

TESTIMONY OF ISABEL H. COSTIGAN

ISABEL H. COSTIGAN, called as a witness after being first duly sworn was examined and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HOUSTON:

MR. HOUSTON: I will ask you, as you testify, to answer all questions audibly—not with a nod or a gesture because we're recording it. Speak very distinctly because it's being recorded and if you have any unusual names spell them. I think most of these names have been spelled.

MR. HOUSTON: Please state your name.

MRS. COSTIGAN: Isabel H. Costigan.

MR. HOUSTON: And you are a resident of the city of Seattle?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes, I am.

MR. HOUSTON: How long have you lived in Seattle?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Well, I was born in Seattle, but I've lived in Seattle since about 1926 or—about 1926.

MR. HOUSTON: Mrs. Costigan were you ever a member of the Communist Party?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes, I was.

MR. HOUSTON: Here in the city of Seattle?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes, in Seattle.

MR. HOUSTON: Will you tell us about when you joined the Communist Party?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes, as I recall it was 1936—1937.

MR. HOUSTON: 1936 or 1937?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: And when did you leave the Communist Party?

MRS. COSTIGAN: About 1939—that was by the time of the Soviet-Nazi peace pact.

MR. HOUSTON: Along in September of '39?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, during the time that you were in the Communist Party, did you attend various Communist meetings—Communist functions?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes, I did.

MR. HOUSTON: And you met various people there, didn't you?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes, certainly.

Six University of Washington Professors Identified as Communists

MR. HOUSTON: I will ask you if you know a man by the name of Harold Eby?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes, I do.

MR. HOUSTON: And what was the circumstances of your meeting Mr. Eby?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Well, I met him personally at our house before I was taken into the Communist Party and then he met with our unit in the University district.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you recall the name of that unit you met with there in the University district?

MRS. COSTIGAN: No, it was—I just knew it as a Professional Unit or a—

MR. HOUSTON: Professional Unit.

MRS. COSTIGAN: That's all I—

MR. HOUSTON: Was Mr. Eby a member of the Communist Party?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes, he was.

MR. HOUSTON: And he met regularly with your unit there, this Professional Unit?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Quite frequently he met with that unit, yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Did he ever act as chairman of the unit?

MRS. COSTIGAN: I don't recall his acting as chairman but I might have forgotten that, I—

MR. HOUSTON: Did he appear to be very active in the—

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes, he seemed to bring information from "Headquarters" as it were—on the information.

MR. HOUSTON: I will ask you if you know Mrs. Lenna Eby?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes, I do.

MR. HOUSTON: And was Mrs. Lenna Eby a member of the Communist Party, also?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes, she was.

MR. HOUSTON: Did she attend these meetings that you attended?

MRS. COSTIGAN: She attended some meetings, but as I understand it she worked in the Communist Party Headquarters and was busy with other functions and—rather than attending many of the unit meetings, as I remember.

MR. HOUSTON: She worked in the Communist Party Headquarters?

MRS. COSTIGAN: That was my understanding. I never—I was never in the Communist Party Headquarters, but that's what she told me that she—she did.

MR. HOUSTON: She told you that, herself?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you know a man—did you know what Harold Eby was doing at that time?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Well, he was—he was teaching at the University of Washington.

MR. HOUSTON: At the University of Washington. Do you know a man by the name of Joseph Butterworth?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes, I do.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you know whether or not Joseph Butterworth was a member of the Communist Party?

MRS. COSTIGAN: He was a member, to my knowledge, yes.

MR. HOUSTON: And of this same unit that you belonged to?

MRS. COSTIGAN: I can't positively remember that he was a member of that unit—he may have attended some of the meetings. I attended only a relatively short time and—but I know he attended meetings in our home.

MR. HOUSTON: He attended meetings in your home—

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: —which were Communist Party meetings?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Where no one but Communists did attend?

MRS. COSTIGAN: To my knowledge.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you know a man by the name of Garland Ethel?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes, I do.

