

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, due to the demonstration we have just had, I wish to call this witness temporarily for just a few questions, out of order.

George Hewitt Identifies Florence Bean James

GEORGE HEWITT, produced as a witness, after being duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

MR. HOUSTON: Will you please state your name?

MR. HEWITT: George Hewitt.

MR. HOUSTON: Of what city are you a resident, Mr. Hewitt?

MR. HEWITT: New York City.

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

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir, for eighteen years.

MR. HOUSTON: Have you ever visited Russia?

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir, I visited Russia from 1930 to 1934.

MR. HOUSTON: 1930 to 1934, and you worked and taught in Russia, is that right?

MR. HEWITT: I did, yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: I will ask you, Mr. Hewitt, if you observed the demonstration that we just had here.

MR. HEWITT: I did.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you recognize the lady that made that demonstration?

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir, I do.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you know what that lady's name is?

MR. HEWITT: Mrs. James.

MR. HOUSTON: Mrs. James. Where did you first meet Mrs. James?

MR. HEWITT: I met Mrs. James, first, in the Profintern Building in Russia, Moscow.

MR. HOUSTON: You met Mrs. James in the Profintern Building in Moscow, Russia.

MR. HEWITT: First. Secondly, at the Comintern Headquarters, which is known as the Communist International Headquarters.

MR. HOUSTON: Is that also in the City of Moscow?

MR. HEWITT: In the City of Moscow.

MR. HOUSTON: In Russia?

MR. HEWITT: And then thirdly, at a visit of the Lenin School.

MR. HOUSTON: At a visit of the Lenin School. Did you converse with this lady?

MR. HEWITT: It was a sort of a general conversation, in Moscow, Russia.

MR. HOUSTON: A general conversation. Did she inform you, and did you find out from her that she was from the United States?

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir, we were told that she was one of the "sparks" to be used to develop on the cultural field, agitation for the Soviet Government, in the United States.

MR. HOUSTON: Agitation for the Soviet Government, on the cultural field, in the United States. Uh-huh. Did she admit to you, or did information come into your hands, that she was a member of the American Communist Party?

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, I ask that this witness step aside. We intend to use him for some other issues, later. It was just this phase I wanted to put on now.

(Witness Temporarily Excused)

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: I wish to state that the witnesses under subpoena, who were caused to be removed from the room, are not excused from attendance at this hearing and must remain on call. Their expulsion from the hearing room does not excuse them from their subpoena.

Mr. Houston, will you call—recall Professor Garland Ethel to the stand?

Professor Ethel Recalled

PROFESSOR GARLAND ETHEL, having been previously sworn, resumed the stand for further examination.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Be seated, Doctor. You were sworn yesterday. I wish to advise you for this Committee, that we are going to again ask you some of the questions we asked yesterday, which you refused to answer. We do so, while at the same time advising you that if you do not testify, do not answer in response to the Committee's questions, that we will take proceedings to have you punished for contempt of the Legislature in refusing to answer these questions.

We want you to be fully advised of the possible penalties for contempt of the Legislature, and with that in mind we are going to again ask you some of the questions that you refused to answer yesterday. Now, I think that I will ask those questions.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Have you ever—?

MR. ETHEL: Excuse me sir, for information. In answering your questions have I permission to say anything more than yes or no?

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: I think that we will expect a direct answer to these questions. We will not—we do not wish any explanations or quotations from Shakespeare or anything of that nature. I think it is within your power to answer yes or no and I think we are proper in asking that you do that on these specific questions.

MR. ETHEL: Sir—

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: We may proceed beyond that and ask questions and we will try to use discretion there but we are determining a question here of whether you wish to be in contempt of the Legislature or not.

MR. ETHEL: Sir, there is one thing in behalf of my counsel, Mr. Henry, that I would like to have understood. Mr. Henry has advised me fully and I would like to have it understood that he has discharged his completest obligation of counsel and is entirely exonerated from any responsibility for my actions whatsoever. He has given me essentially the same instruction that you have.

Refuses to Answer Questions

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: We are very happy to have that go into the record; we presume that counsel is giving you the best possible advice.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Have you or have you not sat in closed party meetings with Ralph H. Gundlach?

MR. ETHEL: I decline to answer that question, sir.