

the interests of Russia. They will do everything they can to hamper, to delay, to destroy, and to defeat every military move of our government.

By that I mean precisely this, that they will not hesitate, if they are in your Armed Forces, to raise the slogan which they have already prepared, "Turn the Imperialist War Into a Civil War." They will agitate among the troops not to fight against the Communists; to either lay down their arms, or if not, to turn their arms on their officers, and watch to take over the Government of the United States.

In so far as your industries are concerned, they have a master plan in that respect too. They mean to sabotage them. Harry Bridges, for example, that stalwart Communist who—who is so puffed up and so inflated as a result of his so-called temporary victory against the government, declared that "we," speaking of himself as a Communist and the Communists in his organization, "shall decide what we shall load on the ships." What does Bridges mean by that? Bridges means precisely this, that in the event of war between the United States and Russia, he will urge the members of his organization to refuse to load munitions in any war against Russia. That's what Bridges means. And that's what the Communists mean on the east coast. Their master plan calls for the stopping of the shipment of war material to our Armed Forces in the event of a war between our country and Russia.

Q. Does that mean—

A. And I defy any man to say anything to the contrary, because I sat in council—in meetings in high circles in the Party when this particular question was discussed. They are to blow up bridges, destroy railroads, cripple munition factories, wherever they are, and they are to do that in the interests of the fatherland, Russia. Anything to hamper and to cripple and to delay; and that, of course, works in the hands of the Communist military machine.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Johnson, I certainly thank you for appearing here, and there are two or three other phases of this question that, if you are available later, we might take up, at a later date.

Before you leave I would like to ask you one question.

Q. Why are you appearing here voluntarily, why did you come from New York here to testify at our request?

A. I came here voluntarily to testify because, as I said before, I have realized my mistake in ever becoming associated with the Communists. I realized that it was my duty to keep alive and maintain forever the highest traditions of my people, that is, never to be a traitor. And to have stayed in the Communist Party would have made of me a traitor to this great country of ours.

I will always, as my forbears have done, fight for this country, and serve it. Any person that seeks to undermine it or seeks to destroy it, I will always stand ready and willing to give all that I possibly can give, and rally all that I possibly can rally to help preserve our democratic institutions and our democratic way of life. And I think that any problem that we have, we can solve it in the good old American way. I believe that the American people should do that.

And I want to say this, that it was a pleasure for me to come here, and I hope and trust that the members of the Pension Union, many of whom are good solid Americans, many of them who can trace their ancestry back to the pioneer days when their forefathers fought the cold and the heat and the snow and the hostile Indians to come here and to pioneer this great great wealthy Northwest; that it is something to cherish and it's something to hold on to, and it's something to fight for; and above all, remember this, that you

know what you have, but God knows you don't know what you're going to get. Stick to America as America has stuck to you. And that is my opinion.

I feel that I have done an irreparable wrong to my country in ever connecting myself with the Communists. And I want to repay that debt that I owe; and so long as I shall live I shall use my talents and my experience in dealing and working with the Communists, to undo the wrong which I have helped them do.

And I hope and trust that you will follow the same policy here in Washington. Now let's get rid of the bloody, slimy, stinking, scummy Communists once and for all.

At this point Carl Brooks, later named in this report by a witness as a Communist Negro leader, made a disturbance and by direction of Chairman Canwell was removed from the hearing room by officers of the State Patrol.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: This is getting monotonous. We will now be in recess for five or ten minutes.

(Recess)

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Proceed.

JESS FLETCHER, produced as a witness, after being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HOUSTON:

Q. Will you please state your name?

A. Jess Fletcher.

Q. Where do you live, Mr. Fletcher?

A. 8731 Phinney Avenue.

Q. Mr. Fletcher, I'll ask you to state whether or not you have ever been a member of the Communist Party.

A. I have.

Q. When did you first affiliate yourself with the Communist Party?

A. Well, thirty—the latter part of '36—'37.

Q. And when did you become disassociated with the Communist Party?

A. That's hard to say. The secretary or organizer, Heinie Huff, said I was dropped three or four years ago. It's hard for me to determine when the Iron Curtain come in front of me, because I made the mistake of trying to practice free speech and democracy and they quit inviting me to their meetings.

Q. I will ask you, Mr. Fletcher, did you ever have a card in the Communist Party?

A. I did not, but they took my money, plenty of it too.

Q. Did you ever make inquiry as to why you were not given a card in the Communist Party?

A. Yes, I did. Morris Rapport, whom I knew when I was in the Industrial Workers of the World, or the I.W.W., was at that time the district secretary. I knew Rapport when he was in the I.W.W., and we voted on whether the I.W.W. would affiliate with the Third International, and the I.W.W. turned it down, but those that voted to affiliate with the Third International in 1919 or '20, turned to be Communists, and fellow-worker Rapport was a Communist. So after the—

Q. Now, try to just answer the question. Did you make inquiry, and of who?

A. Mr. Rapport.

Q. And what was Mr. Rapport's answer? Will you detail your conversation with him and his answer to you?

A. Well, I was coming to that. I—the Party was organizing all around me, but nobody asked me to join. And I asked Mr. Rapport and his wife out to the house to have dinner, and I said to him, "Fellow-worker, why am I not asked to join the Party? You're taking in people like Ward Cole and everybody else in my union." And he told me, "Due to your position, we don't want you to have a card." He said, "You're a better Communist than eighty per cent of those carrying a card, and Bill Foster knows you from the I.W.W. days, he has confidence in you," and he said, "Browder also has confidence in you, so don't let it worry you." Well, I said, "It's a little embarrassing to me to be looked on—or for the Party to hold my red-baiting days against me." "Well," he said, "time will take care of that."

And I never did get a card, but I donated my money to the Party.

Q. Did he say anything to you about that "we don't put our people in high places in the penitentiary by putting cards in their pockets"?

A. Oh, yes. He talked about the five or six hundred of the I.W.W. we had in jail in California and other parts of the country, and we discussed the Haywood case in Chicago when after the last war, and we sent Haywood to Russia, and he said, "The Communists don't do that. We're going to protect our members. We don't want the government to know that you're a member of the Communist Party." That's about the words he used.

Q. Did he assure you that you were a Communist just the same?

A. Yes, yes.

Q. And were you admitted to Communist meetings?

A. Oh, yes, yes.

Q. Now during the course of the time that you were in the Communist Party, which we have fixed here as beginning along in '37 and certainly continuing through the middle '40's, did you sit in meetings with various people?

A. Yes.

Q. Could you detail some of the people that you have sat in Communist Party meetings with?

A. Oh, I've sat in so many meetings, it's pretty hard.

Q. Did you ever sit in a meeting with Heinie Huff?

A. Oh, yes, many times.

Q. Did you ever sit in a meeting with Carl Reeves?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. Oh, by the way, did you see that little demonstration we had here a few minutes ago?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. Did you recognize the gentleman making that demonstration?

A. Yes, that was Comrade Brooks. I sat in meetings with him in the Communist Party.

Q. Can you identify him further? What's his first name?

A. Carl. Comrade Carl Brooks.

Q. Comrade Carl Brooks. And your testimony is that he—that you have sat in Communist Party meetings with him.

A. Oh, yes.

Q. Did you ever sit in any Party meeting with Bill Dobbins?

A. Oh, yes, lots—many times.

Q. With Merwin Cole?

A. Yes.

Q. With Tom Rabbitt?

A. Many times.

Q. With Hugh DeLacy?

A. Yes, many times.

Q. With Harry Bridges?

A. Yes.

Q. With Harold Pritchett?

A. Yes.

Q. Howard Costigan?

A. Yes.

Q. With Harry Jackson?

A. Yes.

Q. George Bradley?

A. Yes.

Q. Bill Pennock?

A. Many times.

MR. HOUSTON: Just a moment. Do you have the spelling of the names here, or do you want the spelling of any of these names?

