

TESTIMONY OF ERNEST PAUL STITH Committee Investigator

ERNEST PAUL STITH, called as a witness, after being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

BY MR. HOUSTON:

MR. HOUSTON: Will you please state your name?

MR. STITH: Ernest Paul Stith.

MR. HOUSTON: Where do you live, Mr. Stith?

MR. STITH: 1309 Dexter, Seattle.

MR. HOUSTON: By whom are you employed, Mr. Stith?

MR. STITH: Washington State Un-American Activities Committee.

MR. HOUSTON: In such occupation, have you had occasion from time to time to prepare certain charts and do certain research work?

MR. STITH: That's true.

Communist Party Front Activities of Professor Garland Ethel

MR. HOUSTON: I will ask you, Mr. Stith, if you have done any research work upon the front activities of one Garland Ethel?

MR. STITH: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you have such findings available?

MR. STITH: I do.

MR. HOUSTON: Would you give them to the committee at this time.

MR. STITH: This is a comparison of Communist Party Line with activities and affiliations of Professor Garland Ethel.

Source material for the description of the Communist Party Line consisted of the Daily Worker of New York which is the official organ of the American Communist Party and shows the changes in the foreign policy of the Soviet Union, and Appendix IX, Report of the Special Committee on Un-American Activities United States House of Representatives. Source material for the activities and affiliations of Professor Garland Ethel consisted of: Appendix IX; The Washington New Dealer; The New World, Communist Party publication of the Northwest; daily newspapers, pamphlets, letterheads, booklets, programs and other material on file with the State of Washington Un-American Activities Committee.

Party Line Prior to 1935

Prior to August 1935 no distinction was made by the Communist Party between Fascist and Democratic governments. They were all termed capitalistic and were to be destroyed by a revolution and replaced by a proletarian dictatorship.

Activities and Affiliations Prior to 1935

In the Seattle Times of February 24th, 1934, under an article entitled "Learning About Russia From Dr. Garland Ethel" I find the following:

Whether they wanted to learn about one more nation in the Washington Athletic Club's Neighbor Nation series, or whether it was just curiosity that attends all lectures on the United States' newly recognized neighbor Russia,

there was an unusually large group of women in the club's main lounge yesterday morning. And they stayed to ask questions of Dr. Garland Ethel, member of the University faculty, not only in the lounge but in the dining room later, where a no host luncheon honored Dr. and Mrs. Ethel.

No mere description of a unique government system was this lecture. Dr. Ethel went into the philosophical motives behind the organization of the government; **went into Calvinistic Marxian theories, and interspersed his discussion with bits of information he had picked up in Russia a few years ago when he lived there for some time.**

The prime objective behind the economic political and social system of the Soviet regime is the production of the highest type of life for the whole of the population, a Marxian theory, Dr. Ethel told his listeners. "The Soviet system," he said, "is a new world system. The government believes in what is good for here and now and not some distant future time, some paradise. **It believes in the type of life that makes for a width and height and depth of human well being and ignores the question of the hereafter.**"

In other words, Dr. Ethel explained that there cannot be a decent society until national conditions make men live in peace and well being. Plato asserted that the world is only the shadow reality that is idealism, but Marx contended that the world with its richness, its poverty, its problems, are very real indeed.

Marx also said, Dr. Ethel remarked, "that man is subject to natural laws, he behaves definitely in accordance with the fundamental principles of behavior, plus the stimuli that falls upon him. He believed that contrary to the belief that man is a fallen creature, saved only by faith in his church and good works and also contrary to Calvin, that man is a bad egg before he is laid, and the saving of his soul rests only with God, that man's ills are curable and that he can be influenced by his environment."

Physical Organization of Soviet Government

From the philosophy behind the Soviet regime, Dr. Ethel went on to the physical organization of the government. "Those who have," he said, "expend their energy in the protection of their property, and those who haven't, expend theirs in the attempt to build up property. By private property we do not mean tooth brushes, hats and the shirt on one's back. We mean producers' goods. **The Soviet system destroys the system of producers' private property, gives public control to it and thus does away with class fighting class.**"

"The first five year plan did not complete everything it had hoped to," the lecturer continued, "but was a success to a certain degree. Russia, that formerly had few factories and little industrialism, now has great factories. The country stands second in production of petroleum but is behind in its steel industry. Russians who could not read or write have been taught and in one part of the country where even wheels had not yet been made—had not yet made their appearance and articles were dragged on the ground, **illiteracy has been done away with,**" he asserted. "**There has been the abolition of classes and the women are treated as equals of men.**"

"You find women laying bricks, but you also find them at the head of big scientific institutions."

