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 "Communistic 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 famiilar 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.

For example, I will tell you. As a master of a ship—cargo vessel that used to bring salt salmon from Kamchatka—

Q. Now just a minute, Captain, do you know how to spell Kamchatka? Will you try to spell that for us?

A. Kamchatka,—K-a-m-c-h-a-t-k-a.

Q. Now, that is a city in Russia?

A. No, it is a peninsula in the Okchoesk Sea.

Q. Will you spell that?

A. O-k-c-h-o-e-s-k.

MR. HOUSTON: (To newspaper reporters) Did you men get that over there? All right.

Q. Well, using to pick up this salt salmon from Kamchatka fisheries, I never allowed my crew to pump out the bilge water. I don't think everybody understands what this bilge water is. It is kind of technical, but it is the water who collects itself in the sides of the ship down below in the holds from the moisture and everything like this. As this fish always has a water in the barrels, this water drops down in the bilges, and on top of the water there is a thin layer of grease—fish oil, so I never allowed the engineers to pump out this water, because when we were discharging the fish, I always would send the men down below and to scoop—

Q. Scoop?

A. Scoop this layer of oil for cooking purposes. That's how the sailors in Russia live when they are sailing in between Russian cargoes.

Q. And you would use that for food, even on your own ship?

A. Exactly, because otherwise, we would have only black flour from which, twice a day, we will make a—dumplings in boiled water. That is all, no—grease, if we can get it from the bilge.

Q. You mean they would put your ship to sea with nothing but black flour for the crew to eat?

A. Nothing but black flour, and you have to understand that most of Russian ships were at this time were called burden ships. That's eight hours of hard work down below for a fireman, and two plates of black flour dumplings a day, and that's all.

Q. How do the people generally in Russia live? Is their diet much better than that?

A. I don't think so. When I happen, time and again to stay ashore for a little while, I never saw anything better. My ration was 300 grams of bread a day—if I could get it. If I failed to stand in—get up early in the morning to stay in the huge queue to get my 300 grams of bread, I would not get it the next day. If I survived this day, that is all right with the government. They won't give me that.

Q. You had 300 grams of bread rationed to you each day, provided you stood in line and got it?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. And if you didn't stand in line and get it today, you didn't get a double order the next day.

A. Not at all.

Q. Did they have ration cards?

A. Well, I don't remember a time where there was not rationing of food in Russia, since the revolution. It was always.

Q. Since you were a little boy—

A. Yes.

Q. —they rationed food in Russia?

A. Not only in war time. Before the war, too.

Q. Before the war, too.

A. Certainly.

Q. Do they have different stores where you get your stuff from?

A. Yes. The system is very complicated, but to put it short, if you are a single working man—or suppose a sailor on my ship, he will have his own shop to buy it in, and he will have a special book of admittance to this shop. In this shop there will be nothing but bread. Sometimes, even for—well, something wrong with delivery they say "So there is no bread this day at all," if you are a working man. If you are in a middle position like I was myself, a captain of a ship, I would have another shop to buy in. In my shop it was bread every day, potatoes some days, maybe once a week a little salt herring, and maybe once a year a shirt.

If you are a member of the Communistic Party, you have so-called "closed shop." No one but members of Communist can buy in this shop. Well, they have everything.

And another, the best one is the Kremlin shop—oh, excuse me, the next one is NKVD shop. Well, they have more than regular members of Communist Party, and of course the—A-1, it is Kremlin shop. Well, they have absolutely everything.

Q. Now you are testifying, Captain, of what you know and have seen with your own eyes.

A. My own eyes.

Q. You have been in Moscow?

A. I was.

Q. You have seen these Kremlin shops?

A. I saw.

Q. Do they have different cards that designate what shop you can buy in?

A. It looks like a little book, on which it is printed (a), it is a Kremlin; (b) it is an NKVD shop, (c) it is high Communist officials, (d) it is like myself, as they call technicians, or intelligentsia, and (e) and down below, that is for workers of different kind. By the way, not all the workers are under the same grade. The workers in the important industry, like war industries and so on have a little bit better shops than the workers of some not so much important business, like—well, suppose it is clothes, or something like this, or shoes people can get without any way, but can get without funds, so, there is difference too, and finally for the farmers, it is the lowest grade.

Q. Captain, what was your salary as a master of a Russian ship?

A. My last salary was two thousand rubles.

Q. Two thousand rubles—what, a day?

A. A month.

Q. A month?

A. A month. According to the rate of exchange—official rate of exchange, it will make it about $400.00.

Q. About four hundred dollars.

A. $400.00.

Q. Well, that is about what you get as an American captain, isn't it?
A. Not exactly; about two-thirds of it.
Q. About two-thirds of what an American captain would get.
A. Uh-huh.

Q. Now I will ask you, Captain, how much would an ordinary suit of clothes cost in Russia, a suit like you have got on, for example?
A. About three of my monthly salaries.

Q. About three months' salaries?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. How much would a pair of shoes cost?
A. A month's salary.

Q. A month's salary.
A. Exactly, 2000 rubles.

Q. 2000 rubles. You work all month to buy a shirt then—I mean a pair of shoes.
A. Pair of shoes.

Q. How much would a shirt cost?
A. Oh, well, about half a monthly wage.

Q. About half a monthly wage. Well, then, Captain, while—according to the official rate of exchange, you got two-thirds of what an American master got. Were you two-thirds as well off as an American master?
A. Not—of course not, because official rate of exchange, it is a joke.

Q. It is a joke?
A. Certainly. It is not dictated by real actual situation of the market. It is —this figure is given by the government. Why, nobody knows. There is no reason for such an exchange, but you—according to the rate of exchange, you have to buy American dollars, that's all, or they will give you, if you exchange American dollars for Russian, they will give you Russian rubles according to this exchange, but on actual American dollar you will buy much more.

Q. Then there is a black market even there on American dollars, is that right?
A. Certainly.

Q. Captain, I will ask you if, during the time you were in Russia did you buy any Russian government bonds?
A. Well, you have to.

Q. You have to. What do you mean?
A. Well, it is—in other words, it is compulsory.

Q. Compulsory?
A. If you don't buy you are out of luck—out of a job, and pretty soon in jail.

Q. Well, how much did you buy?
A. A monthly wage a year.

Q. One monthly wage a year.
A. That is a fixed figure.

Q. That's a fixed figure.
A. Fixed by the government.

Q. And in reality you didn't get 2000 rubles a month.
A. Oh, certainly not. I would pay my taxes and buy the bonds, and then different kinds of volunteer donations.

Q. What do you mean by these different kinds of volunteer donations?
A. Well, it works this way: the Commissar or the party head of the enterprise will call a meeting and tell "The Government wants us to subscribe for the building of new bombers, so who is for it, please raise your hand," so everybody raises his hand, because if you don't, the next day you will be called to this party headquarters, and they will start to investigate why didn't you raise your hand, and if you would not give good reason for it—well, next step you will be accused to be a Trotskyite, or something or other, and then next they will find something to charge you with—anti-Communist propaganda or something, and then you have got your sentence of five or ten years in jail. Actually, it is because you didn't sign to this volunteer donation.

Q. Did you ever collect your Russian government bonds?
A. I never did.

Q. They didn't even deliver the bonds to you then?
A. Oh, no, you have to go up, first of all, but I thought "They are worthless anyway, why should I bother?"

Q. But they didn't deliver them to you?
A. No, sir.

Q. You would have to go through a lot more red tape to get them, is that right?
A. Certainly, but it was not worth it.

Q. Captain, can you give us any idea of the percentage of people in Russia that belong to the Communist Party, that are Communists?
A. Well when I left Russia, according to the official figures, it was between three and four millions.

Q. Three and four millions?
A. Yes.

Q. Members of the Communist Party?
A. Yes.

Q. And this was the official figure—
A. Yes.

Q. —of the Russian government?
A. Yes.

Q. Do you know what the population of the Soviet Union was?
A. Before their recent acquirement of peoples and lands, it was 180 million.

Q. 180 million, and of that number between three and four million were Communists?
A. Communists.

Q. Do you know anything about the organization that used to operate and be known as the NKVD?
A. Oh, yes.

Q. Will you describe their activities for us?
A. NKVD was known under many names. First one, it was "Cheka."

Q. Now what—we have got to get that down, Captain. What was that?
A. Cheka, C-h-e-k-a. It is abbreviation of two Russian words—a special commission. A special commission was created by Lenin shortly after the revolution, and the business of this commission was to fight the counter-revolution, so it was honest enough, they did fight.

After the Russian government claimed that the revolution—the fight for the revolution was finished, and they did emerge into the constructive period, they changed the name of Cheka for GPO.

Q. OGPU?

A. Yes. It is the same abbreviation of four Russian words that means—oh, I don't remember what government political office.

Q. Government political office?

A. It is the same Cheka, but now when the country was not in war, but in constructive period, of course there was no reason to fight openly the counter-revolution, but their name was the same, to fight now the rebels against the Communists, because the Russian government always claimed that as long as the capitalistic surroundings will last, the Communists will have to fight the thousands and thousands of spies penetrating from United States, Great Britain, and so on, into Russia. So, this OGPU was eliminating all those foreign spies, and internal enemies, too.

