

If persons like Bill Pennock and Tom Rabbitt and Nora McCoy, who are known Communists or fellow travelers and also John Caughlan, were not running the Washington Pension Union as its officers, there would be a thousand—there would be thousands of conscientious old folks joining the Pension Union movement who now won't have anything to do with it. Also, a world of the old folks who are in it now are good American citizens who don't want anything—who don't want to have anything to do with Communism, but they stayed with it simply because they have no other place to go. They would welcome a house cleaning, but as it is they are in a minority and there is nothing much they can do about it. Most all the state and local officers of the Washington Pension Union are not pensioners at all, but younger people who control the organization for political purposes and for that reason the pensioners themselves have lost out and Pennock and his crowd are either out to run the Old Age Pension Union or they are out to wreck it.

Q. Mrs. Gilbert, going back to your testimony concerning this Mr. Riley whose name you mentioned at the beginning of your testimony, I would like to know if he at any time ever held any official position with the Pension Union local that you attended?

A. Yes, he did. He was a president of the local which I attended.

Q. Do you remember any particular statements made by this Mr. Riley at any of the meetings you attended?

A. Yes, there were two things in particular that always stuck in my mind. About the second or third time I attended one of their meetings and this was about eight years ago at Mrs. Harpst's place, this man Riley was making a talk and he said that he was a Communist, and he said quote, I make a motion that we not ask the President of the United States, but that we demand that he release Earl Browder from jail and that he stop the deportation hearings against Harry Bridges unquote. I jumped up and told them I was against this motion because Earl Browder and Harry Bridges were both Communists and I said that I wouldn't be for anything that favored Communism, and when I made this statement they all jumped up and hollered me down.

Then, on another occasion shortly after that the subject came up in the local as to whom they would have for their next week's speaker, and this same Mr. Riley, who, as I said before, admitted that he was a Communist, asked this question quote: Who will we get for our speaker for our next meeting? Shall we get a Communist? unquote, and they discussed the matter a minute or two and then they agreed to leave the matter up to him.

Q. Do you know any more about this Mrs. Von Dosso than what you testified to previously?

A. Yes. On one occasion, and that would be about six or eight years ago I asked Mrs. Von Dosso why she was so interested in the Old Age Pension movement because she had solicited my membership in the Old Age Pension Union, and I noticed at the time that this was a young woman, only about 24 years old, and she said to me quote We Communists want to show the old people that we will do more for them than the Democrats will do or the Republicans will unquote. At the time she made this statement to me, this same Mrs. Von Dosso as the secretary of this particular old age pension local.

On another occasion soon after this, Mrs. Von Dosso wanted me to contribute some money to them, and I told her that if I had an extra dollar I would give it to my church, and she looked at me quite sternly and said quote If they knew you gave anything to the church instead of to the Pension

Union, you would get your pension cut. unquote They were all the time talking against our donating anything to churches, or any kind of charity except to turn it over to the officers of the Pension Union.

Q. At the time you attended these local meetings presided over by this Mr. Riley and this Mrs. Von Dosso, who you say admitted membership to the Communist Party, had Germany as yet declared war against Russia?

A. No, those meetings and those conversations were had before Germany had declared war against Russia.

Q. What was the attitude at this time concerning our entering war with Germany?

A. They were against our getting into any kind of war; they were against our lend-lease program; they were against any kind of military training, and at practically every meeting some speaker would jump up and denounce war and denounce the capitalists in this country who they said were trying to get us into war.

Q. Did you have occasion to learn their attitude concerning this same problem after Germany had attacked Russia?

A. Yes, I did at one of their meetings.

Q. What was the situation then?

A. After Germany jumped on to Russia they spent all of their time crying for an all-out effort in our support of what they called our glorious allies, as they called them. In fact, there wasn't anything that they could say strong enough in urging our country to jump in and make an all out fight against Germany. For several months before it happened they were crying at the top of their voices for a second front, everything directly opposed to what they had been preaching before Germany started this fight with Russia."

MR. WHIPPLE: And it is duly sworn, as provided in the statute.

Now I would like at this time, Mr. Chairman, to introduce these Exhibits referred to, and also introduce the deposition itself into the record.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: I understand that was Exhibits No. 15 and 16? Have you numbered them for identification?

MR. WHIPPLE: Yes. The first exhibit introduced here was No. 15. That would be the letter she testified she received; the second exhibit is numbered Exhibit No. 16, the Pension folder that she referred to.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: That completes your case for the time?

MR. WHIPPLE: Yes.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: There will be a—we will adjourn until 9:30 tomorrow morning. You are planning, are you not, to continue tomorrow? 9:30 tomorrow morning.

