

only an expert in this field or an ex-Communist appreciates. Is that correct?

MR. RUSHMORE: There are many witnesses, including my friend, Tim, here, who can tell you the treatment they received in their industry or profession after they had so testified. I have been fortunate, I haven't received that but I know many who have, have been in some cases fired, and some cases every attempt was made to prove they were bigamists, the lowest depths of the human character—cha—is coined by the Communist party in seeking revenge on what they call their "renegades."

Or people who leave the party are willing to get on a stand and testify as to what Communism is and who makes up the party. I would advise the Committee to be on the watchout for such reprisals against witnesses who appear here before it, friendly witnesses, I—mean.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, I have concluded with the witness and I certainly think he deserves the thanks of the Committee for the sacrifice he has made in coming out here.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Well, I wish to express the sincere appreciation of the entire Committee and, I think, the State of Washington, for the sacrifice that you have made in coming across the United States at no profit to yourself and we do appreciate that effort and we wish you and Mrs. Rushmore a most pleasant trip home.

MR. RUSHMORE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(Witness Excused)

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, I suggest just a short recess of ten or fifteen minutes.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: We will be in recess for about fifteen minutes.

(Recess)

TESTIMONY OF PROF. HAROLD EBY

English Department, University of Washington

PROFESSOR EDWIN HAROLD EBY, produced as a witness, after being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

MR. HOUSTON: You have heard the instructions to other witnesses as to the fact that this is being recorded, and will you speak into the microphone so that you might be heard.

PROFESSOR EBY: Yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: Will you please state your name?

PROFESSOR EBY: Edwin Harold Eby.

MR. HOUSTON: Where were you born?

PROFESSOR EBY: I was born in Los Angeles, California.

MR. HOUSTON: And the date of your birth?

PROFESSOR EBY: 1900.

MR. HOUSTON: 1900. What is your occupation?

PROFESSOR EBY: I am a teacher.

MR. HOUSTON: A teacher. Are you—is it proper to address you as Doctor, or, do you have your Ph.D.?

PROFESSOR EBY: I have my Ph.D.

MR. HOUSTON: Where do you teach, Doctor?

PROFESSOR EBY: At the University of Washington.

MR. HOUSTON: And how long have you taught there?

PROFESSOR EBY: I've taught there about twenty years.

MR. HOUSTON: Twenty years. What do you teach there, Doctor?

PROFESSOR EBY: I teach American Literature.

MR. HOUSTON: American Literature. You are in the English Department?

PROFESSOR EBY: Yes.

Admits Own Membership

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

PROFESSOR EBY: That is two questions. I'll ask—answer them seriatim. The first one, I am not a member; and the second one, I was a member of the Communist Party.

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

PROFESSOR EBY: I can't remember exactly. I think it was '35 or '36.

MR. HOUSTON: And when did you disassociate yourself from the Communist Party?

PROFESSOR EBY: Well, it was early in 1946.

MR. HOUSTON: Were you expelled from the Communist Party?

PROFESSOR EBY: No, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: You didn't receive an expulsion notice?

PROFESSOR EBY: No, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: Was there any expulsion notice published in any of their publications, as often happens when someone leaves the Party?

PROFESSOR EBY: I don't know; I haven't read their publications recently.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, Doctor, from time to time, or continuously, did you attend meetings of the Communist Party?

PROFESSOR EBY: Yes, I attended meetings of the Communist Party.

MR. HOUSTON: How often would these meetings be held?

PROFESSOR EBY: Well, it varied a great deal. Sometimes it would be perhaps once a month, and sometimes twice a month, or even more frequently.

MR. HOUSTON: Who would make the decision as to whether a meeting was to be held or not?

PROFESSOR EBY: Well, I think generally the group itself would.

MR. HOUSTON: Would they decide that at the previous meeting, decide when they would meet next, or would that be left to the call of the chairman or the secretary, or—

PROFESSOR EBY: No, they'd decide at the previous meeting.

MR. HOUSTON: Where were these meetings held?

PROFESSOR EBY: Oh, in various places. Sometimes in homes, although I can't remember specifically the times and places of them.

MR. HOUSTON: **Were any of these meetings ever held in your home?**

PROFESSOR EBY: **Well, yes, I would assume so.** There were a lot of different kinds of meetings there; rather mixed up.

