

TESTIMONY OF MR. MILTON DIX

MR. HOUSTON: Will you stand up and be sworn, Mr. Dix?

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

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Dix, I do not believe that you have been here previously, have you, and have you heard any instructions to the witnesses?

MR. DIX: No, I have not.

MR. HOUSTON: Well, it's being recorded so we ask that you speak right directly toward the microphone and that you not keep turning your head from side to side and that you answer all questions audibly instead of by a nod or motion because it cannot be recorded that way and if we come to an unusual word that you spell it.

Will you please state your name?

MR. DIX: Milton Dix.

MR. HOUSTON: Of what city are you a resident, Mr. Dix?

MR. DIX: Washington, Seattle, Washington.

MR. HOUSTON: How long have you lived in the city of Seattle?

MR. DIX: For the last twenty years and prior to that since about 1902 all my life.

MR. HOUSTON: I will ask you, Mr. Dix, if you are, or if you ever have been, a member of the Communist Party?

MR. DIX: Yes, I have.

MR. HOUSTON: When did you first join the Communist Party?

MR. DIX: The exact date escapes me, it was some time early in 1938.

MR. HOUSTON: And when did you leave the Communist Party?

MR. DIX: Early in 1938.

MR. HOUSTON: About how long were you in the Communist Party?

MR. DIX: I believe it could be construed to the absolute minimum period, thirty days.

MR. HOUSTON: Thirty days.

MR. HOUSTON: I hand you herewith the Communist Party membership book, number 53869, and ask if you can identify that book.

MR. DIX: I believe I gave that to your operator here.

MR. HOUSTON: What is that book?

MR. DIX: That was the book that was given me, I—I was then given to understand and believe, as the evidence of membership in the Communist Party.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, in this book, in the section for January, 1938, is a little dues stamp which has on it "Communist Party of the U.S.A." with a hammer and a sickle. What does that designate?

MR. DIX: I'm sorry I can't very well understand. I asked the same question. I'm neither a mechanic nor a farmer, and I asked the significance and didn't get any intelligent answer so I didn't buy any more of them.

MR. HOUSTON: Oh, does it mean that you owe—but you paid, you bought that stamp?

MR. DIX: I did buy that stamp.

MR. HOUSTON: How much did that stamp cost you?

MR. DIX: I cannot recall. Not very much or I wouldn't have bought it, not over fifty cents.

MR. HOUSTON: Now this book is made out under name to Art Patton. Is that the name they gave you in the Communist Party?

MR. DIX: That was my understanding.

MR. HOUSTON: That was your understanding?

MR. DIX: Yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman I would like to submit this article in evidence calling the attention of the committee to the fact that each page has printed on it a hammer and sickle and repeatedly a series of three lines which reads, "Communist Party of the United States of America, a section of the Communist International." I ask that this be given an exhibit number and incorporated in the record.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: It will be entered as Exhibit No. 20 and so identified.

(WHEREUPON the copy of the book referred to, was admitted into the record as Exhibit No. 20.)

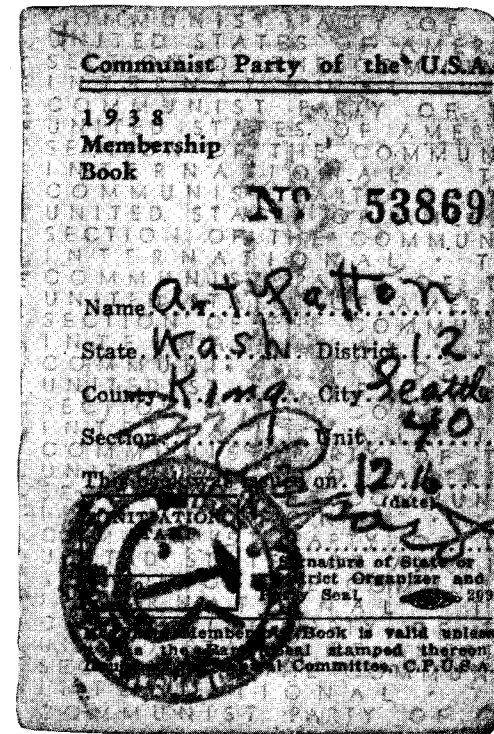


EXHIBIT 20—Membership Book No. 53869, Issued to Witness Dix.

