

was being used by the Communist Party as a Communist Party front organization?

A. Absolutely.

Q. What causes you to make that statement?

A. The fact that I belonged to the Party and I heard the matter discussed.

Q. Did you hear that matter discussed in the Communist Party?

A. In the unit of which I was a member at that time.

Q. Did you ever receive a card put out by the Old Age Pension Union?

A. I have.

Q. I hand you at this time again what was identified for purposes of identification as Committee's Exhibit 17, which you testified was your Communist Party card.

A. That's correct.

Q. That is the card that was issued to you?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Now, I hand you what has been marked for purposes of identification as Committee's Exhibit No. 18 and ask you to exhibit—ask you to examine that and state what—what similarity, if any, exists between those two cards?

A. This is a card of membership from the Washington Pension Union.

Q. Yes sir.

A. It is copied after the membership card of the Communist Party to my opinion.

Q. It is your testimony that Exhibit 18, which is the card that is given to the Old Age Pensioners of this state, is similar to the card that is given to members of the Communist Party?

A. On the same lines.

Q. What is the date on the card issued to the Washington Old Age Pension Union members?

A. That is 1946 and '47.

Q. What is the date issued on the card—the Communist Party card that was issued to you?

A. 1947.

MR. WHIPPLE: For the purpose of the record, may it please the Committee, I want to call the Committee's attention to the fact that they are formed structurally the same, for whatever benefit that might be for the record, no allegation being made, of course, that they are put out by the Communist Party.

That's all, Mr. Gordon, thank you.

(Witness Excused)

MR. WHIPPLE: There seems to have been a little misunderstanding here, Mr. Chairman. The next witness isn't here, he is on the way here and I very much wanted to use him ahead of the last witness that I was going to use.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: How many witnesses?

MR. WHIPPLE: There are just two more witnesses.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Approximately how much time will it take to cover their testimony?

MR. WHIPPLE: It will take probably an hour and a half for the two of them. I can start with the one I was going to use last, if you want me to.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: I would prefer that you do. The State Patrol is tied up here at this time, and other parties who find it inconvenient to be here late in the day.

MR. WHIPPLE: I will be very happy to proceed.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: I wish you would proceed.

MR. WHIPPLE: Call Mr. Smith.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Stand and be sworn, please, Mr. Smith.

HOWARD F. SMITH, called as a witness, having been first duly sworn, testified on direct examination as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. WHIPPLE:

Q. You may state your name.

A. Howard F. Smith.

Q. Where do you live, Mr. Smith?

A. 1612 Boylston Avenue, Seattle.

Q. In the City of Seattle?

A. Yes sir.

Q. What position or occupation do you hold at this time?

A. What do you mean—what occupation?

Q. Well, what do—do you do anything for a living? What occupation are you in?

A. Well, I have a hotel, and have a dairy, and I raise cattle and hogs.

Q. Oh, now, Mr. Smith, I first want to ask you if you ever joined the Communist Party of the United States?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Have you ever—have you joined the Communist Party of the United States more than once?

A. Well, no, not that I know of.

Q. I hand you what has been marked for purposes of identification as Committee's Exhibit No. 19, and will ask you if that is a photostat of your former Communist Party card?

A. One of them, yes.

Q. I will hand you what has been marked for purposes of identification as Committee's Exhibit No. 20, and ask you to state if that is a true photostat of another of your Communist Party cards?

A. It is of another year.

Q. I would like to dictate into the record Exhibit 19 is a photostat of Communist Card No. 88628, Communist Party of the United States, 1944 membership book, name, Howard Smith; State, Washington; District, Northwest; County, King; City, Seattle; Section A.D. or Ward 35. Branch 350. This book was issued on October 26, 1943, signed Henry P. Huff, Chairman. I would like to dictate into the record the Committee's Exhibit No. 20, which is a true photostat of the Communist Party card No. 42014, 1946 membership card, Communist Party of the United States of America. Name, Howard F. Smith; City, Seattle; State, Washington; under date of November 4, 1945, signed Henry P. Huff, signature of State Chairman.

During your membership into the Communist Party, Mr. Smith, did you ever make any contribution to the Communist Party?

A. Yes, I believe I did.

Q. Do you have any idea at this time how much money altogether you donated to the Communist Party during the period of time that you were a member?

A. Well, I started out easy and I got going pretty heavy. I—probably \$3,000.00. I don't know whether that would catch it.

MR. WHIPPLE: May it please the Chairman, I have a group of photostats of checks and rather than to identify each separate check as an exhibit, I have purposely clipped them all together and would like to introduce them all at one time.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: How many are there—how many sheets?

MR. WHIPPLE: There are one, two, three, four, five, six, seven. And I would like the group of seven sheets identified as an exhibit.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Exhibit No. 21.

(WHEREUPON, seven sheets, photostats of checks, were ADMITTED as Exhibit No. 21, and are attached hereto and made a part hereof.)

Q. Without going into a discussion of each separate check at this time, I hand you what has been marked for purposes of identification as Committee's Exhibit No. 21, and I will ask you to look at each page and state whether or not the checks represented there were checks you issued to the Communist Party or Communist Party front organizations?

A. That's right.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Answer a little louder, Mr. Smith, so that it may be recorded.

A. That's my signature, and that's the check.

Q. I'm going to develop all that. I just wanted you to look at it, at this time. Now, did you sign all the checks represented by the photostats on these seven pages?

A. That's right.

Q. Now I will go ahead with those individually. I find here a check under date of February 28, 1944, made payable to Huff & Reeves, and endorsed by Huff & Reeves in the sum of \$10.00. Did you sign that check?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Why was that check made out payable to Huff & Reeves? Who was this Huff and who was this Reeves?

A. Carl Reeves is a fellow they'd sent out here from Pennsylvania and Huff was executive secretary of the Northwest District. And Reeves was a new man, I think, that was taking some job here in the office in Seattle.

Q. Now, who sent Reeves out here, the Communist Party or who?

A. Well, I don't know. I saw him here. He was Mother Bloor's son.

Q. He was Mother Bloor's son? Who was Mother Bloor?

A. Mother Bloor is one of the first organizers of the Communist Party. His brother was—I knew he was a Communist, I saw him in the office. I don't know how he got out here.