Communist Party Line Aug. 1935—Sept. 1939

Between August, 1935, and September, 1939, Adolph Hitler emerged as a threat to the Soviet Union as well as to the rest of the world. Opposition

to the Fascist governments; support of a collective security program or a United Front of the Democracies and the Soviet Union against the Fascist nations became the policy of the Communist Party. Important planks in the new curb-the-aggressors line of the party were the anti-Nazi boycott and support of the O'Connell Peace Act which empowered—was to empower the President to name the aggressors and apply economic sanctions against them. Ardent support of President Roosevelt and of his foreign policy and of the New Deal featured the New Party Line.

Activities and Affiliations From Aug. 1935—Sept. 1939

Here are some of the activities and affiliations of Professor Garland Ethel during this period:

February 7, 1936—Northwest Veteran-American Civil Liberties Union Official Speaks at Auditorium.

Dr. Harry F. Ward, president of the American Civil Liberties Union and chairman of the American League Against War and Fascism failed to speak on one of his advertised subjects, that of the undesirability of requiring school teachers to take an oath of allegiance to the national and state constitutions. Included in the list of sponsors for the lecture were four members of the University of Washington Faculty.

Following the announcement of the list of sponsors, 58 members of the University of Washington faculty issued a public statement in support of the action of those four professors. Professor Garland Ethel was one of the 58.

Comment: **Dr. Harry F. Ward has a long record of participation in Communist front organizations and as speaker for many activities of the Communist Party and affiliated organizations. He has 73 listings in Appendix IX, Report of the Special Committee on Un-American Activities United States House of Representatives; 4 listings in House Report number 1311 and 93 listings in Reports of Special Hearings 1939 to '41.** On February the 5th, 1940, when directors of the American Civil Liberties Union adopted a resolution banning supporters of Communism, Naziism or Fascism from serving on the governing committee or staff, they on the same day, accepted the resignation of Dr. Harry F. Ward, who had been American Civil Liberties Union chairman for 20 years. On January the 27th, 1948, during the State of Washington Un-American Activities Committee hearing he was named by Louis Budenz, former editor of the Daily Worker and member of the National Committee of the Communist Party, as a former member of the Communist Party.

May the 31st, 1936—taken from a printed program of the proceedings of the Second Northwest Congress Against War and Fascism, held in the Odd Fellows Temple, Seattle, Washington, May 30, 31st, 1936.

Fifth Session: 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. **The Resolutions Committee consisted of seven members, one of whom was Professor Garland Ethel,** representing the Washington Commonwealth Federation Assembly.

The report of the Resolutions Committee was made by Mr. Garland Ethel who reported that a great many resolutions had been turned in to the Resolutions Committee by the various discussion groups, and that out of the material turned in the Committee had drafted 32 resolutions to be acted upon by the Congress.

Comment: In the 4th report of the Joint Fact Finding Committee to the regular 1948 California Legislature I find on page 98 the following commentary on the American League Against War and Fascism:

"The American League Against War and Fascism was active in the period from 1932 to 1937 in behalf of the Soviet foreign policy. It proclaimed an openly treasonable program. It was cited as subversive by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities on January 3, 1940, March 29, 1944, and again on May the 29th, 1946. Former Attorney General Francis Biddle cited this organization as established in the United States in an effort to create public sentiment on behalf of the foreign policy adapted to the interests of the Soviet Union."

The American League against War and Fascism is listed as a subversive organization by Attorney General Tom Clark.

It is to be noted further that **Professor Ethel was identified on the program of the Second Northwest Congress Against War and Fascism** as a member of the Washington Commonwealth Federation Assembly. During the Washington State Un-American Activities Hearing held January 27th to February 5th, 1948, inclusive, a number of former officials of the Washington Commonwealth Federation testified under oath to the effect that this organization was Communist dominated and controlled.

May the 3rd, 1948—New Masses—"Statement By American Progressives On The Moscow Trials." This statement also appeared in the Daily Worker, April 28, 1938. In Appendix IX, according to the Special Committee on Un-American Activities on page 1617, I find the following:

"The statement was obviously a document concocted in defense of the line of the Communist Party and undoubtedly originated in the headquarters of the Communist Party. The following excerpts from the statement seem significant: "We, the undersigned, are fully aware of the confusion that exists with regard to the Moscow trials and the real facts about the situation in the Soviet Union. The measures taken by the Soviet Union to preserve and extend its gains and its strength therefore find their echoes here, where we are staking the future of the American people on the preservation of progressive democracy and the unification of our efforts to prevent the fascists from strangling the rights of the people. American liberals must not permit their outlook on these questions to be confused, nor allow their recognition of the place of the Soviet Union in the international fight of democracy against fascism to be destroyed. We call upon them to support the efforts of the Soviet Union to free itself from insidious internal dangers, and to rally support for the international fight against fascism, the principal menace to peace and democracy."