THE REPORTER: Heinie Huff.

MR. HOUSTON: Heinie Huff. H-e-i-n-double e.

Q. You refer to Henry Huff, do you?

A. That's right. He's the district secretary now, of the Communist Party, and a member of the National Committee.

Q. With J. Rubin?

A. Yes.

Q. Is that the J. Rubin in New York City?

A. That's right.

Q. Is that the same J. Rubin that Mr. Manning Johnson mentioned this morning?

A. That's right.

Q. With John Goodman?

A. Yes.

Q. What is John Goodman's position?

A. He's International Vice President of the Building Service Employees Union.

Q. With Sidney Budell?

A. Yes.

Q. What is—who is Sidney Budell?

A. He's an official of Local 244 in New York, of the Building Service Employees Union.

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Q. With John Steubin?

NEWSPAPER REPORTER: How do you spell that last name?

MR. HOUSTON: B-u-d-e-l-l. It was in the testimony this morning.

Q. With John Steubin?

A. Steubin, yes.

Q. How do you spell Steubin?

A. S-t-u-b-b-i-n, I believe. I'm not a speller—

Q. Isn't it S-t-e-u-b-e-n?

A. I'm not sure. Ask my wife, she spells for me.

Q. Now who is John Steubin?

A. He's the secretary of 244.

Q. Of the Building Service Employees Union?

A. That's right.

Q. In the City of New York.

A. That's right.

Q. And your testimony under oath here is that you have sat in Communist Party meetings with all of these gentlemen.

A. That's right.

Q. Now we'll come back and pick up a few. You stated that you sat in Communist Party meetings with Harry Bridges.

A. I have.

Q. Where did—where and when did you first meet Harry Bridges?

A. I met Harry Bridges in Morris Rapport's apartment over here on, just off of Denny Way. Over here in this little valley.

Q. When did you meet Harry Bridges? You refer, of course, to Harry Renton Bridges, president of the International Longshore Workers Union?

A. Oh yes, I know him well. I was on his committee, to defend him.

Q. Now you first met him in Morris Rapport's apartment.

A. That's right.

Q. Can you fix approximately the date of that?

A. '37 or '38, I'm not—I met with him several times in those years.

Q. Well, let's detail this first meeting now. Now, how did you happen to go to Mr. Rapport's apartment?

A. Comrade Rapport called me and told me that there was an important meeting in his apartment and comrades I should meet.

Q. And you went to his apartment pursuant thereto.

A. That's right.

Q. Now who did you meet there?

A. I met Harry Bridges, Harold Pritchett—

Q. Now, who is Harold Pritchett?

A. He was an official at that time, of the I.W.A., the C.I.O. Woodworkers. I think it was.

Q. Now who else?

A. George Bradley was with me.

Q. Now who is George Bradley?

A. George Bradley, at that time, was chief business agent of my local union here in Seattle, Local 6.

Q. Who else was there?

A. A fellow by the name of Harry Jackson.

Q. Now who was Harry Jackson?

A. He was the assistant, I believe it was. He was next to Rapport, in charge, in the Communist Party office.

Q. He was an open official of the Communist Party?

A. Oh yes, yes.

Q. Anybody else there?

A. I think it was Hugh DeLacy was there.

Q. Hugh DeLacy was there?

A. That's right.

Q. Anybody else?

A. I can't think of anybody right now.

Q. How did you know that this was a Communist Party meeting?

A. Well, the district organizer of the Communist Party told me to come to his house and he addressed them as comrades, told them that I was a comrade.

Q. He announced to the group that you was a comrade.

A. That's right.

Q. Did the course—in the course of the meeting, did you address each other as comrade?

A. No, I used the word "fellow-worker" and they corrected me on that. I finally learned later on to say "comrade," in place of fellow-worker, but—

Q. Who corrected you?

A. Well, DeLacy and Rapport, and Bridges. Well, they told me I'd have to forget that word fellow-worker.

Q. Did they say what the word comrade meant?

A. No, they didn't. They said they used that in Russia, and I'd have to use it here.

Q. They didn't tell you that that's one of the—the way that Communists address each other.

A. Well, I learned that later on.

Q. Learned that later on, now what did you—was the general topics of discussion that took place at this meeting?

A. Well, there was a fight in the Labor Movement, I believe at that time, the Longshoremen was going to go C.I.O., the fight between the American Federation of Labor and the C.I.O. that John L. Lewis had set up, and that was a hot issue and we were discussing that. Rapport was telling Bridges the Party line to be pursued in this struggle.

Q. In other words, you were making plans to further the Communist penetration in these unions.

A. That's right.

Q. It was really a strategy fraction meeting of the Communist Party leaders, then.

A. That's right.

Q. Were these other people that you have mentioned here either labor leaders or leaders of front organizations?

A. No, I don't think DeLacy represented anything. I don't think that—Bridges represented a union, and so did I,—Pritchett. Harry Jackson was the

labor relations man for the district bureau of the Communist Party. So he represented the Communist Party.

Q. When you refer to DeLacy here, are you referring to ex-Congressman Hugh DeLacy?

A. That's right. That's right.

Q. Now, when did you meet with Bridges a second time?

A. I believe it—it was either in Morris Rapport's house or Howard Costigan's apartment. His apartment—either Rapport's apartment or Costigan's apartment when he lived over here on the east side of the lake.

Q. Well, why do you confuse the two? Don't you know which apartment you went to, or did you meet in both of them at various times?

A. Why, man I was in meetings continuously. We met all over the lap. I can't remember all of them. They'd meet about three or four times a week.

Q. Well, did you—we'll forget this second meeting, then. Did you attend a—another meeting in Rapport's apartment at which Harry Renton Bridges was present?

A. Yes. Two, I'm convinced, was in Rapport's apartment, yes.

Q. Two of your meetings with Harry Bridges, was in Rapport's apartment.

A. That's right.

Q. And how did you come to attend this next meeting? Who told you anything?

A. Merwin Cole or Bill Dobbins informed me that there was an important meeting, that they had word from Rapport, and to be at his apartment at a certain hour. And I went.

Q. And you went there.

A. That's right.

Q. Now, who was present at this second meeting?

A. Either Cole—Cole and Dobbins, Bradley, George Bradley who was chief business agent of Local 6, DeLacy, and Rapport, Mrs. Rapport was there, Harry Jackson—

Q. Is that Mrs. Esther Rapport?

A. That's right.

Q. And the correct name, are you referring to Rappaport?

A. Rappaport, that's right. Ernie Fox—

Q. Now who is Ernie Fox?

A. He was connected with the Seamen or the Longshoremen. I think he come with Bridges.

Q. He came with Bridges.

A. I think he did. A fellow by the name of Matt Meehan.

Q. Now who is Matt Meehan? Is that M-double e-h-a-n?

A. I think it is. He was secretary of the Longshoremen, I think, at the time. I can't spell it. Don't ask me to spell it.

Q. You've seen the name. Would M- double e-h-a-n seem right?

A. That will do as good as anything else.

Q. In other words, you know him when you see him.

A. I know him when I see him, yes.

Q. All right, now who else was there? You've got Cole, Dobbins, Bradley,

DeLacy, Rapport, Mrs. Esther Rapport, Ernie Fox and Matt Meehan. Was any other local people there?

A. Not that I can remember.

Q. You—was Harry Renton Bridges there?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. Was he there when you got to the meeting, or did he come later?