Q. Okeh.

A. Brought his family.

Q. Who was this man Huff whose name appeared on the same check?

A. Henry Huff was the executive secretary of the three-state Northwest District, a member of the National Committee.

Q. Member of what national committee?

A. There is only one national committee. In New York.

Q. Mr. Smith, for the purpose of the record I want to know whether it was the Communist Party, the Prohibition Party, or what party now are you talking about?

A. Oh. It was the Communist Party.

Q. Thank you, sir.

I call your attention now to a check which you have reviewed from the stand, or seen from the stand, bearing date of May 16, 1944, made payable to Marian Carruthers and endorsed by Marian Carruthers, check being made out in the amount of \$25.00.

A. In '44?

Q. The date—yes. Who was this Marian Carruthers?

A. Marian Carruthers was a Party functionary that—think she came up to the hotel and she wanted me to donate \$25.00 or more. I think it was the Bridges Committee, or the Anti-Refugee Committee. There was so many committees—so many solicitors that you lose track sometimes. But I think it was the Harry Bridges committee.

Q. That was this \$25.00 donated to Marian Carruthers by you, knowing it was going to the—Communist—

A. Oh, yes, she came up and solicited me.

Q. Did you know her as a Communist at that time?

A. Yes.

Q. I notice a check under date of July 20, 1944, made payable in the sum of \$100.00 to a man by the name of Leonard Wildman, the check being endorsed by Leonard Wildman, 155—21st Avenue, Apartment 310, telephone number Capitol 7765, and also endorsed, counter-endorsement by the Washington State Communist Political Association, Ralph Hall, treasurer. Do you remember issuing that check?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you remember what that check was for, for a hundred dollars?

A. They had to make their quota and they called me up in the office and asked me to donate some money. I told them I was kind of short so I give them a hundred.

Q. They called you up in what office?

A. In the—up in the Headquarters of the Communist Party, I think it was 910½ Third Avenue.

Q. Who was this Leonard Wildman that you made the check payable to?

A. Leonard Wildman was—he and his wife were both—how I come to know he was in the Communist Party. I think they were paid functionaries from the Communist Party.

Q. Now, the next check I wish to ask you about bears date of August 25, 1944, made payable to the Communist Political Association and endorsed by the Washington State Communist Political Association and it was in the sum of \$82.00.

A. \$82.00. That check represents—I was executive secretary and treasurer of the 43rd Branch of the Communist Party and I used to get all the money in from the squad captains and come down to headquarters and turn money in and I think that check is—is money that I collected at my branch, in straightening up with the treasurer at headquarters.

Q. Now, I notice the next check bears date of October 30, 1944, and is made payable to Ralph Hall. The check is endorsed by Ralph Hall and the Washington State Communist Political Association and is in the amount of \$50.00. Do you remember what that check is for?

A. That check was—the Communist Political Association—they pretty near wore out everybody and they were short of funds and every time I'd show up they wanted some money. I remember that particular time they wanted two hundred and I give them fifty.

Q. Mr. Smith, the next check I would like to question you about bears date of January 18, 1945, made payable to cash, but was endorsed by the Washington State Communist Political Association and that check was in the sum of \$100.00. Do you remember what that was given for? And—

A. What date was that?

Q. January the 18th, 1945. Made payable—to refresh your recollection I would like to show you the photostat of the check—January 18, 1945, made payable to cash, \$100.00, and endorsed by the Washington State Communist Political Association. Did you issue that check to them?

A. I did.

Q. Do you remember at this time why you wrote it out to cash instead of out to the name of some individual person?

A. Well, I don't know. I guess it was another—there was one instance where Carl Reeves called me up to his office and wanted to know how much money I had in the bank. I am not sure whether that is the one. But I split my bank account with him and I don't know whether I give him part in a check, or not. I am not sure of that. I don't—I give him lots of checks.

Q. I will ask you—do you remember giving a check to the Russian-American Lodge, I.U.S.O. in the sum of \$100.00 back in March 17, 1945? Do you remember giving that Russian-American lodge a check for \$100.00?

A. Well, I give them a couple of checks that—could I look this over?

Q. Yes sir. Well, did you ever attend this organization called the Russian-American lodge?

A. The—I—I—I could explain that lodge. Those were public functions, so I give those checks. It was after I'm invited to join the International Workers Order, but I never joined, but I used to attend their functions. They always solicited me to attend them and sent me notices. I think that was in the Polish Hall. And at that place they held drinking parties and had dinners and usually showed Soviet Union pictures and ordinarily they'd have some sailors off of Soviet ships and they were usually giving somebody a birthday party, or something. At that particular time they were collecting money for orphans or say somebody in Europe or something and I would give them a hundred.

Q. Did you ever meet a man—strike that. Do you remember at the time you give this check, of meeting a man there at this particular function by the name of Nicolai Redin?

A. Yes. They wanted to introduce me to Nicolai Redin and I had had a few beers and I guess he had, too, and so we felt quite chummy and he put his arm around me and says, "You're a good Comrade." And he had lots of other sailors and he had his wife and a lot of other people that are under cover in the Communist Party used to attend those places.

Q. Yes sir. Now, referring to the last check I wish to have you describe just at this time as part of this one exhibit, I call your attention to check also made payable to cash under date of January 26, 1946, and endorsed by the Northwest District of the Communist Party and in the sum of \$50.00. Do you remember what that check was for?

A. Filled out just to cash?

Q. Yes.

A. It's probably one of those other checks that they were trying—that somebody fell down on their quota and—I—they cry and you can't get away from them, so I give them as little as I could.

Q. Then you did give all these checks as they are represented here in this exhibit—on the dates indicated by the exhibit—to the Communist Party of the United States of America?

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Answer a little louder, please, so it can be recorded.

A. Yes.

Q. Now, Mr. Smith, I would like to establish at this time what years you were in the Communist Party, a member of it here in the City of Seattle? In other words, when did you get out, if you did get out, of the Communist Party?

A. When I got out or when I got in.

Q. Well, let's start out that way. When did you get in?

A. I think I got in about six months before the war started, I think it was August, 1941. Is that the right date—I wouldn't be sure of it.

