communications Commission appears a memorandum from Alan M. Fenner, field attorney, New York City, to Marcus Cohn, Chief, Field Section, War Problems Division. The subject is Daily Report. I read this portion of that report into the record:

I confirm the telephone conversation had with Spingarn on Friday last, wherein he advised me that the Justice Department had requested our Commission's views on the lifting of the parole in the Belli matter. On his suggestion we are concentrating especially on Belli at this moment and any information that we are able to gather we will forward immediately to you. An appointment has been made with Dr. Ansaldi to see Mr. Crapanzano who, it is alleged, transacted business with Mr. Belli's office, in violation of the parole. This appointment is for Wednesday, 5 p. m. In the meantime we are checking thoroughly on all data in the United States Attorney General's Office, southern district, and at Ellis Island on the Belli matter. On this, you will be advised in a day or two.

I am herewith enclosing interview with Mr. Arthur Manfred on the German personnel of Station WBNX. I realize more than you the gossipy nature of the report and the further fact that it does not contain much direct evidence. I am passing it on to you for what it is worth.

Opposite that paragraph which deals with transmitting to Cohn the Arthur Manfred interview appears in pencil the notation, "Sent to Shea—12/17/42."

And then we find in the files dated December 30, 1942, from Mr. Guest to Mr. Cohn: subject, Foreign Language Broadcast Station WBNX:

Pursuant to telephone conversation I had with Mr. David and Mrs. Shea on Wednesday, December 24, 1942, at 3 o'clock, our investigation of personnel and operations of WBNX has been temporarily suspended pending completion of the suggested interview with Lido Belli at his office, 260 East One Hundred and Sixty-first Street, Bronx, N. Y.

An interview was conducted and is pending, on December 28, 29, and 30, Mrs. Pressler being present on the 28th and 29th to record the entire proceedings. Although it was suggested that we proceed to Mr. Belli's office on the afternoon of December 24, for reasons of strategy the interview was postponed until Monday, December 28, pending a proposed interview over the week end with John Biscardi, Belli's office boy. We were not able to arrange a meeting with the boy until last night, December 29, and although full report will follow on this interview, suffice to say that no information was elicited tending to refute Belli's explanation on the specific points which we outlined: (1) Belli's presence at the Commodore on November 23, 1939, as master of ceremonies at the function of the Italian Benevolent Barbers' Society; (2) Belli's attitude, neutral

or otherwise, on the air; (3) his employment of Herbert Oettgen on the wine program of Gambarelli & Davitto; (4) the alleged campaign for the collection of gold wedding rings during 1936; (5)—

By the way, Mr. Belli, did you ever engage in a campaign for the collection of gold wedding rings during 1936?

Mr. BELLI. Never.

Mr. GAREY. Or at any other time?

Mr. BELLI. Never.

Mr. GAREY (resuming reading):

(5) letter of clearance from the Office of Censorship; (6) the alleged employment by Belli of Garafalo.

As of this date, the notes on the interview with Belli have not been transcribed, but Mr. Fenner and Mr. Hubert state that Mr. Belli categorically denied each of the specific points taken up with him, and it was obvious that Mr. Belli had been prepared and well coached on these exact points concerning which he was specifically interrogated. For example, Mr. Belli denies ever having been present at the aforementioned function of the Italian Benevolent Barbers' Society, or of having ever received a certificate of merit from the Italian Consul General Vecchiotti—

By the way, Mr. Belli, how do you now pronounce that name?

Mr. BELLI. Vech-e-otti.

Mr. GAREY. Vecchiotti?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY (resuming reading):

this notwithstanding the article contained in *La Perola*, December 19, 1942, issue, specifically stating:

"As to the Fascist role of Lido Belli there cannot be the slightest doubt. He has acted as master of ceremonies at the Star Night of the Italian Benevolent Barbers' Society, which took place on the evening of November 23, 1939, at the Commodore Hotel in New York, attended by high Fascist dignitaries such as Consul General Gaetana Vecchiotti; Domenico Trombetta and Capt. Pietro Garofalo, both of whom are now interned; Prof. Giuseppe Prezzolini of Casa Italiana at Columbia University; and many others. Consul General Vecchiotti and publisher Generoso Pope were greeted with the Fascist anthem, *Giovinezza*, according to *Il Progresso Italo-Americano* of November 24, 1939."

And we find that the mere fact that *La Parola* publishes an article is sufficient to have that regarded as truthful and the statement of the witness ignored.

Now that you are under oath, Mr. Belli, let me ask you: Did you attend a meeting of the Italian Benevolent Barbers' Society held at the Commodore Hotel in New York on November 23, 1939?

Mr. BELLI. No.

Mr. GAREY. Did you act as master of ceremonies at that affair?

Mr. BELLI. No; I didn't attend at all.

Mr. GAREY. You weren't there in a private capacity?

Mr. BELLI. No.

Mr. GAREY. Or in an official capacity?

Mr. BELLI. No.

Mr. GAREY (resuming reading):

The issue of *Il Progresso*, dated November 24, 1939, the date following the barbers' function, listed the honored guests and those present. Among the names listed was that of Lido Belli.

And that is what the Federal Communications Commission calls getting evidence, Mr. Chairman. [Resuming reading:]

In view of the denial of his presence, we got in touch with Mr. Amarouso, a reporter for *Il Progresso*, who, we were informed, usually reported all large social

functions. Mr. Aronow saw Amarouso last night in order to get a statement from him as to whether or not Lido Belli was present and also to examine the copy of *Il Progresso* referring to the names of the persons present. Immediately preceding the name of Lido Belli in the article was the name of Amarouso, and Mr. Amarouso himself denied that he had been present at the function. He explained that since one of the primary objectives of the publications was to promote circulation, it was good business to list as many names as possible of persons invited, and he stated it was customary to secure in advance from the society the names of all persons who had been invited and that the mere appearance of those names in the paper after the day of the event did not necessarily indicate that all persons listed were present. He cited his own instance as an example and insisted again that he, although listed, did not attend the function.

