

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 Rapport 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.

Q. How long have you lived in the State of Washington?

A. Thirty years.

Q. Mrs. Wall, did you ever become acquainted with a movement known as "Aid To Dependent Children"?

A. I did.

Q. Did you ever hold any position with that movement in the City of Seattle?

A. Yes sir. I—

Q. What position did you hold?

A. I was chairman.

Q. What were you chairman of?

A. Aid to Dependent Children of the State of Washington.

Q. For what unit?

A. King County.

Q. Will you fix the year that you—

A. 1938.

Q. 1938?

A. And some into 1939.

Q. Mrs. Wall, during the period of time that you were the chairman of the King County unit of the Aid to Dependent Children in 1938 and 1939, did you become acquainted with a person by the name of Bernice Tate?

A. Yes, I did. Her name is Bernice Tate Bellows now and I finally turned my chairmanship over to her in the County-City Building, in the County Commissioners' chambers.

Q. Now—

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Mr. Whipple, will you, as you go along, either supply the spelling yourself or direct the witness to do same.

BY MR. WHIPPLE:

Q. How is the name Tate spelled?

A. T-a-t-e.

Q. Do you know how the name Bellows is spelled?

A. B-e-l-l-o-w-s.

Q. Then Bernice Bellows, as she is known today, who is the same identical person that you knew as Bernice Tate in 1938 or nine? I would like to ask you to state whether or not anyone during this period of time ever solicited your membership into the Communist Party?

A. Yes sir. Thank God, they didn't get it.

Q. Well—

A. This Bernice—to begin with, I went into the Unemployment called the Workers' Alliance and from that I was taken into the Aid—elected chairman of the Aid to Dependent Children because I had been active in getting for the mothers and myself things that were needed on relief. And during this time I come in contact in the Workers' Alliance with a woman by the name of Arelene Reardon. A-r-e-l-e-n-e R-e-a-r-d-o-n, whose name is now Flood—F-l-o-o-d. And she hounded me and hounded me and hounded me about going to these Communist fraction meetings and Del Castle was also at that time in the Workers' Alliance office, and he did the same thing—so finally one day I broke down and I went with them to the Finnish Hall up Yesler Way. And I went into one of their meetings. In this meeting I saw

this Mr. Rappaport that they talk about being a leader and several other people who I didn't know their names—perhaps if I saw them I could identify them, but not knowing their names, I wouldn't say, and they gave me the story about having a good gift of gab and about having the personality for becoming a leader and what I could do for these mothers and what I could do for their movement if I would become a member. Well, I looked around that hall and there was a lot of them looked below par. I don't look so hot myself, but I saw some of them and thought I looked as good as some of them standing in the hall that day.

(Laughter.)

This is no laughing matter, folks, this comes from the bottom of my heart. The people that I saw in that meeting to me didn't look overly intelligent and I being an average American citizen—I—I figured this thing out and I told them definitely no.

Q. Well, let's go back just a minute, Mrs. Wall, to this person whom you identified as being Bernice Tate. Did she ever—

A. Well, that is what I was coming to, sir. After I came out of this meeting, then the next mothers' meeting that was held before we held the meeting, she said, "Well, I understand you went to the meeting." I said, "Yes." She said, "Well, are you going to become a member?" I said, "Well, I don't see anything that they have to offer," I said, "I don't see any program whatever." She said, "Well, I have a Communist program platform here I will give to you,"—which she gave me, and which I later turned over, I don't know whether it was to the Prosecuting Attorney or to the F.B.I. However, she gave me that and I looked that over and it still didn't look any better than the rest of it, so they hounded me and hounded me until I saw there was nothing I could do. They would come into my meetings, and you asked the question a while ago about how they controlled the meetings. They did it by block system. Then they would appoint one of their members over here and one over there and one over there, and the mothers would get up to make any suggestions, and if it didn't tie in with the Communist idea, they—somebody would jump up and that would be voted down, so—

Q. Now, Mrs. Wall—let's—I want to get this record straight along as we go. Let's back up now to the time that you refer to Bernice Tate soliciting your membership. Did she solicit your membership in the Communist Party?