MR. HOUSTON: Well, let's—what kind of other meetings did you have, then? Let's list them, Doctor.

PROFESSOR EBY: Well, I'd have meetings—conferences, perhaps, of people in the Washington Commonwealth Federation, or I'd have just meetings—discussion groups, or I'd have just meetings of friends, I suppose you would call them parties, I don't know.

Left Party to Devote More Time to Research and Writing

MR. HOUSTON: Now,—why did you leave the Communist Party?

PROFESSOR EBY: I left the Communist Party because I came to the conclusion that I wanted to devote my whole time and energy to my research and writing, and American transcendentalism. Do you want me to elaborate somewhat on that?

MR. HOUSTON: Yes, if you care to.

PROFESSOR EBY: Well, I'm a teacher of American Literature, and I decided more and more that what I can do best of all really is research in writing, and the American transcendentalists were the—one of the great traditions of American writing, men like Emerson, and Thoreau, and Hawthorne, and Melville, and Whitman, and I'm doing research in writing a book on that, and I'm working on a concordance of Walt Whitman, and I find that I'm the kind of a person that is perhaps what you would call single-track minded, that when I write I've got to do that and nothing else.

It is true that I've come to the general conclusion, also, that I am in essence, I suppose, a liberal, and by that I would define it as, first of all I suppose you would call him an individualist, who follows his own convictions on things; and find that increasing interest in the American traditions made me feel more and more the great possibilities there of that tradition, its development, and possibilities.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you recall, Doctor, what unit of the Communist Party you first attended after you joined the Party?

PROFESSOR EBY: No, I have no memory of what they were, they changed in name and number. All I kept in mind was it was just a University unit.

MR. HOUSTON: It was a group meeting out at the University of—University professors and people connected with the University?

PROFESSOR EBY: No, it wasn't meeting at the University, no.

MR. HOUSTON: No, but I mean of the group that were associated at the University.

PROFESSOR EBY: Yes, it was mostly that.

MR. HOUSTON: And that would have been the unit that you have been a member of all these years?

PROFESSOR EBY: Well, as I say, it changed in various ways, yes, but essentially that's all.

MR. HOUSTON: **Now, were you issued a card in the Communist Party, Doctor?**

PROFESSOR EBY: **Yes, I was issued a card.**

MR. HOUSTON: **In what—what was the name on this card?**

PROFESSOR EBY: **Well, I can't remember that. I never paid any attention to it.** It was one of those things I felt was kind of meaningless and didn't pay any attention to it.

MR. HOUSTON: **Was it a name other than your own?**

PROFESSOR EBY: **Yes, I think it was.** I wouldn't swear to it now, though, because I am not sure of it.

MR. HOUSTON: When is the last time you had a card issued to you in the Communist Party?

PROFESSOR EBY: **To the best of my knowledge, it was in 1945.**

MR. HOUSTON: For the year 1945?

PROFESSOR EBY: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Did you pay dues in the Communist Party, Doctor?

PROFESSOR EBY: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: What was the amount of the dues that you paid?

PROFESSOR EBY: Oh, they varied so much, I can't—I haven't any idea what they were, in amount.

MR. HOUSTON: Well, was it five cents a month?

PROFESSOR EBY: Oh, no, it was certainly more than that.

MR. HOUSTON: Was it five dollars a month?

PROFESSOR EBY: No, I couldn't say it was five dollars a month. It might be that, or it might have varied.

MR. HOUSTON: The dues did vary, then. They were not set.

PROFESSOR EBY: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Was there any basis upon which you could determine what your dues were? A percentage of your salary, or—

PROFESSOR EBY: Well, as I say, I think that—that basis, there was some kind but it varied too.

MR. HOUSTON: That varied, too.

PROFESSOR EBY: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Doctor, did you hold any positions in the Communist Party while you were a member?

PROFESSOR EBY: Well, I acted as chairman at times, but that was varied a great deal.

MR. HOUSTON: The chairman of this group that you have described?

PROFESSOR EBY: Yes.

Memory Is Vague

MR. HOUSTON: Have you held any other position than chairman?

PROFESSOR EBY: Well, I don't know. I don't believe so.

MR. HOUSTON: Have you been a delegate to the county convention of the Communist Party?