MR. HOUSTON: Who recruited you in the Communist Party, Mr. Dix?

MR. DIX: I'm not entirely sure, my impression is that it was Mr. Guth, at that time associated with me in business. Whether he actually recruited—as a matter of fact I didn't require the various tests of recruitment, I was interested in it and was glad to investigate and find out what they had to offer, and it's entirely possible that I requested him to put my name in.

MR. HOUSTON: Did—do you have reference to Mr. Chester Guth, Guth?

MR. DIX: That is right, that's correct.

MR. HOUSTON: Who, himself was a member of the Party?

MR. DIX: That is right, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, did you attend any meetings of the Communist Party?

MR. DIX: Yes, I did, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: Of—

MR. DIX: I believe there are two fraction units and some units which I've later learned were in the professional group or something of that nature.

MR. HOUSTON: Did you have any meetings in your own home?

MR. DIX: Yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: They met in your own—

MR. DIX: Yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: —home. Now, did you have any position in the Communist Party?

MR. DIX: No, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: Ever collect dues or anything like that?

MR. DIX: No, sir, never.

MR. HOUSTON: Weren't in that long?

MR. DIX: That's right. I don't think they liked me.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, I will ask you if you know a man by the name of Burton James?

MR. DIX: I know Mr. James, yes sir.

MR. HOUSTON: How did you come to know Mr. James?

MR. DIX: I've been a—I will say a close personal friend of Miss Cornish when she was here and my wife has been a student and a teacher of Miss Cornish—and the James's had a very high reputation in the artistic life of the city. I know them primarily through that connection. I also know them because I was interested during the period of the attack on the legal government of Spain, by Franco and backed up by Hitler and Mussolini—I was interested in doing what we could through an organization that was formed called "The Medical Bureau for the Relief of—The Medical Bureau for Loyalist Spain," or something like that. We provided blood and medical service and things of strictly a charitable and humanitarian nature to the Loyalists of Spain and I believe she appeared on—as a sponsor, an active worker in that very laudable program and I appeared as treasurer for this district, and—

MR. HOUSTON: Well, sir

MR. DIX: Yes, sir. Through that connection I knew him.

MR. HOUSTON: Did you ever sit in any Communist Party meetings with either of the two Jameses?

MR. DIX: I couldn't say, no, sir. I sat in meetings and to be absolutely truthful I couldn't say at this late date if they were Communists or the

Medical Bureau. It was very late in the history of the Medical Bureau, so far as I was concerned, that I learned that it did have a considerable dominance in the Communist Party at which time I identified myself with the Party and shortly thereafter I disassociated.

MR. HOUSTON: You dropped out. They were active in these meetings and its—would have been the Medical Bureau to Aid Spanish Democracy or Communist meetings.

MR. DIX: That is—that is correct, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, do you know a man by the name of Jesse Epstein?

MR. DIX: I have met Mr. Epstein.

MR. HOUSTON: And what was the occasion of this meeting?

MR. DIX: I can't even recall the occasion. I just know him—possibly through business groups. I recall I—I called on him once when he was head of the housing authority here to discuss the not permitting colored people to move into a certain district because it would depress land values, and I was elected on a group that went to ask him to do that and he said that was contrary to the Federal laws—so I said "all-right," we've asked him and that's all there is to it and I believe I was chairman of that group and I did ask him.

MR. HOUSTON: I will ask you if you know Ralph H. Gundlach?

MR. DIX: I know Professor Gundlach; yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, how did you get acquainted with Professor Gundlach?

MR. DIX: I knew him in the same way that I knew the James; because of his—a man of vested interest and fine cooperation in the medical group.

MR. HOUSTON: Have you ever sat—do you know whether or not Mr. Gundlach is a member of the Communist Party?

MR. DIX: No, sir, not definitely. I do not.

Says "Rocky" Forschmiedt Is a Communist

MR. HOUSTON: Do you know a man by the name of Rachmiel, Rachmiel, Forschmiedt, Forschmiedt; known as "Rocky" Forschmiedt?

MR. DIX: Yes, sir. I do.

MR. HOUSTON: Uh-huh. Now, do you know—how did you meet Mr. Forschmiedt?