A. She sure did. She told me that if I didn't go in I wouldn't be chairman of the Mother's Union very long.

Q. Now, what year was that?

A. That was in '38.

Q. And where was it that she solicited your membership in the Communist Party?

A. Well, at these meetings and also at her home. I went out to her home one evening. She said she had a lot of apples, and I went out after some apples and—

Q. Going back to this person you have identified as Arelene Reardon Flood.

A. Yes.

Q. Now, where did she solicit your membership?

A. In the Workers' Alliance office at Second and Yessler, the Mutual Building.

- Q. Here in the City of Seattle?
- A. Yes sir.
- Q. And what year was that?
- A. That was in '38, also, and '39, too.
- Q. You referred a few minutes ago to the name of Del Castle. Will you spell that for the record, please?
- A. Well, I only know his first name—whether it is all the name or not, but D-e-l C-a-s-t-l-e.
- Q. Where did he solicit your membership in the Communist Party?
- A. In the Workers Alliance office.
- Q. What year was that?
- A. In '38.
- Q. Now, do you know whether or not this Workers Alliance at that time was affiliated with the Communist Party?
- A. Well, I understand, from my own opinion, so many of them that were in that—evidently it was a Communistic movement, but it was kept under cover for the fact that so many people who were on relief and needed assistance, went into it to fight for better conditions.
- Q. Did you ever hear the name of a person by the name of Tom Rabbitt, or Thomas Rabbitt?
- A. Yes.
- Q. I will ask you to state whether or not you ever attended any sectional meetings of the Communist Party where he was present?
- A. Thomas Rabbitt was present the day that I went up to the Finnish Hall.
- Q. Now was that a sectional meeting of the Communist Party within the Workers Alliance that you attended?
- A. That I couldn't answer you. I don't know.
- Q. Was it a sectional meeting of the Communist Party?
- A. That's right.
- Q. Now what year was that?
- A. That was in '38.
- Q. Did you ever hear of a man by the name of John Laurie?
- A. John Laurie was my neighbor when I lived at 1326 30th Avenue South.
- Q. Did he ever solicit your membership in the Communist Party?
- A. Yes, he did. He came to my home on several occasions and—
- Q. What period of time?
- A. '38 and '39.
- Q. Do you know a man by the name of Terry Pettus, the present editor of the New World?
- A. Yes. He was at this fraction meeting also. There was a number of other—other people there from different parts of the city. It seemed as though it was quite a meeting.
- Q. Now you say this fraction meeting you—will you just identify that for the record? What do you mean by this fraction meeting?
- A. That is what they call them—what it means, I don't know, sir.
- CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Mr. Whipple, so that we will get it in the record in the proper place, on names, that are difficult to spell like John Laurie, will you get the spelling on that?

- BY MR. WHIPPLE:
- Q. Do you know how John Laurie spells his name?
- A. Capital L-a-u-r-i-e.
- Q. Now you referred a few minutes ago to a sectional meeting of the Communist party that Arelene Flood had taken you to?
- A. Yes sir.
- Q. Now was that the same sectional meeting of the Communist Party—
- A. That's right. That's the only one I ever went to.
- Q. May I state the question, please. Was that the same sectional meeting of the Communist Party where you met Terry Pettus?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Do you know a person, or have you ever known a person by the name of Andy Remes?
- A. I met Andy Remes in the—after the Old Age Pension Union moved up to Second Avenue, I think it was in the Lloyd Building. It was after I had gone out of the Mothers Union and not active any more that I was up there and I was introduced to Andy Remes and they said that he was the new district manager or something like that and he said that he felt that I was such a good leader for the mothers, that he thought I should have gone on with the work and gone into the Party, because I could have helped the mothers much more than dropping out the way I did.
- Q. Now when that he was—when you referred to him as being the new district manager, what was he the new district manager of?
- A. Communist Party.
- Q. Now, when was the occurrence?
- A. That was in 1939—in the summer of 1939.
- Q. And do you remember where that was—this conversation was held?
- A. Yes. In the Lloyd Building at Second and—just one block up from the County-City Building, between James and the next street up on the west side.
- Q. Will you spell for the record this person's name?
- A. Well, I don't really know unless it is R-e-m-e-s.
- Q. Now you refer to this movement known as the Aid To Dependent Children. Did that organization work closely with the Old Age Pension Union?
- A. Well, the Old Age Pension and the ADC tied in together because the Old Age Pension backed up the ADC. It came out of that.
- Q. Just about the same group of people who were influential in the Aid to Dependent Children movement also—
- A. They tied right in with the ADC.
- Q. The Old Age Pension Union?
- A. They did, that's right.
- Q. Now these persons whose names you have mentioned some seven of them, you say at different times solicited your membership in the Communist Party—were those persons also prominently identified in the Old Age Pension movement at that time?
- A. Tom Rabbitt and Arelene Reardon and Del Castle—they all worked active in the Old Age Pension Union.
- Q. That's all, Mrs. Wall. Thank you.
- CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Do you wish to have her excused?

