

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.

MR. HOUSTON: Who gave you—

MRS. ELDREDGE: **Mr. N. P. Atkinson, a member of the Communist Party, who was in charge of the program and activities of the League.**

MR. HOUSTON: Now you know of your own knowledge that Mr. Atkinson was a member of the Communist Party?

MRS. ELDREDGE: Oh, yes. Mr. Atkinson gave me—he was the contact from the Central Committee of the Communist Party, who first gave me the address to which I was to go for the first Communist Party meeting I ever attended. That meeting was held in the Paramount Theatre building in the studio of a vocal teacher. I can't recall his name at this time, but others present at the meeting were Hollis Jenkins, was was the Literature Director who went to Spain, in the army of the Republic of Spain later, and Mr. and Mrs. Burt Nelson.

MR. HOUSTON: Yes, well, we're not concerned about all that were there, but Mr. Atkinson told you where to go to your first meeting.

MRS. ELDREDGE: Mr. Atkinson told me, and he said, "Greetings, comrade," and he told me at the same time—I said, "**You know, Mr. Atkinson, I was terribly surprised to learn that you were a Party member.**" He said, "**Oh, yes, my wife and I have been Party members for some time,**" and he said, "**A lot of people prominent in the progressive movement that you have met today are Party members.**" He said, "**For instance, the Jameses, Burton James and his wife, Florence Bean James,**" and he gave me the names of several others, who were members of the Party.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, did you call upon Professor Rader to perform services for you?"

MRS. ELDREDGE: Yes, he spoke, I think, twice.

MR. HOUSTON: Twice.

MRS. ELDREDGE: **And along—all on the line, the Communist Party line that they were at that time putting forth through this transmission belt, the League Against War and Fascism.**

MR. HOUSTON: Now you—were you—did you hold a position in the League Against War and Fascism?

MRS. ELDREDGE: Yes, at first they asked me to take the notes, the secretary, and then later they asked me if I would be chairman of a group—these were women's groups that met on certain days, weekly. I think the course was seven weeks. I think so; and they also asked me if I would be the—the—go over to the Y. W. C. A. and secure the room, and I did that and signed for the room at the Y. W. C. A.

Prof. Rader a Willing Tool of Communists

MR. HOUSTON: Now, did Mr. Rader write a book along about this time?

MRS. ELDREDGE: Mr. Rader's book at that time—I think in nineteen thirty—I don't think it was published until 1939, but I read it some years ago. It was in manuscript form, and my first contact with the book was at a meeting of the Colored Y. W. C. A. They called it the weekly branch. The chairman of that meeting was an educated, cultured, light colored woman whom I had met in Communist Parties—Party activities previously, and she introduced Mr. Rader, and I had been called by one of my Communist contacts and asked to attend the meeting. They thought that some Caucasian people should go and show their interest, and I attended and several others attended.

Mr. Rader's book was at that time, as I say, in manuscript form, and he

talked from it. He carried out completely the Communist Party line; he—in the book, he—the title, let's see, what is the title? I've forgotten the title of it, but it's—"No Compromise, A Clash of Worlds." I believe that's the title. The title is not quite honest because you put on one side democracy, on the other you expect the—a philosopher who is supposed to examine evidence without bias and to present an unbiased decision, you would naturally put the totalitarian governments of Russia and Fascism on the other side; but nowhere in the book does Mr. Rader put Communism against democracy. **He followed the party line and put the Communist ideology in with the anti-Fascist nations and in with the democracies.**

As a matter of fact, he quotes from the Webbs to advise the reader what a great constitution Russia has, and also infers that the American Constitution is just not quite as good; he weeps over the treatment of the Communists in Spain. As a matter of fact, when I read the book I got the idea that as far as thought content was concerned, the passages on Spain could have been lifted although I do not say they were lifted, but I mean as far as thought content was concerned, it could have been lifted from the current Communist Party literature.

MR. HOUSTON: What happened to this book in 1939?