Next, when this OGPU got too bad a name among the Russian people, certainly the government changed the name, called it NKVD. It means Peoples' Commissariat For Internal Affairs, but the thing remains the same. It was the same political secret police as it was before, and finally, after I left, it was a new change. Now they call themselves MVT. It means Ministry of Internal Affairs, but according to what I can read and hear from Russia it still remains the same. It is a secret political police of the ruling party.

Q. Does this police force number very many?

A. Yes, NKVD or MVD is divided into three branches.

Q. Well, we don't care about the technical organization. Are there very many of them? Are they in every town?

A. Oh, yes, they have even their own field troops. It is an elite troops that are thousands.

Q. They even have their own troops, then?

A. Yes.

Q. Even within the army, is that right?

A. Yes, their own troops.

Q. Now, would you say there were several million members in the NKVD?

A. I wouldn't say so, because the army they use, even couldn't be a member of the Communist Party. You see, the officials—

Q. Oh, I see. Every NKVD man then, is a Communist?

A. Yes, he is necessarily a Communist, but, their troops—NKVD troops and NKVD army are not, all of them, Communists. They are just drafted men.

Q. Then there is members of the NKVD in the lower ranks that are not Communists?

A. No.

Q. Now, Captain, do you know anything about the system of courts in Russia?

A. Yes.

Q. Well, will you tell us about that?

A. System is complicated too. First of all there is a so-called people's court. The court is supposed to be elected, but it is elected in the same Russian way. In other words, it is appointed by the party. There is no jury.

Q. No jury?

A. No jury, one judge and two assistants appointed by the party, too. This peoples' court deals with small things like divorces, and—well, if you are late for your job, and things like that.

Q. Speak louder. If you are late for your job, you say?

A. Yes.

Q. Do they call you into court if you are late for a job?

A. Certainly, if you are late 21 minutes.

Q. When you are 21 minutes late they haul you into court?

A. Yes.

Q. Well, what is the penalty for something like that?

A. The penalty, one year in jail.

Q. One year in jail?

A. Well, that's a small affair.

Q. Oh, that's a small affair. Tell us about some of the larger affairs.

A. Next kind of jury is so-called—we call it too, in English—superior court?

Q. Superior court, all right.

A. Superior court. When they are—the people's court fails to give a decision, this superior court—supreme—court—

Q. Supreme court.

A. —is handling these affairs, but, the main use of this supreme court is for to show political trials, when the government is fighting their enemies in the party, and one day they start to accuse them of try treachery, that's a case for supreme court. Of course, the decision is prearranged long before, sir.

Q. Prearranged, you say, before?

A. Why do I know? Because I was not behind the doors of the supreme court, but I saw many cases of NKVD court. It works just the same.

Next is so-called military tribunal.

Q. Military tribunal?

A. Tribunal. Every big enterprise—suppose like our shipping office, had a military tribunal, even in peace time. This military tribunal consists of military prosecutor, and military judge. Every case of discipline—if you failed to report on work—if you did something wrong in time of work—

Q. Did you say "work" or "war"?

A. Work. Anything that is connected with this particular enterprise, is handled by this military tribunal, and before a man gets to this tribunal, a political commissar of the enterprise, the prosecutor and the head of the enterprise, decide beforehand what to give him. Then he is brought before this jury and asked a few questions and receives his sentence.

Q. Is there such thing as justice and fairness of trial?

A. Well, not in our conception.

Q. Do they ever try anyone and turn them loose?

A. I never saw a man turned loose.

Q. Everybody that ever went before the court was found guilty, eh?

A. Without any doubt.

Q. I will ask you, Captain, did you operate as a master, any Russian prison ships, or transport any Russian prisoners?

A. Yes.

Q. Where did you operate this prison ship?

A. Well, the concentration camps in Russia are spread, of course, all over the country, but very many of them are in the far east. They use them for digging gold and falling trees, and fishing salmon, so a big quantity of them are going from all Russia through Vladivostok, up to Okchoesk Sea, and of course the conditions on those ships are awful—something like the old slavers, handling slaves from Africa. Just people packed down in the hold, and the hold is battened down in bad weather. On my ship—particular one ship, it was a small cargo vessel of 3000 tons cargo capacity,—I used to carry about two thousand people.

Q. 2000 people would be carried in the hold of a small ship that had 3000 ton cargo capcity?

A. That's right, no accommodations whatsoever.

Q. Did you also operate ships in the far north for the Russian government?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. And would you ofttimes be the first ship into one of these—

A. Yes.

Q. —small places?

A. Yes.

Q. Would you then take out prisoners?

A. Yes. Any ship—cargo ship who visits the small places up north that have no communication whatsoever in the winter time, it has to pick up all the convicts or prisoners that were farmed out in the winter time, so once I got first with my ship in a small place, a 30 men population.

Q. 13 population.

A. Thirty.

Q. Thirty?

A. Yes, and I picked up 15 convicts out of that place.

Q. 15 of the 30 you picked up as convicts. Well, who was the judge there?

A. In such a small place they usually send in winter time a court because they don't have a court in this place, so they send in a judge to small places like this. This time it was a young girl about 19 years old—girl.

Q. 19 years?

A. She was a judge, and she made 15 men convicts out of 30.

Q. Well, did you have any murderer there?

A. Yes, only one real convict was a murderer, who murdered his wife. He got three years in jail.

Q. He got three years in jail. Well, did you have—what were some of the others?

A. Well the others—there was one for example, poured a glass of vodka down the collar.

Q. Down the collar of who?

A. Of his girl friend, just like a joke—a practical joke. He got three years too.

Q. He got three years too. Now this three years means that they were to work in the concentration camps three years?

A. Yes, concentration camp.

Q. Have you seen any of those concentration camps?

A. Many of them.

Q. Have you seen them?

A. Many of them.

Q. What is the conditions of the concentration camp?

A. The conditions are terrible. Usually it is a big lot of ground, surrounded by big wall, with four wooden towers in the corners, and machine guns mounted in the corners.

Inside you will see wooden barracks—shacks, actually. The wind will blow through these shacks. All those camps I am talking about are far north. The people are living—not living there, but sleeping there on big shelves, three rows, one ahead of another. There will be one small stove—iron stove in one corner, but the heat of this stove reaches only two or three feet. The people never—they don't care how many people are jammed in this shack, and in time the people, themselves, don't care. They are so worked out that as soon as they reach—I saw them many thousands sleeping like herrings in a barrel, close together, trying to warm themselves. Of course, there is no talking about sanitary conditions. It is all—was vermin.

Q. Vermin?

A. All over—and awful.

Q. No sanitation at all?

A. No.

Q. Do they work them very long hours?

A. At six o'clock they raise them up. They give them their morning ration. It is a hundred gram of bread and a cup of boiled water, a so-called tea, no sugar, no tea in it. Then they walk them in big groups—

Q. Groups.

A. —under the armed guards to the place of their work, and after 14 hours of work—

Q. 14 hours?

A. One-half an hour in between.

Q. One-half hour they get off in that 14-hour period?

A. Yes. They coming back and go into the barracks to sleep.

Q. What do they get to eat then in the evening, when they get back?

A. In the half an hour interval they will get another hundred gram of bread, and maybe one salt herring—maybe a little bit of barley gruel.

Q. Barley gruel?

A. Uh-huh, and in evening again, next hundred gram of bread and water.

Q. Do very many of them die?

A. Most of them do.

Q. Most of them do. They don't live out their sentence, then?

A. No.

Q. In other words, then, between these two it didn't make any difference whether this murderer got 50 years or 3 years, he would die within his three years any way?

A. Uh-huh.

Q. Now, Captain, we have it alleged by people here in the City of Seattle, that Russia has a wonderful pension system for their old people; that when a woman reaches the age of 55 years and she has worked 20 years at her trade, she gets a pension, and that a man gets a pension at 60 years. Is this true?

A. It is true.

Q. It is true?

A. Yes, they got a pension all right, but I knew personally one old chief engineer of Russian Merchant Marine, who sailed all his life and finally retired, and he got a hundred rubles a month pension.

Q. One hundred rubles a month?

A. A hundred rubles a month, it is a bottle of milk.

Q. One bottle of milk?

A. Yes.

Q. Well then he had to live on something besides his pension then?

A. Well, so he went back to work, and the newspapers were talking how nice this man—how patriotic he was—

Q. To go back to work—

A. Yes, in spite he was on pension.

Q. In spite he was on pension.

A. Yes.

Q. Well, how much does a loaf of bread cost? How many rubles for a loaf of bread?

A. Loaf of bread? That's hard to tell, because you don't get your loaf of bread. You get your 300 grams.

Q. How does three hundred grams compare with an American loaf of bread?

A. 300 grams—it is about a pound.

Q. About a pound. All right, then how much does a pound of bread cost, or did it cost—

A. Official price is low enough. It is two rubles a kilogram.

Q. Two rubles—

A. —two rubles, but as you don't have enough, you have to buy on the black market, and you pay a hundred rubles for enough.