MR. HOUSTON: **Do you know whether or not Garland Ethel was a member of the Communist Party?**

MRS. COSTIGAN: **Yes, Garland Ethel was a member of the Communist Party.**

MR. HOUSTON: And this knowledge that came into your possession while you were a member of the Communist Party?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: While you were attending meetings of the Communist Party?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: You have sat in meetings with Garland Ethel?

MRS. COSTIGAN: He has been in our home many a time.

MR. HOUSTON: Been in your home attending meetings held there?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you know Clarissa Ethel?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes, I do.

MR. HOUSTON: **Do you know whether or not Mrs. Ethel is a member of the Communist Party?**

MRS. COSTIGAN: **Yes—uh—Mrs. Ethel was a member of the Communist Party at that time.**

MR. HOUSTON: **And you have attended meetings with her?**

MRS. COSTIGAN: **She's been at our home and done Communist Party activities and work, yes.**

MR. HOUSTON: You know of her doing work for the Communist Party?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Party work?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Uh-huh.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you know Melville Jacobs?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes, I do.

MR. HOUSTON: **Do you know whether or not Melville Jacobs is a member of the Communist Party?**

MRS. COSTIGAN: **I knew him to be a member of the Communist Party.**

MR. HOUSTON: **And you have attended meetings with him?**

MRS. COSTIGAN: **Yes.**

MR. HOUSTON: Do you know Bess Jacobs?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes, I do.

MR. HOUSTON: **Do you know whether or not Bess Jacobs is a member of the Communist Party?**

MRS. COSTIGAN: **I understood her to be a member of the Communist Party and attended Communist Party functions with her.**

MR. HOUSTON: You have attended with her—

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: —Communist Party functions.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you know Ralph H. Gundlach?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes, I do.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you know whether or not Ralph H. Gundlach was a member of the Communist Party?

MRS. COSTIGAN: **Ralph Gundlach was a member of the Communist Party.**

MR. HOUSTON: **You have attended meetings with him?**

MRS. COSTIGAN: **Yes, I have.**

MR. HOUSTON: Do you know Bonnie Bird Gundlach?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes, I do.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you know whether or not Bonnie Bird Gundlach was a member of the Communist Party?

MRS. COSTIGAN: I understood her to be, but I doubt that we attended any meetings at the same time—uh—she—

MR. HOUSTON: You didn't attend any meetings with her?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Not that I would remember definitely, no.

MR. HOUSTON: But you do—

MRS. COSTIGAN: I understood that she was a Communist Party Member, but I do not—I couldn't give definite—definite testimony.

MR. HOUSTON: Did you ever attend any Communist Party meetings at Ralph Gundlach's home?

MRS. COSTIGAN: No—before I had joined the Communist Party I went up there inadvertently on a—when I learned later—on a Thursday night used to be Communist Party meetings, and **I broke up a meeting at his home one night when there was a group attending there and I didn't know it was a cell meeting until later, but that was—was on a Thursday night and there was a Communist cell meeting at his home.**

MR. HOUSTON: When you broke it up what happened to everybody?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Oh, everybody got sick—well they just sat around and talked about other matters and looked embarrassed at the time.

MR. HOUSTON: **After you came into the Party you found out afterwards then that you had broken up the Party meeting?**

MRS. COSTIGAN: **Yes.**

MR. HOUSTON: Do you know Professor H. J. Phillips?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes, I do.

MR. HOUSTON: **Do you know whether or not Professor Phillips is a member of the Communist Party?**

MRS. COSTIGAN: **Yes, he was.**

MR. HOUSTON: **You have sat in Communist Party meetings with Professor Phillips?**

MRS. COSTIGAN: **Our Communist Party meetings were held at his home.**

MR. HOUSTON: Were held in his home.

Do you know Burton James?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes, I do.

Repertory Playhouse Recruiting Center for Communist Party

MR. HOUSTON: Do you know whether or not Burton James is a member of the Communist Party?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes, he was. I say "was" because I haven't had much association with a number of these people for quite a long time, and so I have to put it in past tense, because that's the period when I was active.

MR. HOUSTON: **But he was a member while you were a member?**

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes, uh-huh.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you know Florence Bean James?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes, I do.

