

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 Rappport were present, and Jess Fletcher questioned Mr. Rappport 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 Rappport 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.

Q. You understood these meetings to be Communist Party meetings.

A. Yes.

Q. Where would these meetings be held?

A. Well, I attended some at Mr. Costigan's home, or his apartment, rather, and I attended some at Mr. Rapport's apartment, I attended the meeting with Mr. Williamson, and we've had lots of them out at the house.

Q. At your home?

A. My own home.

Q. Now who was present at the meetings at your home?

A. Well, Mr. Costigan, Mr. DeLacy, Mr. Pennock, Mr. Rabbitt, Mr. Rapport, Harry Jackson, Mr. Pettus—

Q. Which Pettus is that?

A. Terry.

Q. Mr. Terry Pettus, the editor of the "New World."

A. That's right.

Q. He has attended meetings in your own home.

A. Oh, yes. I don't know, there were several meetings, and there was usually quite a group of people.

Q. Did you understand these to be Communist Party meetings?

A. Yes.

Q. And that that was the purpose of the meeting?

A. That's right.

Q. And that all present were Communists?

A. That's what I understood, yes.

Q. At these meetings did they address each other as comrade?

A. Yes, quite often.

Q. Can you fix the date of any of these meetings?

A. No, they were—they were held over a period of years. They were—they didn't—we had quite a large living room and they thought ours was quite a convenient place to hold the meetings. It was comfortable, and I always had coffee for them, you know.

Q. Who would arrange the meetings?

A. Well, I don't know that. I was just told that there was a bunch of the boys were going to come out tonight.

Q. Who would tell you that?

A. Well, lots of times my husband would, and then other times, well, Mr. Dobbins would, Bill Dobbins.

Q. Did Bill Dobbins ever attend these meetings?

A. Oh, yes. Merwin Cole and Ward Coley.

Q. When did these meetings being held in your home, when did that first start?

A. Well, I think it started in—well, I would say 1937 or '38. My daughter was born in '38, and I know we were holding them then.

Q. When did these meetings cease being held in your home?

A. Well, I would judge around 1942, something in there.

Q. How often would these meetings be held?

A. Well, I don't think there was any regularity about it, they—I would

just be notified every once in a while that they'd be coming out. Sometimes it would be every week and sometimes it would be twice a week.

Q. Do you know ex-Congressman Hugh DeLacy?

A. Yes.

Q. Was Mr. DeLacy a member of the Communist Party?

A. Well I would imagine so, he was out to a lot of the meetings.

D. Did you ever hear Mr. DeLacy addressed as Comrade DeLacy?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. Did you ever hear him address anyone as Comrade so and so?

A. Yes, I think I have.

Q. Did John Caughlan ever attend any meetings in your home?

A. Yes, yes.

Q. Did you ever hear John Caughlan addressed as Comrade Caughlan?

A. Yes, I think I have.

Q. Did you ever hear John Caughlan address anyone as Comrade—

A. Oh, yes.

Q. —Fletcher or something? The practice was quite prevalent, was it not?

A. Yes.

Q. At these meetings would they discuss Communist Party program and strategy?

A. Yes.

Q. Could the meeting be interpreted as any other kind of a meeting than a Communist meeting?

A. Well, I wouldn't think so. I don't know how anyone could think so, if they sat in there and listened to the discussion because it was almost entirely a discussion of what Party members were to do, what lines they were to follow.

Q. What the Party members were to do.

A. Yes.

Q. Were you present at any of the meetings Mr. Fletcher has testified to wherein Mr. Harry Renton Bridges was present?

A. No, I didn't attend any of those meetings.

Q. Have you ever met Mr. Harry Renton Bridges?

A. I think I have. I don't remember just when, though.

Q. You don't remember when.

A. I meet so many people, and I don't know when I meet them.

Q. Do you know William Pennock?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. Is Mr. William Pennock a member of the Communist Party?

A. Well, I would say so. He attended a lot of the meetings.

Q. Has William Pennock attended the meetings in your home?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. Has William Pennock been addressed as Comrade Pennock?