Q. So then his pension would buy him one loaf of bread?

A. One loaf of bread.

Q. Well, does anybody ever retire and live on their pension then?

A. Well, first of all, very seldom the people reach the age to be retired.

Q. And then this is just—

A. Then just an example of this chief engineer.

Q. They have to go back to work to live, then. Then, would you say that their—this pension system is just pure propaganda?

A. Certainly. It is in Russian constitution every old man is cared for by the government.

Q. Oh, it's in the Russian Constitution so they—

A. Yes.

Q. Well, why do they put it there, just for propaganda to the other countries?

A. Exactly.

Q. Does the Russian government indulge in propaganda?

A. Yes, certainly.

Q. How does Russian efficiency compare with American efficiency in the factories and things like that?

A. Well, actually, they can't talk about the efficiency in Russia at all, because there is not such a conception of efficiency.

Q. No such thing as efficiency?

A. No.

Q. Well, why isn't there?

A. You see the main reason is, under the Communistic system, the less a man does, the less chance to go to jail he has, so everybody tries to do as less as possible. Here's your efficiency.

Q. Well, will you explain that? Suppose you and I are engineers in an electric plant. We have got our duties to perform. What do you mean by it?

A. Well, as I see it, the ruling clique doesn't care what for the man is thrown to jail. He is thrown in jail as soon as the Communistic Party realize that this man is not exactly with them. To be able to throw in jail, or eliminate this man any possible time, they have to have on everybody, something to hook on. So, every mistake a man does is instantly reported to the Party headquarters. If you are an engineer you could make many mistakes in your work, and every one of your mistakes is registered in the Party files on each man. Then, when you slip in something more than just your technical work—for example you are very doubtful in general line of the Party, there is your time. They pick up all your previous mistakes and you are in jail. So, the more mistakes you make in your work, the sooner you get enough to be thrown in jail. What is the way to avoid the mistakes? Not to work, so the less you do, the less you risk. It means nobody—for example—may I take the time—

Q. Yes, go ahead.

A. Close to Vladivostok harbor there is a place called Suchan, S-u-c-h-a-n. It is a bunkering place for Russian ships.

Q. Now by "bunking place," you mean where they take coal?

A. Take coal.

Q. And how far is this from—

A. It is 60 miles from Vladivostok. This place is situated on quite a big river, with fresh water, but the ship couldn't get any fresh water in this place —only coal. I visited it many times, and finally I asked the manager, "Will you please explain to me how can it, that you are situated actually on fresh water, and I can't get even a glass of fresh water from you?" So he said to me, "You see, Captain, now I am in charge of coal. I have to watch labor. I have to watch the rolling stock. I have many implements in my bunking business. I am running big risk as it is. Now suppose I start a water supply. I will have barges. I will have a barge man. The barge man will get drunk, sometime. I am responsible. The barges will be thrown ashore—I am responsible, so why should I bring on my shoulder an extra chance to get in jail?"

Q. And at the time you left Russia, you would have to go 60 miles up here to take coal, but if you wanted water you would have to go back to—

A. Have to go back to Vladivostok.

Q. I see. Captain, did you operate ships during the war for the Russian government?

A. Yes I did.

Q. Did you ever have a ship torpedoed?

A. Yes, I had.

Q. You had a ship torpedoed. Will you explain the circumstances of that to us?

A. Well, it was in—in the Pacific that—who torpedoed my ship I don't know. Most likely the Japs did in spite Russia was not in the war, but the matter is the ship was sinking, and—

Q. Now you took a torpedo right in the hold of your ship?

A. Yes, and we started to throw overboard—over the side, the cargo.

Q. Now what cargo? You had a deck cargo?

A. We had trucks and sugar from San Francisco, so to keep the ship afloat, we started jettisoning the cargo. Well, we made 700 miles on a half sunken ship and finally reached Petrotavalosk, P-e-t-r-o-t-a-v-a-l-o-s-k.

Q. Where was the level of your deck when you reached there? Were your decks awash?

A. Yes, the forward was level with the water.

Q. The floor—the deck was level with the ocean?

A. Yes.

Q. And you were in a very precarious sinking condition?

A. Yes, it was half sunk already.

Q. Half sunk already. All right.

A. Well when we reached finally the harbor—well believe me, I expected a big medal for this trip.

Q. For saving your ship?

A. Yes, ship, crew, cargo. Well, they accused me to jettison valuable socialistic property.

Q. Did they almost put you in jail for that?

A. Well, they nearly did it.

Q. They nearly did. Were they interrogating you continuously?

A. Oh yes.

Q. Did they want to know who paid you to jettison that valuable socialist cargo?

A. Well, they start always to try to make a man confess that he was paid by Americans or British, to make harm to the Soviet Union.

Q. They tried to make you confess that you had destroyed this in the pay of the American and the British?

A. Yes, as an American saboteur.

Q. As an American saboteur. Was there any truth to that?

A. What?

Q. Was there any truth to that?

A. Certainly not.

Q. Had anybody paid you to destroy this stuff?

A. Certainly not.

Q. It was done—merely done as a sole means of saving your ship?

A. Why certainly. There was no other way to save the ship.

Q. Have you ever been called as a technical witness when another captain was on trial for losing his ship?

A. Yes. I worked in Vladivostok since 1931, so, I was, in spite of my young age, I was one of the oldest skippers in Vladivostok. The oldest were already in jail—

Q. The oldest were already in jail?

A. So, I was looked as kind of expert in this business, and they asked me

many times to be. In this military tribunals there is always an expert who assists the judge to find the truth, so I was present to many, and there was no case judged right. It was as I tell you before, it was prearranged. Never mind what I should say there, it was right, there was only one way to do it—never mind.

Q. All prearranged?

A. All prearranged.

Q. Did you ever get in difficulties as a result of your honest testimony before the court?

A. No.

Q. Well, I thought that you—did they ask you trick questions?

A. What do you mean, "trick questions"?

Q. Well, if a captain lost his ship, wouldn't they say "You should have thrown out an anchor"? If the captain threw out his anchor, wouldn't they say "You shouldn't"?

A. Yes, something like this. It was not exactly the man who was judged by the court, because he was dead already, but as an expert they asked me to judge the case of already dead men whose ship was sunk, and the condition of this business was, the ship was caught in big storm, offshore, close to—and the captain dropped the anchors trying to hold on to the ground, but the ship sunk. The seas were too high for this ship. When they started to ask me was it right or not to drop the anchor, the prosecutor asked me "Don't you believe that if the captain wouldn't drop the anchor but would let the ship run ashore, maybe he would save some of his crew?" By the way, everybody perished. "Well," I said to him that, "in this case you will ask me if he would run ashore. You will ask me the first question, 'Why didn't he drop his anchors?'," so the man couldn't do it any way.

Q. In other words, no matter what he did, he should have done the other thing?

A. There is always some other way, and if everything is over, nobody can prove which way would be the best.

Q. Well, do they use that in their instructions to you in the operation of your ships?

A. Yes, they do. As I said before, every one tried to push away the responsibility from his shoulders, so there is such a position in shipping business as traffic manager.

Q. Traffic manager?

A. Traffic manager is giving the captain his orders, what to do, where to go. Once I was sent to Kamchatka in the place bound with ice. When I saw this ice I sent a message to this traffic manager where to go to discharge my cargo, because the harbor was closed by the ice. I got a reply from him very fast—"Proceed to the harbor, but don't enter the ice with the risk for your ship." So here I was.

Q. Well why did he send that kind of a telegram?

A. Well, I understand very well. I didn't expect any more reasonable answers from him, because it was this telegram he has the clear way out of any situation. Suppose I didn't reach this harbor, so, as everything is concentrated in Moscow—absolutely everything is concentrated in Moscow, the Communist Party officials from our shipping office will report instantly to Moscow that Captain so and so didn't reach the harbor. Moscow will ask the

manager, "Why didn't he?" The manager will send his answer, "I gave him orders to proceed"—I am clear, hang the captain.

Suppose I comply with his orders not to proceed to this harbor. Then when you are in ice you are always—can have a damage by the ice. Something happens to my ship. The Communist officials send to Moscow, "Captain so and so damaged his ship." Here comes a telegram to Vladivostok, "Why did captain so and so damage his ship?" The same manager picks the same telegram, "I warned him not to enter the ice with risk," and the captain, again.

MR. HOUSTON: We have reached a point where I would like to recess a few minutes, and take up a different subject when we reconvene.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: We will be at recess for about five minutes.

(Recess)

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Shall we proceed, Mr. Houston?

Mr. Levich, before we start, in answering will you turn just a little more this way so the microphone will pick up your replies?

BY MR. HOUSTON:

Q. Now Captain, when we recessed we were discussing their method of efficiency, and how they did business in Russia. Does the same thing run all through the Russian economic structure? Is that true all over Russia?

