

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.

Q. During the time you were in that particular organization which you referred to as the Young Communist League?

A. Uh-huh.

Q. Now, this Bill Pennock that you referred to as having attended Communist Party fraction meetings with, is that the same Bill Pennock who at the present time is the president of the Washington Pension Union?

A. Yes, it is.

Q. Do you know a person by the name of Thomas Rabbitt?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever attend Communist Party fraction meetings with him?

A. He also was in there. He was living out near Bothel at the time.

Q. Was that also in the Traders' Building?

A. Yes, that's right.

Q. What year was that?

A. The same year.

Q. Well, let's identify it one more time.

A. 1939.

Q. 1939?

A. Well, it was 1938. It was between 1938 and '39.

Q. Along in the winter time would that be it?

A. Um-hum.

Q. Do you know a person by the name of Al Bristol?

A. Yes.

Q. I will ask you to state if you ever attended any Communist Party fraction meetings with him?

A. Yes.

Q. Where were those—

A. At the County office. It was on Second Avenue. I know where it is—I don't remember the exact number.

Q. What do you mean when you say County office?

A. The County office of the Communist Party.

Q. The County office of the Communist Party. Did he hold some sort of position with them at that time?

A. He was the county secretary.

Q. County secretary of the Communist Party?

A. Andrew Remes succeeded him.

Q. Do you remember a person by the name of Morris Rapport?

A. He was the—the northwest organizer.

Q. Northwest organizer of what?

A. The Communist Party.

Q. Did you ever attend any Communist Party fraction meetings with him?

A. No. He was a little too highbrow for me. I never got up that far.

Q. You never got up that far. You said something a while ago about being married. Do you know a man by the name of N. P. Atkinson?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know a man by the name of Army Armstrong?

A. Definitely. He gave me away at my wedding.

Q. Army Armstrong gave you—

A. At my wedding.

Q. At your wedding. That date again was what?

A. 1938—May.

Q. Now, was Army Armstrong a member of the Communist Party?

A. Yes.

Q. Did Army Armstrong take any part in Old Age Pension Affairs?

A. He was active in the WCF at the time and he was running for state legislature. His son Cecil attended the YCL meetings with me. He is now a city fireman.

Q. Do you know a person by the name of Hugh DeLacy?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know whether or not he was a member of the Communist Party?

A. He was.

Q. Why do you say that he was—in other words, what knowledge did you come in possession of and—

A. Well, I know that when the WCF was first organized it was organized by Communists and then later they dissolved because they felt they were strong enough that they could go in and dominate the Democratic Party. That was good political action on their part. They felt that they had achieved what they started out to achieve. Hugh DeLacy did not come out openly and pronounce that he was a Communist. He was one of the ones that was advised not to carry a book. He was an under-cover Communist.

But he was carrying out the Party's program. I saw him at the County offices receiving instructions.

Q. You saw him at the county offices of the Communist Party receiving instructions?

A. Yes.

Q. Now you say—you said awhile ago, if I remember correctly, that your husband at that time was a member of the Communist—

A. He was King County secretary of the Workers' Alliance, and Harold Brockway was the state organizer and they worked very closely with the Old Age Pension and WPA.

Q. In addition to working very closely with the Old Age Pension movement did your husband work very closely with Hugh DeLacy?

A. Not too closely—I mean it is just like you would—well, they were all united on the programs, they all used to go up to the County office from the Old Age Pension Union and from the WCF and from the Workers' Alliance and they all got together in these little groups, and had these fraction meetings and laid down a program, and like when, for instance when they had these sit-down strikes in the King County Building, why if the Old Age Pension Group went in and organized a sit-down strike, well naturally the other two groups went back and supported it to the United Movement.

Q. Well, did the Old Age Pension Union organize a sit-down strike?

A. No, the Workers' Alliance initiated that.

Q. The Workers' Alliance?

A. Initiated it, but the Old Age Pension Union took part—very active part in it, and so did the WCF.

Q. That's quite interesting. What active part did the Old Age Pension Union take in that sit-down strike?

A. Well, regardless of the fact that the Communists were dominating them, they were trying to provoke good for the unemployed at the time, and actually there were a lot of people that didn't—all they knew was they were interested in bettering their bread and butter and they naturally followed this line. They didn't even know—they were just like sheep being led to the slaughter. But they all were united because you see there were so few of them at the time they had to unite—they couldn't divide.