Feeling the necessity—

And note those words, Mr. Chairman—

Feeling the necessity for finding even a single person who was present at the function and who would state whether or not he saw Belli, we proceeded to arrange an appointment with Professor Prezzolini, former director of Casa Italiana, who, it was stated in *La Perola*, had also been present. Realizing the delicate nature of an interview with Prezzolini, we simply quizzed him on the particular meeting in question, and he denied any knowledge of the specific meeting. He stated that at any of the functions of the barbers' society which he may have attended, he never stayed longer than 15 minutes. He also stated that the listing of his presence or of others in a publication by no means indicated that such persons had attended the meeting, and gave the same explanation as Mr. Amarouso. Professor Prezzolini is obviously a well-educated and able gentleman, but I am inclined to believe that he has a conveniently short memory. At the present time he is still teaching at Columbia in the Italian department where, I understand, he is struggling along with one or two graduate students and a few candidates for Ph. D.'s.

We still have a few contacts with persons associated with the barbers' society, and we intend to exhaust them until we have found someone who was present at the meeting in question.

This report is written to keep you informed of our investigation of Lido Belli and, as previously indicated, a full report will go forward at the end of the week. Although convinced that Mr. Belli was not actually present at this meeting they were still under the necessity of getting something in the record to that effect.

Mr. GAREY. They were going to put him at that meeting if they could find anybody who would say he was; whether he was there or not doesn't make any difference. What they were looking for was someone who would say he was there.

Now, here is another memorandum that I want to direct to the committee's attention. It is dated December 29, 1942, and it is addressed to Miss Keene. It is signed by Tabet, Duccio Tabet, the censor at Station WOV, of whom the committee will learn more this week.

He writes Miss Keene in this manner:

DEAR MISS KEENE: Here are the facts:

1. November 24, 1939: Lido Belli was "ospite d'onore" at the great dance of the *Associazione Italiana Barbieri*. Others "ospiti d'onore" were the Fascist consul and Gene Pope.

"Ospiti d'onore," I take it, means guests of honor, does it not?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY (resuming reading):

2. December 7, 1939: Lido Belli was "ospite d'onore" at the *Mostra del Prodotto Artigiano Italiano* held at the *Circolo Morgantini* under the "alto patronato" of the Fascist consul and Gene Pope on behalf of "Opere Assistenziali" and *Circolo Morgantini School*.

It is quite obvious, as authority for this statement this man is making, he says:

(Progresso Italo-Americano, November 24 and December 7, 1939.)

Then we come to an interesting document. It is dated December 24, 1942. It is a report from Hilda Shea to Nathan David on the subject of Lido Belli.

Because it is quite long, and our time is short, Mr. Chairman, I would like to have the record show that this report was read into the record.

The CHAIRMAN. All right.

(The report above referred to, with words and figures is as follows, to wit:)

PERSONAL HISTORY

Belli was born on May 23, 1904, in Italy; has a son still living there; and before coming to this country, worked as a waiter on Italian ships in the transatlantic service. In 1926 he jumped ship in Baltimore, Md.,¹ and became a common laborer, a steam shovel fireman and driller. His career in radio began in 1931. He then became an announcer and radio producer and manager of Italian radio programs over Station WBNX; thereafter he developed the brokerage end of the business and has for some time controlled in this way the entire Italian language program of Station WBNX.

BELLI'S PRE-PEARL HARBOR REPUTATION AND ACTIVITIES

Personal and social relations.

There is considerable evidence that Belli's personal sympathies were openly allied with Fascist Italy before Pearl Harbor. Our investigators have been informed that he forwarded most of his money to Italy during this period, and that his wife made yearly visits to Italy prior to December 1941. Our reports also show that as late as February 1939 Belli was in touch with officers of the Italian line, picking them up at the piers, fraternizing with them socially, and engaging in laudatory conversations on Mussolini.

Business associations.

During this period Belli's business associations indicated a similar Fascist bias. For 4 years (1937 to June or July 1941) Belli employed as an announcer on his WBNX radio program Pietro Garafalo, manager of an Italian propaganda film agency, which was subsidized by Rome and, therefore, had to register with the Secretary of State as an agency of a foreign government, and executive secretary of an organization called the committee of 1,000, characterized by Federal Bureau of Investigation sources as a group "anti-American in spirit and preaching fascism." According to the statement of A. W. Alcorn, station manager of WBNX and present sponsor of Belli on parole, and communications in the New York Field Division files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Garafalo, while broadcasting on time purchased by Belli, sent over questionable propaganda and improper and unauthorized news items which the station did not approve of and which the station did not have broadcasting rights for. Belli and Garafalo were on excellent terms, Belli objecting to criticisms of Garafalo and praising him (in 1939) to another member of his program as the greatest gentleman I know, punctual and intelligent. Garafalo was eliminated from Belli's program in 1941, apparently only at the request of Alcorn. Garafalo was interned by order of the Attorney General in April 1942. Similarly, according to bank stub obtained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Belli maintained business connections with the notorious Nazi, H. F. Oettgen, employing him as an agent to advertise on the air a product over which Belli had exclusive advertising rights. Oettgen was later forced off the air by the attacks of Dorothy Thompson and Walter Winchell, and was interned in October 1942.

Another association of Belli's on the WENX Italian hour is Antonio Lamberti (also known as Maurice Moretti). Liberal Italian sources state that

¹ Belli reentered the United States legally in 1939 and took out his first citizenship papers.