A. It is, certainly, because the system is the same, so the results are the same all through the economics.

Q. Does that run through the shipbuilding industry as well?

A. Exactly. Well, for example, the Russian government started to build a big shipyard somewhere in the Sea of Japan. It was a big, modern shipyard, and I used to carry for them heavy machinery. As everything in Russia is done according to so-called plan—economic plan—same was this shipyard too, and the meaning of this plan is that this particular shipyard must be built in so much time, and if the head of this building project fails to finish his job in time, he goes to jail. So, evidently it was not very good with his plan, because one day I arrived to this place with full cargo of heavy machinery in my hold, and the first thing I heard, that they are opening this shipyard. So, I naturally get interested. The machinery is still in the hold of my ship, but the people on shore are already opening the shipyard. How come? So I went to take a look by myself what's going on.

Q. Now the machinery you had in the hold of your ship was machinery which was necessary to have in the shipyard before it could be opened?

A. Yes, this machinery must be installed, and finished, and then the plant will start work.

Q. And when you got there you heard they were opening the shipyard.

A. They were already opening this same day, so I went ashore and saw this man in charge, the engineer Shapeero.

Q. Now will you spell that?

A. S-h-a-p-e-e-r-o.

Q. Now he is the engineer that had the responsibility of building this shipyard.

A. Yes, he was building this shipyard. The first thing I saw him he was working near the big wall of the new house and digging in a big new crack, into this wall, so I thought that's all right, already, new building and all cracked, from the top to the bottom. So I asked him, "Are you really opening

the shipyard?" and he said, "Yes, what could I do, that is the time, so I sent a telegram 'we are opening'." "Well," I said, "how about my machinery?" "That's all right, we will do it the same time."

Next trip I made, they start already repairing ships. The first ship they got, you see—excuse me. When he sent this telegram to avoid a jail sentence that he is in time to open the shipyard, of course the government sent him a ship to be repaired, because they understand it is already done, and the first unfortunate ship was built in the United States, in Los Angeles. It was steamship "MASUDA."

Q. How do you spell that?

A. M-a-s-u-d-a—M-a-s-u-d-a. That's American name, and Russian it was "SVIRSTROY," S-v-i-r-s-t-r-o-y. The ship needed some repair in the engine, and in the boilers, so when I came next trip, the ship was already here, and the gang of ship repairing engineers were dismantling her engine, but the shipyard was not ready yet. They had one big building accomplished already, finished with machinery. Another building was just finished with a floor and roof on it, and the third one was built already, but there was no floor—just the ground. So the people who were repairing the engine tried to find a place to stow away the parts of the engine they dismantled in the ship. They saw a big empty building and stowed all these parts in it, not already yet built.

Q. That was in the third building you have described?

A. Yes, without the floor. A few days later the builders came to finish the building and poured the cement all over the machinery parts. Why should they bother? They had their own plan to finish this building as fast as possible. They couldn't waste time to throw away those parts, anyway, so, in a few days the engineers start to collect their parts, and didn't find them. Finally, what happened, they towed this ship as a barge to Shanghai to be repaired.

Q. They took the ship to Shanghai to be repaired?

A. To be repaired.

Q. Was it eventually repaired?

A. No, she was sunk by Japanese.

Q. Sunk by the Japanese.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Captain, would you turn just a little more this way? The microphones don't seem to function effectively unless you are turned in this direction.

Q. Now, Captain, I will ask you, does everybody go to school in Russia?

A. Now?

Q. Yes.

A. No. Before 1936, it was a free education. After 1936, I don't remember exactly was it in 1936 or 1935, but the government made a new law. The law readed this way:

> "Now when the proletariat of Russia reached the level of being well off, they could begin the responsibility of education by themselves, without the help of the government."

So, even the high school is now charged. To go through the high school you have to pay. Even the first grade in Russia, it is one school.

Q. You have to pay to go to school?

A. Yes, to send your children in the school—in grammar school, you have to start paying for it.

Q. Now Captain, what is the quality of the education in Russia?
A. The quality is—
Q. Who teaches?
A. The quality is poor, and the reason why, is this: The first internal enemies of the regime was so-called "intelligentsia," so that was in time of Lenin. He felt that so-called intelligentsia is against the new regime. Who was in this category of intelligentsia? Teachers, professors, doctors, engineers, and all people who worked with their head. So they start to—first of all, to eliminate the intelligentsia of Russia, and they had very good educated people before, but they threw them in jail, killed them—in other words, eliminated, and start to create their own proletariat intelligentsia. In two months you can be a teacher.
Q. In what?
A. Two months.
Q. Two months?
A. Yes, education after the school, two months of special training you are already teacher.
Q. Why that is inconceivable. Now you mean—what age do they start to school?
A. At 7.
Q. At 7?
A. Yes.
Q. Now how long do they go to school?
A. It is nine years—both schools.
Q. You mean until they are nine years of age?
A. No, no, altogether. 9th and 10th grade, I believe.
Q. Nine or ten grades?
A. Yes. Then you are ready for teaching if you go to special training.
Q. Now how long does this special training take?
A. Well it's two months.
Q. Oh, that is two months of special training?
A. Yes, and you are already teacher.
Q. Well, how many—
A. The same thing with the university, too.
Q. Well how many years do they go to school before they are ready for this special training?
A. Well, that's ten years.
Q. Ten years?
A. Uh-huh, so the young man is through the high school and grammar school when he is 17 or 18.
Q. And then he in turn—
A. Yes, then he is given a short—
Q. Two months'—
A. —two months' course, and he is ready to teach.
Q. And he is then a teacher.
A. And all those teachers in high school are the same quality, and the quality is poor.

Q. In other words, a person graduating from high school, and go to school two months more, then he becomes a high school teacher?
A. He is.
Q. What do they teach the children in the schools?
A. Well in general it is about the same as United States, of course. Russian language, mathematics, and physics and chemistry, but as an extra, it is social economy and history of the Communistic Party,—then a few more—political discipline, in which the main thing is government propaganda of how good is Communistic system, and how awful is democracy.
Q. That is the main thing they teach?
A. That is the main thing, you know, they teach.
Q. Now you are talking about the schools the way they were in 1944 when you left, are you not?
A. They didn't change very much after the revolution to the time I left. The teaching was the same when I left.
Q. The teaching was the same when you left.
A. Yes.
Q. What happens to the children whose parents can't pay to send them to school?
A. They don't go to school.
Q. They don't go to school?
A. No.
Q. Well what do they do when they—
A. Recently, I believe it was in 1939 or '40—it was a new law, as there was already many children that couldn't visit the school, so, they start to create so-called "labor reserve" school. In this labor reserve school the children are drafted by the government without asking the parents, and they are kept in this school a few years, working half the time in the shop, doing real work for the government, and meanwhile taking some kind of education. What kind, I don't know, because I never saw inside of this school, but when the child is in this school and he is working six hours a day in the factory I don't believe he can do very much in extra two hours in education way.
Q. They put them right in the factory for six hours and then allow them two hours—
A. Yes, two hours for education.
Q. And is that two hours' education mostly in the Communist propaganda that you described?
A. Well certainly, half of it must become propaganda and half of it teach them how to write and read. That's all they can do. And then these people have to stay all their life in their profession. Suppose you got drafted in the school of electricians. As soon as you are through you are given the job by the government and you have to be electrician all your life.
Q. You can't change to something else?
A. Oh, no, certainly not. Nobody can change his job in Russia.
Q. Nobody can change his job?
A. No.
Q. Well, can you travel freely around the country?
A. Certainly not. Every man in Russia has a passport.

Q. Even inside Russia itself?

A. Even inside Russia. Everybody has a passport. It is the same size of book like our American passports when we are going abroad, but in this passport is your name, if you are married or single, name of your wife, names of your children—big stamp with your address—street, number of house, number of rooms. Another stamp from your factory or your ship, or whatever you belong to, and if you are caught with street 13th Avenue or something, on Broadway at night, you go in jail for investigation, and if you are working with this stamp of the ship, working in the farm, you will be thrown in jail, too. Besides this, especially in Vladivostok and Far East area, we had three big numbers on the passport. Number 1, number 2, and number 3—huge letters you can see when you open the book, about half the size of the book itself. Number 1, I had myself, and number one, and was very proud. It means hundred per cent citizen. It means perhaps if some trouble arises, I will be still in Vladivostok in my same job. He is a good man. Number 2, it is not so good. In trouble he will be deported from this area, and number 3, are the people they don't know when they will be thrown away from their house. Any time the government—the police can get in and pack them up, throw them in the train and sent to Siberia or somewhere else. And if you travel, of course with this passport you must have a special permission of the city police. Then you are going—suppose I have my furlough and going from Vladivostok to Leningrad, I have to visit the police—they will give me a special slip that I am allowed to go to Leningrad on my furlough. Then as soon as I am in Leningrad, I have to visit the police, give them this slip and my passport, and they will put on my passport temporary stamp where I will stay in Leningrad and for how long. Towards the time I have to go back, I must visit the police again, and they will cancel this stamp and I will be allowed to go back to Vladivostok. Otherwise, if they catch me overstaying, I am going to jail.