A. Yes, they were having coffee when I got there.

Q. Having coffee. Now how did you know that this was a Communist Party fraction meeting?

A. Well, the fact that Rapport had called it, and—in his apartment, and he's the district organizer of the Communist Party, and we discussed what activity the Party would take in the struggle of the—or the vote in the campaign of the Longshoremen to go C.I.O.

Q. Did you know Merwin Cole as a Communist?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. Bill Dobbins?

A. Yes, they all—

Q. George Bradley?

A. Yes.

Q. Hugh DeLacy?

A. Correct.

Q. Mr. and Mrs. Rappaport?

A. That's right.

Q. Ernie Fox. Have you sat in other meetings with him?

A. Yes.

Q. Matt Meehan?

A. I'm not sure Matt Meehan was a Party member. That is the only meeting I sat in with him.

Q. With Matt Meehan, eh?

A. Matt Meehan, that's the only meeting I sat with him.

Q. These others being Communists, to your knowledge, and the meeting having been called by the highest Communist official in this area, did you believe you were attending a Communist Party meeting?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. At the meeting did you again see any evidence which confirmed this belief?

A. Oh, yes. The whole discussion, of the Communist Party, and Rapport's report on what he'd got from the center.

Q. In other words, the center was sending instructions to you leaders here in the Labor Movement about this impending struggle between the C.I.O. and the A. F. of L. and it was being transmitted to you, is that correct?

A. It was sent—they sent it to Rapport, not to us. We—

Q. Yeah, but Rapport transmitted it to you, didn't he?

A. That's right. Yeah, that's right.

A NEWSPAPER REPORTER: What is a center?

THE WITNESS: The center is in New York. That's what they call the Communist Headquarters in New York. The center.

Q. Did you discuss the instructions of the center from an attitude of either following their instructions or rejecting them, or was it an accepted fact that you had to follow them and you were merely discussing how to carry them out?

A. Well, as I remember it, the meeting was called to order by Comrade Rapport, and he asked for a report from the different comrades. We—each of us talked, and then he took what he called a summation of what we'd talked about, and then he laid down the Party line, and sometimes we talked about the right thing, and sometimes we hadn't, but in the end everybody would get up and agree with Comrade Rapport, and the meeting would adjourn.

Q. At this meeting, did you again address each other as comrade?

A. Oh, yes. I think I used the word fellow-worker some more.

Q. Did you get bawled out again?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. They didn't let that get by?

A. No.

Q. Now, did you again meet with Harry Bridges?

A. Well yes, later on I was put on his Defense Committee.

Q. Yes, but before that, did you have any—had you had any further meetings with Harry Bridges, other than about this Defense Committee's?

A. No, not with the Party. Two or three meetings there with him.

Q. Now detail for us the circumstances and where you next met with Harry Bridges.

A. I believe it was in San Francisco. Hugh DeLacy and Rapport told me that I was on his Defense Committee. And when I was in San Francisco I should contact him, and I did. I think that was around '38 or '9, somewhere in there.

Q. Did you—what was the nature of your discussion with Mr. Bridges in the San Francisco conversation?

A. As to how I could raise money to help to defend him, keep him from being deported.

Q. At this meeting was there any others present, or just you and Harry Renton Bridges?

A. Just me and Harry Renton Bridges.

Q. Did he greet you or address you as comrade on this occasion?

A. Yes. Yes, he did.

Q. Did you address him as Comrade Bridges?

A. Yes. Oh, I can place that date better than that. When did Governor Ol—when was he elected, '38 wasn't it, as Governor of the State of California?

Q. I'd like to help you, Mr. Fletcher, but this must be your testimony. You must recall the date as best you can.

A. All right. It was the—I met him at the Governor's Inaugural Ball in Sacramento when he was first elected Governor. I'll never forget it, because Bridges had on a tuxedo, and they stuck me in one.

Q. Now I will ask you, Mr. Fletcher, to detail the circumstances of the next meeting with Harry Bridges. You referred to another Seattle apartment here. Will you tell us about that?

A. I met him in the—I think it was Costigan's apartment when he lived over on the other side of the lake here.

Q. Now please help our record out a little bit. The telephone book contains a good many Costigans. What Costigan do you mean?

A. There is only one Howard Costigan. You know that.

Q. What position did Mr. Costigan hold at that time?

A. He was the Executive Secretary of the Washington Commonwealth Federation, of which I was a board member.

Q. Now, who told you of this meeting?

A. I think Comrade Rapport told me.

Q. The district organizer again told you—

A. That's right.

Q. —to be present for another meeting.

A. That's right.

Q. Did he tell you to meet in Mr. Costigan's apartment?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you meet in Mr. Costigan's apartment?

A. I did.

Q. What was—who was there this time?

A. Hugh DeLacy, Howard Costigan, Harry Bridges, Harry Jackson, myself, and I believe Mickey Orton—

Q. Now, is this Mickey Orton that formerly was connected with the Longshore Union?

A. That's right.

Q. Is this Mickey Orton's wife named Claretta? Is that the one you refer to?

A. Well, I don't know his wife.

Q. Oh, I see. Do you recall anyone else—

A. No, I can't think of anyone else.

Q. Well, was Morris Rapport there?

A. Oh, sure, sure, sure. He called the meeting.

Q. Now what was discussed at this meeting?

A. Well, if I remember right, we were discussing some trouble the Longshoremen had with the Tacoma local of the Longshoremen. I believe at that meeting we discussed running Hugh DeLacy for the city council, I'm not sure.

Q. What led you to believe that this was a Communist fraction meeting?

A. Well, it was called by the district organizer, and it was held in the apartment of Howard Costigan, who was the spokesman on the air for the Communist Party line.

Q. Was Howard Costigan a member of the Communist Party?

A. Yes.

Q. Were these other people you detailed here members of the Communist Party, to your knowledge?

A. They were. They were. I never seen their cards, but I'm sure they were.

Q. Was it the practice to show cards among members?

A. No, no, they're not like a union, you don't show cards.

Q. The fact of the matter is you couldn't if you had to, could you?

A. No, they never give me a card. But they took my dough.

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Q. At this meeting—at this meeting, did you discuss Communist Party business?

A. Yes, Rapport made a report on—I think he just returned from New York, the center. He made a report on different subjects and politics, political trends, etc.

Q. Then you discussed running Mr. DeLacy for the city council then?

A. I think that was right, yes.

Q. At this meeting did you again address each other as comrade?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. Did you address Harry Bridges as comrade?

A. Yes.

Q. Did he address the rest of you as comrade?

A. He did.

Q. I'll ask you, Mr. Fletcher, did you ever sit in a meeting with Harry Bridges and Burt Nelson, where Burt Nelson was present?

A. Oh, yes, sure.

Q. Will you tell us about this meeting?

A. It was in the Longshoremen's Hall in Matt Meehan's office.

Q. In Matt Meehan's office, who—he was secretary of the Longshoremen at that time—

A. Yes.

Q. Now can you fix the approximate date of this meeting?

A. That was around '38, '39.

Q. '38 or '39. Now who called this meeting?

A. Burt Nelson.

Q. Burt Nelson. Was Burt Nelson a member of the Communist Party?

A. He was. He is yet.

Q. Did you believe that you were going to attend a Communist Party fraction meeting when you were called?

A. That's right.

Q. Now who did you find in attendance at this meeting?

A. Matt Meehan, Ernie Fox, Bill Dobbins, Mervin Cole, Nelson—Burt Nelson—

Q. That Burt Nelson, is that the one that spells his name B-u-r-t?

A. Yes.

Q. Now who was Burt Nelson?

A. He was a member or official of the Longshoremen.

Q. He was an official of the Longshore union here in Seattle.

A. Yes.

Q. All right. Proceed now. Now who else was there?

A. That's all I can think of, was there, now.

Q. Well, was Morris Rapport at this meeting?

A. No, I think Harry Jackson was at this meeting.

Q. Harry Jackson. Was Harry Renton Bridges at this meeting?

A. Yes.

Q. Now what was discussed at this meeting?

A. Oh, there was some—most of these meetings was a beef of either the Longshoremen or the Party, or the—some scheme to raise money for the

Communist Party. We were trying to devise ways and means of raising money for the Communist Party or get delegates to the W.C.F., or some convention that we figured on taking over, whether it was the W.C.F. or the Democratic convention. We'd hold meetings like that and send out the directives to the people below to do certain things.