Q. Well, if the war started in December of '42, you got in about six months—'41, you got in about six months previously, is that right?

A. That's right.

Q. All right, when did you get out of it?

A. Well, I don't know whether I'm out of it yet.

Q. You mean—

A. You see I—

Q. What did—I will ask you this question, then. Did you ever cease your activities in the Communist Party as a dues paying member?

A. Yes.

Q. When did you cease your activities in the Communist Party as a dues paying member?

A. Oh, that was in—oh, that was a couple of years ago.

Q. Now I will ask you, during the period of time that you were a member of the Communist Party, were you also a member of the Washington Pension Union?

A. Yes, I—I—I—I would like to answer your question but this is such a grave situation that I would like to state here how I happened to want to join the Washington—

Q. Mr. Smith, I am going to ask you all those questions, and if—let's just take one thing at a time—now, were you a member of the Washington Pension Union?

A. Yes sir.

Q. All right. Now I want to go back at this time and ask you to state for this record who first recruited you into the Communist Party?

A. Dominic Bianco.

Q. Is that the same Dominic Bianco who was—will you spell that last name?

A. I can't spell it.

Q. Well, is that—I will ask you if that name is spelled D-o-m-i-n-i-c, Dominic, B-i-a-n-c-o, Bianco?

A. That's as good as I could spell it.

Q. Is that the same Dominic Bianco who is at the present time a vice-president of the Washington State Pension Union?

A. I imagine so. He is an old white-haired man. He wears glasses and has an affliction in his speech. That's all I can say.

Q. Now—

A. I haven't seen him in a long time.

Q. Why did you go into the Communist Party in the first place, Mr. Smith?

A. I went in the Communist Party to get the Communists and expose them to the people of the United States because I had gone through years of contact with them, and somebody had to find out what they were doing, and so I took this means to—they had many years before, when I was an organizer for different things of the City of Seattle they had always wanted me to join but I had never joined. And at this time I come down out of the Indian country. I'd been trading with the Indians for about four years and I heard the war was going to start and I figured that we'd have the same condition as we had when I come back from the last war and I was going to find out what made these Communists tick, and I figured that I'd go in and join them and I'd find out what made them tick.

Q. Were you a veteran of the first World War?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Had you been active in the organization of any other organizations along the waterfront or otherwise, here in the City of Seattle?

A. Yes, I had.

Q. What was that?

A. I was the organizer of the Blue Shirt Army of America. We had 6,000 members in Seattle and I—that was the bonus march. I sent thirteen carloads of veterans to Washington, bummed their chow, bummed their food and I used to speak every night on the skidroad and that's when I first run into the Communists. Later I was organizer and worked on the Unemployed Citizens' League—later I saw the Communists break up and they established the Workers' Alliance. I—I had a pretty fair idea of what these Communists were. They—continuously from 1930 on they contacted me and wanted me to join their Party but I never joined.

Q. Were you—

A. I remember at one meeting in 1932, and that was the days when they had these fellows passing through the cities and there were so very few Communists, and very few people understood what it was about, and I was invited to attend a meeting. And I went out to—I don't recollect, it was in some basement that I attended this meeting, and this fellow, this bewhiskered guy from Russia got up and he says, "Friends, Comrades and Peasants"—I took a powder. I got up and I said, "If you call these Americans peasants

they'll pull your legs out by the sockets." And that was the last—they didn't get me into the Communist Party at that time.

Q. Did you get into the Workers Alliance movement?

A. Well, the Workers' Alliance, the—we took over. The Blue Shirt Army of America took over the Unemployed Citizens' League—

Q. What did the Communist Party do to the Unemployed Citizens' League, if anything?

A. Well, I fought them on the floor. That was a good organization. That was an organization of the people of America—found themselves in a distressed condition and they went out and they tended to their ownself. They started seventeen factories going here and the people started the first commissary in the United States and I think that that organization was made up of all the radicals that the whole—that the United States ever had. The IW's, syndicalists, anarchists and Socialists, but they were all Americans.

Q. Now what did—what did the Communist Party do—

A. Well, the Communist Party to begin with tried to get into that. Nobody knew what a Communist was. We thought he was some kind of a infected creature with long whiskers, that was my opinion of them—the Communists, and so all at once I discovered in one particular place in the Capitol Hill local some Swede fellow got up and told that he had two thousand fishes down here he could get for us. And then one Communist jumped up here and objected to fishes and another one objected and this one objected, and that one would object. That's the first time I noticed their infiltration into the Unemployed Citizens' League.

Q. All right, now let's just go on from there. Did they—did they take the Unemployed Citizens' League over?

A. Yes.

Q. All right.

A. I'll tell you when they took it. They gradually kept that up until those people would be stronger than the opposition. I fought them on the floor. And then when we—when we took the County-City building, went down there and I spoke out there to 5,000 people. On this platform there were several Communists. I knew they were Communists. They had Bill Dobbins down there and he was—I know we'd taken the floor and we were sitting in the Commissioners' room and Bill Dobbins says, "Well, I guess I'll go home." I suspicioned him as a Communist or something at that time. I wasn't sure. Well, I says, "Let's stay." And at that time they were hanging the County Commissioner's effigies, they had stuffed—you know—hanging 'em around in there, and they had the people all in there. And so I went out—the people were getting hungry, so we ate up at the jail, we—we made arrangements with the jail and we ate up at the jail, I mean by that, we got food from the jail and fed all the people in there, and I went down and talked to Johnny Dore and I told him, "Don't call the police out," I says, "These people just want an answer from the commissioners." And that was down in Johnny Dore's office. He says, "I won't, until—I won't do nothing until the commissioners give me orders." Here come a fellow in with a note to Johnny Dore, and I took a powder. I went out there and then the cops and the sheriffs and everybody else begin to throw them out.

Q. Now, Mr. Smith, let's just go back now. After your experience with this movement, did you have any experience in the organization known as the Workers' Alliance?

A. After this is when the Workers' Alliance and the high powered politicians and those people that weren't earnest in the working class movement to improve the conditions of the people—they ruined the Unemployed Citizens' League and they threw me out of the Civic Auditorium when I told them to elect their own people.