Q. You have to have police permission to make any kind of a trip, then?

A. Any kind of a trip.

Q. Now Captain, I am very interested in one thing. You said that they eliminated all the intelligentsia which was the educators and the professional men and the scientists, and all. Is that responsible for part of this inefficiency that they have there?

A. It is responsible, of course of the inefficiency of the educational system, first of all, but about the inefficiency of all the system, well, I don't think it is —this method is responsible. It is the essence of the system.

Q. It is the essence of the system itself. It just can't work?

A. It can't work, that is all.

Q. Well, does that carry on down into even the building trades, this lack of co-ordination? How about building their apartment houses? I hear lots of things about big, fine new apartment houses for the workers over there.

A. Well certainly. The trick is, as soon as one building is built in a huge country like Russia, you can hear and read about it all over the world. But what does it mean, one building for a big country like Russia?

Q. I will ask you, Captain, do they work on the same plan on getting these buildings built and move people in—

A. Exactly.

Q. —whether the building is finished or not?

A. One building was built in Vladivostok in 1938, especially for us captains. I was waiting for this building here all my life, because five years since I went to Vladivostok from Leningrad in 1931. I lived aboard my ship because there was no facility to get any room ashore—five years and finally they started building the special house for the captains. Well, unfortunately I was at sea when they said the building is ready and when I went to ask for my room, there was none because NKVD and party members already were in, before captains.

Q. And you still couldn't get your—

A. Certainly, I didn't get anything. Now—

Q. Go ahead.

A. Now this was a nice looking building, four stories, very nice face to it, and it was different—a doorman in front, and should make a very nice good picture for send to the United States to admire, but, the trouble was, they were pressed by this plan again, so they just did neglect the plumbing system. So, in two days the people downstairs have to move away from this house.

Q. Well, why was that?

A. Well, they had no time to finish it.

Q. Had they failed to hook the plumbing system up?

A. They put it down below, under—

Q. They run all the plumbing from the top right down to the ground?

A. Down under the flat of first floor.

Q. Just dumped it—in two days everybody in the lower floors had to get out?

A. They couldn't stay any longer.

Q. And yet there were pictures of that building sent all over the world, as a home for the captains, is that right?

A. Yes.

Q. How much better off is an old age pensioner here in the state of Washington, Captain, who gets $50.00 a month in American dollars, than a Russian pensioner getting a hundred rubles a month?

A. $50.00 a month. When I was discharged from American army I joined this 52-20 Club. I certainly was better off than Russian pensioner. I didn't have to go back to work unless I find the work I liked. I could stay all this 52 weeks all right.

Q. You lived all right on that?

A. Certainly.

Q. But could you have lived in Russia on a hundred rubles a month?

A. Oh, certainly not. The man who tried to do it, the last I saw him I was going to the United States and he said to me, "Captain, will you please bring me some vitamin pills?" He is on a pension.

Q. Now, Captain, if you refer to this chief engineer in Russia who gets a hundred rubles a month pension, how much would a farmer or a common laborer over there get pension per month?

A. The system is like this; it is your—fifty per cent of your wage if you are a union member, if you didn't fail on your job. In other words, if you were not tried by the court for being late on your job, if you didn't change your job without the order of the government, and so on and so on, and when all those "ifs" are passed, you don't have anything.

Q. There is enough there to stop you from getting it?
A. Sure.

Q. In other words, then, would you go this far to say that the pension system in Russia is an absolute farce and a joke?

A. Exactly. There is no pension in Russia at all, actually, because hundred rubles for a good skilled mechanic after he is 50 years working, it is of course nothing. On one bottle of milk an old man couldn't exist.

Q. One bottle of milk—
A. A month.

Q. I will ask you, Captain, do they teach in Russia that there must be revolutions in all the democracies of the world?

A. That is what I was taught from the beginning of my schooling, and towards the end of my existence in Russia. You see, according to Marx theory, finally the Communism will prevail all over the world, because capitalism is decaying and must give way to Communism. So that's the base, so they teach people there is no way to turn the will of the history, and never mind what the United States and Great Britain try to do, the Communists will take over, and as Russia is the forward part of all Communists, it means that Russia has—it's duty of Russia to see that this revolution will be spread all over the world. That is the way they were teaching me; that's that way they were teaching the young peoples since the revolution.

Q. Do they teach the Russian people that the revolutions which they say are going to come throughout the world—will that be a bloodless revolution, or will they have to fight?

A. The Communists don't believe in bloodless revolution. They teach that you can't have a good living without destroying the world system, and destroying the system you have to fight. There is no other way, so be ready for the war, especially against Britain and the United States.

Q. They teach then, that there eventually will be war between Russia and Britain and the United States, is that right?

A. Necessary.

Q. What?

A. War will come necessarily. There is no other way. They were teaching it even in war time in the last war in the schools,—they were teaching children that real enemies are United States and Great Britain.

Q. The real enemies are United States and Great Britain?
A. Yes.

Q. During the time that Russia was our ally?
A. Yes.

Q. Do you know this of your own knowledge?
A. Yes.

Q. Do you have any specific examples of that, Captain?

A. That's just from children I knew and the families I knew, the system is absolutely the same. They are talking about it the same—about the enemies of capitalism—of United States and Great Britain. It is not only in the schools. It is all over the place, in propaganda, in—any place.

Q. Now Captain, did you haul any lend-lease supplies from the United States to Russia during the war?

A. Oh yes, I did.

Q. You did. Did you haul very many shiploads?
A. Many.

Q. Many.
A. Practically all the time since the war started.

Q. Since the war started?
A. Yes.

Q. You were running a large—
A. Yes.

Q. —ship? Where would you discharge your cargo?
A. In Far East, mostly in Vladivostok.

Q. How would that cargo be received by the Russian people and the Russian army?

A. I don't get it—what do you mean?

Q. Were they appreciative of the lend-lease that the United States was giving them?

A. Well certainly not. You see, the only people that knew that it is American stuff, the people who worked on it. Everybody else outside didn't know, because, American way trying to help everybody, they help Russians aid themselves to make it easier to Russians, they would supply all the machinery with Russian—explanation in Russian language. So, suppose it was a gun, there will be many places a small tablet how to use—which knob to turn, and which button to push and so on—always in Russian, so the first thing, everything American would be erased, and left only Russian, and you will see the army people, they really believe it was made in Russia. They will boast how nice the Russian jeeps are.

Q. And the instructions on the Russian jeeps were even—
A. In Russian.

Q. On the Russian—on the jeeps that were sent from the United States to Russia?

A. Yes. There was no Russian jeeps at all.

Q. So all the jeeps in Russia were American—
A. Certainly, they never make any.

Q. Yet the Russians are boasting how fine those jeeps are. Did you ever hear any officers of the Red army express themselves as to who the real enemies were during the war?

A. You see, we got a few guns from the United States, and they started to install those big guns—it was 18-inch guns—huge guns, up in Okchoesk Sea, in Bering Straits, right across Alaska, so—

Q. Guns that we sent them they were installing across the Bering Straits from Alaska?

A. Yes. It was a colonel—I don't remember his name, who was in charge, and he was on board of my ship when I was transporting them. So I just couldn't help myself to ask him, "Do you expect to fight Germans with these guns, across the Bering Straits?" So he said to me—he knew I was in position of trust with the government as a skipper of a ship, so he said to me quite frankly, "No, this one we will use for real enemy."

Q. In other words, these big lend-lease guns were sent to Russia, were installed up here in the Bering Straits, pointed towards Alaska, and when you

asked him, "How do you expect to fight the Germans with those guns that way," he said, "These guns are for our real enemies," is that right?

A. That's right.

Q. Did he explain what he meant by the real enemies?

A. It was not necessary.

Q. It was not necessary. What did he mean by that statement?

A. Certainly democracies.

Q. Democracies. Captain, I will ask you, was there much lend-lease went to Russia during the war?

A. Yes, very much, indeed. For example, in one of my ships I had six thousand ton of lard.

Q. Of what?

A. Lard.

Q. Of lard, six thousand tons of lard, and other—many ships were in there?

A. Many ships, most of them American built, too, given away to Russia—big ships, ten thousand tons.

Q. I will ask you, Captain, did you have any instructions when you came to pick up a load of lend-lease, as to getting supplies, and things?

A. What was that again?

Q. Well, suppose now that you brought a Russian ship into the United States here. Would that ship be repaired before you went back, and outfitted and fixed up?

A. Certainly. Everything that we needed for our trips we would get in the United States. Repairs, supplies, food—any kind of supply, all in the United States.

Q. And you would order that?

A. Yes, and they will instruct the skippers to get as much as you could.

Q. Get as much as you could of these supplies?

A. Yes. So, suppose I needed—well, half a ton of sugar. I would order three tons of sugar. I would never use it. If I need—suppose hundred gallons of paint, I would order five hundred gallons.

Q. Would you get the five hundred gallons?

A. Yes, mostly I did.

Q. Now what would happen when your ship got to the Russian port?

A. Well, first thing at Russian port they will strip the ship of everything.

Q. Take everything off?

A. Take everything, even the ice-boxes.

Q. Even the ice-boxes.

A. So the only trouble I heard of in the United States, that American customs gets kind of fussy about the skipper who asks every trip a new ice-box. It was the fifth one I asked for.