MRS. ELDREDGE: Well, when—the book was acclaimed when it came out, by the Communist press, and ads for it appeared in the "New World," I believe, and I heard the ad also appeared in the "Daily Worker." I don't have a copy of the "Daily Worker" so I don't know. It was acclaimed and he made many talks against Fascism, but never putting Communism in as a totalitarian, but always following the same line of subtle approbation of the Communist ideology; and in nineteen—**after the Russian and Fascist states got together, Hitler and Stalin, Mr. Rader was caught with his book, and he—there was a quietus put on the book immediately. I think if you will examine the records, you will discover that he made no talks against Fascism after that; and some of us wondered if this "daring young man on the flying trapeze" would somersault with the rest of them, and he certainly did. He came out with—for their peace line, for anti-mobilization, and for all of the Communist line activities.**

If you do the work of the Communist Party, whether or not you carry a Communist Party card, I don't think it would make any difference; as a matter of fact, the policy of the Communist Party is that leading Communists do not carry cards. Many leading Communists do not attend unit meetings. Many—they can be more valuable if they do not attend Communist Party meetings. As a matter of fact, I was requested by the Communist Party Central Committee to not attend my unit meetings any further, and I—

MR. HOUSTON: That was while you were this high official in the Democratic Party.

MRS. ELDREDGE: Yes, while I was an official of the Democratic Party.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, during all this period of time you made no request, or you called on Mr. Rader, he didn't refuse to do anything you asked him to do, did he?

MRS. ELDREDGE: Never.

MR. HOUSTON: And you were furthering the Communist Party line at the time?

MRS. ELDREDGE: We were.

MR. HOUSTON: **And he was an instrument that could be used?**

MRS. ELDRIDGE: **He was a powerful instrument. I doubt if any thousand Communists working daily, could have reached the people with this softening-up ideal—ideal that he had in his book, as he did by writing that book.**

MR. HOUSTON: Now, did you ever sit in any Party meetings with Mr. Rader?

MRS. ELDRIDGE: No closed Party unit meetings.

MR. HOUSTON: In other words, you have no evidence and you are not making the charge that Mr. Rader was a Communist.

MRS. ELDRIDGE: I'm not making that statement that Mr. Rader was an actual member of the Party.

MR. HOUSTON: But he did their bidding and—

MRS. ELDRIDGE: But he did their business, and other work, and as Mr. Walter Winchell says, **"When you see a bird that looks like a duck, walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, it's a duck."**

Knew Prof. Butterworth as a Communist

MR. HOUSTON: Now, I will ask you, Mrs. Eldridge, do you know a man by the name of Joseph Butterworth?

MRS. ELDRIDGE: Yes, I know Mr. Butterworth and his wife, Dorothy Butterworth, who has passed away, very well. I attended numerous meetings of Communists officials of the Communist Women's Commission, at their house.

I also attended a meeting at the Butterworth's house at which Morris Rapoport and Mr. Costigan and Mr. DeLacy cracked down on me because I was not putting Communist women into places of importance in the Democratic Party set-up.

I knew that Dorothy and her husband were Communists from the very first day that I was approached by the contact who brought me into the Party, because Mrs. Lillian LaMotte, who brought me into the Party, told me so. Mrs. Butterworth was to—almost my entire contact with the Central Committee; she called me two or three times a week and sometimes daily to give me messages and I thought a great deal of Dorothy Butterworth—a great deal.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, did you meet Earl Browder in the Butterworth home?

MRS. ELDRIDGE: I did not meet him, but he was a guest there. Dorothy called me up the next day and told me. She said how her husband was kidding her because she kept the empty cigarette package which Browder had left on the ash tray as a souvenir and her husband Joe was kidding her about it.

MR. HOUSTON: Now you have attended meetings of Communist Party women's group in her—their home, have you not?

MRS. ELDRIDGE: Yes, Women's Commission. Several times I met women there.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, did—was Mr. Butterworth present at any of these meetings?

MRS. ELDRIDGE: He—frequently he was in the house somewhere else, but he would come in and pass through the room or stick his head in and say "hello."

MR. HOUSTON: There's no question in your—is there any question in your mind?

MRS. ELDRIDGE: **No question. Never been any question about Joe Butterworth. They were—Dorothy was considerably worried and she called me a number of times—how worried both she and Joe were that he gave so much attention to his Communist Party work that he didn't have time to work on his Doctor's—he did not have a Doctor's degree and they both felt that—especially she, that teaching without a Doctor's degree was dangerous to his advancement.**

Says Prof. Jacobs and Wife Were Communists

MR. HOUSTON: Do you know a man by the name of Melville Jacobs?

MRS. ELDRIDGE: Yes, I met his wife before I met him.