Q. People below who, in the Communist Party?

A. That's right.

Q. Now just what do you mean by some beef? Do you mean some trouble?

A. Some local union of either the—it might be some dispute between our—my local union, or some of my local unions under my jurisdiction on the West Coast, between watchmen and the longshoremen, or some—or the janitors on the waterfront. We'd discuss those issues.

Q. Now I'll ask you, Mr. Fletcher, did you ever meet with Harry Renton Bridges again or was this all of the meetings you had with him?

A. No, I—I flew with him from Salt Lake to Chicago in a plane—

Q. When was this?

A. In 1940.

Q. 1940. What was the occasion for your going to Chicago?

A. I was on my way to Detroit, and he was on his way to Washington, D. C.

Q. Did you have any conversation on the plane?

A. Oh yes, we talked all night.

Q. Did he, upon meeting you, call you Comrade Fletcher?

A. No, we met in the coffee shop at the airport in Salt Lake City. I come up from Los Angeles to meet him.

Q. Did anything Harry Bridges said, or anything that he did on this trip lead you further to believe that he was a member of the Communist Party?

A. Yes.

Q. What was it?

A. Well, Hitler was bombing the—England, the war was on, and we was wondering, talking about the Stalin-Hitler pact and how long it would last, whether they would stick together, or just what would happen.

Q. Did he express to you the Communist Party line at that time?

A. Yes, he seemed to think that Hitler might turn out to be a good Communist.

Q. Was that the current Party line at that time?

A. That was the Party line to—that Hitler was a pretty good guy, and that got me into a lot of trouble. I never was quite convinced that he was a good guy.

Q. I'll ask you, Mr. Fletcher, is there anybody in this picture you recognize?

A. I recognize Harry Bridges, and Mr. Molotov. I almost met him. This is the secretary to Gromyko. I met him.

Q. You met him.

A. Yes.

Q. The gentleman standing between Mr. Molotov and Harry Bridges is the secretary to Gromyko?

A. To Gromyko, that's right.

MR. HOUSTON: You fellows will have to spell that; I can't.

A VOICE: G-r-o-m-y-k-o.

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Q. Now you have identified these from the exhibit here, marked number nine, have you not?

A. That's right.

Q. Now, Mr. Fletcher, as an International vice president of the Building Service Employees Union, you were considered a rather important Communist, were you not?

A. That's true. A little bit too important, I believe. They put me with these ivory towers out in the University, and I didn't fit there.

Q. Now in what organizations have you observed the tactics and methods of the Communist Party's infiltration?

A. Now you're on—you're on my ground. They tried to infiltrate the I.W.W. in 1919 and '20. That's the only organization that I know anything about that was successful in eliminating or liquidating the Communist Party out of that organization. We didn't argue with them, we threw them out on their noggin. If they stuck their head up like they do here, they went out either the door or the window. It didn't make much difference. The lumberjacks didn't bother with them. But unfortunately the open-shop lumber industry with the assistance of the Communist Party, destroyed the I.W.W.

Now, then I went into the Unemployed Citizens League. I helped to organize fifty thousand in this county, King County, in the Unemployed Citizens League in 1932. The Communists had a dual organization that was described by Mr. Johnson and Mr. Budenz. They systematically set in to infiltrate the Unemployed Citizens League and destroy it, and they did just that. They threw me off of the Capitol steps on the Fourth of July in 1932, and fractured my right ankle and my left knee. You can look at the "Post-Intelligencer" of that date and you can verify that.

They destroyed that organization completely. Next was organized—I helped do that with Howard Costigan—Costigan of the Commonwealth Federation. They infiltrated and they destroyed that organization completely. Next we organized the Washington Commonwealth Federation, to try and alleviate some of the economic conditions affecting us in this community, in this state.

The Communist Party with their slimy, filthy tactics of destruction, infiltrated that and destroyed it. And at the present time they're trying to destroy the Democratic Party, and will unless the party does something about it. They are a party of destroyers, and not builders, because they know if we solve it, if we build an organization in this country that will help to alleviate some of our economic conditions, the Communists haven't got a look-in. That's why they destroy.

Q. I will ask you, Mr. Fletcher, are you familiar with an organization known as the Washington Old Age Pension Union, which later changed its name to the Washington Pension Union?

A. I am. I furnished the hall rent for them when they were first organized, at the direction of the Communist—or, immediately after they were organized, at the direction of the Communist Party.

Q. When you say you furnished the hall for them, do you mean you or your organization?

A. I mean my local union.

Q. Had the Communists penetrated your local union at that time?

A. Oh, definitely. I think everybody in this state is familiar with that.

Q. And the Communist Party was using your local union then, to further the activities of an organization that had no connection with your union?

A. That's right.

Q. Is that right?

A. That's right.

Q. Your testimony is that your union furnished the money with a hall for them to meet in.

A. That's right, I was glad—I furnished the old people the hall, or the union would, gladly, or any other union in this community, but they're not going to have the Communists run it, if they want to furnish them hall rent or donate money to them.

Q. Now, from your knowledge of the Communist Party, as a member of the Communist Party at that time, and your knowledge of the Washington Old Age Pension Union came through furnishing a hall for them, will you state whether or not the Washington Old Age Pension Union was dominated and controlled by the Communist Party?

A. Absolutely, I sat in the meetings when the decision was made for the Party to take it over.

Q. When was this, Mr. Fletcher?

A. The first meeting was held in the latter part of '37.

Q. When was the second meeting held?

A. Oh, there was a number of meetings. They were held almost continually.

Q. Was it a program of the Communist Party to take over the Washington Old Age Pension Union?

A. Absolutely.

Q. Did the Communists assign anyone to do the job?

A. They did.

Q. Who did they assign to do the job?

A. Howard Costigan, Bill Pennock, Tom Rabbitt, and a number of others I can't think of just now.

Q. Do you refer to William Pennock the present president, State President of the Washington Old Age Pension Union?

A. That's right. He's got about as much business in a pension union as I have in a—well, we'll let it go.

Q. Is Mr. Pennock a pensioner?

A. No, he's no pensioner. He's a parasite.

Q. Is he old enough to be a pensioner?

A. No. He's about thirty years old.

Q. But he's leading this Old Age Pension Union, is that right?

A. He's drawing pay from them.

Q. Now—

A. He's misleading them, I'll put it that way.

Q. Now, you participated in the councils of the Communist Party when they made the decision to infiltrate and take over the Old Age Pension Union.

A. I did. I did.

Q. And you know that the Communist Party assigned these three and several others who you do not recall, to do the job?

A. That's right.

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Q. Did they do the job?

A. They done a good job. There's no question about that.

Q. Now you've testified that this meeting was in the latter part of 1937. Who was at that meeting?

A. Myself, Howard Costigan, Hugh DeLacy, Tom Rabbitt, Bill Pennock,—this here Bill Pennock, at the time was—he was secretary to Costigan and was riding a bicycle. He didn't have brains enough to come in out of the rain, but they put him in to—to take over the Pension—to work in the Pension Union, and now he's a big shot.

