

## 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

organizations were always asking for reports on how many people we were working on, how many prospects did we have, how many had we recruited this month, and so naturally we didn't get too choosy. We recruited whoever it was—it was possible to recruit. Well, Claude Smith was out of a job at that time—had worked on the P.I. and Bob Camozzi said that he was a good possibility and Ellen McGrath was then the executive secretary for the Guild but she was going to work for the—as the representative here of the People's World, so they needed somebody to fill that job, and naturally the Party felt that it was their duty to fill that Guild job, so for some reason they decided to offer that to Claude Smith if he would join the Party. So—ah—he joined it and got the job—he was nominated and—of course Party members always attended Guild meetings whether anyone else did or not, so they managed to put over the election of their candidates.

Q. Did you subsequently sit in meetings with Claude Smith?

A. Many times.

Q. And you know that deal was consummated?

A. Yes, and later his—oh, a week or two later his wife was recruited, also.

Q. What was his wife's name?

A. Betty Smith.

Q. Betty Smith?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, you referred to Dick Seller and his wife. Do you know the name of Dick Seller's wife?

A. We called her Andy. I don't remember her real name.

Q. You called her Andy, uh-huh. Do you recall anyone else with whom you sat in meetings, or whom you recruited into the Party?

A. Abe Cohen on the P.I. was recruited after—yes, after I was.

Q. Now, can you fix the date of this approximately?

A. Let's see, I went in in 1937—it would have been sometime in 1938.

Q. 1938. And did you subsequently sit in meetings with Abe Cohen?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you recall anyone else?

A. Well, after Terry Pettus was brought up to take over the editorship of the New Dealer—I guess by that time the name was changed—someone mentioned that he might come to our unit meetings and nobody was very enthusiastic, but he and his wife did appear at a unit meeting.

Q. Pardon me—

A. At the Camozzi residence.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: May I interrupt here. I would suggest that you properly identify these unit meetings as either Communist Party unit meetings or Guild unit, in that there may be some confusion in the record later.

BY MR. HOUSTON:

Q. Throughout your testimony so far have you been referring to Communist Party unit meetings?

A. I have been referring to Communist Party unit meetings. I haven't mentioned any Guild unit meetings.

Q. You haven't testified about any Guild unit meetings so far?

A. No.

Q. Now, did Terry Pettus attend a unit meeting of the Communist Party at which you were present?

A. He did. That was at the home of Bob Camozzi.

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

A. I don't know, but he was then.

Q. You don't know whether he is now—

A. Yes.

Q. But you do know that he was then?

A. Yes, he was then.

Q. Do you recall anyone else with whom you sat in Communist Party meetings? Do you know a Hazel Wolfe?

A. Yes. Hazel Wolfe was the secretary in Eugene Dennett's C.I.O. council office, and she left there and I was taken in to take her place while I was on Star strike. I was put in there because I was a Communist and later—a little later on, I saw Hazel Wolfe at some sort of class—Communist class that was taught by Victor Hicks, and she appeared during the course of the evening.

Q. Was this class, taught by Victor Hicks, closed to all but Communists?

A. Oh, yes. It was for newer Communists who needed to be indoctrinated—

Q. Instructions for newer Communists?

A. Yes.

Q. And she was present at this class?

A. Yes.

Q. I will ask you if you recognize this picture?

A. Yes, that's Hazel Wolfe.

Q. That is Hazel Wolfe?

A. Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to submit this picture in evidence, as an exhibit.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: It is being admitted as Exhibit No. 14.

(WHEREUPON, picture of Hazel Wolfe was marked Exhibit No. 14 and is attached hereto and made a part hereof.)

BY MR. HOUSTON:

Q. I will ask you if you recognize Committee's Exhibit No. 12?

A. Yes. That is George Hurley.

Q. That is George Hurley?

A. Yes.

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

A. He attended a Communist workers' class that was taught by my husband—it was a class for Communists, and he spoke to us as a Comrade.

Q. You addressed him as a Comrade?

A. Yes.

Q. And accepted him?

A. Yes.

Q. Your testimony then is that he was a member of the Communist Party?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know a Harry Jackson?

I AM A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A. Yes. I saw Harry Jackson and Louie Sass come into the Timber Worker office occasionally. At that time I was secretary to my—well, to Nat Honig. I wasn't his wife then.