Q. All right, let me ask you this question. What happened to you individually and personally I am not particularly interested in except as respect to the Communist Party.

Do you know whether or not the Workers' Alliance was a Communist front organization at this time or not?

A. The Workers' Alliance established themselves at 84 Main Street, and they got a doubtful character by the name of Byrd Kelso down there and a few other of those fellows that were Communists and they established themselves as the Workers' Alliance. They had another building up there that they were established in and the Unemployed Citizens' League just worked out the picture and drew the Washington Commonwealth Federation and the Workers' Alliance.

Q. Now this Byrd Kelso you referred to. He is deceased now, as I understand it?

A. Yeah.

Q. Now, was this Byrd Kelso a Communist?

A. He was in my branch. He used to pay dues to me.

Q. He used to pay dues to you as a Communist and—

A. That was—three fifty. I was a squad captain.

Q. You were the squad captain in three-fifty.

A. I had so many subscriptions—

Q. All right then. Is that the same Byrd Kelso that later became the head of the Workers' Alliance organization that you testified to?

A. Yes.

Q. Now then, do you know whether or not the Workers' Alliance amalgamated itself with the Washington Pension Union?

A. I went—my first—when I first decided to go into the Communist Party I went to 84 Main Street, this was down the tough end on skidrow, I went over to 84 Main Street into their office and some of these characters took me in, and Byrd Kelso took my hand and there was Clara Wheeler and Byrd Kelso and I went in the office and they signed me up in the Old Age Pension.

Q. They signed you up in the Old Age Pension? Just a second. Now let's establish the date they signed you up in the Old Age Pension as best you remember.

A. That was about—that must have been about six months before—that was before—well, I got recruited in the Communist Party in the convention in the Moose Hall by this Dominic Bianco. I was attending a convention.

Q. You were attending a convention of what?

A. Of the Old Age Pension Union.

Q. I will ask you where that was?

A. In the Moose Hall.

Q. Then you were recruited in the Communist Party by Dominic Bianco while you were attending a convention of the Old Age Pension Union in the Moose Hall? Now is that your testimony?

A. That's right.

Q. All right. That's—let's just stop there for the time being.

Now then, I would like to ask you to state whether or not during all this time that you were a member of the Communist Party whether or not the Washington Pension Union was being used by the Communist Party as a front organization or not? Was it used as a front organization?

A. Well, I think it was, yes.

Q. I will ask you to state whether or not you had anything to do with its being used as a front organization or if you ever sat in any high plenums of the Communist Party in which that subject was discussed?

A. Well, I think when I belonged to the Communist Party that the Old Age Pension was already a front organization of the Communist Party. It was well known to all the comrades in the Communist Party that the Old Age Pension was the front.

Q. It was—

A. —It was a front and they taught us in the branches, and many of the Old Age Pensioners belonged to the branches that I belonged to and there was no question in anybody's mind but that we were all brothers and sisters. And the fellows—many of them that were head of the Old Age Pension were prominent Communists so I—it was established in my mind that we were all just the same thing.

Q. Did it continue to be a front organization for the Communist Party as long as you were in the Communist Party?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. Now, I would like to—you referred to Dominic Bianco. I would like to ask you—do you know a man by the name of John Boan, B-o-a-n?

A. Yes. I know a fellow by the name of John Boan.

Q. I will ask you to state whether or not he was a member of the Communist Party?

A. He—he was in the 35th branch that I was in and later he was transferred to the 43rd where I was executive secretary. He used to pay dues to me.

Q. I will ask you to state if you know a man by the name of John Caughlan, an attorney here in the City of Seattle?

A. Yes, I know John Caughlan. He was a popular character in the Communist Party. I went to school with him and I attended schools where he taught, and he seemed to be the attorney for the Party, and I met him at many private homes where just functionaries and prominent Communists would appear and I talked to him on numerous occasions about the Party and there is no doubt in mind that he is a member of the Party and when I was convinced of that I tried to recruit him, and he says, "Comrade"—I was a recruiter—I recruited for the Party.

Q. Now, referring again to this same Mr. Caughlan, you say you went to school with him. What school do you refer to?

A. I went to the Swede club school, they held schools—I went four years—five years—four years to schools. I went to the Bay building with him—

Q. Now, is that the Seattle Public School system you are talking about or some other school?

A. No, that is a Communist workers' school in which they teach—they start you out in the primary way and end you up—

Q. Well, did they give you anything to study when you went to school?

A. The first year you study the history of the Communist Party and First Marx. Second year you study Second Marx, dialectical materialism, the class struggle, and they give you books that keep you reading forever as additional reading; then the next year—if you are not dead by the next year, they move you up into political economy and the—your additional reading—if it don't drive you crazy in three years you are pretty tough.

Q. Now, referring to these subjects in these schools. Was it while taking instructions in the subjects you have mentioned that you attended school with John Caughlan?

A. Yes, I attended in the Bay building.

Q. In the Bay building. Did you ever attend any that he was a teacher in?

A. Yes, I attended when he was teaching the public speaking class in the Swede club at 8th and Olive.

Q. Do you remember what year that was?

A. I could get it. I got a lot of stuff here, but I could get exactly—

Q. Well, was it during the period you were a member of the Communist Party?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, I hand you what has been marked for purposes of identification as Committee's Exhibit No. 22. Just examine the title of that briefly, so I can ask you a question.

A. Political Economy.

Q. Now, is that a book that they furnished you to study when you were going to the Communist Party school?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Now, did you ever hear of a person by the name of Nora McCoy?

A. Yes, I have heard of Nora McCoy.

Q. I will ask you to state whether or not she is a member—or was, rather, a member of the Communist Party?

A. Well, you know I would be the last person to call anybody a member of something that they—the intrigue in the Communist Party is so definite in their attempt to hide everybody, it is so apparent that if I made you a statement that this fellow is a Communist and that fellow is a Communist I would do a disservice to this Committee.

Q. Did you ever sit in any Communist Party plenums with Nora McCoy?

A. Yes, I sat in plenums with Nora McCoy.

Q. Did you ever get in trouble along about this time for charging too much hotel rent?

A. I did, yes.

Q. Were you a hotel operator here in Seattle at that time?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. I will ask—I hand you what has been marked for purposes of identification Committee's Exhibit No. 23, and ask you to state if you ever saw that before?