MR. HOUSTON: **Do you know whether or not Florence Bean James is a member of the Communist Party,—or was?**

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: **Florence Bean James also was a member?**

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you know Al Ottenheimer of the Repertory Playhouse?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: **Do you know whether or not Al Ottenheimer was a member of the Communist Party, while you were?**

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes, it was my understanding that Al Ottenheimer was a member of the Communist Party.

MR. HOUSTON: Was this information that came to you in the scope of your work within the Party?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: In other words, you almost could say you were officially advised by the Party, then?

MRS. COSTIGAN: Well, I was always—yes, when one would discuss whether Al Ottenheimer could attend meetings or if they wanted one who was reliable to do something, Al Ottenheimer could be depended upon to do it.

MR. HOUSTON: How did the Party consider the Repertory Playhouse? Were they back of it?

MRS. COSTIGAN: **Oh, definitely, yes. The Repertory Playhouse served as a—served a number of functions. It was a means of raising money at times for Communist activities. Also it served as a point of getting young people—ambitious young people into the Communist Party—likely young people who took English courses at the University, and who were told that they probably had dramatic talent, or dramatic ability, and then were sent to the Repertory Playhouse for trial, where they were given work in bit parts at first, and brought into the social activities of the Repertory Playhouse, which were largely Communist Party activities.**

MR. HOUSTON: **In other words, it was a recruiting center then, for Communist Party activities?**

MRS. COSTIGAN: **To my knowledge it still is.**

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, I believe that is all I have to ask of this witness, unless there is something that the Committee desires, I ask that she be excused, with the thanks of the Committee, for her appearance here.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: We thank you for your appearance here, and you are now excused from the subpoena.

(Witness Excused)

TESTIMONY OF WARD F. WARREN

WARD F. WARREN, produced as a witness, after being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

MR. HOUSTON: You heard the instructions I gave the last witness about this being recorded and to speak and not nod, didn't you, Mr. Warren?

MR. WARREN: Yes, I did.

BY MR. HOUSTON:

MR. HOUSTON: Will you please state your name, Mr. Warren?

MR. WARREN: Ward F. Warren.

MR. HOUSTON: And you are a resident of the city of Seattle?

MR. WARREN: For a little over 25 years.

MR. HOUSTON: 25 years. Mr. Warren, I will ask you, are you or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

MR. WARREN: Yes, I have been.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you recall when you joined the Communist Party, Mr. Warren?

MR. WARREN: Not exactly, but I would say approximately the latter part of 1937, or the first part of 1938, and I was a Communist Party member in good standing for approximately two years.

MR. HOUSTON: Approximately two years.

MR. WARREN: Leaving the party early in 1940—the year of 1940 or late 1939.

MR. HOUSTON: Now you attained quite some position of prominence in the Communist Party, didn't you, Mr. Warren?

MR. WARREN: Well, that's a little bit flattering—I don't hardly think so. However, I did become advertising manager of the—what is now the "New World," a Communist newspaper printed in this town, and I was associated very closely with Howard Costigan, who was sort of a leading light in organizing the Washington Commonwealth Federation, which later became Communist controlled, and also the "Old Age Pension Union," which later, after it was organized some time, became completely Communist controlled.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, Mr. Warren, your testimony, I believe at the previous hearing—I don't want to go into that too much—was that the editor and the entire staff of the "New World" in responsible positions, were all members of the Communist Party. The name then, of course, was the "Washington New Dealer."

MR. WARREN: Beg pardon?

MR. HOUSTON: The name then was the "Washington New Dealer."

MR. WARREN: Or possibly the "Sunday News." It was one and the same paper. It has had a number of different names. It is now the "New World." However, the editor, and I believe my statement was that 90% of the staff on the—what is now the "New World," when I was active in it as advertising manager, were all members of the Communist Party, including myself. However, there was a small exception, maybe, to that; an office boy or some lesser clerk in the offices of the "New World" might not necessarily be a member of the Communist Party, but the editor, advertising manager and the circulation manager, and the chief office clerks were all members of the Communist Party when I was advertising manager of it.