Lamberti has definite Fascist tendencies; is the son-in-law of Falbo, an active agent of Fascist propaganda; and that when expression of open pro-Axis attitudes on the radio became dangerous, told a friend, "Well, now I have to pour a different line, but I will try with my voice to make the public understand what I feel."

Political activities and connections.

Our files contain statements that during the Italian-Ethiopian campaign, Belli was instrumental in collecting large sums of money which were sent to Italy and that he conducted a campaign for the collection of wedding rings among the Italo-American colony, again for transfer to Italy. Belli's public identification with the Fascist elements in the Italo-American political community is also indicated by his prominent position as master of ceremonies at a large function held by the Italian Barbers Benevolent Society at the Commodore Hotel in New York City in November 1939, which was attended by such high Fascist dignitaries as Consul General Gaetano Vicchiotti, Prof. Giuseppe Prezzolini of the Casa Italiana at Columbia University, Pietro Garofalo (*supra*), and Domenico Trombetta, publisher of an anti-Semitic newspaper, and self-styled "sincere and timeless supporter of fascism."

Broadcasts.

On the basis of a study of Belli's broadcasts, Dr. Gaetano Salvemini of Harvard University, states that Belli was a Fascist propagandist during these years. Other sources (Mazzini Society, etc.) assert Belli at this time followed the Rome party line. Articles published in the Italian anti-Fascist press charge that Belli's broadcasts in June and August 1940 gave exclusively news originating from Berlin and Rome; that he stressed the news only from the Fascist angle as only British defeats; and that for the last 10 years, time broker Belli has been instrumental in singing the glories of fascism and Mussolini. One of the announcers on Belli's time reports that in September 1940 Belli urged him not to be "so American * * * leave Hitler in peace, otherwise you will lose the patronage of your program. * * * leave the tyrants alone. Remember that Hitler is a comrade of Mussolini. When you speak ill of Mussolini you offend us Italians. If you talk of politics you will lose your hearers."

Independent surveys of broadcasts on time controlled by Belli made by the Commission's expert propaganda analysts, conclude in this connection that the evidence presented indicates at most a lukewarm support of the policy of the United States and a passive attitude toward the fortunes of the United States prior to Pearl Harbor.

BELLI'S POST-PEARL HARBOR RECORD

Broadcasts.

The Foreign Broadcast Monitoring Service of the Federal Communications Commission, after an examination of 17 news programs broadcast under the direction of Belli, in March and April 1942, arrived at the following conclusions:

It is apparent from this analysis that the newscasts of WBNX leave a great deal to be desired. Generally, they are subtly pro-Axis or passive in character. The pro-Axis slant is effected chiefly by the insertion of items or phrases of questionable import, by the failure to exercise caution in handling news from Axis sources, and by the selection and arrangement of topics. The strongest pro-Axis aspect of the programs is a consistent anti-British line, dangerous because it reinforces existing attitudes among the Italian-Americans which are hostile to our ally.

War bond appeals, moreover, are brief, infrequent, and uninspired. Omissions of significant events are not numerous, but these are largely unfavorable to the Axis or to suspected elements in the United States. Particularly significant is the fact that the station has not shown the improvement in handling news material which might have been expected to follow American entrance into the war.

A few significant omissions occur. No mention whatsoever is made of the Postmaster General's cancellation of the mailing privileges of Social Justice. Even in a station serving a largely Catholic audience, this is a significant omission. Of less importance is the failure to mention the statements by Donald Nelson that war production in the United States equals that of the Axis, and the omission of Secretary Stimson's promise of an early Allied offensive. In the foreign field the only significant event not reported is King

George's decoration of the entire population of Malta, which suggests a tendency to minimize Allied strength in Italian theaters of war.

Analysis of the news items indicate "a strong anti-British bias on the part of this transmitter" * * * "the obvious effect of these items is to minimize British effectiveness and to emphasize the strength of the Axis defenses." * * * "An occasional item seems aimed directly to undermine the British-American alliance." * * * "Handling of American military activity in the far eastern theater is generally satisfactory." * * * "In some cases the reports are so garbled as to maximize an Axis claim." * * * "or to minimize United States strength."

While these unfavorable reports on the Far East may not be intrinsically significant, viewed in the context of the audience they seem important. Among Italo-Americans the war with Japan is comparatively popular and a radio transmitter would have no choice but to support that view. If, however, the announcer is hostile or passive toward the United Nations it would be entirely reasonable for him to try, by such means as the items cited, to minimize the effectiveness of United Nations activity in the Far East as well as in the other war theaters.

In treating a few other United Nations items WBXX emphasizes an unfavorable, almost defeatist, tone. Presenting the President's address to the Latin-American diplomats, the broadcast of April 15 says, "The American Nation has learned today that it will take at least 3 years to defeat the Axis." There is no emphasis in the rest of the report on the confident tone of the President's remarks.

In treatment of Axis news sources, the material indicates a strong inclination to accept Axis claims at their face value.

In comparing the percentage of favorable, unfavorable, and neutral news items used on WBXX before and after Pearl Harbor, the analysis reaches this conclusion: "It is reasonable to conclude that the news treatment by WBXX was more neutral during the period of American nonbelligerency than it was four and a half months after Pearl Harbor. The fact that military events during the earlier period were relatively favorable to the Axis gives this conclusion added validity. * * *

"The evidence presented indicates at most a lukewarm support of the foreign policy of the United States and a passive attitude toward the fortunes of the United Nations prior to Pearl Harbor" * * *. The later newscasts seem to represent less a vestigial isolationism than an increasing hostility to the cause of the United States and its allies.

It is, of course, not clear why this trend has developed. Possibly the persons responsible for these programs, if they were sympathetic with the Axis, proceeded cautiously after Pearl Harbor for fear of losing their access to the radio, but as the months passed without steps being taken against them, became increasingly bold in taking a position hostile to the United Nations.