A. Notice to the Landlord. Yes, I have.

Q. Have you seen that? In other words, you got in trouble with the OPA over hotel rents, is that right? You charged—

A. Well, I tell you. I didn't get in trouble with the OPA. The OPA got in trouble with me.

Q. Now, this difficulty that you had with the OPA—just answer the question now. Did you finally get it straightened out?

A. Well, I made a monkey out of them—

Q. Just a minute now. Did you or did you not?

A. Yes.

Q. You did. Now, was anybody sent to you in getting this trouble straightened out with the OPA at this time?

A. No, I got it straightened out myself with the OPA, but I didn't get it straightened out with the hundreds of my customers that went down to visit the OPA, so I was called into the Old Age Pension union office in the Lyons building and Nora McCoy was the one that—said to me, says, "I thought you were one of us?" I says, "Well, I thought I was too, what's the beef?" "Well," she says, "Sit down and explain it to me." Now if you want me to explain it—

Q. No, don't go into all that. Just tell this Committee what Nora McCoy did?

A. Nora McCoy exonerated me with the hundred old people who had gone up and drove the OPA crazy, that I had done the proper thing.

Q. Why did she do that?

A. Because she had no argument. Because we were brothers and sisters.

Q. In what cause?

A. What is it?

Q. You were brothers and sisters in what cause—what organization?

A. Well, she was undercover in the Communist Party and we only seen her at different places. She was trying to fool somebody that she wasn't in the Communist Party.

Q. Well, did she fool you?

A. Not a bit, but I never saw her card or nothing.

Q. I understand that. Did you ever hear of a person by the name of William Pennock?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Is that the same William Pennock who at this time is the president of the Washington Pension Union?

A. I think so.

Q. You referred a while ago to those Communist Party schools, that you attended at the Swedish Club. Did you ever see this man Pennock there?

A. Yes sir.

Q. What position, if any, did he have there at these schools?

A. Teacher.

Q. What did he teach you there?

A. He tried to teach me public speaking.

Q. Did you—at the time that you were a member of the Communist Party did you ever have occasion to attend any of the executive secretary meetings of the various branches of the Communist Party?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Where would those meetings be held?

A. Well, the executive secretaries from all the different branches in the county are held in the headquarters of the Communist Party which moves around quite a little bit. I attended these meetings at 10 — 910½ — 109½ — 910½ Third Avenue. It is Victory Hall.

Q. Did you ever see William Pennock there?

A. Yes, I have seen him there, not as an executive secretary, but as some kind of a shadow going through, back and forth to Huff's office.

Q. Well, now, we are not interested in shadows, but was he there on any kind of Communist Party business?

A. Well, that's the only people that got in there. That was the headquarters, and if they didn't have business in there they didn't stay in. In the Communist Headquarters there is nobody allowed in there except they're on business.

Q. All right. How many times have you ever seen William Pennock in the Communist Party headquarters?

A. Well —

Q. Do you have any idea?

A. A good many times.

Q. More than once?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. More than ten times?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. Would you care to indicate the number of times?

A. I don't know so I can't indicate.

Q. Do you know a man by the name of Tom Rabbitt?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Is that the same Tom Rabbitt who became the organizer and is at the present time the vice-president, one of the vice-presidents of the Washington Pension Union?

A. I think it is. He was an air warden and he had a wife and seven kids in Kirkland— I think that's the same one.

Q. All right. Have you ever sat in any Communist Party plenums with him?

A. Yes, I have.

Q. Is he a member of the Communist Party?

A. He was another one of those kind of — trying to fool somebody. He was kind of under cover.

Q. Let me ask you this question. Could persons in these plenums that you have sat in, could they have sat in those Communist Party plenums had they not been members of the Communist Party?

A. In order to get into a plenum which would be in each branch, you get orders, the executive secretary gets orders that you're going to have a plenum held probably in the Finnish Hall. Then you get all your transmission bills— funds from whoever is executive secretary, the scissor bills in my branch don't know anything. So I— I go up to the headquarters of the Communist Party. And they tell me they are going to have a plenum and they want me to send two delegates and two alternates or one delegate and two alternates, and maybe I can send one visitor. I go back and tell them that we'll vote and get them.

Q. How do you get them in that plenum, then?

A. Well, then we given them an official card and whoever gets in there we take from each branch up to the executive secretary of either the King County or Northwest District, a written paper who is our delegate, who assists and all those papers are kept before three girls. I never seen any boys there—they usually had girls at the desk; but when you come into the plenum, you walk in there, they usually hold it Sunday noon. Everybody thinks you are going to church. We used to hold it down there to the Finnish Hall. I know—

Q. All right, go ahead and tell us how you got in there.

A. Well, first you come to the first girl. You open it up and look at it, says, "What branch are you from?" You says, "I'm from 430 or 1060," or whatever branch I'm from. So she looks up this. Here she finds me okeh. Then she passes me on to the next girl. The next one says, "Are you a delegate, an alternate delegate, or a visitor?" I'm a delegate. She looks in some cards to see whether I'm a delegate. They know what I am before I even get there. I'm all paged and tallied. So she gives me a delegate card. She gives me a pin to pin it on me and the other one takes me over and then I'm in the plenum.

Q. Do you mean to tell me you've got to pass this examination of these three persons before you get in?

A. Oh, yeah. You've got to have your stuff there. If you are not identified in that stuff—I know one time when I won the scholarship in the Bay Building to go from the Workers' School to the—attend the plenum. And I didn't have the proper credentials. They got me lost somewhere and I had a heck of a time. I had to send a messenger in to tell a certain person to come out and it took me about half an hour to get in.

Q. You had to send for a comrade to rescue you, huh?

A. Well, that's—

Q. I will ask you this question: Would it be possible for a person not a member of the Communist Party to have got past the door and gone in to one of these plenums?

