

A. That was sent in for to help them on the initiative 141. The Old Age Pension Association gave that to them.

Q. And you never got any receipt back for this?

A. No receipt whatever.

Q. Well, did you get the money back?

A. No, sir.

MR. WHIPPLE: Thank you, Mr. McCarter. That will be all.

(Witness Excused)

M. D. ADAMS, produced as a witness, after being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. WHIPPLE:

Q. You may state your name, please.

A. M. D. Adams.

Q. Where do you live, Mr. Adams?

A. Everett.

Q. How long—

A. 1609 Rainier.

Q. How long have you lived in the State of Washington?

A. Oh, fifty-five years.

Q. Mr. Adams, have you ever been a member of the—either one of the Everett locals of the Washington Pension Union?

A. Yes, 224.

Q. Now when does Local 224 meet?

A. They meet—well, they meet once a month. Every week on Wednesday. Every week.

Q. Do they meet in the daytime or nighttime?

A. Daytime.

Q. When did you join the Local 224 of the Washington Pension Union?

A. Last March.

Q. Do you mean now, March of 1947?

A. Yes.

Q. After joining the Local 224 of the Pension Union there in Everett, did you have any cause to become dissatisfied or disgusted with the activities of the Washington Pension movement in Everett?

A. Well, not at first. I suppose I didn't know what it was when I did join it. I supposed it was a real pension union, and working for the pensioners instead of being a Communist Party.

Q. Well, did you have occasion to change your mind as to what you thought it was at first?

A. Yes, and it wasn't long until I found out what it was. Of course, I had read about, oh, Costigan, DeLacy and Pennock, and Chart Pitt and all those for seven or eight years, those all known as radicals. And when I saw what was going on in the Pension Union, I knew that Pennock was a Communist. And there's no question about that.

Q. Now you refer to Pennock in the Pension Union, are you referring to his activities in the local there in Everett or his activities as a state official of the Pension Union?

A. As a state official yes.

Q. Well, what activities did you see that caused you to come to that conclusion?

A. Well, for one thing the, you know the "New World," they was always doing something to this money for the "New World."

Q. That's the official publication of the—

A. Yes.

Q. —Pension Union?

A. Every time Pennock come up there he'd have an armful of the "New World" and forcing them, practically speaking, on the members.

Q. Forcing them on the members. Well, what else came to your attention, if anything?

A. Well, I asked the secretary one time what salary Pennock was getting.

Q. Now who was this secretary you asked?

A. A fellow by the name of Boetcher. I call him Molotov.

Q. Now just—would you pronounce—could you spell that first name?

A. Oh gosh, I don't believe I could.

Q. To refresh your recollection, I'll ask you if it was spelled B-o-e-t-c-h-e-r?

A. I think so.

Q. What was his first name, do you know?

A. I don't.

Q. Would you know his first name if you heard it?

A. No, I don't think I ever heard his first name.

Q. What was he the secretary of?

A. Local 224.

Q. And you asked him if—what salary Pennock was getting?

A. Yes.

Q. All right, what was his answer?

A. He told me he was getting two hundred dollars. And I said, "He is not worth it."

Q. Did you have any reason for saying that?

A. Well, I guess plenty reason.

Q. Well, outside of Pennock's trying to force the "New World" on the pensioners, did he come down there and discuss your pension problems, tell you how that you could—

A. Oh, yes. Yes, he discussed pension problems.

Q. And each time he'd come he'd want to force the "New World" on the persons present.

A. On the pensioners, yes.

Q. Any other publications or any other literature that was presented to your local at any time?

A. Oh yes, there was letters that was read by the secretary, but he talks with his mouth shut and you can't hear what he says.

Q. Well, after you finally became, as you say, either disappointed or disgusted with the—what was going on in the Pension Union, did you do anything about it?