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MR. WHIPPLE: Yes, I would. She is employed and it is difficult for her to get back, otherwise.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Thank you, Mrs. Wall.
(Witness Excused)

MR. WHIPPLE: I am not sure our next witness is here. I want to ask if Mrs. Riley is here. Could you give me just one minute's time to see if she is here?

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: We will be at ease for one minute.
(Short recess)

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Mr. Whipple, for the record will you request the return of this witness, so that we may have her properly identified?

MR. WHIPPLE: If you please, Mr. Chairman, I would like to recall the witness Mrs. Sarah Wall for one further question.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Proceed.

SARAH K. WALL, recalled for further questioning:

BY MR. WHIPPLE:

Q. Mrs. Wall, one further question which I overlooked asking you. When did you say you quit this movement as chairman of the King County chapter of the—

A. In the early part of '39.

Q. Will you explain briefly why you quit this movement as chairman at that time?

A. Yes sir. I held a special meeting in the County City Commissioners' Chambers, in the County-City Building, and at that meeting the air was so intense with them that whatever was brought up they blocked it and finally I jumped up in the middle of the meeting and I took my gavel and called for order and I turned to Bernice Tate, who was sitting there, and I said, "For the benefit of all those present I am turning my chairmanship over to your Communist leader among you, Bernice Tate. I hereby resign." Because at that time I was raising five children and had struggles of my own and I didn't feel that I could fight the whole Communist Party here in Seattle.

Q. That is all.

(Witness Excused)

HARRIET RILEY, called as a witness, being first duly sworn, testified as follows on direct examination.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. WHIPPLE:

Q. You may state your name to the stenographer.

A. Harriet Riley.

Q. How do you spell your last name?

A. R-i-l-e-y.

Q. Where do you live, Mrs. Riley?

A. 3214 Wallingford.

Q. What business or occupation are you in at this time?

A. I am going to school.

Q. Where are you going to school?

A. Seattle College.

Q. Mrs. Riley, how long have you lived in the State of Washington?

A. Twenty-eight years.

Q. Mrs. Riley, have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

A. Yes.

Q. When did you join the Communist Party?

A. I don't remember whether it was prior to my marriage or a few months afterward when I got—but I got married in 1938.

Q. It was near about—

A. I don't want my picture taken.

Q. —near about the time that you got married?

A. Yes, it was.

Q. And that was what time, in '38?

A. I was married in May of—I have to think a minute now. I graduated in 1937 from high school, and was married in 1938.

Q. 1938. Do you know a person by the name of Bill Pennock who at the present time is the president of the Washington Pension Union?

A. I knew him when he first organized the WCF in the Traders' Building at Third and Marion.

Q. Have you ever attended any Communist Party fraction meetings with him?

A. Yes.

Q. Where were those meetings held?

A. The Old Age Pension and the WCF when it first organized and the Workers' Alliance all had their offices adjoining in the Traders' Building and they all had fraction meetings where they were in and out just like a family, you might say.

Q. Now let's just go over that again. You referred to the Workers' Alliance,—

A. The Old Age Pension.

Q. The Old Age Pension.

A. And the WCF.

Q. Is that the Washington Commonwealth Federation?

A. Yes.

Q. Three organizations had their offices in the Traders' Building?

A. The offices were adjoining in the Traders' Building at Third and Marion.

Q. That's where you attended Communist Party fraction meetings with Bill Pennock?

A. When I stated I attended them, I was working in the office, my husband was attending the meetings, but I was there. I was his wife and I was allowed to attend. I didn't take part in them.

Q. Were you a member of the Communist Party at that time?

A. Yes. I was a member of the YCL—Young Communist League.

Q. What—YCL—is that the Young Communist League?

A. Yes.

Q. Has that organization been disbanded and reorganized into some other organization, now?

A. No. I don't know what their activities are now, because I got out of it shortly—my first son was born about a year later and while I was carrying him I got out of it and insisted on my husband getting out of it.