A. No.

Q. Now then, it was in such plenums as that, you say, that you have sat in Communist Party meetings with Tom Rabbitt?

A. Yes.

Q. And Bill Pennock?

A. Yes.

Q. And—do you remember a person by the name of Terry Pettus? Present editor of the New World?

A. Never saw him in there.

Q. Never saw him in there. All right. Do you know a person by the name of Mollie Higman.

A. Yes sir.

Q. Do you know whether or not Mollie Higman was a member of the Communist Party?

A. I know—yes, I saw her in plenums.

Q. All right—

A. Only on that evidence. I never saw her card, don't even know what branch she belonged to.

Q. But you did see her in plenums?

A. That's right.

Q. Now did you know a person by the name of Etta Tripp?

A. Oh, yeah. Etta Tripp was—she was an old lady lived in Bremerton. She got—I had this branch out there—I had an undercover branch out there in a preacher's house.

Q. What was that number of that branch?

A. 43rd.

Q. 43rd.

A. You see, they give me her card and they said she lived in Bremerton. And she was a real old lady. I used to feel sorry for her when she sat down. And she was worked into the—I guess they darned near killed her. I expected her to knock off anytime.

Q. Well, when you were running this branch of the—this 43rd Unit, you say you met at some preacher's house?

A. Yes. That was Edmiston's house.

Q. Was that the name of the minister you referred to?

A. That was a fellow that preached Sundays and taught Marx Mondays.

Q. Preached on Sundays and taught Marxism on Mondays?

A. Yes.

Q. Now let's just skip back for the time being. This Etta Tripp was a member of your own union, is that right?

A. Etta Tripp—I went to collect her dues—I collected her dues—I had a hard time finding her, and I found her in the Old Age Pension Union and she was busy and she was high in the Old Age Pension Union and I told her I wanted to collect my dues and she paid the dues. And she used attend meetings out in this Edmiston's house.

Q. Now this Mollie Higman that you referred to a while ago—was she active in Old Age Pension Union affairs, too?

A. Yes. I used to see her around there all the time.

Q. Do you remember a person by the name of Emma R. Carpenter—C-a-r-p-e-n-t-e-r?

A. Yes, I do.

Q. Any particular reason why you remember that lady?

A. I remember Emma Carpenter because Emma Carpenter—I—er—she had a beautiful niece.

A. (continuing)—and this niece used to be dancing down there—I have seen her different places and I really felt bad about it, but I couldn't feel bad because—

Q. Well, did you ever recruit any member of her family in the Communist Party yourself?

A. I recruited this—this niece.

Q. You recruited this niece in—

A. Yes. As bad as I hated to, you have to have ice in your veins in the Communist Party. They used to send her down to these halls to dance with colored people. That's the kind of Communist Party—and I—I recruited this—her niece in the Communist Party. She was a beautiful girl and she—finally went to—back East someplace. The Party was using her.

Q. All right. Do you remember a person by the name of Mabel Conrad?

A. Yes, I do.

Q. Is that the same Mabel Conrad who at the present time is executive secretary of the Communist Party—I mean of the Washington Pension Union?

A. I don't know what her position is now, but I know she—she was a member of the Communist Party. I attended executive secretary meetings with her in the headquarters of the Communist Party and I have been to schools with her and I saw her—

Q. Are you referring—

A. Saw her in the Old Age Pension office, saw her at many private homes where just Communists go to have their nightly sprees and functions.

Q. Do you remember anything about ever attending a leadership class with the Communist Party?

A. Yes, I think she attended those leadership classes, taught by Henry Huff. In the headquarters of the Communist Party.

Q. Now then, did you ever hear of a person by the name of Terry Pettus?

A. Yes, I have.

Q. What position, if any, did he hold with the weekly newspaper referred to as the New World?

A. I didn't understand you.

Q. What position, if any, does he hold on the newspaper known as the New World?

A. Well, I guess he runs the New World. He sold me some stock in it.

Q. All right. Now just tell us about that.

A. About the New World?

Q. You said he sold you some stock in the New World. How did that—

A. Well, it come up in the branch meeting that somebody came as a representative for the New World they always brought them around to the different branches and we usually had—it was more or less like the Daily Worker. We always figured each batch would take them and when we had some to deliver they were always—we would—somebody in the branch that brought them down there, it was the official publication of the Communist Party—

Q. Well, did anybody make you buy any stock in this official Com—

A. They got \$10.00. I bought one share.

Q. One share?

A. That is when it turned from the New Dealer over to the New World.

Q. All right. Were you a member of the Old Age Pension Union then?

A. Well, I—I have belonged to so many different organizations, that I don't remember. I remember they never expelled me from the Old Age Pension but I don't—I kind of got so I didn't pay my dues and I would give them donations.

Q. All right now. I will ask you to state whether or not as an officer of the Communist Party and as a member of the Old Age Pension Union if you knew whether or not the New World publication was the official mouthpiece for either of those two organizations—was it or was it not? Do you understand what I—

A. I understand what you're talking, but you don't know what I am thinking.

A. (Continuing) They draw such a network of—around anything, it was—I could state as the New World is that nice American newspaper that's printed in the City of Seattle that the Communist Party is trying to make the people of Seattle believe isn't a Communist Party paper.



Q. All right. Was that also the official mouthpiece of the Washington Pension Union?

A. That's right.

Q. Now then, did you ever hear of a person by the name of Florence Bean James? F-l-o-r-e-n-c-e B-e-a-n J-a-m-e-s.

A. Yes. I been to her house.

Q. Who is Florence Bean James?

A. Florence Bean James is the lady who runs the Repertory Playhouse out in the University District, and that business she runs is Communist run.

Q. Why do you say that business she runs is a Communist run?

A. Because that Repertory Playhouse is part of the program of the Communist Party in which to educate the youth of the University of Washington and familiarize them with their propaganda through that Repertory Playhouse the line of the Communist Party. In that Repertory Playhouse many members of the actors are members of the Communist Party. They have a Communist branch.

Q. Do you know that of your own knowledge, Mr. Smith?

A. Why sure.

Q. Why do you know that of your own knowledge; how?

A. Because I've been in the back room in the Repertory Playhouse behind the scenes and with all their great actresses and actors, I've sat in executive secretary meetings with their actors and actresses; I've been back there—well, this character Pennock married their star which—

Q. Who was that?

A. Oh, I don't know. She was so high up I couldn't even talk to her. I—

Q. Would you know the name if you were to hear it?

A. Yeah.

Q. Was it Louise Hastert? L-o-u-i-s-e H-a-s-t-e-r-t.

A. Yes. I was behind the stage in the Repertory Playhouse. Nobody back there could even possibly be anything but a high Party member.