Further evidence of Belli's opposition to the United Nations or "neutrality" on war issues after Pearl Harbor.

The inferences raised by the above analysis is supported by information that Belli, immediately after Pearl Harbor, refused to cooperate with anti-Fascist elements in giving public service time to prodemocratic material, and that he capitulated on this point only when the Office of War Information intervened. Belli's consistent efforts at about this time to avoid taking a positive pro-United Nations on his programs, and to preserve his neutrality are confirmed by several other sources: One of Belli's announcers asserts that Belli, in March 1942 discouraged his aggressive pro-United Nations propaganda on the ground that the "Government is in Washington today, yes; but what do you know of the future? If there should be another form of government, your talks will be used against me." In June 1942 Belli dismissed this performer. His statement is corroborated by the independent declaration of another performer on Belli's time, to a Federal Communications Commission investigator, that Belli repeatedly told him, "not to attack Mussolini, Hitler, or Tojo * * * to ease up on attacking them as tyrants, and to remain quiet on such subjects altogether;" that "the President should not have gone to war and that he had sold out to Churchill;" that the war would end in September (1942) and that Hitler would take Russia; and that he would rather Italy were ruled by Hitler than by Great Britain.

Our files also contain statements that Belli in the summer of 1942 told acquaintances "our war will end quickly * * * now Hitler has taken Russia, and when Russia is taken, why should America continue the war? America

will be left alone [and with a laugh]; will they start killing each other?" that President Roosevelt was a "wretch" who wanted "to rule the world"; and that "that paralytic sold out to England and the bastards of Jews that rule there." Following his release from Ellis Island, Belli is said to have told Lamberti (supra) "look out to do a good job of announcing because those bastards of Jews who already control the radio will be listening" and that "at Ellis Island, those arrested were treated like animals." There is also evidence in our files that Belli and a priest named Reverend Fillitti frequently expressed the opinion at this time that "America should mind her own business; she has lost the war."

Belli's defenses.

Several months after Pearl Harbor, Belli participated in a scrap collection drive and in the advertisement and sale of war bonds, cooperated in raising money for the Red Cross, and permitted the inclusion of public service features in his broadcasts. In support of his neutrality on all political questions, he submitted to the Attorney General a letter written on September 30, 1942, by Ervin, production manager of WBNX, stating that Belli has "steadfastly refused to join any society or organization of either a political or social nature, confining his activities exclusively to his listeners and his family." Along the same line, Belli insists that he has resisted the efforts of the Mazzini Society to induce him to join its ranks.²

CONCLUSIONS

The foregoing summary of Belli's pre-Pearl Harbor activities support the view that Belli before December 1941 in fact had a pro-Fascist reputation and that the reputation ascribed to him was based upon a 10-year history of broadcasts favorable to the Fascist regime and business and social relations with Fascist elements in this country. (See *Italian Fascist Activities in the United States*, pp. 7, 8.) It is notable, moreover, that Belli, while apprised of these charges, has brought forward no evidence that he at any time associated with anti-Fascists or expressed criticisms of the Mussolini regime; on the contrary, he insists he refused to join the Mazzini Society or any other anti-Fascist group. The record so far assembled in our investigation reveals that after Pearl Harbor programs broadcast over Belli's time at first continued a negative attitude toward the United Nations' side for some months, while Belli in private conversations with performers attempted to prevent positive anti-Fascist material from going over the air. It is significant that this so-called neutral position was the typical pattern followed by Fascists embarrassed by the sudden turn of events.

Belli's belated scrap, War bond, Red Cross, etc., drives are insufficient to purge his reputation of pro-Fascist bias, establish his reliability in the difficult and crucial field of foreign-language radio in time of war, and render him useful as a positive factor in the task of building pro-United Nations morale. Belli's broadcasts on WBNX are and have been completely unsupervised; since his programs are in Italian, they are not susceptible of the usual checks by an alert and predominantly loyal public; finally, their propaganda value is peculiarly important because they serve a group who either do not know how to read or who have no access to English newspapers. Under these circumstances, conclusive proof of Belli's questionable character is unnecessary. Upon the evidence above there is obviously reasonable ground for the belief that Belli's strict adherence to the war effort is by no means beyond doubt. It seems clear that the results of the Commission's investigations to date indicate that Belli's record and reputation as at least a half-hearted supporter of the United Nations' cause do not justify his control of a strategic avenue of propaganda to this unstable group in time of war.

In addition, the activities of Lido Belli are receiving the attention of our investigating staff because there is ground to believe that his activities may constitute a violation of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

Section 310 (b) of the Communications Act provides as follows:

"The station license required hereby, the frequencies authorized to be used by the licensee, and the rights therein granted shall not be transferred, assigned, or in any manner either voluntarily or involuntarily disposed of, or indirectly by transfer of control of any corporation holding such licenses, to any person, unless

² Our files contain a sworn statement from the national secretary of the Mazzini Society denying that Belli's membership was solicited and declaring that "Mr. Lido Belli was known as a radio Fascist propagandist and had he ever requested to become a member of the Mazzini Society, his application would certainly have been refused."

the Commission shall, after securing full information, decide that said transfer is in the public interest, and shall give its consent in writing."

This section does not, of course, prevent the sale of time. It does not even prevent the sale of time in bulk, provided the station retains full control and final responsibility over its facilities during the broadcast of such material.

The contract between Station WBNX and Lido Belli specifically reserves such powers to the station with respect to the time which he purchases in bulk. There is considerable doubt, however, whether this contract embodies the full agreement between the parties, and as to whether the practices under it follow the letter of the instrument.