Well, this is nothing to laugh about. It's—it's the truth.

Q. Now, did the Communist Party infiltrate any other organizations here in the City of Seattle? Did they infiltrate your union?

A. Oh sure, absolutely, they had definite control of it. There was more Communists on the payroll of my local union than there was on the payroll of the Communist Party. There's a lot of them in there yet.

Q. Did—did they attempt to influence the policies of your local union?

A. They didn't attempt. They influenced it, and they just about got me thrown out.

Q. At the time you referred to, Morris Rapport was the head of the Communist Party here, was he not?

A. Up until 1940, yes.

Q. Did he ever transmit to you any instructions from the Communist Party to be effected in your union?

A. Oh yes. Yes, yes.

Q. Where and how would Mr. Rapport transport those instructions to you?

A. He'd either come out to my house, or I'd go to his house.

Q. After Mr. Rapport left here, and was succeeded—no, strike that question. Who succeeded Mr. Rapport as head of the Communist Party in this area?

A. Heinie Huff.

Q. Is that his name, or is it Henry Huff?

A. Henry. It's Henry, but we call him Heinie.

Q. Did Mr. Huff ever attempt to influence the policies of your union?

A. Oh yes, definitely.

Q. Did Mr. Huff give you instructions?

A. He did.

Q. How would Mr. Huff give you instructions?

A. Well, not many times after Huff come in—it was only maybe for a year that I met with him. Something happened that he didn't like me any more. But at the start he give me instructions. He's the man that give me instructions to put Bill Dobbins on the pay roll.

Q. And the Communist Party even instructed you as to who to hire?

A. Oh, sure. Bill Dobbins never done any janitor work. He had no business in there, and I shouldn't of hired him.

Q. Well now, after this first year, how did he send instructions to you?

A. Through Merwin Cole or Tom Rabbitt.

Q. Would said Merwin Cole and Tom Rabbitt advise you that these instructions came from Henry Huff, the district organizer of the Communist Party?

A. Oh yes, yes, sure.

Q. Were they transmitted to you as instructions to follow without deviation?

A. Yes. That's right.

Q. In other words, did you interpret them as orders?

A. Yes. I tried to argue about it. That's what got me in trouble.

Q. Would your testimony today be that the Communist Party gave you orders as to how to run your union?

A. Absolutely.

Q. Now you've mentioned two or three times that you got in "dutch" because you tried to argue with them. Did this ever reach a head where you had a meeting or a discussion about it?

A. Oh, definitely.

Q. Will you state the occasion, and all about it?

A. You see, I was elected as an International Vice President in 1940. I had to travel over a good part of the United States.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, I feel remiss to interrupt the testimony of this witness at this time, but we have a very heavy schedule and much stuff to go into, and I would like it so that we can organize it, to ask that you hold a night session tonight.

You've asked that this hearing be limited to two weeks. We're proceeding much more slowly than we had anticipated. We yet have fifty-four witnesses here to testify, nearly all of whom are Seattle citizens, a large part of which are former members of the Communist Party. And we would like to build this case and get it finished in its proper manner. We also have much, much documentary evidence to be introduced that I feel is pertinent to this hearing, and I would like to ask that you hold night meetings and start tonight.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: First, I think we would want to consider that, and I certainly share your wish to handle the volume of testimony that has been made available, to process the witnesses, a great number of them which I know are on call, and I'm interested with—the group are interested in maintaining a schedule, but in that this is a public hearing and many people wish to follow the person in the course of the hearing, I am reluctant to say that we will do that, and I don't believe that we shall this week. If it is still evident that we are unable to maintain a schedule next week, it would be my recommendation that we do go into night sessions. But I will wish to discuss that with the other members of this legislative group, and if it is necessary and there is no way to avoid it next week I believe that we can hold night sessions. I think that it is important that the information here be made available to the people of the State of Washington forthwith. It's long overdue. And we will, I think, agree to do whatever is necessary to make this information available to the people of the State of Washington.

But we will reserve that until the first of the week.

MR. HOUSTON: Thank you, I'll do my best.

Q. Now, Mr. Fletcher, I beg your pardon for the interruption, but there's quite a good deal of work in organizing this testimony. Now you were detailing a time that your reluctance to go along with some of the decisions of the Communist Party got you in trouble. Will you continue with that conversation.

A. Well, as I say, I'd come in off a trip from back east or down south. I'd go to the office and Bill Dobbins and Merwin Cole or some of them would tell me what had happened while I was away, and give me the political or trade

union line of the Communist Party for this locality. And I will be frank to say that some of their lines was so stupid, I couldn't go along with it and I would argue about it. They give me to understand that there was no deviation from the Communist Party line.

Q. Who gave you to understand?

A. Mr. Heinie Huff. They even got in a fight among themselves who would bring the party instructions from Huff up to Local 6.

Q. Who was that in a fight?

A. Merwin Cole and Bill Dobbins and Tom Rabbitt. Apparently Rabbitt was infringing on their jurisdiction. And in the 1944 campaign it come to quite a crisis. The Party had been messing in my union affairs, a fellow by the name of Reeves under Huff—

Q. Carl Reeves?

A. Carl Reeves, who was assistant to Heinie Huff, had went to Spokane and give instructions to a business agent of the Building Service Local 202. The instructions he gave to her was that she must go on the Executive Board of the local Communist Party of Spokane.

Q. Who was this woman?

A. I'd have to look at my records to get that. I forget her name, but I've got it in my records. She called me and I blew up. I got pretty sharp with the Party and said some things that hurt the feelings of Dobbins and Cole and Rabbitt, about the Party, that of course they took back to Huff. And a fight come up over—between Rabbitt, Dobbins and Cole and Huff in trying to put DeLacy in the race for Congress. Tom Rabbitt and Huff and DeLacy decided that Hugh DeLacy would run for Congress, and they never discussed it with any other Party members, and that even made Rabbitt and Cole mad.

When I got in off of a trip, the "Battle of Bull Run" was going on inside of my local union, and I sent Cole and Dobbins on a fishing expedition until after the campaign was over. Immediately after the campaign, about a week, Johnnie Williamson, that was identified here by Budenz and Mr. Johnson, came to Seattle to meet the Party people.

Q. Do you refer to the Mr. Williamson who is described as a member of the National Committee of the Communist Party—

A. That's right. That's right. He's now on the—and I learned today from Mr. Johnson that he's on the all-powerful Political Bureau of the Communist International.

I was invited to a closed meeting of the—to meet Mr. Williamson at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel, by the duly-elected Congressman, Hugh DeLacy. We attended a meeting there. We had something to eat. And I'm still sore about them messing into my union, and I knew this guy was a big shot, and I went and told him I wanted a meeting. He said, "With who?" I said, "I want you to meet with Huff, your man here, and this man Reeves that's helping him, Congressman DeLacy who is the leader of the Party here, and the leadership of my local union." He said, "Where will we meet?" I said, "We'll meet up in Local 6 office."

We arrived there. There was Merwin Cole, Bill Dobbins, Tom Rabbitt, Hugh DeLacy, Carl Reeves, Heinie Huff, Johnnie Williamson, and myself. I proceeded to tell Mr. Williamson—Comrade Williamson, I should say—what my beef was, that the Party and executives were dealing with my local union in the Northwest.

I think I made the statement that Heinie Huff wasn't big enough for the job, he was a dumbbell, or something. I told him that I didn't have the trouble—this kind of trouble, when Morris Rapport was here leading the Communist Party. As soon as I was—and as far as I was concerned that Tom Rabbitt would never go back on the payroll of Local 6, as the Party had took him out then to function in the Pension Union. That he was a disrupter, he caused trouble in Local 6, even with his own Communists.