Q. What was the occasion of that?

A. Oh, to celebrate being a Communist, I guess. Once in a while you had to take a rest. You worked all the time, so the show was over and I think it was three o'clock they decided to put on a play. I know I was given a—what is it—a Bronx cheer—the actors. Nobody got mad at anybody. Pennock and this girl was there and Hurley and—wait a minute; not Hurley, but anybody of any importance in the Communist Party—I didn't see any second-raters in there.

Q. Well, now, you made the statement a while ago, if I remember correctly about—if I am in error be sure to correct me, for the sake of this record. Is Florence Bean James a member of the Communist Party?

A. No, I never made that statement.

Q. I am asking you now if she was a member of the Communist Party? If you know whether or not she was a member of the Communist Party?

A. I don't know whether she was a member of the Communist Party only for the fact that because—that we talked like brothers and sisters. She's under cover.

Q. Well, what do you mean when you say you talked like brothers and sisters?

A. Well, I've got the 43rd branch. Florence Bean James comes down and says, "Smitty, we've got to win." She's running for schoolteacher, or something. She's running for—on the schoolboard.

Q. All right—

A. Well, she comes down to my Communist branch and says, "Smitty, we've got to win." She wants to come down and talk. I invited her down to give a talk. We call it a social club. I distributed literature out of there, and my comrades take armsful of her literature and give it all out to everybody, but I never say she was in the Communist Party, but she was so close to it—I think she's under cover.

Q. We are not, of course, obviously for this record, interested in any knowledge you don't personally know yourself.

Let me ask you this question: Did you ever attend any meetings in the Repertory Playhouse that she attended where no one else was present unless he or she were Communist members?

A. Only that meeting that was behind the scenes.

Q. This meeting which you refer to that was behind the scenes. Was that a meeting of Communist Party members, or—

A. That was a drinking party.

Q. Well,—

A. When everybody got—well, when he run out of money and didn't have nothing else and he got kind of droopy he walked out and went home in the last act—

Q. I am not interested in the drinking party. I just want to know whether or not there were any Communists there or not?

A. They were all Communists.

Q. And was Florence Bean James there?

A. Yes.

Q. All right. Now then, I want to ask you to state whether or not the Repertory Playhouse ever furnished programs or entertainment for the Washington Pension Union?

A. Yes. The—they furnished them at 84 Main Street, they furnished them in all their places, in the Building Service Union, they furnished in every hall which the Communist Party had the Repertory Playhouse furnished their entertainment. Every time that any comrade Communist would come here from New York like Browder, Foster or Ford or any of those people we'd have a big proposition going on and the Repertory Playhouse furnished the entertainment.

Q. All right. I want to identify some more exhibits here to put into the record.

Now I hand you what has been marked as Committee's Exhibit Nos. 24, 25 and 26, for purposes of identification, and ask you to examine them, please, and state if you know what those are.

A. Those are cards that I was given by the Communist Party to recruit people on. That's why I say you can't tell who is a Communist by cards.

Q. Now, are those cards signed by anybody?

A. Henry Huff, and I signed the name—number—I signed whoever I want to in there, see, if I was crooked I could sign your name and you would be a Communist. So I say, a card don't mean anything in the Communist Party.

Q. These three cards do not contain the name of any person at all?

A. No.

Q. You were handed cards issued in blank except that they were signed by Henry Huff?

A. I don't think they hand them to everybody.

Q. I say you were?

A. Yes sir.

Q. And those cards all bear numbers?

A. That's right.

Q. And you had the privilege, as long as you turned in the dues, of writing anybody's name in there that you wanted to write in, is that right?

A. That's right, I had to present somebody, though.

Q. And for that reason you say, necessarily the holding of a membership card wasn't necessarily positive proof—

A. Well, I can explain it this way: In my branch I had—I got transferred out—they banished me out here to this preacher's house. And then they said I'm executive secretary of this branch. I went down to build up this other branch, and this branch wasn't functioning very good, so they sent me out there to give it some new life or something, and I was looking over who belonged to the branch and the outgoing secretary just handed me a bunch of names, who belonged to the branch and where they lived. I saw one comrade by the name of Lily Pons, so I said, "Gee, I didn't know I was getting such popular folks into my branch," and nobody knew who Lily Pons was.

Q. Was it your—did you—is it your testimony that that was a fictitious name?

A. That was her Party name, see? So in order to find out who Lily Pons was, I went down to Headquarters to the Executive Secretary of King County and said, "Say, who is this person—this ain't that Lily Pons dancer, is it?" And he says, no, that's Beatrice Hildebrandt. She's in the police department but we can't give out her name because she is under cover.

Q. Now from time to time as you would attend these Old Age Pension Unions, would you find them distributing literature there advancing the Communist Party line?

A. Yes sir.

Q. I hand you here an instrument which has been marked for purpose of identification Committee's Exhibit No. 27; another instrument which has been marked for purposes of identification as Committee's Exhibit 28; another pamphlet which has been marked for purposes of identification as Committee's Exhibit No. 29; another pamphlet which has been marked for purposes of identification as Committee's Exhibit No. 30; another pamphlet which has been marked for purposes of identification as Committee's Exhibit No. 31; another pamphlet which has been marked for purposes of identification as Committee's Exhibit No. 32, and I will ask you to state if you have seen those six pamphlets before?

A. Yes.

Q. And if so, where did you get them?

A. Well, those pamphlets were given to us to give each one that we recruited. We gave them those pamphlets to take home and read. That's when, under Browder, we was trying to be Capitalists and Communists, we were trying to win the war. And they didn't care who was in the Party and we

just recruited everybody we could recruit. And each recruit received those pamphlets so he would get an understanding before he would come into the branch meetings.

Q. Referring to recruit, are you referring to members of the Communist Party?

A. Yes.

Q. Now then, I will ask you to state whether or not these pamphlets were also distributed in Old Age Pension meetings?

A. Oh yes. They were—I recruited—I recruited Old Age Pensioners.

Q. And these pamphlets now that you have exhibited here, and identified, is it your testimony that they were distributed at the Old Age Pension meetings?