Q. Just for the purpose of clarification of our own record—do you state at this time that the Old Age Pension Union was dominated and controlled during this period by the members of the Communist Party?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. That was during the period of 1939?

A. 1938 to 1939 is the period that I say definite, because at that time I dropped out. I never kept up with it.

Q. You referred to Army Armstrong a while ago as being a Communist. Now how do you know that he was a Communist?

A. Well, they used to have the meetings and he was always in attendance and he was always working closely with them and I know for a fact that his son was a member of the YCL.

Q. Did he ever—

A. He attended meetings right in my own home.

Q. Now—

A. Communist unit meeting.

Q. Communist unit meetings. Now were there ever anyone attending those Communist unit meetings—persons, rather, that were not Communists?

A. No.

Q. In other words, to attend—to have attended one of those—

A. They had to be a Communist, or one that was just joining.

Q. And is that the reason that you know that Army Armstrong at that time was a Communist?

A. Yes.

Q. Did Hugh DeLacy ever attend a meeting in your home?

A. No, he never did.

Q. Do you know a person by the name—or did you know a person by the name of Paula Alexander?

A. Yes. She was working in the County office.

Q. Working where?

A. In the County office of the Communist Party.

Q. Now this—would you spell her name in order to identify the name in the record?

A. I knew her only by Paula.

Q. Paula?

A. That's all I ever paid any attention to. I never knew her very intimately. All I know is she was working doing some kind of work—

Q. Is that name Paula spelled P-a-u-l-a?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you know her last name to be Alexander?

A. No.

Q. Well this same person that you knew as Paula. Do you know whether she ever worked in the office of the Old Age Pension Union at any time, or not?

A. I didn't pay too close attention and I wouldn't swear to that, because I am not sure. The woman that I am referring to is about my height, dark, and she had long hair at the time. But I didn't ever associate real closely with her. I wouldn't swear to that name.

Q. What office did you say she worked in a while ago?

A. In the King County office of the Communist Party.

Q. Communist Party. Now what year was that?

A. That was in 1938. Whether it was the same person or not, I would have to really see her.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Mr. Whipple and Mr. Houston, perhaps you are planning on further identifying this Paula Alexander by photograph or other evidence. If not, I think reference to her name should be stricken unless you more definitely identify Paula and Paula Alexander.

MR. WHIPPLE: May it please the Chairman, I think your remarks are entirely well taken, and we are just merely starting in at this time to lay the predicate for future identification of this person who she refers to as Paula; however, this witness is the first witness as I remember it, who has mentioned the name, but I will say to you that future witnesses will definitely identify the individual and if it is not properly identified, I would be the first to request that the name be stricken from the record.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: With that understanding, we will proceed. We want to fairly and properly identify any person so named.

Q. Going back to this individual that you knew as Paula, whom you referred to as being an employee in the County office of the Communist Party, how old was she, approximately, at the time you knew her? About how old a woman was she?

A. My memory is so vague, I wouldn't know.

Q. Well, would you care to indicate about her age?

A. Well, I would say she was around thirty at the time—that is just roughly.

Q. And that was in '39?

A. That was in '38.

Q. That was in 1938. That would make her approximately forty years old then now?

A. That's right.

Q. And what complexioned woman was she?

A. Well, she had quite black hair.

Q. Quite black hair. Was she tall?

A. I remembered she was a very striking person. That's the only thing I remember definitely about her.

Q. Do you know a person by the name of John Caughlan?

A. Yes.

Q. I will ask you to state whether or not you knew him to be a member of the Communist Party.

A. I know that he is.

Q. Why do you know that he is a member of the Communist Party?

A. Well, I had the opportunity to visit his office several times when I was married to my husband and the Communist theory was always discussed back and forth. We were always arguing about it. He was always trying to impress me with his superior knowledge. And he handled a bankruptcy case for us when we went financially broke and at that time why we had quite a lengthy discussion and he told me—I was trying at that time to get my ex-husband now to retire from the Communist Party, and he was trying to tell me that I wasn't doing the right thing, that he was needed in the labor movement and that I wasn't educated enough along the Party line to be of help to the Party, and so forth.

