

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.**

**Knows Many University Teachers as Communists**

MR. HOUSTON: I will ask you, Mr. Warren, if you know a man by the name of Albert Ottenheimer?

MR. WARREN: I know him only through my association as a busy Communist for those two years.

MR. HOUSTON: Were you a busy Communist or he a busy Communist?

MR. WARREN: Well, I believe he was a little busier than I was. However, I did get around a lot in the organization, more or less assisting Howard Costigan and in my capacity as advertising manager of the Communist newspaper that I just mentioned. I knew him in that connection as a learned Communist, and one who is necessary in that sort of work to know who is a member of the Communist Party and who is not, that are key people, and of course I sought that information from people that I was associated with in my work, such as Hugh DeLacy, who is also a member of the Communist Party, and Howard Costigan, and other top Communists, such as Bill Pennock of the Pension Union, and they all, of course, from time to time when I was in doubt about anybody, and contacting them on Communist activities, they all notified me, or assured me, that Al Ottenheimer and various people were members of the Communist Party, and the way they put it is, they were o.k., when I would ask them, dealing in Communist work, of course.

MR. HOUSTON: Now did you attend Communist Party meetings in the University district when you were a member of the party?

MR. WARREN: I never attended any Communist Party meetings officially as such. I probably attended a number of front meetings out there, and particularly affairs held at various professors' houses—in Communist Party affairs, I should say, for the purpose of raising funds, and then some cases, recruiting new Communist members from the students of the University of Washington.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, you did move in that—among that intelligentsia group out there, then?

MR. WARREN: Not to too great an extent, no, Mr. Houston, I wouldn't say that. I was active out there and did go to some affairs, and contacted most of these people mentioned here, although it has been a number of years ago and many of them I don't remember. I have been to their homes—I was just out the other day driving around, recognizing the houses—being there on Communist Missions but—some of the professors' houses, but I couldn't place the incident in many of the cases.

MR. HOUSTON: Now do you know Ralph H. Gundlach?

MR. WARREN: I know him. I associate him with the same work as I was doing only in a different field, at the University Branch of the Communist Party.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you know Herbert J. Phillips, or "Scoop" Phillips?

MR. WARREN: That would be the same answer. The answer on—there is only possibly a couple of professors out there that I could identify as being actually in a closed Communist meeting with. The rest of them, I knew them, I had dealings with them, probably at their homes, and such as that, and general Communist Party work, and I associate their names, and I have had okehs from such leading Communists as DeLacy and Pennock and Costigan, and others that they were okeh, and I've picked up messages and taken them to meetings, and this and that and the other thing, but I have never sat in a closed Communist meeting with them outside of a couple in some—

MR. HOUSTON: Well, would you say that while you were an official of the Communist Party and its publication, that official information has come to you that Professors Phillips and Gundlach were members of the Communist Party and could be trusted and you could depend on them to work with you on a Communist project?

MR. WARREN: Very definitely. That is exactly the meaning of my explanation.

MR. HOUSTON: In other words, that is what you are testifying?

MR. WARREN: That is correct.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you know Sophus Keith Winther, in that capacity?

MR. WARREN: The same answer would go as to the latter two.

MR. HOUSTON: And you have been in many of their homes out there?

MR. WARREN: That is correct, I have. I have been in—do you wish me to mention some that I can think of right now?

MR. HOUSTON: Do that.

MR. WARREN: Professor Harold Eby, Doctor Butterworth, are two that come to my mind. Their homes are very familiar and of course I know them personally.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you know whether or not Professor Harold Eby was a member of the Communist Party? Did you have any information given you concerning that?

MR. WARREN: There is one incident that stands out in my mind. I seem to have been quite a problem to the Communist Party because I was very active in the Commonwealth Federation, very close to Howard Costigan, and apparently he was recruited, I learned later, into the Communist Party about six months, maybe, or so, before I was, and the Communist Party finally decided I was traveling with him, and I seemed to get my nose into a lot of their business, and a lot of their secret meetings, and they finally, I learned later, after becoming a Communist, that they held a meeting where Morris Rappaport, the Northwest district organizer of the Communist Party, was present, and after I had been forced off from two jobs by the indirect political pressure of the Communist Party and blocked on two more, that they either force me into the Communist Party or force me out of the political activities which I was active in, such as the Commonwealth Federation and the Old Age Pension Union, and in many instances the Workers' Alliance and of course, front activities in the local major political parties at that time.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you know a woman by the name of Lenna Eby?

MR. WARREN: I know her, yes, very well.