As soon as I got through, our newly-elected Comrade DeLacy—

Q. Now you have fixed the date of this meeting as about a week after his election in '44—

A. That's right.

Q. —to Congress.

A. That's right.

Q. And prior to the time that he took his seat in Congress.

A. That's right. About a week or ten days after he was elected. DeLacy immediately attacked me for being a revisionist. I didn't know what that meant then, until we had talked about it as—and I thought as much about that as I know what Fred Niendorff called me an apostate Communist. I never heard of that until I read it in the "P. I." the other day. Anyway—

Q. Did you recognize it as something that wasn't good?

A. Well, I asked—I asked Ashley Holden whether it was bad or not. If he'd a told me it was bad, I'd a got my lawyers.

DeLacy said that I was—done a disservice to the working class, that I was—well, he's educated and I'm not. I don't know what all that he did, but he made me awfully mad. And that I'd committed an unpardonable sin by condemning Mr. Huff and praising Mr. Rapport. He told me that the King was dead, and that I'd better learn to follow the Party line better, and I think I made a remark that it was a pretty damn crooked line and nobody could follow it all the time. It wasn't a very friendly meeting. So I was asked to no more meetings. Does that answer your question?

Q. Yes, thank you. Just one more. Did Mr. Williamson agree with you, or did he agree with Congressman DeLacy?

A. Well, no, Mr. Williamson wasn't so bad. He proceeded to take Comrade Dobbins apart for going on a fishing expedition in the political campaign, and Cole; he criticized Comrade Rabbitt finally, and I believe he made the statement that the—these International Vice Presidents was very valuable to the Communist Party—the position I held—

Q. You mean International Vice Presidents of an International Labor Union?

A. That's right. That's right. That the Party had a lot invested in him, and then he proceeds to take me apart for my short temper. He said that was bad Communist strategy for me to lose my temper like that.

Q. Did anybody else at this meeting castigate you, besides Hugh DeLacy?

A. No, no. Most of them there was on my payroll.

Q. Now, I want to leave that for a minute. There's a name that's cropped out here for some time. You have mentioned several times, and detailed meetings, "in the apartment of Howard G. Costigan" is that correct?

A. That's right.

Q. And you've testified that Howard G. Costigan was a member of the Communist Party.

A. Long before I was.

Q. Is Howard G. Costigan a member of the Communist Party today?

A. No, no, no, he's not. He's just as sick of them as I am.

Q. Now deviating just a moment, did you know an organization operating in the City of Seattle under the name of the Workers Alliance?

A. Oh, yes, very well. Very well.

Q. Was the Communist Party interested in the Workers Alliance?

A. They run it. They organized it.

Q. Did they have complete control of it?

A. Absolutely.

Q. How did the Workers Alliance go out of existence?

A. Well, the W.P.A. and relief work finally played out. It was built around that C.W.A. and—

Q. Did they have a lot of good Party workers in this Workers Alliance?

A. Some was good, and some was awfully bum. And I got some bum ones out of that.

Q. Do you have any knowledge of the merging of the Workers Alliance with the Washington Old Age Pension Union?

A. Yes, I sat in the meetings with them, when they decided on that policy of bodily transferring the active leadership of the Workers Alliance into the Pension Union—into the Pension Union to control it, whether they was drawing a pension or not.

Q. Was this a meeting of the Communist Party wherein this was decided?

A. It was.

Q. Do you know whether or not the leadership of the Old Age Pension Union had been consulted about this?

A. They had not.

Q. Do you know whether or not the leadership—

A. Oh, just a minute. Just a minute. Howard Costigan was the leader, certainly, he sat in the Communist Party meetings that decided the issue.

Q. Was the rank and file of the Old Age Pension Union consulted?

A. No, no, they wasn't consulted. They were like a frog in a thunderstorm, they could hear the noise but they didn't know where it was coming from.

Q. Was the membership of the Workers Alliance consulted?

A. For what?

Q. About this merger.

A. The Workers Alliance?

Q. Yes.

A. No, no. The Communist Party don't consult the membership.

Q. In other words, they just issue orders and that's followed out by—

A. That's right. That's right.

Q. Was such a merger made?

A. It was.

Q. Do you know a man by the name of Lenus Westman?

A. I saw him, yes, I saw him here the other day. I think he was pitched out of here for practicing free speech in a country he is trying to destroy.

Q. Is Lenus Westman a member of the Communist Party?

A. I've been told, I never sat in a meeting with him, but I've been told by leading Communists that he was a good comrade. I know they cried when he was thrown out of the Legislature.

Q. Was he thrown out of the Legislature?

A. That's my understanding, yes.

Q. Do you know why he was thrown out of the Legislature?

A. Yes, I think they had an investigation and the committee—they found—positive proof he was a Communist and they wouldn't let him take his seat. They should have a medal, that committee, I believe.

Q. I'm going to ask you a hypothetical question now.

MR. HOUSTON: I believe a man that has put the years in the Communist Party that this man has, Mr. Chairman, and—he can qualify as an expert.

Q. Would you say, from your knowledge of Communist Party tactics that his activities yesterday indicate that he is still a member of the Communist Party?

A. Oh definitely, I'd spot him if I had never seen him before in my life. I—I—listen, brother, I can tell them now. I can tell them now, as soon as they get up. Sure, that's it. He's a Commie. That's a demonstration of their—how they handle their opposition, their idea of democracy. That's how they handled me in my local union. Just like they handled themselves here. I tried to talk to my local union that I organized swinging a mop on the job without any dough; and these bums, when I tried to talk to the membership and tell them they were Communists, sapping them of their money, they bounced up like that and hollered and whooped until they adjourned the meeting. They won't permit democracy. They don't know what it means.

Q. Now, Mr. Fletcher, you've testified that the Communists had control of your union. Did they ever put over a program in your union, or get your union to do anything that was totally irrelevant to the labor movement, were they interested in things in making your union do things that had no connection with a labor union?

A. I'd say at least eighty per cent of their activity was put in in promoting the Communist Party, locally or nationally, or promoting Russian foreign policy, or writing resolutions condemning the American foreign policy, condemning the United States of America, the President, or they were trying to save some Communist stooge that had got in jail in Spain or some place else, or over in China.

They had no consideration for the membership, only in so far as they paid their dues that paid the salaries of these Communists that never worked, and this Rabbitt and the whole gang never done a day's work, and they've got no business on the payroll.

(Applause.)

They're a bunch of leeches and parasites.

Q. Did the Communist Party, while it had control of your union, secure any funds for the Communist Party activities and program from your—

A. And how! And how! You should read the auditor's report when I butted in there. And how! For the last five or six years they took everything. When I—when they forced me to resign in '45, and—and that was at the instigation of the Communist Party—Heinie Huff at Bill Dobbins' office—or, house. There was seventy-two thousand dollars in that local union. They

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raised the dues fifty cents a month and when they were thrown out, there was only forty-three thousand dollars left. And every Communist that got thrown off of the payroll was put on the payroll of "6," it was a nesting ground, to take unemployed bums in the Communist Party and put them on the payroll.

Q. Do you know a man by the name of Joe Bernstein?

A. I do.

Q. Who is Joe Bernstein?

A. He's a member of Local 6 of the Building Service Union, and then was on the Executive Board for several years.

Q. Was Joe Bernstein a member of the Communist Party?

A. He was, and he is yet.

Q. Do you know a young lady by the name of Honey Todd?

A. Yes, oh, yes.

Q. Was Honey Todd a member of the Communist Party?

A. I never sat in a meeting with her, but I'll bet my interest in heaven that she's a Communist from just the way she acts and talks.