MR. HOUSTON: Is that Elizabeth Jacobs?

MRS. ELDRIDGE: Elizabeth—Bess Jacobs, we called her. She was assigned to go to see the Boettigers one afternoon with me about the Women's—about integrating these Progressive Women; that's what they called the Communist Party Women who were in the Commonwealth Federation into the Democratic Party set-up. And then I met Mr. Jacobs first at—well there was a medical conference that the Communists cooked up to support state medicine; if you remember there was a measure before the National Congress on state medicine, and all over the United States they had these medical conferences cooked up by the Communists to whip up enthusiasm for state medicine. And this conference was held in the Washington Hotel—the medical conference. Doctors were there and they honestly supposed that the conference was about medical help and they talked on different medical subjects. Of course that was not the purpose of the conference; it was to get you a lot of resolutions supporting this measure in Congress—and there is where I met Melville Jacobs. He was appointed as head of the Continuations Committee, and the first meeting of the Continuations Committee—

MR. HOUSTON: That's a continuation of what?

MRS. ELDRIDGE: A Continuations Committee is a conference. They set up a Continuations Committee which was to ostensibly carry out the measures that were advocated by the conference.

I met Melville Jacobs there again, and he—I think that he—I—just was introduced as Dr. Jacobs and I at the time didn't get the connection between he and Bess Jacobs, and I said: **"Are you a medical man, Dr. Jacobs?" He said: "No, Sarah, I am a new Comrade and this is my first assignment."**

MR. HOUSTON: Now—

MRS. ELDRIDGE: So, I knew from that—of course, I had heard from other people, but **he definitely told me that he was a member of the Communist Party.**

MR. HOUSTON: Now, when was that, Mrs. Eldridge? Can you give us an approximate date?

MRS. ELDRIDGE: Well, that was about three or four weeks after that conference. Now, I think the conference was in May, 1939. I think the conference was that time, I can't be sure of the date but it's announced in the daily papers and there's considerable record of it in the Commonwealth paper.

Says Prof. Eby Was a Communist

MR. HOUSTON: Now, do you know a man by the name of Professor Harold Eby?

MRS. ELDREDGE: Yes, Mr. Eby was on the list of speakers approved by the Communist Party to appear before the League Against War and Fascism. Mr. Eby spoke, I think, two or three times.

MR. HOUSTON: And did you receive any information from Communist Party sources or members?

MRS. ELDREDGE: Yes, they told me at the Butterworth house one time; Dorothy and others were speaking of Mr. Eby and **they said he was the brains of the Policy Forming Committee in the Communist Party, here, that he really did great work.** I also met him several times at the board meetings of the Washington Commonwealth Federation.

You see that while the Communist line is the same all over the world, to translate that line into local activity requires this Policy Forming Board and Mr. Eby was always called in on important questions, they told me.

MR. HOUSTON: Is there any question in your mind, from your working with him—

MRS. ELDREDGE: No question whatsoever in my mind—

MR. HOUSTON: But that he—

MRS. ELDREDGE: That he was a member of the Communist Party.

MR. HOUSTON: Did Mr. Atkinson also refer to Mr. Eby ever in your conversations with him?

MRS. ELDREDGE: Yes, he did. He said that Mr. Eby was a party member, and a valuable party member.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, do you know Mr. Eby's wife, Lenna?

MRS. ELDREDGE: I think I met her but I do not recall.

Prof. Ethel Active for Communism

MR. HOUSTON: Now, do you know a man by the name of Garland Ethel?

MRS. ELDREDGE: Yes, Mr. Ethel, Professor Ethel was on the list and he spoke once before the League of—Against War and Fascism, which, after the peace pact between Russia and Germany, was changed to the League for Peace and Democracy, same thing in different words, that's all, and the—Mr. Ethel was given to me as a man to call at any time I needed resolutions properly phrased or anything of that kind. I remember the Communist Party hopped on the "draft Roosevelt" bandwagon and they started passing resolutions, "draft Roosevelt."

I want—the—we had a large meeting of the Democratic Women's Division, about 600 women were present and we wished to put over a resolution from this group of women of the Democratic Party asking for a draft of Roosevelt.

Now to properly phrase the resolution so that it would include—so not only to draft Roosevelt but include the reason for which the Communist Party uh—were backing him, I called Mr. Ethel and he phrased the resolution properly.