Information which has been received at this Commission indicates that the control exercised by Belli over Italian language programs presented over the facilities of Station WBNX, New York, may be far greater than those exercised by the usual time broker. Belli, according to this information, had exclusive control over all Italian language broadcasts. Sponsors and advertising agents who wish to make broadcasts in the Italian language over Station WBNX were forced to make such purchases through Belli, who could, if he wished, deny them the privilege of purchasing such time. Indeed, there are indications that further investigation will reveal that the licensee of Station WBNX has relinquished to Lido Belli certain rights and responsibilities granted in the license, the transfer of which, without permission, is specifically prohibited by section 310 (b).

Mr. GAREY. There is one observation I do want to make for the purpose of the record, so that you will have it before you as you examine this report.

This report was written after the allegations and facts that are referred to herein were refuted by the Office of Censorship. They are repeated anew.

And then, an amazing conclusion is reached. It appears from the document and the testimony of this witness that he bought time from Station WBNX, and as the owner of the time, he let the time that he had leased out to such parties as he desired.

Mrs. Shea reaches this astonishing result. It is contained in the latter part of her report.

The CHAIRMAN. That report made December 24 was made following the report to Miss Keene dated the 23d?

Mr. GAREY. Yes; that is right. [Reading:]

In addition, the activities of Lido Belli are receiving the attention of our investigating staff because there is ground to believe that his activities may constitute a violation of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

This is good, listen to it. [Reading:]

Section 310 (b) of the Communications Act provides as follows:

"The station license required hereby, the frequencies authorized to be used by the licensee, and the rights therein granted shall not be transferred, assigned, or in any manner either voluntarily or involuntarily disposed of, or indirectly by transfer of control of any corporation holding such license, to any person unless the Commission shall, after securing full information, decide that said transfer is in the public interest, and shall give its consent in writing."

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The contract between Station WBNX and Lido Belli specifically reserves such powers to the station with respect to the time which he purchases in bulk. There is considerable doubt, however, whether this contract embodies the full agreement between the parties—

No justification appears in the files of this Commission to warrant the making of any such statement that as to "whether the practices under it follow the letter of the instrument." [Resuming reading:]

Information which has been received at this Commission indicates that the control exercised by Belli over Italian language programs presented over the

facilities of Station WBNX, New York, may be far greater than those exercised by the usual time broker. Belli, according to this information, had exclusive control over all Italian language broadcasts. Sponsors and advertising agents who wish to make broadcasts in the Italian language over Station WBNX were forced to make such purchases through Belli, who could, if he wished, deny them the privilege of purchasing such time. Indeed, there are indications that further investigation will reveal that the licensee of Station WBNX has relinquished to Lido Belli certain rights and responsibilities granted in the license, the transfer of which, without permission, is specifically prohibited by section 310 (b).

Now, a copy of that report, Mr. Chairman, was forwarded to the Department of Justice for the purpose of influencing their judgment in the matter of Lido Belli.

I started before lunch to read into this record certain excerpts from the voucher for per diem and of expenses incident to official travel.

I had directed the committee's attention to, I think, two items.

Under date of January 1, 1943, we find that Miss Keene claimed she spent 4 hours gathering newscasts of WBNX in connection with the investigation of Lido Belli.

We find that on January 9 she claimed to have helped Mr. Maniaco and Mr. Tabet, censor at WOV, in the preparation of a questionnaire to be used for house-to-house canvass of Lido Belli broadcasts, and she says she spent 4 hours doing that.

And then we find she says on January 19 she had a conference with the staff of the New York Field Office re Lido Belli's report, and that she spent 4 hours doing that.

On January 27 she conferred with Maniaco on his house-to-house canvass of Lido Belli broadcasts and spent 4 hours doing that.

On February 2, she said she made a review of Italian News Service, including a review of personal files, for material re Lido Belli and a review of back issues of Counter-Current, and she spent 4 hours doing that.

There are other matters that similar time is asserted to have been spent on that we can't identify from the statement as being connected with the Lido Belli matter. So, therefore, I don't make reference to those.

I do find, however, this memorandum in the files of the Commission dated June 15, 1943. It is from Mr. Guest to Jeremiah Courtney, Acting Chief, Field Section, Law Department. This is how that memorandum reads:

Pursuant to Leonard Marks' suggestions, I am enclosing short form contract No. 33 executed by Frances Keene, setting forth services rendered during her employment by the commission during the month of December 1942.

Miss Keene further advises that she understood from Washington she would be permitted through Short Wave Research, Inc., to employ persons to do a small amount of urgent and necessary research and translation work.

Very interesting, Mr. Chairman; very interesting.

Accordingly, she did, through short wave, employ Guillana Tabet for 9½ days' work in the New York Public Library, reviewing *Il Progresso*. (Mrs. Tabet, by the way, is the wife of Duccio Tabet, the censor on Station WOV and who, by the way, within the past month or six weeks has spoken at a Communist meeting held in the city of New York, not far from where we are at the present time.)

Accordingly, she did, through short wave, employ Guillana Tabet for 9½ days' work in the New York Public Library—

These Communists must be supported somewhere, some place by the Government.

Mrs. Tabet was hired at \$6 a day, totaling in all, \$57 for the 9½ days' work. In connection with the Belli report, Miss Keene, through short wave, hired Vincenzo Manacci for 3 days at \$6 per day to conduct a survey among the local Italian radio audience.

Rather remarkable who can spend Government money these days, Mr. Chairman. I think it is an interesting subject for Congress to have some advice about. [Resuming reading:]

Both persons were paid by Short Wave Research, Inc. Short Wave is now in the process of liquidation and would like to be compensated for the above outlay. I will forward short-form contract duly executed by Short Wave Research, Inc., within a day or two.