Q. The fifth one you asked for.

A. Then they get angry—the Customs.

Q. The Customs got angry?

A. Yes.

Q. The lend-lease people didn't?

A. No. They didn't. That is the Customs.

Q. Well now, Captain, would they even take the plumbing fixtures and the toilets out—

A. Everything they can remove.

Q. Would they take the toilets out of your ship, even?

A. Well, in some cases they did, certainly. Every removable and possible to replace back in the United States, without what we can make a trip back to the United States, as they need to put something on their ship inside, they will come in the bottom of my ship, and even asking—taking away the navigational—

Q. Instruments?

A. —instruments, like sounders and so on.

Q. Sound detectors, and things?

A. Yes, even those?

Q. They take those off and you navigate here in the United States without them?

A. Without them, they replace them again.

Q. They replace them again. Would they take the blankets off the bunks, and the mattresses off the bunks?

A. Blankets, and—whatever it is—

Q. Sheets?

A. —sheets, and typing machines.

Q. Typewriters?

A. Yes, everything.

Q. Everthing they could strip the ship from they took.

A. Just leave you enough to make a back trip, that's all.

Q. Then you would come over here—

A. And do it all over again.

Q. And do it all over again.

I will ask you, Captain, why did you leave Russia?

A. Well, first of all I hated the dictatorship all my life.

Q. You have hated the dictatorship all your life.

A. All my life. Next, I was 16 years old when I start sailing, so I had opportunity to see what is true, and what is a lie. Before I start sailing, of course I didn't know. I really believed that most wonderful system is the Communist, because they will tell me in the school that United States is an awful country; those wild Americans are running wild on the street, and hanging Negroes on every lamp post—there is unemployment, there is strikes, and callous capitalists, so I really believe it is all right, I would try to do something new, and well, but when I start sailing—well, I saw that it was a lie!

Q. When you went to the foreign ports?

A. Yes, but I was very young when I started as a skipper. I was only 26, and believe I was proud, and I thought, "What a clever guy." But, a few years passed, and I begin to understand that it was not at all because I was smart. The government helped me to go ahead, putting away all the oldest. The eldest go to jail, I am pushing forward, so finally I start to think, "Well, what is in store for myself?" "What's my future, after all?" Well, I worked hard all my life. I did all right, but where am I going to? So I took a piece of paper and put down all these names of skippers I knew, and they quit sailing for some reason or other. The figures just struck me hard. First of all, it was not a single retired skipper in Russia, of whom I knew personally, so I thought,

"Well, evidently I don't have a chance to retire either, because there is no such a thing, at all, and doesn't exist." So next figure was—I remember still those figures. It was three per cent, the skippers that died.

Q. How many?

A. Three per cent.

Q. Three per cent?

A. Yes, died of natural death, in most part, of tuberculosis. Well first of all three per cent, of course, it is too small to gamble on, so, next I thought, "Well, tuberculosis, such a heavy set guy—still doubtful."

Next was seventeen per cent, the skippers that committed suicide. Then again, that's all right, seventeen per cent is a little bit high, but still not high enough, and then with my character, I hardly believed I would do it too—commit suicide.

Q. You didn't look forward to that as a future?

A. No. And next, all what was left was eighty per cent in jail, and so I thought, "That's for me, now." That's why I decided I didn't want to go to jail for no reason, just because I disagree with the government—not reason enough.

Q. I will ask you Captain, during the time that you were sailing, did you sail your ship into San Francisco?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. Did you have aboard women sailors?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. They work women just like men in Russia?

A. Yes. The last ship I worked I had six girls. Two of them were firewomen.

Q. Firewomen?

A. Yes, in stoke holds.

Q. Shoveling coal?

A. Yes.

Q. Women shoveling coal just like men?

A. Yes.

Q. Now how were these women sailors dressed when you got into San Francisco?

A. You see the reason the girls joined the Merchant Marine in Russia, it is mostly to get dressed. Every young girl, even in Communistic country, wants to be decently dressed, so the ones who can't do it, join the Merchant Marine, but they look of course, the usual Russian way, very drab and nothing to wear, and when we come here in the United States, there was always some nice people who helped them to—like—it was in particular in San Francisco, it was ladies' societies to help Russia, or something or other, they gave my girls, six girls, everything—absolutely everything. The girls were, of course, happy.

Q. Nice dresses and shoes?

A. Everything.

Q. Hats?

A. Everything that is necessary to be dressed good. When we came back to the trip out, the Customs officials took it all away from them, so this time I got angry and I said, "Now I will try to fight for my girls," so I sent a telegram to Moscow that I believe the action of Custom officials are wrong. They

didn't buy it for—as a contraband. It was a present given to them for their own use. In a few days I got a reply: "The action of the Customs officers are absolutely right, and you as a skipper will answer if you will in future allow your crew to get any presents at all," so that was all. The girls were undressed again.

Q. I will ask you, Skipper, in your travels around the world, did you from time to time get books and literature from foreign countries?

A. Yes.

Q. How was that looked on in Russia?

A. As a rule, no literature printed outside of Russia can be brought to Russia. Every time when the ship starts from Russia the ship is searched by the N K V D and everything printed in Russia is taken away, like a newspaper—local little newspapers. We were allowed only to take outside Pravda and Izvestia. Pravda, it was a—it is—still is Communistic Party official newspaper, and Izvestia, it is Russian government official paper. No other literature could be taken outside of Russia, and any literature that the crew usually were donated by American people just to entertain them, were taken away instantly upon arrival to Russia. The only literature that penetrated Russia from outside was sent by Russian representatives here. Usually it was a box, or a big trunk, filled with papers and literature, and the address would be Trading Company or Ministry of Trading, or something, or else, but all this thing will go right to the N K V D, and a few times I started to protest—excuse me, gentlemen, but it is not your address. He would say, "Never mind, we know better."

Q. Did you buy books in England and America?

A. Yes, I personally did, and I usually had on board with me many American, English, French books and any kind I could get hold of, but, the trouble was to keep them on board of my ship so I learned very easy the trick, how to do it. When the man of N K V D would come to search my room, I would leave on my desk a fountain pen—usually cheap kind, 30¢ or something, then have ready a glass of whiskey, and then pour him a glass of whiskey and then he would open the book case, look all over my books—"All printed in Russia?" "Yes, certainly,"—lock the door and he will disappear and so will my fountain pen.

Q. Captain, I will ask you, is bribery of that kind a common thing among Russian officials?

A. Yes, you can do many things with bribery. First thing the ship is back from United States in Russia. First thing, it is a big truck alongside. This truck belongs to the party officials of the city, so if you understand your business, and you don't want to get in trouble, you start loading fruits and sugar—well, whatever is good, on this truck. The truck goes away. Now you are fixed with party officials in the city for this trip anyway.

Next will come a light car. This one will be from our office. Well, nobody wants to get in trouble with his next boss, so you load this little car.

Then there are different small department heads, and they will come with a big bag, so you fill them up too, so your papers will go through much easier, and finally—of course there are many girls who are pushing a lot of your papers through,—well, you give chocolates and lipsticks and everything, so the bribery is widely spread.

Q. Is that true all through the system then?

A. All through the system.

Q. Captain, did you carry a commissar aboard your ship?
A. Yes.
Q. Who was the real boss of the ship?
A. The Commissar.
Q. But you were the master in charge of the ship, weren't you?
A. Yes, mine is blame, his is praise.
Q. What is that?
A. Mine is blame if something is wrong.
Q. You are blamed—
A. His is praise if something is good.
Q. In other words, if you have a good trip—
A. That's all right.
Q. He gets the credit, but if something happens bad, it's your fault?
A. I'm to blame.
Q. Did you always know who these commissars were?

A. Oh, yes, it is official member of the party who is sent, especially to supervise the activity of the crew, especially in foreign harbors, and of course, they wouldn't tell me that he is spying on me, but everybody knows that he is looking for the skipper because most of skippers are not Communists, so they are always under suspicion, and the commissar has to look after his actions.

The commissar, as soon as aboard, he start to create his own secret service. He picks up a few people from the crew and gives them the assignment to look after so many people, and another guy after so many people, and then the work starts. They report everything the people are talking—everything, if abroad, to whom they are talking, where they were going and so on, and if something he believes wrong with the skipper, he report the skipper, and the skipper gets fired.

Q. Now, in foreign ports, Captain, did they let your crew go ashore and visit here in America?

A. Well, not very much. Before you start from Russia, you have to go—as a skipper, you have to go and visit the N K V D. Then—not only the skipper, but all the crew is summoned to see the secret police, or N K V D. In some way, it is to cancel—

Q. What?
A. Cancel? To make not clear.
Q. Oh, to cancel.
A. To make not clear to other people who is the secret agent, you see?
Q. Oh, conceal.

A. Conceal, that's it. They take all the crew to talk with. Who will be the secret agent on board your ship you couldn't find, because everybody were talking to the N K V D, but the skipper would be told how to look after the crew in a foreign harbor. I would sign a paper in which I would tell that in case if something will happen against this instruction, I understand I could be tried as a traitor to my country.