(WHEREUPON, exhibits referred to were received and marked EXHIBITS Nos. 15 and 16, respectively.

(WHEREUPON adjournment was taken until 9:30 o'clock a. m., Jan. 31, 1948.)

(9:40 o'clock a. m., January 31, 1948)

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: The hearing will be in session.

WALTER W. CHURCHILL, SR., called as a witness, having been first duly sworn, testified on direct examination, as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. WHIPPLE:

Q. Will you state your name to the stenographer, please.

A. My name is Walter W. Churchill, Sr.

Q. How do you spell your last name?

A. Churchill. C-h-u-r-c-h-i-l-l.

Q. Where do you live, Mr. Churchill?

A. I live three miles the other side of Auburn, just off the Enumclaw highway.

Q. What business or profession are you engaged in, Mr. Churchill?

A. I am a crane operator at the Boeing Aircraft Company.

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

A. I—since May, 1934.

Q. Mr. Churchill, I will ask you if you are acquainted with a lady by the name of Hilda Hansen, the organizer of the hospital section of the Building Service Employees Union?

A. I am.

Q. Do you remember having had a conversation with her during the month of December, 1937, concerning the Communist Party?

A. I do.

Q. Where was that conversation held?

A. Well, it was in her car on the way downtown one evening.

Q. Will you detail that conversation briefly, please?

A. Well, she asked me what my political affiliations were, and I told her at that that I was a Republican. She said "Why don't you break from it and become one of the Communist Party?" I said, "Why so?" "Well," she said, "we are all Communists," and she said "You would be much better off if you would sign up with the Communist Party."

Q. Did she give you to understand at that time what she meant when she said that "We are all Communists"?

A. Well, I surmised that practically all the officers of the Building Service Employees Union were Communists when she said "We are all Communists."

Q. Mr. Churchill, do you know of a gentleman by the name of Hugh DeLacy, former Congressman from Washington?

A. I do, sir.

Q. I will ask you if you had occasion—I will ask you if you knew him when he was a member of the City Council in the City of Seattle?

A. I did.

Q. I will ask you to state if you remember a specific conversation you had with him in the Moose Hall in the City of Seattle at a union meeting about three o'clock in the afternoon on or about the first day of February, 1938?

A. Well, that was after the meeting was over, and a—I talked with him. He was a member of the City Council at that time, and at that present time I was out of work, and I was working at odd jobs—anything that I could find. He says to me, he says, "Why don't you join up with the Communist Party?" And I says, "Why?" "Well," he says, "if you will I will assure you a job in the County-City Building at prevailing wages," and also assured me I would not be laid off.

Q. Mr.—

A. And I told him, I says, "Mr. DeLacy, I am sorry, but," I says, "I am not for sale."

Q. Mr. Churchill, do you know a gentleman by the name of Ward Coley, who was the business agent—was a business agent for the Building Service Employees Union back in '38—'39?

A. I do.

Q. I will ask you to state if you had a conversation with him any time during 1939 that you particularly remember?

A. He told me on one occasion, he said "If you would know what side your bread was buttered on," he says, "You would sign up with the rest of us." And I asked him then if he considered that—I says,—well, he gave me to inform me that it was the Communist Party to sign up with.

Q. Do you know a gentleman by the name of Merwin Cole, a former business agent of the Building Service Employees Union?

A. I certainly do.

Q. I will ask you to state if you particularly remember any conversation that you had with him along in December of 1938?

A. He asked me one day in the Union Hall—I came up to see the secretary—see Mrs. Imsland about securing employment and he said to me, he says, "Walter, why don't you come through?", and he says—he informed me if I would come through and sign up with the Communist Party that I would be certain of good employment and my family would not be in want. Also he inferred that they would expect a reasonable contribution in return.

Q. Now what did you under—just what did he say about this reasonable contribution?

A. Well, he didn't go into detail about that.

Q. I will ask you from another angle. Were you given to understand to whom that contribution would go?

A. Well, I surmised it would.

Q. What was your understanding?

A. Well, I surmised that it would be to help the Communist Party.

Q. It was definitely the Communist Party that he asked you to sign up with?

A. Yes, it was.

Q. Now, Mr. Churchill, you mentioned the name of Mrs. Hansen and Mr. DeLacy, Ward Coley, Merwin Cole, and have detailed certain conversations you had with them during the years of 1938 and '39. I would like to ask you if during the years 1938 and 1939 if any of those above named persons were active in the affairs of the Old Age Pension Union?