MR. DIX: I met him through the Communist Party per se, that is—not the Medical Bureau.

MR. HOUSTON: You met him directly—

MR. DIX: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: —through the Communist Party. Now, did you sit in any meetings with Mr. Forschmiedt?

MR. DIX: I cannot recall any meetings at which I sat with him, no sir.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, did he visit you after you dropped out of the Communist Party?

MR. DIX: Yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: What was the occasion for his visit?

MR. DIX: He asked me to pay up past dues.

MR. HOUSTON: He tried to get you to reinstate in the Communist Party, is that right?

MR. DIX: It might be better phrased this way; that he asked why I hadn't kept myself paid up. He didn't definitely solicit.

MR. HOUSTON: **Is there any question in your mind whether or not he is a member of the Communist Party?**

MR. DIX: **None whatsoever.**

MR. HOUSTON: Now, I'll ask you if you can—have seen this piece of paper before—that printed matter.

MR. DIX: Oh yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: And what is that?

MR. DIX: I—you mean the first—the first two letters of that is an appeal for funds for the aid of the Medical Bureau to Spanish democracy and these are the sponsors.

MR. HOUSTON: That is the official letter-head?

MR. DIX: That is the official letter-head.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, I would like at this time to introduce—

MR. DIX: May I interrupt a moment?

MR. HOUSTON: Yes.

MR. DIX: That is not—that is an appeal letter, which is superimposed on the official letter-head—the official letter-head is—

MR. HOUSTON: Yes, but the—without the letter—

MR. DIX: Yes. That is right.

MR. HOUSTON: I would like to introduce into the record as an exhibit this letter, Mr. Chairman, calling attention of the Committee to the fact that among the sponsors is **Mr. Hugh DeLacy, The Witness Mr. Milton Dix, Professor Ralph H. Gundlach and Mr. and Mrs. Burton James and Professor Melvin Rader.**

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: It will be identified in the record as Committee's Exhibit number 21, and so marked.

(WHEREUPON, document referred to was received, marked and entered into the record as Exhibit No. 21.)

MR. HOUSTON: Now, this is the same only in blank, isn't it?

MR. DIX: Yes, sir; that is.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, what is this, Mr. Dix?

MR. DIX: It's a list of rather important people—Theodore Dreiser and Albert Einstein. I have no connection whatever with this. To the best of my recollection these were people who might have been interested in receiving literature pertaining to our local Committee For Aid To Spain.

MR. HOUSTON: You were furnished that? You have seen it before?

MR. DIX: Oh yes, I have seen that. Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, this is a letter-head of the Spanish Refugee Relief Campaign, headquarters in San Francisco. The group of sponsors as Mr. Dix has testified are very important people. I'd like to introduce that into the record.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: It will be identified in the record as Committee's Exhibit number 22.

(WHEREUPON, document referred to was received, marked and entered as Exhibit No. 22.)

MR. HOUSTON: Now, I'm concerned only with the letterhead here, Mr. Dix—what is that?

MR. DIX: That is the larger or parent organization of the Spanish Medical Aid which center is in New York city. And then, of course, our group here was a local group who—and we remitted funds to this group.

MR. HOUSTON: To this group here?

MR. DIX: Yes, sir, and that you can see is the letterhead.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to introduce this exhibit into the record.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: It will be identified in the record as Committee's Exhibit No. 23.

(WHEREUPON, document referred to was received, marked, and entered as Exhibit No. 23.)

MR. HOUSTON: Now, these two are the same, are they not, Mr. Dix?

MR. DIX: No, that other, I believe, was the National and this is the Northern California.

MR. HOUSTON: Yes, I mean these two are the same, here.

MR. DIX: Oh, yes. Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to introduce one of these two which is for the Northern California Committee.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: It will be identified in the record as Committee's Exhibit No. 24.

(WHEREUPON, document referred to was received, marked, and entered as Exhibit No. 24.)

MR. HOUSTON: Now, Mr. Dix, you testified that you knew positively of your own knowledge "Rocky" Forschmiedt was a member of the Communist Party and tried to collect dues from you. Can you identify who Mr. Forschmiedt is?

MR. DIX: No, sir. I did not intend to so positively identify him. I said "to the best of my understanding" he was, but I cannot recall ever having sat in any fraction meetings with him.