Mr. DAVID. May the record show, as it was explained in turning over those papers, that that work had not been authorized, and for that reason the contract was ignored and no payment was made by the Commission for any of that work.

The CHAIRMAN. All right.

Mr. GAREY. Whether it was honored or it wasn't it shows the association between this crowd who were engaged in this unlawful activity; who were seizing the power of government and using it for their own needs and for their own purposes. It is a perversion of the power of government.

Mr. Belli, I don't suppose you were advised or ever knew before that all these various activities were going on while you were trying to find out why you could not be relieved from these restrictions that had been imposed upon your parole, did you?

Mr. BELLi. That is right; I never know it.

Mr. GAREY. None of the sources that you consulted ever told you—

Mr. BELLi. No.

Mr. GAREY (continuing). That this was all going on, did they?

Mr. BELLi. No.

Mr. GAREY. And you were unable to find out that these charges were being made against you?

Mr. BELLi. No.

Mr. GAREY. Is there a single charge that I have read to you contained in any of these records that is true?

Mr. BELLi. No.

Mr. GAREY. Let's go back to your visit to Marcantonio. Do you know with whom Mr. Marcantonio was talking?

Mr. BELLi. I guess I do. With Mr. Ennis of the Department of Justice; with Mr. Nathan David of the F. C. C., and Mrs. Shea; and Mr. I guess, Lee Falk or Cranston, one of them too, of the O. W. I.

Mr. GAREY. Did you know Mrs. Shea?

Mr. BELLi. I met her once in Mr. Marcantonio's office during my last investigation of my recordings.

Mr. GAREY. At the telephone call, or pursuant to an agreement made with Congressman Marcantonio, Mrs. Shea came to his office?

Mr. BELLi. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And you were present at that time?

Mr. BELLi. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. Can you tell us approximately when that was, Mr. Belli?

Mr. BELLi. I think it was in January; no, it was in December, I guess—December.

Mr. GAREY. It was either in December of the year 1942 or January of the year 1943?

Mr. BELLI. It was December 1942.

Mr. GAREY. Mrs. Shea came in while you were there?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. Will you tell us what you recall of what was said after she arrived?

Mr. BELLI. Well—

The CHAIRMAN. Can you locate the time just a little bit more accurately? You remember now you have in the record a report that she made on Belli as of December 24. Was it prior to December 25?

Mr. BELLI. It was prior to that.

The CHAIRMAN. Prior to that?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. All right.

Mr. BELLI. The few things I recall, that Marcantonio tried to convince Mrs. Shea that the whole thing was wrong, because every question that was brought up to me, and every accusation was refuted by me; so he didn't see why the investigation should keep on going.

She said it would take a little more time; that it would be better for me; that if there was nothing against me, yes, I was to be released.

Mr. GAREY. And that is the substance of that conversation?

Mr. BELLI. More or less.

Mr. GAREY. As you now recall?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. This conversation took place in Marcantonio's office in New York or in Washington?

Mr. BELLI. In Washington.

Mr. GAREY. I think you have told the committee that altogether in trying to find out what was the matter with you, you yourself spent 39 days in Washington?

Mr. BELLI. Yes; back and forth, over a period of 3 months.

Mr. GAREY. How did this meeting break up on this particular day? What was said by Mrs. Shea or by the Congressman as she was leaving?

Mr. BELLI. Well, the Congressman was quite mad, because he thought the whole thing was unfair, un-American, and undemocratic, and she apologized and said that she was sorry about what happened to me, but she had nothing to do with it in particular because she had the job to investigate my record. That is all she said.

Mr. GAREY. Did she make any promises to the Congressman about what she would do?

Mr. BELLI. Not exactly promises, because she said they weren't through with the investigation yet; they were going to listen to my recordings. She said that somebody got sick; that is why it lasts longer.

Mr. GAREY. Then you went back to New York?

Mr. BELLI. I was coming back to New York almost every Friday night and going back to Washington every Monday.

Mr. GAREY. What happened on the occasion of your next visit to Washington? Whom did you see there then?

Mr. BELLI. I tell you, on the whole 39 days, I only saw Mrs. Shea once. At one time I went down to the F. C. C. where they were playing my recordings back. I asked them if I could be of any cooper-

ation; maybe they wanted me to explain something about the particular broadcasts. They told me it wasn't necessary, because the people they have over there are very fair, and they understand Italian quite well. Then, I saw—

Mr. GAREY. By the way, who did you see there at F. C. C. on that occasion?

Mr. BELLI. It was a lawyer; I don't recall the name. I saw the man that was supposed to be the analyst on my broadcasts.

Mr. GAREY. That is Doctor Truman?

Mr. BELLI. It must be him. I don't recollect his name. He had the earphones on and was listening to my recording.

Mr. GAREY. Did you have a talk with him?

Mr. BELLI. Yes. I offered my service. I said, "I have nothing to do in New York. I can stay here with you. Maybe something you can't understand I can explain you what it is."

Mr. GAREY. What did he say?

Mr. BELLI. He said it was not necessary, because it takes long time and no need for me to stay there.

I say, "I am going to stay in Washington until this thing is clear."

He said, "You can stay in Washington, if you wish; nobody will stop you."

Mr. GAREY. All this time you were barred from taking care of your business?

Mr. BELLI. That is right. That is why I was in Washington.

Mr. GAREY. Go along and tell us in your own way, if you will, just what happened during this period. Who else did you see?

Mr. BELLI. I saw Mr. Cooley; I don't recall how many times, but about seven or eight times.

Mr. GAREY. Mr. Cooley was in the Department of Justice?

Mr. BELLI. Yes. He had my case.

Mr. GAREY. What was the substance of what Mr. Cooley told you?