Q. As a traitor to Russia?
A. Yes, and my signature. In this instruction, it was about thirteen points.
Q. Thirty points?
A. Thirteen, or something like that. First of all I am responsible to see

that the crew are not given shore leave any time but from 17 to 5:00 o'clock afternoon until 10:00 o'clock afternoon.

I have to see that all the people that are going on shore leave are going in groups of four or five men.

I have to see that all these groups wouldn't go visit anybody—private people in the United States. Neither talk to anybody on the street. Neither visit the beer parlor, nor visit the movies—theatres, nor buy Russian newspapers, and the only thing that was permitted to them is to buy clothes and food and so on.

Then I will, when here—oh, excuse me. Still in Russia, I would be charged with the duty to collect as much information on what is going on in the United States. In particular, such a thing like approaches to the harbors, depth, and weather conditions, and some particular navigation aids and so on, and so on. That's from the point of view of a navigator.

Then I would be charged with duty to collect information on plants, factories, and all this industry I could observe myself, without getting too conspicuous in this work.

Then I will be charged with the duty to collect information about the mood of the people in this particular country, how they feel against their government, how is their on the job duties and so on and so on. Well this way, every Russian skipper in any foreign country was working like a spy for Russia. If you don't, well, that's too bad.

Q. You have to make those reports upon your return, is that right?

A. Yes. As I know, the skippers usually try to give as much water as possible in their report. That's all.

Q. They try to build them up to—
A. To give as much water in those reports—just give water.
Q. Water?
A. Yes.
Q. Now—
A. But the Communists, they did a real job.
Q. Oh, the Communist skippers did a real job?
A. Certainly.

Q. Now Captain, when you granted shore leave to your people here in the United States, were they accompanied by an N K V D man or a trusted Communist?

A. Yes. As I said before, actually it was on each Russian ship, it is two secret service, one from N K V D, man, you don't know who they are, and then another group is created on the ship by the commissar. He might not know the N K V D people, but he has his own five or six too, but those people are reporting everybody else in those groups.

Q. They are spying on each other.
A. Spying on each other.
Q. Does the same—is the same thing true in Russia?
A. Oh, yes, absolutely.
Q. Will you explain it?

A. Well, actually in Russia, they don't even have to have a big secret police itself, because all Russian people are participating in the work of spying. There is a law. It says that if a man is spreading counter-revolutionary propaganda—in other words, criticizing the government, he is guilty and he

must go to jail for ten years, and the men who is listening to him is guilty too, and goes to jail for five years. So now this way—suppose five men met together and one was talking against the government. Other four men, they don't know him very well. Maybe he is a secret police agent himself, and if they fail to report him next morning they will be accused to listen to propaganda and get five years in jail. So to save themselves, they have to report the man who was talking against.

Q. If you and another captain were to talk together—you would say something, this other man would run down and report you for fear you would report him and say "I talked to so and so—"

A. Yes.

Q. If he doesn't report you, then—

A. Because he is guilty to listening to me.

Q. That espionage system all throughout Russia?

A. Exactly.

Q. Now Captain, during this period of time that you were operating between Russia and the United States, did you from time to time carry secret couriers aboard your ship?

A. Yes.

Q. How would you clear these men with the Immigration and Customs officials in this country?

A. You see, it is not hard to get around American Immigration. They don't search the ship, after all. They ask you to show your men. You don't show the ones you don't want to show.

Q. And they would slip ashore while the ship was in port?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever take secret couriers back to Russia?

A. Yes.

Q. How would they clear Immigration?

A. The same way.

Q. The same way. They would be hidden aboard the ship?

A. Same way, he is hanging around. The last one, it was in Portland. He was sitting in my room. Nobody asked who he is.

Q. He just went right on, and you—

A. Yes, he might be agent after all.

Q. Agent of the ship?

A. Yes. He was sitting right here. The Immigration checked the crew and he sailed with me.

Q. When was this, Captain?

A. It was in 1943, in Portland.

Q. 1943 in Portland.

A. Uh-huh.

Q. Now Captain, I want to go back just a minute to your testimony pertaining to these large guns. I think you said they were 18-inch guns.

A. Eighteen or sixteen.

Q. Sixteen or eighteen inch guns.

A. Big guns for shore defense.

Q. For shore defense?

A. Uh-huh.

Q. And they were mounted in the—

A. In the Providenie Bay.

Q. Spell that now.

A. P-r-o-v-i-d-e-n-i-e.

CHAIRMAN: Pardon me, will you spell that so the press can get it?

MR. HOUSTON: Did the press fail to get that? P-r-o-s-i-d-e-n-i-e.

THE WITNESS: Oh, excuse me, not "s" but "v", the fourth one.

MR. HOUSTON: P-r-o-v-i-d-e-n-i-e?

THE WITNESS: That's right.

Q. Providenie Bay.

A. Uh-huh.

Q. Now Captain, did you transport these guns over on your ship?

A. Yes.

Q. You actually carried these guns over. Where did you get them here in the United States?

A. In Portland.

Q. In Portland, and did you see the same guns subsequently mounted there?

A. No, I was sent with them, and discharged them at this place, and waited. Military people were on my boat that installed these guns and were working on them, and I left this bay when they were already mounted.

Q. When you left they were already mounted?

A. Yes.

Q. You are not testifying to something you heard?

A. No, no, I was working on them.

Q. You were working on them.

Now I will ask you, Captain, first just to clear the record, did you ever join the Communist Party in Russia?

A. No.

Q. Have you had any connection with the Communist Party since coming to the United States?

A. No.

Q. Do you ever intend to join the Communist Party?

A. No. They tried to get me.

Q. They tried to get you.

Now Captain, do you think that Communism is any threat to America?

A. Without any doubt.

Q. Without any doubt. Do you think it will eventually lead to revolution and war with Russia?

A. Yes.

Q. Now what makes you say "yes"?

A. First of all their aim is to make a revolution every place. Then we knew in Russia that there is in any country communistic—they never call the Communistic Party of America, or something like this. It was a branch of Communistic Party. American branch, French branch and so on. It was the same Communistic Party, so they used to tell us in Russia when I was in the school, "How big is American Party?" or "How big is German Party?" How nice they do in this party, and how bad are they doing in that party, but their aim is through the parties in each country to create as much trouble as

is possible, and then step in, trying to help the people inside and take it over.

Q. In other words, the Communists will create trouble and friction and—

A. And then Russia steps in and take it over, like they did already in many countries.

Q. Same pattern was taught for America that has been followed in other countries?

A. Absolutely, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: It is now 12:10 and I think we will recess. Pardon me, there are just one or two further points I want to clear with the Captain after lunch.

CHAIRMAN: We will recess until 1:40.

(Recess)

(1:30 o'clock, p. m.)

BY MR. HOUSTON:

Q. Captain, you hold an American license as a master of all ships, all tonnages, all oceans?

A. Yes.

Q. What is called an unlimited license, is that right?

A. Yes, that is right.

Q. Are you a master of an American ship?

A. No, I am a chief officer of one of the ships.

Q. You are a chief officer on an American ship?

A. Yes.

Q. Is it a large ship?

A. Yes, it is about 10,000 tons.

Q. 10,000 tons. Why are you not a master?

A. Well, I didn't get it yet.

Q. You didn't get a job, in other words?

A. No.

MR. HOUSTON: The Captain, Mr. Chairman, didn't want any impression gone out that he is a master of an American ship. He is licensed to be but he hasn't been able to get a ship yet. He is chief officer on one.

Q. Now Captain, before lunch you testified that due to the Russian system of slipping couriers and agents in and out of the country, you made the statement it was easy to get them by Immigration. Did you mean any criticism of Immigration in that regard?

A. Oh, not at all. Everything is relative for Russian to try to get out of Russia, or inside of Russia, and it is absolutely nearly impossible to do, because they have a guard every next step with dogs, and they are shooting at you without warning. Of course American Immigration couldn't do such a thing. As far as American Immigration is concerned, they are doing a beautiful work, but they simply couldn't afford to shoot at anybody in sight, and so—

Q. The only way you could keep these Russians from slipping in and out on the ships that way, would be to shoot them, then?

A. Well, they actually do shoot at people when crossing the border.

Q. In Russia they actually shoot people that try to get in and out that way.

A. Exactly. They hold the guns and dogs, and they trace you and shoot at you first, and then grab you.

Q. Oh, they shoot first and then grab you?

A. Certainly.

Q. And there wasn't any criticism at all intended toward any Immigration officer?

A. Certainly not. The only thing what I meant, having Russian experience of course it seems too easy to me. No risk for life, at least.

Q. In other words, you are used to the Russian system, where if an unauthorized person tried to board a ship they would just shoot them and that is all.

A. That's all.

Q. You were in the army of the United States of America, Captain?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you receive any medals for your service?

A. Three.

Q. You received three medals. Did you receive any citations?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you receive a citation from the navy?