MR. HOUSTON: **He did perform this service for you?**

MRS. ELDREDGE: **He did, yes.**

MR. HOUSTON: Did you have any information as to whether or not he was a member of the Communist Party?

MRS. ELDREDGE: Oh, yes. We—he was frequently referred to as a Communist Party Member.

MR. HOUSTON: Was he referred to as a worker?

MRS. ELDREDGE: Yes, as a worker, especially as a worker—especially in political organizations in the section in which he lived. **In other words, each legislative section of the county has a group of Communists spearheading it and he was always in his section doing spearheading work.**

MR. HOUSTON: Do you know a man by the name of Ralph Gundlach?

MRS. ELDREDGE: Yes. Mr. Gundlach was a member of the division of the professional unit to which I belong for some time. I—

MR. HOUSTON: That's a division of the Communist Party?

MRS. ELDREDGE: —a short time. Of the Communist Party. He stopped coming to meetings and of course, I didn't know why so I met him on the bus one day and I said, **"We haven't seen you lately."** He said, **"Oh, no,"** he said, **"didn't you know I had been assigned by the Communist Party to especially work on the Spanish Medical Work"** and I believe Mr. Gundlach's name is prominently listed on both national and state letterheads from this group.

Burton and Florence B. James Active in Communist Party

MR. HOUSTON: Now, do you know a Burton James?

MRS. ELDREDGE: Yes, I know Mr. Burton James and Mrs. Florence Bean James. The unit to which I belonged, the professional unit, and—was not as valuable to the Communist Party in many ways as working units were because we were sorta protected and cut off but we did participate in money-raising schemes, **and the big thing we did was the Cafe Society which we did in conjunction and cooperation with Florence Bean James and Burton James and the Playhouse Communist Unit.** We discussed—a committee from our unit went to their unit and discussed the plans, and I was not on the committee, but they reported back to our unit just what the James—playhouse unit would furnish in the way of entertainment, then when—after the Cafe Society which was held in the basement of the Washington Hotel—after it was over and the settlement of the money came about, there were many—oh, three or four long, drawn out discussions in our regular unit meeting of how the money was to be divided.

The Communist Party felt that as it was Communist money, Communist raising money scheme, that talent should be donated free and money should all go to the Communist Party but Mr. James and Mrs. James felt that some of it belonged to them and they arrived at a settlement, I understand, where they did get some portion.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, it was your—

MRS. ELDREDGE: And then also I—further, in the James' matter, at that time the women's division at one meeting of the Women's Commission of the Communist Party, the question was brought up that we were building Florence Bean James for a job and that job was for her to run for the legislature, and I was asked if I could not secure some speaking dates. Uh—I did and Florence Bean James came to a meeting of the Women's Division of the Democratic Party held in the Railway Exchange Building and spoke and was quite well received. She spoke on the state theater and other allied and connected matters and I—I think I secured her about three other speaking dates.

MR. HOUSTON: Now you were instructed to secure—

MRS. ELDRIDGE: **I was instructed to secure those dates by the Women's Commission of the Communist Party; to build Florence Bean James at the same time that I was—that I was instructed to build Jesse Epstein.**

MR. HOUSTON: Now, you have testified that in your unit meetings a committee was appointed to meet—

MRS. ELDRIDGE: That's right.

MR. HOUSTON: —with the unit at the Repertory Playhouse.

MRS. ELDRIDGE: That's right.

MR. HOUSTON: There was a unit —

MRS. ELDRIDGE: **There was a unit in the Repertory Playhouse.**

MR. HOUSTON: That's a unit of the Communist Party?

MRS. ELDRIDGE: Yes, sir, used the playhouse for—also for memorial services for Americans who had fallen in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in Spain and among those fallen people, those who died and didn't come back, were Esther May's husband, and also the son of an attorney by the name of Summers, here. I don't recall the boy's first name. Those were two that I—that I remembered—it was '38.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, did you receive any instructions from Mr. Atkinson who gave—he practically gave most of your instructions to you, didn't he?

MRS. ELDRIDGE: He transmitted all of the instructions for the League Against War and Fascism and when I was inducted into the party I was told by the party who inducted me, Lillian LaMotte, that Mr. Atkinson had asked for me, i.e., leading Communists could ask for certain workers and sometimes they got them. He had asked for me because he felt that I was valuable, and said no doubt your assignments will be to work in the League with Mr. Atkinson because he had asked for me and that was my first assignment in the Communist Party.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, did Mr. Atkinson ever give you any instructions or tell you anything about the Jameses or tell you how you could use them?