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

MR. WARREN: She was, and the incident, getting back to my point, concerning Professor Eby and his wife that stands out in my mind, that I know that I didn't rate with them very high until I joined the Communist Party, and as soon as I joined the Communist Party, Mr. Eby, in the presence of his wife, congratulated me because I had said that I was always a progressive and a liberal, and he put his arm around my shoulder and says, "I want to congratulate you on joining a real liberal, or progressive party," or something like that. Of course, I knew long before that he was a member of the Communist Party, before I became one. I had lots of evidence to that.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you know Garland Ethel?

MR. WARREN: That name would apply the same. I knew him in my

work and knew of his name, but not personally and was never in a closed Communist meeting with him, to my knowledge. I possibly have been, but as I say it has been ten years ago, almost.

MR. HOUSTON: But you recognize the name, and as an official of the Communist Party he was one that was considered a member and could be trusted.

MR. WARREN: Those names were repeated to me, and repeated to me by people in the headquarters of the Washington Commonwealth Federation, after it became Communist controlled, and DeLacy and Costigan were both members of the Communist Party, and Bill Pennock, and I would check with them, and in advertising and various promotional work that I was doing in the Commonwealth Federation and in the newspaper, and those people were okehed by top Communists, and I knew them to be officials—top officials and leaders of the local political activities of the Communist Party here in King County and the Northwest.

### Repertory Playhouse a Communist Front

MR. HOUSTON: Now, do you know any—did any information come into your possession while you were occupying this position in the Party, as to how they considered the Repertory Playhouse? Or Burton James, or Florence Bean James?

MR. WARREN: Well, of course it was another okeh by top officials in the Communist Party, which simply meant—and, of course, I discussed it with them, right to the point of the Communists. It was considered a one hundred per cent Communist-controlled front activity. Meaning, that the top people in control there were members of the Communist Party, and they conducted themselves as such and they furnished us, after I was a member of the Communist Party, with much entertainment, with certain acts, and they were very active in what was organized by—as another front, it was organized as a social club more or less, to raise funds and, of course, to put out the usual Communist propaganda, it was known as Cafe Society. It was quite a title for the Communists to take, but they did; and as I remember, it—they held their affairs once a week in the basement of the New Washington Hotel. The Burton James', who are head of the Repertory Playhouse out there, furnished the entertainment, and of course there was the usual consideration of what funds they should get from the take down there, they were selling drinks—incidentally, they had no license to sell liquor across the bar, but they did,—  
(Laughter)

—and—for the benefit of the State Senators—and there was considerable funds raised there, and there was the usual squabble between, their dickering, between the James' and the Communists as to whether the—all the money from the Cafe Society should go to the Communist Party or at least a part of it should go to the Repertory Playhouse to defray their expenses in furnishing this entertainment; and I was a part of that, I was a member of Cafe Society and I attended it quite regularly, and all the skits that were put on down there was headed very largely, directed by the James' and others, oh, dramatic talent, possibly some radio talent here, such as outstanding radio speakers, newscasters in the City of Seattle who—one of them I know in particular to be a member of the Communist Party, was a member with me, and my observation tells me he still is, was active in putting on that entertainment for the Communists down there, in Cafe Society.

MR. HOUSTON: There is no question in your mind, at that time, as an official in the Communist Party, as to whether or not Florence Bean James and Burton K. James were members of the Communist Party.

MR. WARREN: Well, there is a point in membership in the Communist Party, some of the top Communists that I know have never been given a membership card, or in many cases they paid dues, and for secrecy purposes their cards were held by top officials of the Communist Party; however, with that clarification, they were Communists, and that's that.

MR. HOUSTON: And you used them whenever you needed to and they—

MR. WARREN: Were very very cooperative on anything that we Communists were doing, and the Repertory Playhouse, and we were given that to understand as Communists, not in public, but privately.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, Mr. Warren, were I to ask you the names of other people in the Communist Party that you came in contact with, you could name many others, couldn't you?

MR. WARREN: Yes, at the time I could—they claimed a membership of nine hundred at one time when I was in the Communist Party—in King County, that is, and it fell shortly to around seven hundred, and I imagine I could do a pretty good job on at least fifty per cent of them. It would take a lot of time, of course.

MR. HOUSTON: Well, we certainly do thank you very much, Mr. Warren.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, I have concluded with this witness.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: We will excuse you, and thanks for your appearing here; and will you be requiring his services again, Mister—

MR. HOUSTON: No, I suggest that he be excused.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: You are dismissed.

MR. HOUSTON: Thank you very much, Mr. Warren.

(Witness Excused)