Among Seattle persons signing this statement was Dr. Garland Ethel.

October 29th, 1938—Washington New Dealer—article entitled "Teachers Propose World Peace Parley." "Believe United States Should Take First Steps On Conference."

Letter: "Editor: New Dealer

"Recent reports in the New York Times indicate that the international Commission supervising disarmament of Czechoslovakia is basing its decisions on antiquated census figures and is now ceding predominantly Czechoslovakian districts to Germany.

"In communications which we are addressing to the President of the United States, Secretary of State and the Washington State Delegation to Congress, we vigorously protest these new mutilations of a great and democratic nation and we call upon American Government to disassociate itself publicly from

the Chamberlain-Daladier policy of immense concessions to aggressor nations at the expense of their victims.

"The President of the United States has splendidly championed an alternative policy of quarantining aggressor nations at the expense of their victims, and of respecting internal"—I beg your pardon—I'll back up there, I jumped a line.

"The President of the United States has splendidly championed an alternative policy of quarantining aggressor nations and of respecting international agreements. Yet our government has established and maintained a Spanish embargo, the effect of which has been, first, to quarantine a friendly republic defending itself against internal and foreign aggression and second, violates a solemn treaty dating from 1902 guaranteeing full and complete equality of commerce and navigation between Spain and the United States.

"Hence we urge immediate lifting of the embargo, a step consistent with American ideals. We also recommend passage of the O'Connell Act as practical implementation of the President's recommendations.

"Equipped with tremendous economic strength and protected by natural barriers our nation can determine the fate of the world without resorting to military action."

Signed: "Melville Jacobs, Secretary Executive Board of Local 401, American Federation of Teachers."

Comment: Following the previously explained Communist Party Line Switch in 1935 American Federation of Teachers locals over the United States dropped their pacifist program and adopted the Party Line as evidenced by the preceding action of Local 401.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Stith, is that correct that name that you read up above there?

MR. STITH: That is correct. The only connection there is that Professor Ethel was a member of the local.

September 2nd, 1939—Saturday Evening Post—Communist Wreckers In American Labor. By Benjamin Stolberg. "The Communists have never got very far in the A. F. of L. The few unions they controlled—such as the Furriers, Office Workers, West Coast Longshoremen, the Newspapermen; they transferred to the C.I.O. in 1937.

"There is, however, one exception. **The Communists control the American Federation of Teachers. The president of this union, Jerome Davis, a former associate professor of Social Ethics in the Yale Divinity School, has for years been conducting summer tours in the Soviet Union, which, since 1934, none but a completely orthodox Stalinist would have been permitted to do.**

"According to Dr. Davis, **There is academic freedom in the Soviet Union for everybody who deserves it.**" Apparently this is also true of the American Federation of Teachers, for under his administration the tendency is actually to bar anti-Stalinists from the union. Dr. Davis believes that **"a teacher's union should be a select group,"** which is another way of saying that the teacher's union should be under Stalinist control.

"In 1936, disruption in the New York chapter of the union had reached such proportions that a committee was appointed under Dr. John Dewey, to try to bring about peace. The committee hearings open to the members, were turned into riots by the Communists who called the distinguished philosopher a scab for Columbia University. The committee finally reported that Communist disruption was wrecking the union. Dr. John Dewey and Henry R. Linville,

president of the New York Union, later withdrew taking with them a few hundred members.

"Since then the Stalinists have had it all their own way, both nationally and in the important New York local. The American Teacher, The New York Teacher, The College News Letter, all of them union publications, are virtually house organs of the Communist Party.

"When in 1938, Lillian Herstein of Chicago, a well known progressive, ran for the presidency against Jerome Davis, the Communists defeated her by combining with the most reactionary wing of the union and by starting a virulent anti-Semitic campaign on the ground that it would be 'unwise' to have a Jewess at the head of a union of American Teachers.

"In the college section of the Union, especially in New York, the real progressives have been constantly subjected to organized campaigns of character assassination. College students, who were members of the American Student Union, were put up to picketing the classrooms of progressive teachers and badgering them during lectures. At last the situation boiled over at Teachers College, Columbia University. Professor John L. Childs, George W. Hartmann, Harold Rugg, Bruce Raupp, Louis Hacker and other leading educators, liberals of national influence, resigned from the union."

During this period Professor Ethel has been identified with three organizations whose programs and activities perfectly reflect the current Communist Party line. In addition to this he signed a statement in defense of the Communist Party and also one in defense of the sponsorship of an individual with a long record of activities in the Communist Party and affiliated organizations.