MR. HOUSTON: No, but he tried to collect money from you.

MR. DIX: He told me that I should pay it. I—whether I should have paid it to him or not is a question. Now I think the sense of it is that that was correct, yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, can you identify who Mr. Forschmiedt is?

MR. DIX: You mean visually?

MR. HOUSTON: No—what does he do? How can you—how can we know who you are talking about? Do you know who he worked for?

MR. DIX: I believe he had some sort of position with the city, I'm not sure.

MR. HOUSTON: City of Seattle?

MR. DIX: Yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: Is he the "Rocky" For—is he the Rachmiel Forschmiedt that's the Chief Sanitarian for the City of Seattle?

MR. DIX: I think that's what it is.

MR. HOUSTON: His name is Rachmiel, I believe.

MR. DIX: Rachmiel, yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, I ask you if you can identify that, Mr. Dix?

MR. DIX: That's a record of deposits and withdrawals, a special fund, established in the National Bank of Commerce under the name of Medical Bureau of Aid to Spanish Democracy in care of Milton Dix.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to introduce these three records here for different months into the record as an exhibit.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: It will be identified in the record as Committee's Exhibit number 25.

(WHEREUPON, document referred to was received, marked, and entered as Exhibit No. 25.)

MR. HOUSTON: You said, Mr. Dix, that toward the conclusion of your service with the Medical Bureau of The Aid to Spanish Democracy, **you'd become aware or informed that it was Communist dominated or controlled?**

MR. DIX: **Yes, sir, that is correct.** It is very difficult to explain exactly how one becomes aware of these things, and as I say, I was not particularly opposed to Communism at that time, and it seemed that later on, I—while I was not, as I say—not even within a year or so after I left the Party particularly opposed to what I felt it stood for, but I just didn't, oh, didn't see any necessity of continuing to attend meetings. I wasn't interested in them.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, Mr. Dix, isn't it a fact that you were a member of the, and worked for the Medical Bureau of Aid to Spanish Democracy before you were a member of or interested in the Communist Party?

MR. DIX: Oh, yes, sir. Very much so.

MR. HOUSTON: **And would you say that you were softened up with the Communist Party by your affiliation with this organization?**

MR. DIX: **Yes, I think I had a perfectly natural regard for the Communists, because of—of their very definite aid they were giving to the party that I was supporting, which was the Loyalist Government in Spain.**

MR. HOUSTON: I think that's all, Mr. Chairman. I am through with the witness, and I want to thank him for appearing, and I ask that he be excused.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Many thanks to you, Mr. Dix, for appearing at this time, and you may be excused from further attendance.

TESTIMONY OF MRS. MILDRED GENEVIEVE DIX

MILDRED GENEVIEVE DIX, produced as a witness, after being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

MR. HOUSTON: Will you please state your name?

MRS. DIX: Mildred Genevieve Dix.

MR. HOUSTON: You are the wife of the previous witness?

MRS. DIX: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: I will ask you, Mrs. Dix, do you know a man—I still can't pronounce that first name, Rachmiel, I believe, Forschmiedt?

MRS. DIX: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: What was the occasion of your meeting him?

MRS. DIX: I think he attended a meeting of the Communist Party at our house. I'm not positive, but I think he was one of the men that we—

MR. HOUSTON: And did he visit in your home several times after that?

MRS. DIX: I wouldn't say that he visited; he called on my husband, and I recall the time that he came to ask him about, if he was going to continue paying dues, or something of that sort.

MR. HOUSTON: And you were present and heard that conversation?

MRS. DIX: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: And he attempted to collect dues in the Communist Party from your husband.

MRS. DIX: That was my understanding.

MR. HOUSTON: That's all, and thank you very much.

Mr. Chairman, I ask—I'm through with this witness, and I ask that she be excused, also, from subpoena.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Yes, you may be excused from further attendance.

MR. HOUSTON: Thank you very much.

(Witness Excused)

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, I would be willing to make a statement for the record here, the witness feels that she didn't get a chance to bring out the fact that she was never a member of the Communist Party. I thought that my absence of asking the question would cover that, but I would be very glad to make a statement at this time that **there is no information by this testimony that Mrs. Dix ever was a member of the Communist Party.**

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: The record will show the same.

MRS. DIX: Thank you.