Q. Did he ever offer you any instruction in the—

A. Just his instruction there in the office.

Q. His instruction there in the office. Did you accept him as being a Communist? Did he accept you as being a Communist?

A. Yes. I also know that at any time anybody in the Communist Party didn't have a lawyer's fee, they could always go to him.

Q. Now you got out—let's identify that a little bit further—about what year was it that you refer to these visits in the—in his office?

A. I don't remember the exact year that we filed bankruptcy, but I know that it was just prior to that that I had occasion to go in and I know that I used a lot of times to go in with my husband when someone in the organization needed legal advice or he needed legal advice, I used to tag along.

Q. Now, is that same John Caughlan who is also the attorney for the Washington Pension Union?

A. I didn't know he was attorney for the Washington Pension Union, but he had his offices in the Smith Tower.

Q. Do you know whether or not that was the John Caughlan who at the present time is one of the vice presidents of the Washington Pension Union?

A. I didn't know now that he held any connection with the Washington Pension Union, because I haven't kept up on their movements.

Q. It is the John Caughlan who is an attorney, and has his office at the present time in the Smith Tower Building?

A. Yes.

MR. WHIPPLE: That's all, Mrs. Riley. Thank you.

(Witness Excused)

FAY ANGEL, called as a witness, having been first duly sworn, testified on direct examination, as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HOUSTON:

Q. Now, Mrs. Angel, let's just take this slow and easy, and get it all on the record.

A. How could I take anything slow and easy? I'm too jumpy.

Q. Will you please state your name?

A. Fay Angel.

Q. That's spelled A-n-g-e-l?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you live in the City of Seattle, Mrs. Angel?

A. I do.

Q. How long have you lived in the City of Seattle?

A. Since May of 1922.

Q. Mrs. Angel, I will ask you, have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

A. Oh, for lunch and a cup of coffee, was all.

Q. Well now, I don't understand—

A. Well, for a short period of time.

Q. A short period of time. Did you request to be admitted into the Communist Party?

A. Oh, yes, and I had a hard time doing it.

Q. What instructions did you receive as to where to go to be admitted to the Communist Party?

A. Well, there was a man; his name was Edwards.

Q. Do you know his first name, Fay?

A. Well, I have been told that his name was—his first name was George.

Q. Now who told you?

A. Who told me his name was George?

Q. Yes.

A. Mrs. Baldwin told me his name was George Edwards.

Q. Good. I didn't want anybody to think it was me.

Q. Now, what instructions did this Mr. Edwards give you?

A. I had approached Mr. Edwards several times and told him that if I could ever find a person who could prove to me that they were a member of the Communist Party that I was going to try to become a member of the Communist Party. So one day I saw Mr. Edwards out in the community where I live and he said, "Fay, you told me you wanted to join the Communist Party." "Yes," I said, "I do." He said why. Well, I said, "I am a member of a very large labor organization. I am also a member of the Old Age Pension Union and I want to see what the Communists can offer me in regards to my activity in those two organizations." He said, "Well, sign your name right here." He handed me this card. I said, "Well, Mr. Edwards," I said, "you must understand I am pretty dumb and I can't write very much. You write my name here." So he did, and I told him the house number and everything, and he wrote it down. And he turned the card over and he wrote on the other side his name. But he didn't write his name as George Edwards. He wrote some other name—I don't know what—what it was at the present time. He said, "Now, you come in the hall there on Eleventh Avenue, Southwest," oh, he says, "Be over there between seven and seven-thirty."

Q. Where was this?

A. On Eleventh Avenue, Northwest. I am not sure, but I think it was where Elm Grove Street crosses Eleventh, Northwest. Anyway, it was in that immediate vicinity.

So I goes home and had my dinner and I takes off for 11th, Northwest, and Elm Grove Street. And when I got there I always remember people standing there on the sidewalk. I recognized several of them, but he had told me that under no consideration was I to recognize anyone and name them. Okeh. Among the people standing there I recognized Kathryn Fogg and her husband, and a couple of people that have since deceased, and everything. And so we stood there. "Well, it's a nice evening." "Oh, yeah, a nice eve-