A. Yes, I believe so.

Q. Has he addressed others as Comrade so and so?

A. Well, I would imagine so, because that was the general practice. Everyone seemed to do it. I don't specifically remember Pennock doing it, no.

Q. You don't remember specifically that they did it, but all of them did it?

A. I couldn't say when he did it, but I know that they all did it.

Q. In these meetings did they address one—anyone by any other term than Comrade so and so?

A. Oh, at times they'd use Mister.

Q. At times.

A. Uh-huh.

Q. Was that in the minority or the majority of times?

A. I think it was in the minority.

Q. In the minority. The majority of the times they addressed each other as comrade.

A. Yes.

Q. Were you present at a meeting held in the fall of 1944, with Mr. Williamson of the Communist—

A. Yes, I was.

Q. —Party. You were. Where was this meeting held?

A. In the office of the Building Service Union.

Q. Can you fix the date of when this meeting was held?

A. No, I can't. It was in the fall, I know that.

Q. In the fall.

A. Uh-huh.

Q. Can you fix it as either before or after Hugh DeLacy's election to Congress?

A. Well, I can fix it. It was after his election, yes.

Q. Was it prior to the time that he took his seat as Congressman?

A. Well, I think so, because I think he left in December sometime.

Q. Then it was after his election and prior to December?

A. Yes, it was.

Q. Who was present at this meeting?

A. Mr. Williamson, Mr. Huff—

Q. Will you give the full names?

A. Heinie Huff, Johnnie Williamson—

Q. Do you mean Henry Huff?

A. Uh-huh. Bill Dobbins, Tom Rabbitt, Merwin Cole, Mr. Fletcher and I.

Q. Were all those present at that meeting members of the Communist Party?

A. Oh, definitely.

Q. Was Congressman DeLacy present?

A. Yes, he was.

Q. Was Carl Reeves present?

A. I don't remember distinctly, but I—I imagine he was. He was working with Mr. Huff.

Q. Was this held as a Communist meeting with—

A. Oh yes, a discipline meeting.

Q. A discipline meeting.

A. Yes.

Q. What was the nature of the meeting, will you detail the discussion and what it was all about?

A. Well,—

Q. Just what occurred at the meeting, now. What was said and done.

A. Yes. It was a—it was a meeting to discuss the problems among the members of the Party, the officials there, and the way they had acted during the campaign, and I think it was Mr. Rabbitt that felt that Mr. Dobbins and Mr. Cole and Mr. Fletcher hadn't acted properly, that they were going to be called down for it.

Q. Who called them down?

A. Mr. DeLacy.

Q. Mr. Hugh DeLacy?

A. Uh-huh.

Q. Well, that's a rather general term, calling down. What form did it take, what was said, do you recall?

A. Well, I don't recall very distinctly, no. I—

Q. Well, I'll withdraw that question then, and ask it this way. Do you recall whether or not your husband was reprimanded?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. And by whom was he reprimanded?

A. By Mr. DeLacy.

Q. By Mr. DeLacy. Was Congressman DeLacy affiliated with the Building Service Employees Union at that time?

A. No, not that I know of.

Q. By what virtue did Congressman DeLacy sit in at a discipline meeting concerning the affairs of Building Employees Union, Local 6?

A. Well, it was—it was their conduct in his campaign. I imagine that was why he was—and of course, by then he was a Congressman so he was a very important figure.

Q. Now you have mentioned Tom Rabbitt. Do you refer to the former senator, Tom Rabbitt?

A. That's right.

Q. Has Tom Rabbitt ever attended any Communist Party meetings at your home?

A. Oh yes, many times.

Q. Many times. Did Senator Tom Rabbitt address others as comrade?

A. Yes.

Q. Was he addressed as comrade?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. He indulged in the general practice at—

A. Yes.

Q. —Communist Party meetings of addressing each other as comrade.

A. That's right.

Q. Do you know William Ziegner?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. Did he ever attend any meetings in your home?