PROFESSOR EBY: **I haven't any memory of—of being a delegate, no. I might have been, though.**

MR. HOUSTON: **Have you attended any of the conventions, county conventions of the Communist Party?**

PROFESSOR EBY: **I can't—I can't recall any. I would hate to say I didn't, because there might have been, but I don't have any memory of one, that I attended.**

MR. HOUSTON: Dr. Eby, who recruited you into the Communist Party?

PROFESSOR EBY: Well, that was kind of a—one of those peculiar things. Shall I explain on it? I got interested in the problems and was attending various meetings during the depression. I wondered what was wrong and what would be the sure answer, and I attended one of the meetings of the Communist Party and they seemed to present a good program, and I got talking with somebody there, and I assumed he was a Communist, got interested and signed up a card. I can't recall the person—who he was, particularly.

MR. HOUSTON: You do not recall who took your application—

PROFESSOR EBY: No.

MR. HOUSTON: —into the Communist Party. Had you been solicited for membership into the Communist Party previous to this time?

PROFESSOR EBY: No, I can't say that I was.

MR. HOUSTON: You joined the Communist Party the first time you were asked?

PROFESSOR EBY: Well, I had been thinking about these problems, as I say, doing some reading. I felt that—

MR. HOUSTON: Who delivered your Communist Party card to you?

PROFESSOR EBY: **Well, I don't know who did.**

MR. HOUSTON: Who notified you of the first meeting that you were to attend?

PROFESSOR EBY: **I couldn't answer that.** That's a long time ago. I would want to be positive.

MR. HOUSTON: Well, why can't you answer it, Doctor?

PROFESSOR EBY: Because sir, that was a good many years ago.

MR. HOUSTON: Who notified you of the last meeting you attended in the Communist Party?

PROFESSOR EBY: I don't—I think I probably notified myself.

MR. HOUSTON: Probably notified yourself. All right. When was the last meeting that you last attended?

PROFESSOR EBY: I can say sometime in the very end of 1945. It may be—It might have been early in '46. That's the memory, the best I have of it.

MR. HOUSTON: Where did you meet?

PROFESSOR EBY: The last time?

MR. HOUSTON: The last time.

PROFESSOR EBY: **I don't know. It might have been my house, but I wouldn't even swear to that.**

MR. HOUSTON: Who presided at the last meeting you attended?

PROFESSOR EBY: May I make a statement there?

Refuses to Name Party Associates

MR. HOUSTON: Yes, I would like to get you to remember.

PROFESSOR EBY: I would like to say that Mr. Henry has advised me that, it's his advice that I should answer the questions here; but I find that I couldn't face myself and live any more, if I were to name people that are my friends and associates, who as far as I know are honorable and loyal; and so inevitably this question is coming up, it might as well come up now, that I cannot name anybody.

MR. HOUSTON: **In other words, you are volunteering without being asked, that you are not going to name anyone with whom you were associated in the Communist Party.**

PROFESSOR EBY: **That's right.**

MR. HOUSTON: I will ask you, Mr. Eby, have you ever sat in Communist Party meetings with Herbert J. Phillips?

PROFESSOR EBY: You have my answer, sir, on that.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: You will answer directly to that, "yes" or "no."

PROFESSOR EBY: I am sorry, I feel, as I said, that that would be against my sense of decency to do that.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you refuse to answer that question?

PROFESSOR EBY: I think that I have made my explanation on it.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Now, I—I have let you deviate there considerably, Dr. Eby, and this question may be answered by "yes" or "no." If you will place the question again.

MR. HOUSTON: Have you ever sat in Communist Party meetings with Herbert J. Phillips?

PROFESSOR EBY: My answer is the same as before.

MR. HOUSTON: Is it "yes" or "no"? Or is it that you refuse to answer?

PROFESSOR EBY: **It's that I refuse to answer.**

MR. HOUSTON: **You do refuse to answer the question?**

PROFESSOR EBY: **Yes, sir.**

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Now, I will—so that there may be no misunderstanding about this, Dr. Eby, you understand what the possible penalties for contempt of the Legislature may be?

PROFESSOR EBY: Yes, that—

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: You are doing this in full knowledge that the Committee may proceed against you, attempt to have you punished for contempt of the Legislature for refusing to testify?

PROFESSOR EBY: That's preferable to my feeling of—

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: And with that in mind, you refuse to testify, refuse to answer the questions of the Committee?

PROFESSOR EBY: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Well, I think you may step aside.