A. Did I do anything about it?

Q. Did you attempt to do anything about it?

A. Well, when I become disgusted altogether was at the so-called State Convention.

Q. When was that?

A. That was last summer. I think it was in July, if I remember right. I was there two days, and there wasn't a single resolution introduced on the floor of the house, there wasn't a single committee report brought on the floor of the house, in all that time. But I had belonged to other organizations before, especially in the State Grange—in the Grange. I attended the session of the—convention of the State Grange many times, and of course I know a good deal about that. And the difference between the conventions—well, this was only a farce. The committee was scattered all over town. And the devil himself couldn't find them. If you did find them, they wouldn't have allowed you in there, and that's what they done to me at Monroe.

Q. What happened to you over in Monroe?

A. Well, there was another thing that occurred before that. I was a delegate to a monthly convention they had there, a monthly meeting there in Everett, and I suppose "Molotov" told Pennock—

Q. Now let's—let's use this man's right name.

A. Well, Boetcher.

Q. Boetcher.

A. I suppose he told Pennock what I said about him, and he refused to recognize me down here at all.

Q. Who refused to recognize you?

A. Pennock.

Q. And you were one of the legal—

A. No, one of the delegates.

Q. —one of the delegates to attend that convention for your local?

A. Yeah.

Q. Well, did you make any effort to get recognized by him?

A. Yes.

Q. What did you do?

A. Well, I rose and asked the—from the floor, then he made an excuse that they name delegates for the next meeting.

Q. I didn't quite get your answer. He made what excuse?

A. He made an excuse that he was going to name delegates for the next meeting. Well, that was all right. Of course, according to parliamentary rules, which I've studied a good deal, I should have been the first one to be recognized after that was over. And he still refused—refused to recognize me. Then I rose on a point of order, and he had to recognize me. But I didn't take up what I intended to take up when I saw the sentiment that prevailed there.

Q. What sentiment did you seem to think prevailed at that convention?

A. Well, they were all Pennock.

Q. They were all what?

A. As far as I could see, they were all for Pennock.

Q. Now I hand you what has been marked for the purpose of identification, as Committee's Exhibit No. 35, and I'll ask you to examine that and state if you know what that is.

A. Yes, I think I do.

Q. Well, what is it? Just—just briefly state what that is.

A. Well, it's a resolution that I drew out and introduced at our local.

Q. You introduced a resolution that you drew up—

A. Yes.

Q. —and was introduced to your local.

A. Yes.

Q. Now what local was that?

A. 224.

Q. At Everett, Washington?

A. Yes, at Everett.

Q. And when did you introduce this local—I mean, this resolution at Everett, Washington?

A. When? Let me see. Well, I couldn't say just exactly when it was.

Q. Well, just to the best of your recollection. What month was it?

A. Let's see, it must be—

Q. Well, was it last year sometime?

A. It must be sometime in August, of last year.

Q. Last year. Do you think it was sometime in August?

A. It must have been sometime about that—

Q. Well anyway, it was in the late summer or early fall of 1947.

A. Yes.

Q. And this is a true copy of that resolution?

A. Yes.

MR. WHIPPLE: Mr. Chairman, at this time I would like to introduce this resolution into the record, and read it into the record.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: You may do so.

MR. WHIPPLE: "Resolution. WHEREAS, it is a well-known fact that we are organized as a pension union for the benefit of recipients of old age assistance; and

"WHEREAS, we have seen fit to organize ourselves as a labor union which is entirely in conflict with our purpose; and

"WHEREAS, we also have seen fit to get into partisan politics, which is also detrimental to our cause; and

"WHEREAS, we also allowed subversive elements to take control of our organization, and that they are using it for their aggrandizement;

"Therefore Be It Resolved, That we divorce ourselves from any labor organization, by whatever name they may be called, and that we also refrain from indulging in partisan politics; and

"Be It Further Resolved, That we divorce ourselves from the state organization, and that our local shall be refrained from paying any more money to the state treasury until such a time that we have rid ourselves of the subversive element that is now controlling the state organization; and

"Be It Further Resolved, Upon the adoption of this resolution, that a copy of this resolution be given to the press for publication, that we may regain the prestige and respect of the citizenry of the State of Washington that we have lost through ever allowing ourselves to be infiltrated by subversive elements, namely, Communists."