Q. Was it ever called to your attention that Honey Todd was accepting Communist Party dues?

A. Yes, yes.

Q. What position did Honey Todd occupy in the Building Service Employees Union?

A. Well, she was going out evenings a great deal with Ward Coley and some of the business agents. I don't know what else she was doing.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: I might take this occasion to remark that the committee would—however justified our personal opinions might be of some of the personalities mentioned here, we would prefer that that part of it be restrained. And I might also at this time re-state that anyone mentioned in these hearings, will have the opportunity, upon the proper request, to appear in this witness chair under oath and make answer to any assertions or allegations or charges against them, as to the truth or falsity of such statements.

It is difficult at times, when we feel deeply about some things such as the use of the old people of this state to provide a living for young people, it is perhaps a little difficult to restrain ourselves, but I would prefer that we limit personalities in this hearing to the minimum.

I do not make that observation as a criticism of anyone here, or the procedure, but to indicate that that is not the thing that—for which we are striving in these hearings.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, do I interpret your ruling as requesting that I do not pursue this line of interrogation? I have a very definite reason.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: No, my remarks are merely directed toward going into a personal description—personal opinion of various members' character. I do not think that we are meeting to decide that issue. The people in the State of Washington will decide it. Though we do want to know to what extent the Communist Party and its agents have infiltrated the Washington Pension Union, and dominated it.

Now, if you'll proceed with that in mind.

Q. Was Honey Todd on the payroll of the Building Service Employees Union?

A. Yes, she still is.

THE WITNESS: I might say, Mr. Chairman, I had no intention of throwing any aspersions on their moral character. I think they were merely carrying on a Communist or Trade Union practice that's recognized—

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: I am certain that you had no such intentions, Mr. Fletcher.

Q. Now, was it not within the scope of duties of Honey Todd to collect dues from members of the Building Service Employees Union?

A. That wasn't her union. That wasn't what she was paid for, but she was doing it.

Q. Did it come to your attention that she was also collecting dues for Communist Party membership, in the office of the Building Service—

A. I was told that, yes.

Q. —Building Service Employees Union.

A. Not only her, but others.

Q. Do you care to name the others that were doing that?

A. Olga Shock, the employment director, was collecting. Shock.

Q. How do you spell that?

A. I don't know. Ask my wife.

Q. I believe that's S-h-o-c-k, is it not?

A. I think it is, isn't it? S-h-o-c-k.

Q. Now, I will ask you, Mr. Fletcher, do you know a lady by the name of Etta Tripp?

A. Etta Tripp? I've heard of her, but I don't believe I know her.

Q. Who did you contact to work in Hugh DeLacy's campaign for election to Congress? Who were you told to contact?

A. I don't get you.

Q. Well, did you receive any instructions from the Party to work for Hugh DeLacy's—

A. Oh yes, Heinie Huff, Heinie Huff, and Rabbitt.

Q. Did he tell you who to contact to see what to do?

A. Oh, I was given my instructions to go out—

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Will you start over, Mr. Houston, and rephrase the last few questions? I think there is a little confusion there.

Q. Were you told to contact any comrade in the furtherance of Hugh DeLacy's campaign?

A. Well, I was told to—to work with Ellen McGrath and Burt Nelson up in the north district of King County.

Q. You've testified previously—is this the same Burt Nelson—

A. That's right.

Q. —that you previously testified was a Communist and sat in a meeting with you and Bridges?

A. That's right.

Q. Who is Ellen McGrath?

A. She was a reporter on the "New World" and reporter for the—or, I

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mean the "People's World" in San Francisco. She also wrote articles for the "New World."

Q. Was Ellen McGrath a member of the Communist Party?

A. Yes.

Q. Have you sat in meetings with her?

A. Yes, many times.

Q. You mentioned the "New World," let's consider that a moment. Are you familiar with this publication?

A. And how. I—the Communist Party made me buy a hundred dollars worth of stock in it.

Q. Oh, you're a stockholder then, huh?

A. Oh yes.

Q. Is this paper controlled by the Communist Party?

A. I am—yes, it is.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Which answer does he wish to record?

Q. Which answer do you wish to be recorded, Mr. Fletcher?

A. It is controlled by the Communist Party.

Q. Do you know this of your own knowledge?

A. Absolutely. I paid a hundred dollars to Rabbitt over there.

Q. Do you know the editor, Terry Pettus?

A. Very well.

Q. Is Terry Pettus a member of the Communist Party?

A. He is.

Q. Have you sat in closed Party meetings with Terry Pettus?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. On more than one occasion?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. While you were a member of the Communist Party and familiar with the Communist Party line, did this paper carry out that Communist Party line?

A. It did.

Q. Has it ever deviated from the Communist Party line?

A. It has not. It is still carrying the Party line, because they—if you read the last few issues, they say that I'm the biggest liar in the State of Washington. Coming from the Communist Party, I'm inclined to doubt that.

Q. Do you know a man by the name of William Zeigner?

A. Yes, yes.

Q. Is William Ziegner a member of the Communist Party?

A. He is.

Q. Has William Ziegner been active in the Washington Pension Union?

A. He has.

Q. You have previously testified that William Dobbins is a member of the Communist Party. Has he been active in the Washington Old Age Pension Union?

A. Yes, and almost everything else?

Q. You have testified that Ward Coley and Merwin Cole are members of

the Communist Party. Have they been active in the Washington Pension Union?

A. They have.

Q. Do you know a man by the name of John Caughlan?

A. Very well.

Q. Who is John Caughlan?

A. He's the attorney for the Communist Party and a member of the Communist Party.

Q. Do you know of your own knowledge that John Caughlan is a member of the Communist Party?

A. I do.

Q. Have you sat in closed Communist meetings with John Caughlan?

A. I have.

Q. Have you discussed Communist Party business and how to carry it out, with John Caughlan?

A. Oh yes, many times. We're so close he tried to borrow eight hundred dollars from me as a comrade.

Q. Do you know whether or not John Caughlan holds any position in the Washington Old Age Pension Union, now known as the Washington Pension Union?

A. I believe he's a vice president. I'm not sure of that. I've heard it.

Q. Vice president of the State Pension Union?

A. That's right.

Q. Do you know a man by the name of George Hurley?

A. Oh yes, yes.

Q. Has George Hurley been active in the Old Age Pension Union and the Washington Pension Union?

A. Yes.

Q. Is George—was George Hurley a member of the Communist Party?

A. He was.

Q. Have you sat in Party meetings with George Hurley?

A. I have.

Q. Do you know a man by the name of Mel Kirkwood?

A. Yes.

Q. Has Mel Kirkwood been active in the Old Age Pension Union?

A. He has.

Q. Was George—Mel Kirkwood a member of the Communist Party?

A. Yes, I've sat in meetings with him.

Q. Do you know a lady by the name of Bernice Bellows?

A. Bernice Bellows? I believe she was named Tate, prior to Bellows, wasn't she?

Q. I believe that was her maiden name. Let's change that. Do you know a woman by the name of Bernice Tate?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. And have you sat in Communist Party meetings with Bernice Tate?

A. I have.

Q. Is Bernice Tate active in the affairs of the Old Age Pension Union?

A. I think she is.

Q. Do you know a man by the name of George Bradley?

A. Yes, very well.

Q. Would you identify George Bradley, please.

A. George Bradley is International Vice President of the Building Service Employees Union, stationed in Dallas, Texas.

Q. Was George Bradley a member of the Communist Party?

A. He is, and run for Senator of this state, on the Communist Party ticket, I believe in '34.

Q. Was George Bradley formerly—was George Bradley formerly a resident of Seattle?

A. He was. He was Chief Business Agent of Local 6, too, at one time.

Q. Was George Bradley active in the affairs of the Washington Old Age Pension Union?

A. He sat in the meetings that made the decision to—that the Party was to send the Workers Alliance in to take over, in '36 or '7. '37. This was discussed in the Party a long time before it was decided to do it. They talked about it all these years, but it was done in '40 or '41. You know, the Communists they talk about these things, so they know what they're doing.