A. Yes, I think—oh yes, I know he has.

Q. Did he indulge in the general practice of calling each other comrade?

A. Yes, I believe he did.

Q. You testified that William Pennock—

A. Oh, yes.

Q. —attended there. Did Terry Pettus, editor of the "New World" ever attend any meetings in your home?

A. Yes.

Q. Did Terry Pettus address others as comrade?

A. Yes.

Q. And was he in turn addressed as comrade?

A. Yes.

Q. Did George Hurley ever attend any meetings in your home?

A. I don't recall whether he was—I think he's been out to the house, but I don't know whether he was in one of these meetings or not. I couldn't say for sure.

Q. Have you ever attended any Communist Party meeting with George Hurley, that you recall?

A. No, I don't think I have.

Q. Then you do not know whether or not—

A. I don't know—

Q. —George Hurley is a member of the Communist Party. It's slipped my mind now. Did I ask you about John Caughlan?

A. Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: I believe that's all. Thank you very much.

(Witness Excused)

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, I—I would like the wishes of the Chairman at this time. The next witness will take around an hour or an hour and a half to examine. Do you wish me to start, Mr. Chairman, or wish it to run through?

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Well, I think we just had an opinion on the night session. I would rather start new in the morning.

MR. HOUSTON: I will ask the witnesses who were subpoenaed, who testified here today—who have not testified today, to be present tomorrow. You who have testified today, Mr. Chairman I recommend that they be released from the subpoena.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Well, if it meets with your approval, we will adjourn until 9:30 o'clock again tomorrow morning.

(WHEREUPON adjournment was taken until 9:30 o'clock a. m., January 30, 1948.)

(9:30 o'clock, a. m., January 30, 1948)

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: The hearing will be in session.

MR. HOUSTON: Will you take the witness stand, Mr. Honig?

NAT HONIG, having been first duly sworn, testified on direct examination as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HOUSTON:

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Pardon me a moment, Mr. Houston. I would like to make an announcement. We have a request, the first request, incidentally, to appear before this Committee. I intended to reply to it with a letter, but there seemed to be no adequate address. Louise Alice Gervais has requested an opportunity to appear before this Committee, and she will be given such opportunity, and if she will leave her address we will notify

her formally the time when she will be permitted to appear, but that is just in case this lady did not understand why we had not replied. We received the request last night, but I was unable to reply this morning, not having a complete address, but we will find it and send a formal notice of the time she may appear.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, how was that name spelled?

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Louise, L-o-u-i-s-e Alice, A-l-i-c-e G-e-r-v-a-i-s. You may proceed.

DIRECT EXAMINATION (resumed)

BY MR. HOUSTON:

Q. Mr. Honig, will you please state your name, and spell the last name for the sake of the record?

A. Nat Honig, H-o-n-i-g.

Q. Where do you live, Mr. Honig?

A. Los Angeles.

Q. Where were you born, Mr. Honig?

A. New York.

Q. Mr. Honig, are you or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

A. I am not now, but I had been for twelve years a member of the Communist Party.

Q. When did you first join the Communist Party?

A. In 1927.

Q. 1927. Now, where did you join the Communist Party?

A. In Jersey City, New Jersey.

Q. What were you doing at the time you joined the Communist Party—what was your occupation?

A. Well, I was a newspaper man.

Q. What employment did you have after you joined the Party?

A. Well, very shortly after I joined the Communist Party, I would say about three months after I had joined, this was in about December, 1927, I joined the staff of the Daily Worker, which was the main newspaper of the Communist Party.

Q. Is the Communist Party—I'll withdraw that—is the Daily Worker an organ of the Communist Party?

A. It is.

Q. And it was at the time you worked on it?

A. Yes.

Q. And you were a full time employee for the Daily Worker in New York?

A. Yes.

Q. Where was the Daily Worker office?

A. In New York City—I can give the exact address if you want it.

Q. Was it in the proximity—close to the headquarters of the Communist Party?

A. When I first worked there it was not. It was on Union Square and the headquarters of the Party was up in—near the Harlem area—just south of 25th Street, but later on they consolidated their offices and they all located, the Party itself and the Daily Worker at 50 East 13th Street.