

TESTIMONY OF PROF. RALPH GUNDLACH Psychology Department, University of Washington

MR. O'BRIEN: Mr. Chairman, may the record show the entry of my appearance as counsel for Mr. Gundlach?

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: The record will show that you are Clifford O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN: That's correct.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Clifford O'Brien, as—acting as counsel for Professor Ralph Gundlach.

PROFESSOR GUNDLACH: I want it understood that I protest to being sworn.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: You protest to being sworn? We will still insist on your being sworn. We will take no unsworn testimony at this hearing.

PROFESSOR RALPH H. GUNDLACH, produced as a witness, after being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Now let me state that the rules of procedure as set up by this Committee, are that counsel may be in attendance, and counsel may discuss with his client whether or not he should answer. There will be no speeches or arguments made to the Committee. We will expect responsive answers, and little or no deviation from that procedure. Proceed, Mr. Houston.

MR. O'BRIEN: May I say, Mr. Chairman, that I understand the Chairman's instructions fully, but I would like the opportunity to make legal objections to questions put.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: There will be no legal objections for the record. Any objections that you have may be taken at such time as are further procedures relative to the hearings here.

MR. O'BRIEN: It is understood I am reserving them now.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: You may do what you wish to, but they are not a pertinent part of this hearing.

MR. HOUSTON: Will you please state your name?

PROFESSOR GUNDLACH: My name is Ralph H. Gundlach.

MR. HOUSTON: What does the "H" stand for?

PROFESSOR GUNDLACH: Harrelson.

MR. HOUSTON: Where do you live, Mr. Gundlach?

PROFESSOR GUNDLACH: I live at 226 Thirty-third, North.

MR. HOUSTON: Are you a resident of King County, State of Washington?

PROFESSOR GUNDLACH: I am a resident.

MR. HOUSTON: How long have you been a resident of this county?

PROFESSOR GUNDLACH: Probably from either 1920, 1925.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Gundlach, do you believe in the existence of God?

MR. O'BRIEN: Well, I object to that question.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, I take this man on point there; he's objected to taking an oath and I want to find out if he is an atheist.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: In spite of that, Mr. Houston, we will not admit that question. The witness need not answer as to his religious beliefs.

MR. O'BRIEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. HOUSTON: The chair is satisfied, then, with the oath?

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: What is your profession, Mr. Gundlach?

PROFESSOR GUNDLACH: I am a psychologist.

MR. HOUSTON: What is your employment?

PROFESSOR GUNDLACH: I am employed at the University of Washington.

MR. HOUSTON: How long have you been so employed?

PROFESSOR GUNDLACH: Since 1927.

MR. HOUSTON: What is your position there?

PROFESSOR GUNDLACH: I am an associate professor.

Gundlach Refuses to Answer "Yes" or "No"

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

PROFESSOR GUNDLACH: Mr. Houston, no Legislative Committee has the right to ask about one's personal beliefs or associations.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, I ask that the witness be required to answer the question "yes" or "no," instead of making a speech that is totally unresponsive to the question.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: I permitted that part of his speech with the understanding that we will repeat the question, which may be answered by "yes" or "no" and expect a responsive answer of "yes" or "no."

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

PROFESSOR GUNDLACH: That is a loaded question, like asking "when did you stop beating your wife?"

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: The question is entirely proper in the opinion of this Committee. I will again place the question to you after advising you, if you need to be advised, that this Committee, on your failure to testify or respond to a proper question that the Committee considers proper, will proceed against you to have you punished for contempt of the Legislature, and I wish you to do that with full knowledge. I wish you to proceed with that knowledge.

Now, I will ask you, are you or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

PROFESSOR GUNDLACH: I think the question implies subversive activities.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: We will request a "yes" or "no" answer to that question.

PROFESSOR GUNDLACH: I rely upon my right to remain silent.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: I advise you that it will be the opinion of this Committee that you refuse to testify. Is there any misunderstanding that we have asked you whether or not you have ever been a member of the Communist Party?

PROFESSOR GUNDLACH: I am willing to testify to any legitimate question.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: We will determine whether or not that is legitimate. If you refuse to answer that question, you may step aside. You are not excused.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, things have proceeded somewhat more rapidly than I anticipated, and we have no further witnesses to go on at this time. I suggest we adjourn until tomorrow morning, unless you have—

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: We will be in recess until nine-thirty tomorrow morning.

(WHEREUPON adjournment was taken until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, July 22, 1948.)

(JULY 22, 1948. 9:30 o'clock a. m.)

Pursuant to adjournment, the hearing was resumed at 9:30 o'clock a. m., July 22, 1948.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: The hearing will now be in session.

TESTIMONY OF MRS. SARAH ELDREDGE

MRS. SARAH ELDREDGE, produced as a witness, after being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

MR. HOUSTON: Mrs. Eldredge, this hearing is being recorded, and I will ask that you speak right directly into the microphone and that you don't nod, that you—or answer a question with a gesture, that you speak all your answers; and we will take this easy, now, we know you are ill, but we will just proceed slow and easy.

Will you please state your name?

MRS. ELDREDGE: Sarah N. Eldredge.

MR. HOUSTON: And you live, and are a resident of Seattle?

MRS. ELDREDGE: Yes, for the last fifteen years, at the same address.

MR. HOUSTON: The same address. I will ask you, Mrs. Eldredge, have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

MRS. ELDREDGE: Yes, for approximately two years, for the last half of 1937, for all of 1938, and about half of 1939, although I was not actively attending unit meetings for the last few months, at the request of the Central Office of the Communist Party.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, during this period of time you devoted a great deal of your time in working in the Party program, did you not?

MRS. ELDREDGE: I did. I did.

MR. HOUSTON: You devoted practically all of your time, wasn't it?

MRS. ELDREDGE: Yes, I hadn't any paying job at the time, and I had a good deal of time to devote to the program.

MR. HOUSTON: Now you also were Vice Chairman of the Democratic Party in this—

MRS. ELDREDGE: I was Vice Chairman of the Democratic Central Committee, and head of the Women's Division, and also State Publicity Director for the Western Half of the State, for the Democratic Party.

MR. HOUSTON: And this was all at the time you were a member of the Party?

MRS. ELDREDGE: Yes, that was from the late 1938, after the convention, which elected me, and I believe that was in the fall of 1938, as I can recollect.

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

University Professors Members of Front

MRS. ELDREDGE: Yes, I first met Mr. Rader, who was a teacher at that time, in the Philosophy Department of the University of Washington, at the League Against War and Fascism. That was the title of it at that time. His name was given me as a speaker that I was to secure. Mr. Atkinson gave me this list. That I was to secure to speak at the meetings of the League. Other members were Harold Eby, Dr. Ralph Gundlach, Professor Garland Ethel of the English Department, and several others.

MR. HOUSTON: Now these were—

MRS. ELDREDGE: Also Mr. Pellegrini.

MR. HOUSTON: Also Mr. Pellegrini.

MRS. ELDREDGE: Yes.