

PROFESSOR PHILLIPS: I must say that in light of the testimony that has previously been given, that I would regard it a violation of my principles, a violation of what I regard to be the most sacred—

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, . . . is attempting to make a speech, and not responsive, and that he be instructed to answer the question "yes" or "no."

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: I will place—I will place the question, with the instruction that it may be answered by "yes" or "no," and I wish to advise you that on your failure to respond to the question of this Committee, that we will take proceedings to have you punished for contempt of the Legislature, in refusing to answer that question.

**Now, I will ask you, Mr. Phillips, if you have, if you are or have ever been, a member of the Communist Party.**

PROFESSOR PHILLIPS: I will not answer that question.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Step aside.

MR. CAUGHLAN: May I—

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: You aren't saying anything in here, and you may proceed directly from the hearing room. Now, we do not care to go into this question of the witness' contempt under your instructions.

Now, if you will remove yourself from the room, you will save us the trouble.

You have no client on the stand now. We will hold you in contempt in a moment, if you continue your obstinate attitude.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, we have a—we have a very heavy schedule this afternoon, and I would suggest, if it meets with the approval of the Committee, that we recess now for lunch, and that we convene promptly at two o'clock.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: We will now be in recess until two o'clock this afternoon.

(Noon Recess)

## TESTIMONY OF HOMER HUSON

### Former State Secretary, Old Age Pension Union

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: The hearing will be in session.

MR. WHIPPLE: Mr. Huson, will you take the witness stand, please?

HOMER HUSON, called as a witness, after being first duly sworn was examined and testified as follows:

MR. WHIPPLE: Mr. Huson, I think you were not here this morning, and in answering the questions, they are being recorded and will you speak directly into the microphones and answer your questions audibly rather than with gesture in order that we can get them down.

MR. HUSON: I will.

MR. WHIPPLE: Will you state your name, please.

MR. HUSON: Homer Huson.

MR. WHIPPLE: Where do you live, Mr. Huson?

MR. HUSON: 6024—my address at the present time is 151 21st Avenue.

MR. WHIPPLE: Seattle?

MR. HUSON: Seattle.

MR. WHIPPLE: How long have you lived in the state of Washington?

MR. HUSON: I was born in Seattle.

MR. WHIPPLE: Mr. Huson, what former connection, if any, did you have with the Washington Old Age Pension Union?

MR. HUSON: I was the Executive Secretary and also the Vice-president from '37 to '39.

MR. WHIPPLE: Mr. Huson, I'll ask you if you have ever been a member of the Communist Party?

MR. HUSON: Yes.

MR. WHIPPLE: As a member of the Communist Party, Mr. Huson, I'll ask if you ever had occasion to sit in any of the fraction meetings of the Communist Party where other Communist Party members met from different organizations.

MR. HUSON: Many.

MR. WHIPPLE: How often would you meet in those fraction meetings over the years that you have represented?

MR. HUSON: I'm—couldn't count the number of times, they are too numerous.

MR. WHIPPLE: Well, as often as once every two weeks, one week, or how often?

MR. HUSON: I would say on an average of maybe twice a week.

MR. WHIPPLE: Now, do you have reference to fraction meetings at which Communist Party members were in attendance?

MR. HUSON: Only.

MR. WHIPPLE: Only Communist Party members were in attendance. Thank you sir.

MR. WHIPPLE: Now, did you ever attend any fraction meetings of the Communist Party where there were any professors of the University of Washington present?

MR. HUSON: Nu—on numerous occasions we have met—I might begin by saying as being the Executive Secretary of the Pension Union we had a speaker's bureau in which that we sent to each of our local speakers to speak before the locals. Now, the W.C.F. at that time didn't have a speaker's bureau so they set up a speaker's bureau and the blitz was on and—and when the Communist Party took over the Pension Union it was only their speakers that could come before our locals and from the W.C.F. were speakers and in that group, as I recall, there was one or two from the University of Washington.

#### Identifies Professor Eby and His Wife as Communists

MR. WHIPPLE: Now, were those persons there representing the Communist Party in those fraction meetings?

MR. HUSON: They were representing the Communist Party in the fraction meetings but before the locals they were speaking also for the Communist Party but to the public.

MR. WHIPPLE: I realize that. Now, then, what University professor, if any, do you refer to?

MR. HUSON: Well, one in particular, was Harold Eby.

MR. WHIPPLE: Now, what position did Mr. Eby hold at that time, if you remember.

MR. HUSON: He was on the speaker's bureaus for the W.C.F. at that particular time.

MR. WHIPPLE: I have more references to what position or occupation that he had, to make a living, do you know, who he was employed by?

MR. HUSON: At that time I don't know. I can't recall. I don't know just what work he was doing whether he was a professor at that time or not.

MR. WHIPPLE: Well, is that the same Professor Harold Eby who is now a professor at the University of Washington?

MR. HUSON: Yes.

MR. WHIPPLE: Did you know his wife, Lenna Eby?

MR. HUSON: Yes, but not by that name. She also had sat in on meetings with us.

MR. WHIPPLE: Now, you say she also sat in on meetings, now do you mean top fraction Communist Party meetings?

MR. HUSON: Communist Party members only.

MR. WHIPPLE: Now, what name did you know her by when she sat in those top fraction Communist Party meetings, if you remember?

MR. HUSON: I don't remember her first name, but it was James. I—I don't recall her first name.

MR. WHIPPLE: I'll ask you if the name Grace James means anything to you?

MR. HUSON: Sounds very familiar.

MR. WHIPPLE: Was that the name by which she went—

MR. HUSON: Yes. At that time she went by—

MR. WHIPPLE: —in Communist Party circles?

MR. HUSON: It seems like—I don't recall whether she went by that name, but I know that that was her name; but she went by "Gracie," I think, or some short name.

MR. WHIPPLE: Well, anyway, the person you refer to, is that the present Mrs. Lenna Eby?

MR. HUSON: Yes, to my understanding, it is.

MR. WHIPPLE: Then these fraction meetings of the Communist Party in which Harold Eby sat, would there have been anyone possible present there other than Communists?

MR. HUSON: Couldn't have been because of the policy of the Communist Party.

MR. WHIPPLE: That's all, Mr. Huson. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Thank you, Mr. Huson and will you want this witness again?

MR. WHIPPLE: I think not, he can be excused.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: You may be excused.

(Witness Excused)

MR. HOUSTON: You have another affidavit to read, Mr. Whipple?

MR. WHIPPLE: Deposition, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: Deposition. Will you state the circumstances of why you have a deposition instead of the witness.

MR. WHIPPLE: Dr. Ellwood C. Nance who is at the present time the president of Miami University—I mean of Tampa University at Tampa, Florida, and sometime ago was in the city of Seattle. It was impossible to have him present here at this meeting today and for that reason his deposition was taken.