MRS. ELDRIDGE: Uh—Mr. Atkinson told me they were Communists and anytime I needed—you know, if the League put on any public affairs where they needed programs that I was to have no, you know, qualms of conscience about asking them to furnish—

MR. HOUSTON: Because they were members?

MRS. ELDRIDGE: Because they were members—to furnish entertainment.

Identifies Others as Communists

MR. HOUSTON: I will ask you do you know a man by the name of Al Ottenheimer?

MRS. ELDRIDGE: Uh—he was—Mr. Ottenheimer was, I believe, in the role of assistant, I don't know whether that was his role then. I think his role was mostly publicity in those days in the Playhouse. He was referred to as a Communist Party member but I didn't meet him in a unit meeting.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, do you know a man by the name of H. J. Phillips?

MRS. ELDRIDGE: Well, I never knew his initials, I just knew him as "Scoop."

MR. HOUSTON: Scoop Phillips.

MRS. ELDRIDGE: Scoop Phillips. I—Mr. Phillips was an instructor in

the Philosophy Department along with Mr. Rader and Dr. Nelson. Now Dr. Nelson, as far as I know, never had any connection, whatsoever, with the Communist Party.

MR. HOUSTON: Is that Doc Everett Nelson?

MRS. ELDRIDGE: I believe that's his middle name. I just know him as Dr. Nelson.

The head of the department was William Savery. A great man, a great mind, and I certainly bow in reverence to his memory. He passed on and he had—in the last years of his teaching life he had—uh—uh—to take his pupils at home and he had no idea of the Communist goings on in the Philosophy Department. As a matter of fact, once over the telephone he told me that he was much chagrined and hurt over the fact that Communists were in his department because I called him up and told him and asked him what his reaction was. He was a true philosopher and would never take anything by the Communist Party.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, uh—well, what information did you secure from official sources of the Party concerning Mr. Phillips, if any?

MRS. ELDRIDGE: We discussed him and the great work he was doing in the Philosophy Department in the way of teaching and softening up—that—that softening part is vital to recruiting. All these little hints which are given out by those who are doing the work of the Communist Party suggesting that we have no real evidence of the existence of God and suggesting that the Communist Constitution is more liberal than ours and in the suggestion when they list Jesus Christ they say, as Mr. Rader did in his book, according to the words of Buddha, Spinoza, Christ, etc., etc., thus and so.

Going back to the book it's not philosophically honest because he admits that Christ existed but he doesn't admit that some people think he is God of the Communists.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, you mentioned a man by the name of Jesse Epstein.

MRS. ELDRIDGE: **Yes, I met Jesse Epstein as a member of the unit to which I was attached at the home of John Caughlan. He was—I met him there, I met him also in a unit meeting, and while I'm on the subject of unit meeting I noticed that some witnesses have said they understood people who attended unit meetings were Communists. There is no understanding if and, or buts, about it, if you meet anyone in a Communist unit meeting you have met a Communist Party member. The Communist unit is the sacred holy of holies of the Communist Party member and no one may attend but a Communist Party member.**

MR. HOUSTON: Now you met Mr. Epstein during this unit meeting?

MRS. ELDRIDGE: I did.

MR. HOUSTON: Was this the professional unit of the Communists?

MRS. ELDRIDGE: This was the professional—a meeting of the professional unit of the Communist Party, the section of it to which I was assigned.

Recounts Epstein Hearing

MR. HOUSTON: Now, Mrs. Eldredge, you—did you testify in a loyalty hearing held by the Federal Public Housing Administration on Jesse Epstein?