Mr. BELLI. He never tell me very much about it. He tell me that they had complete reports from the F. B. I. as far as I was concerned, and it was not—he said one word, that the report of F. B. I. was—I don't know—inconsistent; they can't take anything out of that, they can't go according to that.

I told him that I hear from Mr. Ryan of the Office of Censorship that I was clear by that department after an investigation which went above the F. B. I.

He said, "We won't consider the Department of Censorship."

So, I say, "What is it then?"

He said, "We can't tell you. There is something going on, and you will find out what is going to happen about you."

But I told you—I told him my business is going to ruin. I don't recall what he said. He make me understand that I save quite a few dollars, so I could afford to go back and forth between Washington and New York; I wasn't starving to death.

Mr. GAREY. He wasn't much concerned about the money that you were losing because you had enough money to lose some more, is that it?

Mr. BELLI. That is right.

Mr. GAREY. Then there finally came a time when Marcantonio called David in your presence, did there not?

Mr. BELLI. On the phone; yes.

Mr. GAREY. By the way, Mr. Reilly has handed me a note that suggests the word you were trying to find to express what Mr. Cooley of the Department of Justice said to you was "inconclusive."

Mr. BELL. That is right; that is what he said, it was inconclusive.

Mr. GAREY. Let's get back to this talk you had with Mr. Marcantonio, when he called up Nathan David. Tell us what happened that day in the Congressman's office, and fix the time as well as you can, will you?

Mr. BELL. Well, one time Mr. Marcantonio called Nathan David for me—it was in New York, the day before Christmas, the 24th of December, in the afternoon, because he was expecting that I will be released around that time. This was the promise they gave to Marcantonio, because Marcantonio told them, "I didn't find anything, and I did my own investigation among my friends, and there is nothing the matter with Belli."

Mr. GAREY. Continue.

Mr. BELL. Mr. David said that there was something serious, and that it had to be investigated; it was so serious that the F. C. C. could not investigate it themselves, they had to pass it to the F. B. I., and it would take some time to go through.

So, Marcantonio asks, "How much time you want this time?"

He said, "Two weeks."

Mr. Marcantonio said, "All right; go ahead and take another 2 weeks."

Mr. GAREY. What happened after that?

Mr. BELL. After that, we called him up again, and they say, "Something new come up, some more complaints, and we have to investigate them too."

I mean, every time that I was almost ready to be released, Il Mondo or La Parola was the factor that keeps them investigating.

Mr. GAREY. Did there come a time when Congressman Marcantonio suggested to you that he had been advised by Nathan David for you to go and see the Office of War Information?

Mr. BELL. Yes. That was the only time we find out that the O. W. I. has anything to do with my case. We never knew it before.

Mr. GAREY. The first time you knew that the Office of War Information was at all concerned with you?

Mr. BELL. Yes. I was in Washington at that time.

Mr. GAREY. Congressman Marcantonio told you who to go and see over at the Office of War Information?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. Yes. What was the name of the person he told you to see?

Mr. BELL. To see Mr. Cranston and Mr. Lee Falk.

Mr. GAREY. Had you known Mr. Cranston or Mr. Lee Falk before this time?

Mr. BELL. No; never saw them before.

Mr. GAREY. You left the Congressman's office?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And you went over to the Office of War Information?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. There you asked for Mr. Falk or for Mr. Cranston, or for both?

Mr. BELL. I think I was expected. When the girl saw me, she said, "Are you Mr. Belli?"

I say, "yes."

She say, "Come in."

She introduced me to Mr. Cranston and Mr. Falk.

Mr. GAREY. Was Facci there at that time?

Mr. BELL. He wasn't there when I got in, but before they talk to me they call Mr. Facci.

Mr. GAREY. So that the conversation started, then between you and Lee Falk and Alan Cranston and later, during the progress of the talk, you were having, Facci came in?

Mr. BELL. No; Facci came in before we start the talk. They didn't talk before he came in.

Mr. GAREY. They didn't talk until Facci was there?

Mr. BELL. They sent the girl for him.

Mr. GAREY. You were talking to all three of them?

Mr. BELL. To the whole three.

Mr. GAREY. Tell the committee just what happened at that conversation.

Mr. BELL. Well, they tell me that as far as their investigation is concerned, as far as the information they have, was some kind of Fascist sympathy on my broadcasts, some Fascist sympathy with the people working for me.

So, I ask them what they want me to do about it; I don't believe it was. I say, "If there is anyone in my association that has anything to do with the Fascists, they never work for me."

Mr. GAREY. By the way, have you ever had any pro-Fascist sympathies?

Mr. BELL. Personally?

Mr. GAREY. Yes.

Mr. BELL. Of course not.

Mr. GAREY. Did you ever belong to the Fascist Party?

Mr. BELL. Never.

Mr. GAREY. Did you ever take the Fascist oath?

Mr. BELL. Never. I never belonged to any association, mutual or brotherhood, what they call it; never to one of them.

Mr. GAREY. Go back to that meeting, if you will, and tell us just what happened. You explained to them that there wasn't anybody working for you, so far as you knew, who had any pro-Fascist leanings or sympathies. What else was said?

Mr. BELL. And I told them that my business was wrecked, and I was very anxious to go back to it.

So they figured that they could recommend to send me back if I would do some changing of the program.

I said, "What change do you want me to do?"

They said, "To fire everybody."

Mr. GAREY. They wanted you to fire everybody who was then working for you?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

I told them that I haven't the right to do anything, because I signed a parole agreement.

They told me they would see to it that there was some change made on my parole, that I can fire and hire people.

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. BELL. That is what they mean, I guess; yes.

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

Mr. BELL. 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. BELL. 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. BELL. About.

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

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. To the person they would recommend?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

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

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

Mr. GAREY. What was that name?

Mr. BELL. Mr. Renzo Nissim.