Q. Was Harry Jackson an official of the Communist Party here in Seattle?

A. That was my understanding.

Q. Do you know a Gladys Pettus?

A. Yes. She was secretary to Harold Pritchett in the I.W.A. office.

Q. Was she a member of the Communist Party?

A. That was my knowledge. She carried out the Communist Party line in the office, and she attended social parties held by Communist Party members. I never attended a Communist Party meeting—oh, I won't say that, either—I did go to a Communist Party banquet where she was present.

Q. At this banquet were the people there limited to Communists?

A. Oh, all I saw were. We spoke as such.

Q. You spoke as such?

A. Yes.

Q. You—did Mr. Honig ever tell you anything about signing a check—endorsing a check in blank?

A. He definitely did.

Q. Will you relate what he said and what you said?

A. Well, of course we had discussed at great length this matter of back pay and naturally since I had to handle the accounts for the house I was eager that he should get all he had due him, and he said he was going down and finally settle with Rapp, or try to, so when he came back he announced that he had this small sum of money and that he had endorsed this check which was not made out in any amount and—I was extremely irritated.

(Laughter.)

I said they shouldn't have gotten away with that.

Q. Did you hear Mr. Nat—Mr. Honig's testimony this morning and this afternoon?

A. Yes.

Q. Without going into details, was his description of the reasons why you left the Communist Party—is that correct?

A. Precisely.

Q. And he discussed each one of these moves with you?

A. Yes. We always talked these things—

Q. And it was the complete reversal of the Communist Party line?

A. Yes. When they signed the Nazi Pact, that finished it for both of us.

Q. Did you find the Communist Party to be a revolutionary Party?

A. Yes. But when I joined the Communist Party they assured me that it was all in the interests of the United States that we make a better America, that we socialize America and that we would never become a part of the Soviet Union or receive our directions from them, also I was fed a great deal on the great democracy in the Soviet Union and in the Communist Party and on the importance of women, the high esteem that women were held in, and I was quite surprised when I began to attend meetings, to find that all this was quite the reverse.

Q. Did you find that it was not a democratic party?

A. I found it was not a democratic party. No one could make the slightest

suggestion. The orders came from Rapp's office, and you maybe might discuss it, or the unit might know what was going on—for instance the Guild Communist unit knew what was going on in the Guild and how to carry out orders, but if Rapp said such and such should be done, you did it and there was no argument.

Q. By Rapp—do you refer to Morris Rappaport?

A. Yes. The District Organizer. Of course he didn't—he appeared at one meeting that I—one fraction meeting that I attended. At this fraction meeting Dick Seller and Marian and Bob Camozzi and a few others were present, trying to work out strike strategy and Rappaport was there. It was the first time I had ever seen him, and he began making suggestions for furthering the strike and he was suggesting all kinds of demonstrations, and he said, "Well, let's get the women out with the baby buggies and parade up and down Pine Avenue. That would be a smart thing." And I don't remember offhand any of his other bright ideas but I wasn't impressed, but I was eventually extremely impressed by his autocracy.

Q. Does the Communist Party teach Atheism?

A. Yes. When I joined the Party they were soft-pedaling that, also. It was beginning to be a little more decent. And they were appealing to people in a different way so they didn't stress that, but as I began to have some of the literature, why I saw that that was what they taught.

Q. During the time you were a member of the Communist Party did you know of an organization known as the Old Age Pension Union?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever work in behalf of that organization?

A. No. I never had any direct connection with it.

Q. Was that organization discussed at any of your Party meetings.

A. It was referred to. We referred to some of their activities, but, of course, we never made any decisions along that line, because we were the Newspaper Guild unit and so we didn't discuss that. It was—I think their progress was reported on at unit meetings but my group never made any decisions on that point.

Q. Did you consider that—did you consider that a Communist controlled organization?

A. That was the understanding.

Q. The understanding you gained from your discussions at those meetings?

A. Yes.

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

(Witness Excused)

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, I suggest that these people be released from subpoena in view of the fact they have come a great distance.

SARAH K. WALL, having been duly sworn, testified on Direct Examination, as follows:

#### DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. WHIPPLE:

Q. You may state your name to the stenographer.

A. Sarah K. Wall.

Q. Where do you live, Mrs. Wall?

A. 3314 Wallingford Avenue.