MRS. ELDRIDGE: Yes, I did. It was held in the central committee—the Central Building, I was called to—a couple of days before that a man called

me up in the evening and said he represented the Loyalty Commission, I believe it was, and he said we were interested in the testimony you gave concerning the alleged membership of Jesse Epstein in the Communist Party. He said, "We are here for a hearing, a closed hearing and we wondered if you would be willing to make a statement." I said, "Yes," I would make such a statement, and so—I think he called me two days before, if I remember rightly—so, he gave me the time. It was to be fifteen minutes after four, and I arrived at the Central Building fifteen minutes after four, and the witness who was to precede me, Kathryn Fogg, still had not been heard, so he said, "Well, the other speaker is still talking," and we waited in a very warm room, and finally Kathryn was taken in and it got later and later, and it took her quite a while to give her evidence, and then Mr. Stern, who was in charge of the witnesses, came out and said, "Well, now," he says, "it's getting pretty late. Perhaps you'd better come tomorrow," and I said, "Well, as far as I'm concerned, I've sat here this long, I'd rather give my testimony tonight because it is very difficult for me to get away from my position tomorrow," and he said, "Well, I'll go back and see if the board will hear you tonight," and he went back and he came back and he said, "Yes, they agreed to hear you now."

And so, it was late, I was very tired after an eight-hour or more day, and it was warm and the—and I was nervous, because I had been waiting so long; so, I went into the room, and there were—there was this long table here, and along this side of the table sat the committee; over here, Jesse Epstein; here his attorney; here his assistant; and back of him, a woman who—to make notes for him, and back—the lady who took the notes sat here; and directly in back of me, another one of their assistants; and I gave the committee my testimony, but first, before I gave my testimony, the attorney for Mr. Epstein says, "I would like to ask this witness a question before the testimony is given."

So, they conferred—the committee conferred a little, and they said, "Well, it's a little out of order, but you may ask the witness the question," and he said, "Did you ever see me before?" I said, "No, as far as I know, I don't think I met you before." He says, "You're sure you never met me before?" I said, "No," oh, I—I thought that he might have been an F.B.I. man who had called on me, that he might have been a former Communist who was just asking me this to puzzle me; and he said, "You're sure you never met me?" I said, "Well, years bring changes, and I might have met you some years ago and have forgotten what you looked like, but I don't think I met you before," and he said, "Do you mean to say you never met me before, and yet you accuse me, Jesse Epstein, of being a member of the Communist Party?" I said, "Oh, no, that's Jesse Epstein." So—

MR. HOUSTON: Now, this entrapment occurred at an official board meeting?

MRS. ELDRIDGE: It did.

MR. HOUSTON: Of an official loyalty board?

MRS. ELDRIDGE: Of an official loyalty board.

MR. HOUSTON: Did any one of the committee, loyalty committee, make any protest about this entrapment?

MRS. ELDRIDGE: No.

MR. HOUSTON: Were you approached by anybody other than representatives of the Federal Government about your testifying in this loyalty hearing?

MRS. ELDRIDGE: About testifying?

MR. HOUSTON: Uh-huhm.

MRS. ELDRIDGE: No.

MR. HOUSTON: So no attorneys for Jesse Epstein approached you?

MRS. ELDRIDGE: No—oh, at the hearing they cross-examined me for a long time.

MR. HOUSTON: They cross-examined you for a long time.

MRS. ELDRIDGE: And while this was going on, to confuse me and make me nervous, they had loads of scrap books and this girl that was sitting in back of me, and the girl that was sitting in back of his attorney, and his assistant attorney, I presume it was an attorney, kept writing notes and passing it to him back and forth, and just in every way trying to confuse me.

MR. HOUSTON: Did—had you told them that you had blood pressure of over two hundred points and that you considered it was quite a risk for you to testify in a public hearing?

MRS. ELDRIDGE: Well, I don't think I told Mr. Stern that.

MR. HOUSTON: You don't know whether he knew that or not?

MRS. ELDRIDGE: I don't know whether he knew that or not.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, your testimony is today that Jesse Epstein was a member of the Communist Party.

MRS. ELDRIDGE: Jesse Epstein was certainly a member of the Communist Party.

MR. HOUSTON: And this—

MRS. ELDRIDGE: The Party instructed me to get him, to build him for that job, and he appeared—although he said in the newspaper he, at the last hearing, that he had never met me, he most certainly did, many times. He appeared before the Women's Division of the Democratic Party in the Railway Exchange Building, and I could name twenty people off my list at least, who could get up and swear he—that I introduced him, and what he said about housing, and so forth.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, I have concluded my examination of this witness, and unless the Committee has some other questions, I suggest that she be excused from subpoena, with the thanks of the Committee for being here.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: We thank you for appearing, Mrs. Eldredge, and you are now excused from attendance at the hearing.

(Witness Excused)