

declare that you had disconnected yourself from it. But when they changed their line in 1935 to making appeal—a bid for Americans, and started the slogan of Communism being the Democracy of the 20th Century, and so forth, they also realized that they could get a great many members into the Communist ranks who thought of themselves as Liberals and who were church-goers—who went to church, particularly in such organizations as the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. And so, they adopted a new attack then, in regard—an open attack, that is, toward the basic anti-religious attitude hadn't changed one bit, but in order to get a big mass of new members into the Party they would go to people and tell them, now, whether you are a Catholic, or Protestant, or Jew, or anything else, we don't ask you to give up your religion; on the contrary, the Communist Party realizes the importance of these religions and wants you to continue in them and so forth.

They figured and what they did do is get them in to join them—have them join—and then, by Communist propoganda within the organization when you had them sewed up, after a period of time they would naturally, of their own inclination, ditch the religion they were attached to.

Q. Educate their religion out of them?

A. Yes.

Q. Well, from that will you say that the Communist Party advocates duplicity?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. Does the Communist Party exercise any discipline over its people?

A. Yes. Very complete discipline. Tries to as far as it can.

Q. Does it tolerate other than complete obedience and submission on the part of its members?

A. No, you cannot bluff Communist Party policy or line on any matter and remain a Communist Party member. You would be ousted.

Q. Do you think that Communism is a present day threat to the United States of America?

A. Very much.

Q. Do you think that they have made sufficient inroads to where they are a threat to the future existence of our country?

A. I personally don't think that they have made sufficient inroads to the point where they can seize power now or in the immediate future. I don't think they could do that—I don't think they have too much confidence in the people of this country. I think what they can do, is sow so much dissension, in all kinds of organizations in which they work, raise so much chaos and sow so much hatred and distrust between groups and classes and so forth, that they can really make it duck soup at some future time. Almost any kind of dictator can step in and take over.

Q. With the chips down as they are—I withdraw that as not a proper question.

With conditions as they are between Russia and the United States today, would it be your testimony that a loyal member of the Communist Party is a traitor to the United States of America?

A. Well, it's kind of hard to define that. He is a traitor at heart. Of course, he hasn't always committed an actual deed of treachery to the United States, but he certainly is potential actual traitor.

Q. He is a potential actual traitor.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, that concludes my questioning of this witness.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: That will be all.

(Witness Excused)

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: I wonder if this would not be a time to take a short recess. I would like to have a little more air in here.

(Recess)

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to recall Mr. Honig to the stand for just another question or two.

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

DIRECT EXAMINATION (Resumed)

BY MR. HOUSTON:

Q. Mr. Honig, you testified that the Communist Party at one time here had control of the Newspaper Guild. Is that correct?

A. Yes, that is correct.

Q. Did the Communist Party control of the Guild affect or in any way influence the editorial policy or the news of any of the Seattle daily papers?

A. It did not, for the simple reason that most of the working newspapermen who actually worked on daily papers in Seattle, at that time, who were in the Guild were not Communists, and strictly abided by the Guild clause in the Guild constitution that the Guild would never permit its members to do such a thing.

Q. Did—to your knowledge was control of the Newspaper Guild wrested from the Communists?

A. Yes. It was wrested from the Communists while I was still in Seattle.

Q. And you assisted in that?

A. Yes. It was done by a series of trials of Communist members who were leaders or officials of the Guild. They were removed by democratic trials of the membership of the Guild.

Q. And expelled from the Guild?

A. No. We would not expel them as members of the Guild. That would mean depriving them of their jobs, and we weren't ready to do that, then. They were just ousted from leadership.

Q. Ousted from leadership?

A. From holding any office.

Q. And when you left here, and to the best of your knowledge now, the Newspaper Guild is not controlled or influenced by the Communist Party?

A. That is right.

MR. HOUSTON: That is all.

(Witness Excused)

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to recall the witness Manning Johnson for just one or two questions.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: You may do so.

MR. HOUSTON: May we have Mr. Johnson?