A. Well, they all spoke of it on several occasions and Mr. Merwin Cole on one occasion gave me a number of handbills to hand out, concerning a meeting that was held at some downtown hall concerning the Old Age Pension Union.

Q. In other words, that was an assignment for you to carry out to help promulgate this pension meeting?

A. Yes, and I distributed the handbills.

Q. You distributed them?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. Did Mr. DeLacy take any active part in the meeting?

A. Well, he spoke of it on several occasions and on one occasion I distributed handbills for him.

Q. Handbills pertaining to the activities of the Old Age Pension Union?

A. Something concerning a meeting of the Old Age Pension Union, yes.

Q. Mr. Churchill, at all times in your conversations where you have used the term "Communist Party," do you mean the Communist Party?

A. Yes, I do.

MR. WHIPPLE: That is all, Mr. Churchill. Thank you very much for your testimony.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to suggest that the witness has other matters he would like to attend to, and would appreciate being excused from further attendance before this Committee.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Sure. Excuse Mr. Churchill. Thank you for your attendance.

(Witness Excused)

MR. HOUSTON: Call Captain George Levich.

CAPTAIN GEORGE LEVICH, called as a witness, having been first duly sworn, testified on direct examination, as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HOUSTON:

Q. Captain, I will put a sheet of paper and a pencil here because I understand you spell a lot better by writing it out than you do by spelling verbally. Now, speak very distinctly, Captain, because this is being recorded, and quite slowly so that the stenographer can get it. You can go as fast as you want to, but make it clear. Please state your name.

A. My name is George Levich—L-i-v—L-e-v-i-c-h.

Q. Fine. Now of what country are you a citizen, Captain?

A. United States of America.

Q. Do you hold a license as a master?

A. Yes, I do—master's license of the American Merchant Marines.

Q. You are a master of the American Merchant Marine operating under an American license?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is there any limit on your license?

A. Unlimited license, all oceans, all tonnages.

Q. Unlimited license, all oceans, all tonnages. Where were you born, Captain?

A. I was born in Krimea, Russia.

Q. Krimea, Russia. When were you born, Captain?

A. 1908.

Q. 1908. Did you live continuously in Russia?

A. Yes, I did, until I left it in 1944.

Q. When in 1944 did you leave?

A. December.

Q. What?

A. December.

Q. December, of '44. Did you hold a license as a master under the Russian government?

A. Since 1935, I was holding Russian license as a master, unlimited.

Q. Did you operate Russian Ships of the Russian Merchant Marine?

A. Yes, practically as a sailor since I was sixteen, as a master since 1935.

Q. Fine. Are you familiar with conditions as they existed in Russia up to and including December, 1944?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. What kind of a government do they have in Russia?

A. A dictatorship.

Q. A dictatorship?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Well, would you explain what you mean by that?

A. Well, the government consists of a ruling clique—thank you (being handed glass of water)—small ruling clique, bossed by one man, and through the members of the ruling party, they rule all the country. There is not other parties. There is no way to penetrate to—in the government, but belonging to one party, so it is a dictatorship.

Q. Well, don't they have elections in Russia?

A. Yes, sir, they have, but their election is just a farce. You have to elect a man who is nominated by the Party. If you don't, well, war for you.

Q. Well, would you explain what happens—you have participated in the elections, have you not?

A. Yes, I did. As a master for one passenger vessel in 1938, I was elected as the honorable—

Q. Honorable?

A. —honorable member of the commission who was operating this election, so I saw these mechanics very well—how they did it. Before you have to elect somebody, they give you a small sheet of paper on which the name of candidate is printed. There is a booth, you go, where to give your vote. You are supposed to drop down this sheet of paper. If you want you can scratch the name. If you want, you can put another name on it of another candidate, but to do this you have to step aside in another booth, and there is always people who are watching which way you are stepping, so if you are stepping to the right and start to scratching your little paper, your name is noted so the people prefer to keep away from big troubles, they just drop their papers in, and believe me, there is no reason to risk your life by scratching this name, because if you nominate someone, you have no chance to get him through, because this man will have only one vote, after all—yours, against untold millions. That's how it works.

Q. Are there NKVD men present at the polling places?

A. The NKVD men are only present—they are present everywhere.

Q. And they notice any deviations from dropping the printed ticket there?

A. Exactly, where you are scratching the name.

Q. How do living conditions in Russia compare with living conditions in this country?

A. It is hard to compare. It is—living conditions in Russia since I was a young man and since I was a child after the revolution are growing worse and worse every year, until I left there. There was not a single way up. It was always down. It is really hard to realize how much down it can come.