Q. Now, you say you prepared that resolution?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And attempted to introduce it to your local organization there in Everett?

A. Yes.

Q. Now just state for the purpose of the record, what your effort was in that respect, and what happened.

A. Well, in the first place, he wanted to put that resolution in the hands of a committee, for reading.

Q. Pardon me. Now, we don't know who you mean by "he." Who do you refer to?

A. Well, the chairman.

Q. Well who—

A. Chart Pitt.

Q. Chart Pitt. Go ahead.

A. He wanted to place that resolution in the hands of a committee without reading it. And I insisted on it. But they got into a wrangle there, he got wild, and the secretary got wild, and the secretary started to come off the platform supposedly to put me out.

Q. Now just a minute. Do you mean the secretary started to come off of the platform to put you out because you had introduced a resolution against subversive activities?

A. Yes, and—

Q. Just a minute. Let's—we want to correct the record here now. Who was this secretary?

A. Boetcher.

Q. This Boetcher that you referred to.

A. Yeah.

Q. All right, now then what happened?

A. Well, I insisted on reading the resolution, and I read it, and I made a motion that it be accepted. Then he appointed a committee of his own followers, of course.

Q. Just a minute. You refer to the word "he" again. Who are you talking about?

A. I beg your pardon?

Q. I say, you used the expression, "He appointed a committee." Now who was that?

A. Well, the chairman, Chart Pitt.

Q. Chart Pitt.

A. He appointed a committee, and they took the resolution and went over to the committee room, and I went down there to explain it to them what it was all about, and they wouldn't have me there at all. So they just wrote their name on the resolution and rejected it. And then they wouldn't let me talk on it at all. They put the question before the house to accept the committee's report.

Q. Now, after this committee had been appointed by Chart Pitt, you attempted to go before the committee and explain your purpose in introducing the resolution?

A. Yes. I did.

Q. And you say you were denied that privilege?

A. I was denied that privilege.

Q. And their only report to the rest of the pensioners was that it do not carry, is that right?

A. Yes.

Q. Then the vote was taken?

A. Then the vote was taken without discussing the question at all.

Q. No discussion on the floor of the convention?

A. Not a bit. They wouldn't allow me to.

Q. Well then what happened?

A. Well, nothing happened.

Q. Well, did they take a vote on it?

A. Yes, they took a vote on it. They turned it down.

Q. They turned it down. Well, what happened to the meeting at this point?

A. Well, I don't know. I didn't stay there any longer.

Q. You didn't stay any longer.

A. No. Later on I got a note from—from Boetcher, that they was going to expel me from—from the union.

Q. Do you mean to say that—well, go ahead.

A. Well, there was nothing that would have pleased me any better, and I was wishing to God they would, for I would have taken them in court to show cause why they was going to expel me. But they didn't do it. They did ask me to come down to the office. I don't know what for. I didn't go.

Q. Come down to what office?

A. The office they keep in Everett.

Q. I understand that the county unit has an office there at Everett.

A. Yeah, they don't need—

Q. They invited you to come down there—

A. To come down to the office. I don't know what for; I wouldn't go. I took it for granted they wouldn't let me talk anyway if I did go.

Q. Now, Mr. Adams, after having had this experience in attempting to introduce a resolution to dissolve the—what you referred to as a subversive element, the Communist Party, in the Pension Union there, is it your testimony that on account of introducing that resolution that they filed these charges against you, or—

A. Oh, sure. Absolutely. That's all the wrong I ever done. And that was murder.

Q. Now, how old are you Mr. Adams?

A. How old I am? Oh, I'm just a young fellow. I'm only eighty-one.

Q. Eighty-one. Now, would you say that the Washington Pension Union over in Everett, at this time, is being used by persons other than ones interested in the real activity of the old age pensioners?