Communist Party Line 1939—June 22, 1941

On August 23rd, 1939, with the signing of the Soviet-Nazi non-aggression pact the Communist Party precipitately discarded its collective-security curb-the-aggressors line and suddenly adopted a new isolationist program. It officially dropped the anti-Nazi boycott, and anti-Nazi propaganda disappeared from its press. The Party proceeded to denounce President Roosevelt as a war-monger and to attack the New Deal. Support of the Soviet Russian Peace Policy was declared paramount.

Activities and Affiliations 1939—June 22, 1941

June 30th, 1939—Seattle P.I.—Heading of an article entitled "Bridges Defense Committee Formed."

"A Harry Bridges Defense Committee was formed here yesterday for the purpose of attempting to obtain an open hearing by immigration authorities for the West Coast C.I.O. Director.

"A hearing on deportation charges against Bridges is set for July 10, on Angel Island in San Francisco Bay.

"Among members of the committee was Dr. Garland Ethel."

Comment: The special Committee on Un-American Activities United States House of Representatives 78th Congress in Appendix IX; page 592 states **"The Harry Bridges Defense Committee, the Citizens Committee for Harry Bridges and the Harry Bridges Victory Committee must be designated as front organizations of the Communist Party United States of America."**

January 19, 1940—Seattle Star—"DeLacy Endorsed by Teachers Local 401, American Federation of Teachers, A. F. of L. affiliate last night indorsed the

candidacy of Councilman Hugh DeLacy for re-election and voted to contribute \$25 from its treasury toward his campaign fund."

Comment: Hugh DeLacy at that time was an executive board member of the Washington Commonwealth Federation. During the State of Washington Un-American Activities Committee hearing January 27th to February 5th of 1948 inclusive, thirteen different witnesses gave sworn testimony as to Hugh DeLacy's affiliations and activities in the Communist Party and affiliated organizations.

February 17th, 1941—P.I.—"Aid Bill Hit At People's Conference **University of Washington Local 401 of the Teacher's Union submitted a resolution branding the lease lend bill as 'dangerous' and urging its defeat.**"

This message was sent to each member of the State's congressional delegation. The messages were sent as the view of only the local and its members, according to a referendum vote, Dr. Garland Ethel's secretary said.

During this period Professor Ethel was affiliated with two organizations both of which clearly follow the Communist Party line and one of which is definitely identified as a Communist Front organization by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities.

Communist Party Line June 22, 1941—Sept. 1945

On June 22, 1941, Hitler attacked Russia, the German armies started their eastward invasion and on the same day the American Peace Mobilization pickets withdrew from the White House. The "Yanks Are Not Coming" banners and slogans were changed overnight to read "The Yanks Are Coming." Full and unlimited collaboration of the United States, Great Britain and Soviet Russia to bring about the military defeat of fascism; forward to a world-wide People's Front against Hitler and for the defense of the Soviet Union; opening of the second front; repeal of the Neutrality Act and no longer is Roosevelt a warmonger. No sacrifice is termed too great to give full support to the President's foreign policy. These were the objectives as stated by the Communist Party.

Affiliations and Activities After June 22, 1941

October the 10th, 1941—Seattle Post-Intelligencer—"Neutrality Act Repeal Urged by University Teachers."

One hundred thirty-three members of the staff signed a resolution sent to State senators and representatives.

Among the signatures on the resolutions sent to Senators Wallgren and Bone and the State's six-man delegation in the House of Representatives was that of Professor Garland Ethel.

I interrupt to recount, please, of what happened just a few months before.

August 13th, 1942—Washington New Dealer—An article in this issue listed some 62 members of the University of Washington faculty and some twenty youth leaders of the Northwest who pledged to President Roosevelt any sacrifices necessary to open a second front in 1942. Among those signing this was Professor Garland Ethel.

February 11th, 1943—Seattle Times—"War Calls Two More From the University Faculty."

War services have called two more University of Washington faculty members from their teaching duties, it was announced today by Dr. L. P. Sieg,

President of the University. The faculty members are Brents Stirling and Garland Ethel of the English Department. Ethel will depart Sunday for Miami Beach, Florida, where he will serve as a second lieutenant with the Army Air Forces.

Recapitulation

In conclusion it would appear that from 1936 through 1942 Professor Ethel has been affiliated with as sponsor, member, official or in other capacity at least four organizations identified as Communist inspired and Communist dominated whose programs and activities throughout this period have perfectly reflected the varying phases and changes of the Communist Party line. He also signed statements defending the Communist Party in Russia and in support of men active in carrying out Communist Party work.

MR. HOUSTON: All right, thank you Mr. Stith.

(Witness Excused)