MANNING JOHNSON, having been previously sworn, testified on direct examination as follows:

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DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HOUSTON:

Q. Mr. Johnson, as a District Organizer and as a man who held various positions in the Communist Party, and as a member of the National Committee of the Communist Party, are you in a position to make any statements as to the control of the International Publishers?

A. The International Publishers is a Communist publishing agency. That agency prints all of the Communist Party literature that is distributed in the United States.

Q. Does it publish any literature that is not Communist literature?

A. It does not publish anything that is not in accordance with the Communist Party line.

Q. I will ask you if you have ever seen this booklet before?

A. Yes, I have seen it. It is one of the books that's considered "must" reading for Communists.

Q. Does it advance the Communist Party line?

A. It does, in its entirety.

Q. Does it serve the purpose of the Communist Party?

A. It does.

MR. HOUSTON: That is all. Thank you, Mr. Johnson.

(Witness Excused)

MR. HOUSTON: This book he has identified is "Secret of Soviet Strength" by Hewlett Johnson, Dean of Canterbury, which has been entered as State's Exhibit No. 13.

Will Mrs. Honig take the stand?

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Will you stand and be sworn, Mrs. Honig?

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

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HOUSTON:

Q. You are Mrs. Erla Honig?

A. Yes.

Q. The wife of Nat Honig?

A. Yes.

Q. And your maiden name was Erla—

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Just a moment, please. Will you answer just a little louder, because we are recording this, Mrs. Honig, thank you.

Q. Are you the former Erla Page?

A. Yes.

Q. Where were you born, Mrs. Page?

A. Mrs. Honig.

Q. Mrs. Honig, pardon me.

A. Olympia, Washington.

Q. Have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

A. Yes.

Q. When did you join the Communist Party?

A. I joined in August, 1937.

Q. Where did you join the Communist Party?

A. Well, I—was on strike for the Star at the time—I mean from the Star—for the Newspaper Guild—and—ah—they had approached me—the Star strikers were holding out and expected to get quite a bit of back pay, and the Communist Party was always interested in getting their hands on a little money, and so they were especially working on the Star strikers, because they thought they might get a cut on that back pay, so they went to work on me and they asked me to a recruiting party and after some little time I finally agreed to join. I believe that I signed the card for Ellen McGrath, who was then—well, at that time she was the executive secretary for the Newspaper Guild, in Seattle.

Q. Were you solicited by people other than Ellen McGrath?

A. Surreptitiously, for instance, Robert Camozzi sort of was out—without coming right and saying so—told me about the virtues of the Communist Party, and the International representative who came up for the strike from San Francisco worked on me in the same fashion.

Q. Do you remember that party's name?

A. That was Tad Irvine.

Q. What?

A. Tad. We called him Tad.

Q. T-a-d?

A. Yes.

Q. The last name?

A. Irvine—I-r-v-i-n-e.

Q. After you joined the Communist Party, were you assigned to a unit at which to attend meetings?

A. Well, at first I attended fraction meetings, I believe they were—Star fraction meetings, or meetings of the Guild fraction to decide on the activities to be carried out in the strike—ways of disrupting and worrying the management, or picketing and that kind of thing. And then a little later this Guild unit was set up as a unit. It was eventually named L-5, I think. And we met at various homes.

Q. Do you recall any of the homes at which you met?

A. The first one was the Dick Seller's home, in the Montlake district.

Q. Is that the gentleman that is known as H. Richard Seller?

A. Yes. H. Richard Seller.

Q. Commonly known as Dick Seller.

A. That is right.

Q. Who was in attendance at these meetings?

A. Well, Dick Seller and his wife, and Mary and Bob Camozzi, and my husband and Jimmy Cour and—

Q. Is that the James Cour that was editor of the Sunday News and of the Washington New Dealer?

A. Yes, that's the one. And, let's see—then that was at first. Let's see, Ellen McGrath, and then later on there were others who were recruited.

Q. Do you recall any of them?

A. Well, I remember the recruiting of Claude Smith. He was discussed at length and of course we were always pressed for recruits but—various top

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