A. Oh, absolutely. Absolutely.

Q. Would you say that condition also exists in the state?

A. Absolutely.

Q. Is there any activity suggested by the officers of the Old Age Pension Union at their meetings that really has to do with the interests of the pensioners? Or—

A. Well, in a way they do. But it's always for raising money. They take a collection up at every meeting.

Q. What do they take a collection up for?

A. Huh, I don't know.

Q. You pay dues, don't you?

A. Yes. Well, I paid my dues for the year, when I joined.

Q. Now then, just going back to these—this resolution that you introduced, did you receive any callers the next day or two after you introduced this resolution?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. Tell the committee what—about that circumstance.

A. I beg your pardon?

Q. Tell the committee about the—about that circumstance.

A. Well, there was a couple gentlemen come there to see me, and they praised me for having had the courage to introduce such a resolution among a bunch of Communists. They thought I done a pretty good job of drawing it. They wanted to know who helped me. I told them I didn't need any help. I done it myself. And—well, when they called me from the Monte Cristo Hotel, and I was just getting ready to come downtown when they called me.

Q. What hotel was that?

A. The Monte Cristo.

Q. Monte Cristo.

A. They called me from there, yes, and I was just getting ready to come downtown, and I told them I'd come down there and see them, and I did. And later on they, well it was a few days afterwards, they come down there and took me down there.

Q. Took you down where?

A. Out to his office.

Q. Yeah. Now, going back to this resolution again, were there ever any threats of physical violence or anything of that nature interjected into this affair?

A. Well, no. No.

Q. Did anybody call at your house and—

A. Oh, yes. A couple of days afterwards, after I introduced that resolution, I went up to Bremerton. I have a daughter that lives up there and I go up there quite often and spend a few days. And while I was there, there was three men that come up there one evening. My wife was alone.

Q. And what did—

A. She didn't know who they were. They wanted to know if I was home, and she told them I wasn't.

Q. Do you know what their mission was?

A. No.

MR. WHIPPLE: That's all, Mr. Adams. Thank you.

(Witness Excused)

MR. WHIPPLE: Mr. Larson.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Do you have time to conclude this witness' testimony?

MR. WHIPPLE: Sir?

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: How long will it take for this witness?

MR. WHIPPLE: It will take about fifteen or twenty minutes. I can put him on right after lunch if you want to. We just have—we have three more, on the Everett situation. A total of probably an hour's testimony.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Well, if you can handle this in, as you say, fifteen minutes, proceed.

MR. WHIPPLE: Well, I'll go at it just as fast as I can.

MR. LOUIS J. LARSON, produced as a witness, after being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. WHIPPLE:

Q. Will you state your name, please?

A. Louis J. Larson.

Q. Where do you live, Mr. Larson?

A. At Everett, Washington.

Q. And how long have you been a resident of Everett, Washington?

A. Since 1922.

Q. Have you ever belonged to the Pension Union at Everett?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you ever held any offices in the Pension Union at Everett, Washington?

A. I held the office of treasurer, following Mr. McCarter.

Q. Is that the Mr. McCarter who testified here a few minutes ago?

A. That's right.

Q. When did you first join the Pension Union at Everett?

A. In April of '38.

Q. How long did you remain a member of the Pension Union in Everett?

A. Well—

Q. Or are you still a member?

A. I haven't paid any dues this year. I was paid up until the last of December of last year, '47.

Q. In other words, you were paid up as a dues-paying member until the last of this last December.

A. That's it.

Q. Do you know a man by the name of Pete, P-e-t-e, Ohman, O-h-m-a-n?

A. I do.

Q. Were you ever present at any time when Mr. Ohman attempted to pay his dues as a pensioner?

A. Well, yes.

Q. Will you explain that circumstance, please?

A. He—I was standing off a ways from him, about ten feet, talking with some people, it was at a recess of that certain meeting, and I noticed him walk up to the desk and he pulled out a card, and I heard somebody say, "Well, what is this? I don't want this." "Oh," he says, "That's a mistake," he says, "give me that back." And he produced another card and paid some dues. And after he left and went and sat down, or went somewhere in the room, I got through talking with this party and I was wondering if it was some disturbance or what happened. I walked over to the treasurer who was Mrs. Hough at that time, and—