Q. I believe you testified previously that you were a member of the Bridges defense committee.

A. That's right.

Q. Who else were members of this committee?

A. The only one that I met—well, Bridges had C. I. O. labor leaders, civic leaders, and other people, on his committee. The only other man that I talked to and knew was a member of the American Federation of Labor, that is, a man by the name of George Hardy in San Francisco.

Q. You were on the main Bridges defense committee, not a little local committee.

A. No. No, I was on the main committee. George Hardy and I talked to Bridges in San Francisco at different times about his—defense.

Q. Do you recall whether or not the matter of Bridges' defense was discussed before your union?

A. Oh, yeah. You mean Local 6?

Q. Yes.

A. Yes.

Q. Did Local 6 contribute any money?

A. They did. At my request.

Q. Do you know whether or not the matter was discussed before the Washington Old Age Pension Union?

A. I believe it was, yes.

Q. Do you know whether or they contributed any money to the defense committee?

A. I am sure they did.

Q. Now, referring back just a moment, I think we've fixed the dates on most of these people. When did you sit in Communist Party meetings with George Hurley?

A. During the time that he was in the Legislature.

Q. Can you fix that?

A. Well, '45. I was down there representing the Labor Lobby and Rapport would come down and we'd sit down with those that was members of the Communist Party, or under Communist Party discipline.

Q. Can you fix the time that you sat in Communist Party meetings with John Caughlan?

A. At the Legislature and up here. Several, many times. He was the attorney for the Party, and Party front organizations.

Q. Did these meetings with John Caughlan continue over a period of years?

A. Oh, yes. Years, several years.

Q. Was John Caughlan a member of the Communist Party when you first became active in the Party?

A. I don't recall the exact time. I think it was '37 or '8, I'm not sure when I met John, but he was—well, I first met him at a Party meeting, and was accepted and introduced to me as a comrade. I never seen his card, but I considered him a Party lawyer. We've discussed lots of times that he shouldn't handle a certain case because he was a Communist lawyer.

Q. Would he have been acting solely in the capacity of an attorney, or did he act in the capacity of a Communist Party member?

A. He acted and discussed policy that had no legal phrases at all. He discussed national policy in the Communist Party. He discussed state policy, what should be done—

Q. When there was no need of—he could've been there advising as an attorney?

A. No, there's no legal interpretation. When orders comes down from the center to Rapport, and he lays it out, why often, like DeLacy and everybody else who sits there, we all concur. He concurred and said, "I support the comrade a hundred per cent in what he said."

Q. Have you addressed John Caughlan as Comrade Caughlan?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. Has he addressed you as Comrade Fletcher?

A. Yes, he doesn't any more though.

Q. And this relationship started along in late '37 or early '38?

A. I think it was, yes.

Q. When did this relationship last occur? When did it terminate, rather. We'll put it that way.

A. I can place the date now, when I first met John. Rapport wanted—I hired John C. Stevenson in '37 as attorney for my local union. Rapport wanted me to hire Caughlan because he was a good Commie.

Q. Did Rapport so state to you?

A. That's right.

Q. And at that time, was Rapport district organizer for the Communist Party?

A. That's right. And I think it ceased around in '42 or '3, when Heinie Huff quit seeing me only at the time I called him into the meeting, or had Johnnie Williamson do it. I hadn't seen Huff then for pretty near two years. He wouldn't meet with me. He wouldn't talk to me. So I did get a meeting

with Johnnie Williamson, and that was the last meeting I ever had with any of them.

Q. Do you—I'll withdraw that. As an International Vice President of the Building Service Employees Union, and as a former president of Building Service Employees Union Local 6, can you give us any estimate of the amount of money that was used by the union to further the interests of the Communist Party?

A. Well, they—according to the report I get from the International, it came from thirty-five hundred to four thousand five hundred members in Local 6 union. Dues at two dollars and a half, initiation fees separate. I seen, if I know the financial statement, they ran around thirteen thousand a month coming in for over a period of years, and they spent every bit of it, and even spent about thirty thousand dollars that had accumulated prior to the time they forced me to resign in '45. And the membership in Local 6 is working for less money than the membership in Everett who is under non-Communist leadership, and I know that they put in their time promoting the Communist Party and front organizations in the place of building good will and representing the membership of Local 6 who paid their salary. They donated it to the Party and Party front organizations. Does that answer your question?

Q. From time to time you have observed audits of Building Service Local 6 finances, have you not?

A. I have.

Q. Would you say that the amount of money used for Communist front organizations and programs furthering the Communist Party, would run into several thousands of dollars a month?

A. Absolutely. Sure, their whole pay roll. They were all Communists on the pay roll. Everything they spent was promoting the Communist Party, or most of it.

Q. Is it your testimony here that those employees of Local 6 of the Building Service Employees Union spent more time working for the Communist Party than they did for Building Service Union?

A. Absolutely, there's no question about it. And to guys like Pennock and the guys that was working for the Pension Union too.

Q. Now you have testified that you were present at the meeting wherein it was decided to infiltrate the Washington Old Age Pension Union.

A. I was.

Q. Is it your testimony again, that that was successful and they got control of it?

A. That's right.

Q. Is it your testimony that they still have control?

A. They have.

Q. And it is still officered by members of the Communist Party?

A. It is.

MR. HOUSTON: I think that's all. Thank you very much, Mr. Fletcher.

MRS. JUDITH FLETCHER, produced as a witness, after being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HOUSTON:

Q. Please state your name.

A. Judith Fletcher.

Q. Where do you live, Mrs. Fletcher?

A. 8731 Phinney Avenue.

Q. Are you the wife of Jess Fletcher?

A. Yes, I am.

Q. Are you, or were you, ever a member of the Communist Party?

A. Oh, I think I was. I work with Jess in everything I do. They collected dues from me also.

Q. They collected dues from you also.

A. Uh-hum.

Q. Did they ever give you a card in the Communist Party?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever know why they didn't give you a card?

A. Well, I understood it was to protect Jess.

Q. Were you present at a meeting in your home wherein Mr. and Mrs. Morris Rapport were present, and Jess Fletcher questioned Mr. Rapport concerning this matter?

A. Yes, I was.

Q. Did you hear the conversation that took place between Mr. Fletcher and then Mr. Rappaport?

A. Not the entire conversation, no. Esther and I went out in the kitchen and we were washing the dishes, and I came in on the last part of it.

Q. Will you relate the portion that you did hear?

A. Well, I understood Morris Rapport to say that the reason—that he considered Mr. Fletcher a very good Communist and the reason that he didn't have a card was to protect him, that that was the policy of the Communist Party.

Q. Is it your testimony that you and Mr. Fletcher paid dues into the Communist Party?

A. Oh, yes, I was with him and I—

Q. Where would you pay these dues?

A. I went up to Mrs. Eby's, Lenna Eby's.

Q. Mrs. Lenna Eby?

A. Uh-hum.

Q. Who is—how do you spell that Lenna?

A. I think it is L-e-n-n-a.

Q. Who is Mrs. Lenna Eby?

A. Harold Eby's wife.

Q. Where were these dues paid?

A. Both at Eby's home and our home. Lenna would call me and ask me if wasn't it just about time that we had a visit, and I'd agree that maybe it was, so we'd either arrange to go over to her house, or they'd come over to ours.

Q. Now, Mrs. Fletcher, did you attend any Communist Party meetings?

A. Well, that was my understanding that I did, yes.