A. Oh, yes.

MR. WHIPPLE: May it please the Chairman, I would like to introduce these pamphlets into the record at this time.

THE WITNESS: I would like to make one statement. You understand a person that was designated by the Executive Secretary to go out and recruit recruits in the Communist Party had to have the paraphernalia with him. He had to have the cards to sign them up and so forth. And he carried one of those and give them to the recruit.

MR. WHIPPLE: Q. And this is the same literature that you passed out to the Old Age Pension Union members as well, is that right?

A. Yes. To members who had been recruited. You never give it to them until you had them signed up in the Communist Party.

Q. You had these Old Age Pensioners signed up in the Communist Party?

A. Well, I recruited a bunch of them. Walker and his sister and oh,—

Q. Let's not go into that. I just want to—

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Mr. Whipple—pardon me, go ahead. How much testimony will you have after this?

MR. WHIPPLE: It's going to go pretty fast from here out.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Pretty fast, what do you mean?

MR. WHIPPLE: Oh, I think, say ten minutes.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: All right. Proceed.

BY MR. WHIPPLE:

Q. Exhibit No. 27 is entitled as follows: "The King County Communist Party formally welcomes you as a member with full rights and privileges into the ranks of the Party of the American working class of people, etc."

Pamphlet No. 27 is the constitution of the Communist Party of the United States of America. For sale for five cents.

Pamphlet No. 29 is entitled, "Stages in the History of the Communist Party, a Political Review," also available for five cents.

Pamphlet No. 30 is a pamphlet entitled, "Women in the War," by Elizabeth Drury Flynn. Also for sale for five cents.

Pamphlet No. 31 is entitled, "The Communist Party of the United States of America—Its History, Role, and Organization," by Earl Browder. Also for sale for five cents.

Pamphlet No. 32 is entitled, "Production for Victory," by Earl Browder. Also for sale for five cents. Now, just briefly I wanted to—

ADMITTED BY THE SECRETARY

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Are these the Exhibits you want, Mr. Whipple?

MR. WHIPPLE: I think so. There is one other here.

Q. I want to hand you a check here which has been marked for purposes of identification as Committee's Exhibit No. 34. I wish you would examine that check and state if you know what that is?

A. That is Harry Bridges Victory Committee, \$20.00.

Q. Is that the Harry—is that the Bridges who has been referred to from time to time in this hearing?

A. Yes, the—

Q. President of the International Longshoreman's Union?

A. That's right.

Q. Now, were you a Communist when you gave this defense committee \$20.00?

A. Yes sir.

MR. WHIPPLE: I would like to introduce this check into the record as a check drawn on the Seattle First National Bank under date of February 8, 1945, made payable to the Harry Bridges Victory Committee in the sum of \$20.00, signed by Howard F. Smith, and endorsed by the Anglo-A-n-g-l-o-California National Bank. Underneath that is printed, "Harry Bridges Victory Committee."

THE WITNESS: They had an office set up and one of the comrades came and told me, either wrote me a letter and told me to come down and see him. And I went down to see him and I—they asked me for a donation.

BY MR. WHIPPLE:

Q. Now do you know whether or not the defense of Harry Bridges was a major program of the Old Age Pension Union during the time you were a member of the Communist Party?

A. Yes. It was a major—it was one of the big issues in all Communist fronts and Communist Parties.

Q. Well, was it a big issue in the Old Age Pension Union?

A. Yes sir.

Q. What was their policy toward the defense of Harry Bridges?

A. They were out for it one hundred per cent.

Q. Out for what?

A. To defend Harry Bridges.

Q. I hand you what has been marked for purposes of identification as Committee's Exhibit No. 33, and ask you please to briefly review that and state if you know what that is.

A. It's a delegate—a card I received as a delegate of the 430 plenum—Branch 430 of the Northwest District plenum.

Q. Was this your card to the King County convention of the Communist Party?

A. Yes.

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

A. The card and then that name—

Q. Pardon me just a second, Mr. Smith.

MR. WHIPPLE: The name Smith, Branch, 430, King County convention Communist Party, United States of America, dated April 23, 1944.

Q. Now did you have another remark to make concerning this?

A. Well, the first thing you were sent as a delegate from King County and then from there you were given a card to—to the district convention.

Q. Thank you.

MR. WHIPPLE: Now, may it please the Chairman, I would like at this time to show the Chairman these exhibits that have been properly identified and have been entered into the record. I would like to make a statement to the Chairman at this time, that there are many other things that we might at some later date wish to use this witness for.

I would like to dismiss this witness at this time, from this present hearing, with the understanding that the Committee's investigation office can recall him if necessary.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: That is satisfactory.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, may I make a statement for the record that in certain instances here we have introduced photostats instead of originals as exhibits. The originals are in the possession of the Committee but cannot remain permanently and for that reason we have photostated the originals and are introducing them. After the Committee has reviewed and has seen to their satisfaction that the photostats are true and accurate copies of the originals, they will be returned to their proper owners.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: That is understood by the Committee.

MR. WHIPPLE: Mr. Chairman, I have one more witness I would like to examine this afternoon. I would greatly appreciate about just one question I want to ask him, but I would greatly appreciate just a minute's intermission before this. I haven't seen him for—

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: How long would it take to interview this witness, I—

MR. WHIPPLE: It will take a minute to interview him and probably two minutes to examine him on the witness stand after that.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: A minute to interview him and two minutes on the stand. If the State Patrol will bear with me that long. I realize some of these gentlemen have to work tonight.

MR. WHIPPLE: I just want to be sure that this is the witness that I think it is. It is a matter of identity. I don't want to mislead this Committee or the witness by presenting the witness.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: It is my understanding that this will be very brief. We will be at ease for one minute and then proceed.

(Short Recess)

MR. WHIPPLE: Will you stand up and be sworn, please?

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: (After swearing witness:) Will you sit down, please.

THOMAS F. EARLING, called as a witness, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

#### DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. WHIPPLE:

Q. This testimony is being recorded in a recording device and will you speak into that mike just ahead of you there and speak loud enough, Mr. Earling, that your testimony will be recorded.