A. Yes.

Q. How did that occur, that you were in the army and you received a citation from the navy?

A. I joined the American army and it was in the Transportation Corps. This Transportation Corps was doing the transportation job, so all Merchant Marine people quite naturally get in this outfit, but when I worked in the Army Transportation Corps, evidently some records of my work in the army got into the Navy Intelligence Service, so—

Q. Wait, lets not discuss anything that occurred in the Intelligence Service. May I have permission to strike that word from the record?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: We don't want details of any of our armed forces intelligence service.

Q. Captain, may I ask you this way: Were you loaned to the Navy by the Army?

A. Yes, I was.

Q. And as a result of the service you performed for the Navy you received a Navy citation?

A. Being in the Army I was working for the Navy.

Q. Did you also receive a citation from the Army?

A. Yes I did.

Q. Now, Captain, you have observed this meeting this morning. If some one in this crowd were to get up and shout at the speaker, or to condemn the chairman in a meeting like this in Russia, what would happen?

A. Well such a thing is absolutely impossible in Russia. Nobody would dare to do such a thing, but if somebody would, well, he will be in jail very soon.

Q. They put them right in jail?
A. Right in jail.
Q. Well would that be the end of it or would they probably—
A. It depends on what kind of question would be discussed on the meeting. If it would be a government program of some kind, of course this man will be accused of trying to make an obstruction to the government, or would be accused in trying to make an anti-Communistic propaganda, and he would be finally shot.
Q. He would be shot—
A. He would be shot.
Q. —if it was against the government program?
A. Yes.
Q. Now Captain, I want to discuss a little further with you, penalties. What happens to the captain of a ship who loses his ship—that is, the ship is wrecked.
A. Everything in Russia is government property. There is no private property whatsoever, so, when you work—suppose on board of a ship, you are using the government property and a valuable one—a ship, cargo, and so on. If something happened and you lose your ship you are guilty in wrecking the government, and as you have nothing to pay with, you are shot.
Q. Do they not recognize that accidents are beyond the ability of anyone to stop?
A. No. There is no such a thing. According to Russian theory, any accident, if you dig into it, you will find a guilty man.
Q. Is there any such thing as an act of God?
A. No, the man is always guilty.
Q. And the captain that loses his ship is always shot?
A. Yes, the captain is responsible for it. He is the one to be shot.
Q. What about a railroad engineer that has a wreck which is not within his power to stop?
A. Same thing with the railroad engineer. It might be not only railroad engineer will be in this position, but—some railroad—whatever it is, dispatcher?
Q. Dispatcher, yes.
A. Dispatcher, or it may be head of the—of this particular district or something like this, but any time it will be one guilty man.
Q. One guilty man.
A. At least one guilty.
Q. Yes, at least one. Somebody is shot for every accident then?
A. For example, it was in wartime the order given by Timoshenko that —especially for truck drivers, if a truck driver have a trouble on the road he must be shot on the spot.
Q. That was an official order of General Timoshenko during the war?
A. Yes.
Q. If a truck driver had an accident on the road he was to be shot on the spot?
A. On the spot.
Q. Now I want to ask you, Captain, as a man that was educated in the Russian schools and lived the major portion of his life in Russia, do the

Russians and the Communists and the school systems and the propaganda—does that all teach an absence of God? Do they teach atheism?
A. Most definitely so. According to the Russian beliefs, all religions are the opium—
Q. Opium?
A. —for the people.
Q. Religion is an opium for the people.
A. For the people. In other words, religion is supposed to suppress the working people, and to help the rulers to rule them.
Q. And the Russian government is definitely against religion?
A. Definitely.
Q. Have they tried to stamp churches and religion out in Russia?
A. They certainly did. First of all, they start to destroy—actually destroy churches, and some of them were converted into movies, and the kind of clubs—clubs of any kind, and so on and so on.
Q. They made clubs and movies out of the churches?
A. Out of the churches, and then all the majority of the priests, shortly after the revolution, were thrown in jail and concentration camps. It was—they were mostly accused in anti-Communist propaganda, but it was what they get for their preaching in church, but, if a man would still stick to the religion and would like to marry a girl in church, or to christen his child, he would run a risk to lose his job. Officially, he couldn't be brought under the trial for this deed, but the union will call the meeting, and the leaders who are all Communists, will tell him that he still believing in God, he is not a good proletarian, and so on and so on. Then he will be on this accusation, will be thrown away from the union, that is all, but, when a man is thrown out from the union, he will lose his job, because anybody who is working must be a member of union in Russia. Then when he is thrown away from the union, he automatically lose his job. When he loses his job, he automatically lose his bread, because you can't get a ration, only if you are working. So when you are out of job you are out of bread. Then, you have either to starve or surrender yourself to the police—or still, and in any way, in due time you are in concentration camp, just to try to christen your child, or marry a girl in church.
Q. Now Captain, during the war we heard the heads of the Russian government opened the churches; that they changed their attitude and permitted people to go to church during the war, was that true?
A. Yes, it is true.
Q. Why was that true? Why did they do that?
A. You see, in spite of all the government pressure on churches, Russian people en masse still remains believers.
Q. Believers?
A. Believers.
Q. Believers in God?
A. Yes.
Q. And religious?
A. Religious, that's the word, so, when the war started and Hitler started pushing inside of Russia, he realized very well that the Russian people that was cut from their religion would evidently like to get their church back. So, with Hitler's army there was always Russian priests and all church imple-

ments, and as soon as he pushed in some place—Russian place, he instantly would open a Russian church. That's how it happened that Ukrainians where he was moving very fast, actually were helping Germans to go faster, because they saw their only chance to get their church back.

Q. In other words, as fast as Hitler's armies overran Russia, they immediately opened the churches in every town—

A. Yes.

Q. —they went into?

A. Yes.

Q. And the Russian people wholeheartedly attended the churches?

A. Certainly.

Q. And that got to the Russian people in the areas where he had not conquered yet?

A. Exactly, and then of course the Communist Party realizes they are losing many people this way, and started opening churches themselves again.

Q. They didn't change their thinking any, it was an expediency of the war, then?

A. Yes, I am quite sure it is—it will be the same after awhile, and I believe it is again going on—all this suppression of churches.

Q. They are suppressing the church?

A. Yes, they never did change their ideas about church.

MR. HOUSTON: I see. Mr. Chairman, I believe that is all from this witness. It is possible we will recall him at some future time if we need him—that is, during the term of this hearing, but I would like to have him released from the hearing if it is agreeable to you now, to let him return to his duties aboard ship which is not in this port at this time, even.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: I will leave it to you and the Captain to decide that.

(Witness Excused)

ELLSWORTH CLAYTON WILLS, 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 for the record, please?

A. Ellsworth Clayton Wills.

Q. How do you spell your last name, please?

A. W-i-l-l-s.

Q. Where do you live, Mr. Wills?

A. 2131—46th Southwest, Seattle.

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

A. I am a college student.

Q. Where—

A. University of Washington.

Q. Mr. Wills, how long have you resided within the State of Washington?

A. Outside of the war service, must be about thirty years.

Q. Mr. Wills, the record in addition to being taken down stenographically is also being recorded, and I will greatly appreciate it if you will address your remarks to the "mike" directly to your left and speak loud enough so there will be no question of its being recorded.

Mr. Wills, have you ever held any official position with the State of Washington?

A. Yes. I was a member of the Washington Legislature.

Q. As a member of the Legislature of the State of Washington, what district did you represent?

A. I represented the 34th District.

Q. During what years, please?

A. 1939 and 1940.

Q. Mr. Wills, were you ever a member of the Communist Party?

A. Yes.

Q. When did you first join the Communist Party?

A. I think about 1935.

Q. Mr. Wills, do you remember the name of the person that recruited you into the Communist Party?

A. Yes, I do.

Q. Just—

A. James Cour.

Q. Would you spell that for the sake of the record, please?

A. C-o-u-r. Cour.

Q. Do you remember where he recruited you in the Communist Party?

A. Oh yes. Do you mean the actual episode?

Q. Yes, the building, location, or where was it, in other words?

A. A restaurant directly in the middle of the block, the Columbia Cafe, as a matter of fact.

Q. Here in the City of Seattle?

A. Here in the City of Seattle.

Q. After being recruited in the Communist Party and joining the Communist Party, what unit of the Party were you assigned to, or what unit of the Party did you attend?

A. The West Seattle unit. It had a number, but I don't recall the number.

Q. For the sake of the record, what years did you attend meetings of the Communist Party in the West Seattle unit?

A. It was in the West Seattle unit, only.

Q. And what years—

A. I would say roughly between the years 1935 and 1940.

Q. During the period of five years from 1935 to 1940?

A. Now this—don't misunderstand me. Not attending the actual unit but certainly involved.

Q. I understand. You referred to Mr. Cour as being the person who recruited you into the Party. Did you know what his activity was at the time as to what his employment was?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. What was that, please?

A. Mr. Cour was either—well, he was working for the Voice of Action. His capacity I am not sure of. I think he was an assistant editor.

Q. Do you remember the name of the editor at that time?

A. Yes. Lowell Wakefield.