Mr. GAREY. Renzo Nissim?

Mr. BELL. 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. BELL. 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. BELL. 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. BELL. 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. BELLI. 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. BELLI. 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. BELLI. Yes.

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

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

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

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

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

Mr. BELLI. 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. BELLI. 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. BELLI. 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. BELLI. Yes.

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

Mr. BELLI. 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. BELLI. Yes.

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

Mr. BELLI. Yes, sir.

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

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

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

Mr. BELLI. More or less.

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

Mr. BELLI. 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 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. BELLI. 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. BELLI. No.

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

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And giving it to them?

Mr. BELLI. 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. BELLI. 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. BELLI. Yes.

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

Mr. BELLI. 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 BELL.

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

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

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

Mr. BELL. 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. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And it bears your signature?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

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

Mr. BELL. Yes.

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

Mr. BELL. Yes.

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

Mr. BELL. 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. BELL. Yes.

Mr. CAREY. 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. BELL. 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. BELLI. Yes.

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

Mr. BELLI. 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. BELLI. Yes.

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

Mr. BELLI. No.

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

Mr. BELLI. 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. BELLI. Yes.

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

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. And was that done?

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

Mr. GAREY. It was done?

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

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

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. Nissim still works for you?

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

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

Mr. BELLI. 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. BELLI. Yes; with red pencil.

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

Mr. BELLI. 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. BELLI. 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. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. Do you know Lupis?

Mr. BELLI. Never met him.

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

Mr. BELLI. 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. BELLI: 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,
Musio 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. BELL. Yes.

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

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

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

Mr. BELL. Yes.

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

Mr. BELL. Yes.

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

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

Mr. GAREY. Monday to Friday?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

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

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

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

Mr. BELL. Yes.

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

Mr. BELL. 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. BELL. Almost.

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

Mr. BELL. Yes.

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

Mr. BELL. Yes.

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

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

Mr. GAREY. They examined your books?

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

Mr. GAREY. Did they examine your bank books?

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

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

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. They examined all your employees?

Mr. BELLI. 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. BELLI. 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. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. Did they also interview your sponsors?

Mr. BELLI. 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. BELLI. 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. BELLI. 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. BELLI. Yes.

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

Mr. BELLI. Oh, yes.

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

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

Mr. GAREY. What did you tell them?

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

Mr. GAREY. Yes.

Mr. BELLI. And I told him—told them——

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

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

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

Mr. BELLI. That is right.

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

Mr. BELLI. It wasn't a broadcast.

Mr. GAREY. These investigators, Fenner and Hubert——

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

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

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

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

Mr. BELLI. Yes.

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

Mr. BELLI. 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, Reverend.
Gugliotta, Enzo.
Halle, Dexter.
Holmes, Walter J.
Lamberti, Antonio (Morette, Amelio Maurice).

La Matina, Rocco.
Landry, Robert J.
Lee, Cornelius R.
Manfred, Arthur (Manfred Abrahams).
Manfredi, Ettore (Giuseppe Annania).
Milano, Prof. P.
Moore, William L.
Mandesi, Joseph.
Neri, Hugo (Alfonso Vanacore).
Pascal, Susan.
Pavia, Enrico L.
Pantaleoni, Goffredo.

Salvameni, Gaetano.
Sterbini, Pio.
Simeone, T.
Sergio, Lesa.
Stevens, Joseph.
Serenio, Paolo.
Tabet, Duccio.
Tabet, Mrs. Duccio.
Valenti, Gerolamo.
Vicirca, Dino.
Valuchek, Andrew J.

ORGANIZATIONS

Anti-Defamation League.
American Jewish Committee.
American Jewish Congress.
Anti-Nazi League.
Short Wave Research.
Naval Intelligence.
Federal Bureau of Investigation.
G-2 Army.
Public Library.
Italians in New York.
Italian "Who's Who."

Parole Commission.
District Attorney.
Department of Correction.
Court of General Sessions.
Il Progresso.
Il Mondo.
La Perola.
The Golden Book.
Il Grido Della Stirpes.
Italian Barbers Benevolent Society.

Mr GAREY. Under a caption in the report entitled, "Belli's Admissions," the following also appears:

In all of his newscasting prior to April 1941, at which time the station required that all news be taken only from INS, Belli used as his principal sources Il Progresso, Corriere d'America, the News, Mirror, and New York American. (The two Italian newspapers were outspokenly Fascist. We know that the three English papers were sympathetic to isolationism and fascism.) He also admits that his employees have used the foregoing papers. He has made some payments to Il Grido Della Stirpe, Dominic Trombetta's rabid Fascist sheet.

So, in determining whether or not Belli should be kept from the air and barred from his business, the fact that he used the New York Mirror and the New York American and the New York Daily News was a factor that the Commission considered, because it claimed they were pro-Fascist and isolationist.

I would like to call, Mr. Chairman, a man named Renzo Nissin.

SWORN TESTIMONY OF RENZO NISSIN, NEW YORK, N. Y.

Mr. GAREY. Mr. Nissin, will you state your full name?

Mr. NISSIN. Renzo Nissin.

Mr. GAREY. That is spelled R-e-n-z-o N-i-s-s-i-n?

Mr. NISSIN. That is right.

Mr. GAREY. Where do you live?

Mr. NISSIN. 49 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York.

Mr. GAREY. Are you a citizen of the United States?

Mr. NISSIN. No. I have my first papers only.

Mr. GAREY. When did you come to the United States?

Mr. NISSIN. I came December 11, 1938.

Mr. GAREY. What is your business or occupation?

Mr. NISSIN. I am employed by Station WBNX as censor, and now I am making the news during the morning.

Mr. GAREY. That is, you are announcing; or, are you preparing the scripts?