

Q. When did you sever your connections, if any, from the Communist Party?

A. The latter part of '38.

Q. The latter part of 1938?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Your present married name is Mrs. Henry Dodd, as I understand it.

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Now had your husband, Henry Dodd, joined the Communist Party?

A. Yes.

Q. How did it come that you got in the Communist Party in the first place?

A. Mr. Dodd asked me to join, to go with him. He figured there was a meeting going on he knew nothing about, and asked me if I'd go and try and help him.

Q. What later happened to this Mr. Dodd, and—that caused you to get out of the Communist Party?

A. He lost his job at the Building Service.

Q. Do you know why he lost his job?

A. To my knowledge, it was because he wouldn't pull along the line.

Q. To your knowledge, it was because he would not go along the line?

A. The line.

Q. Now what line do you refer to?

A. I don't know, except that it might be the Communist line.

Q. Well, was that the line that you had reference to when you said he would not go along the line?

A. Yes, sir.

MR. WHIPPLE: That's all, Mrs. Dodd. Thank you.

(Witness Excused)

RUTH HOUGH, 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.

A. Ruth Hough. H-o-u-g-h.

Q. Where do you live, Mrs. Hough?

A. I live in Everett.

Q. How long have you lived in Everett?

A. Since 1909.

Q. Have you ever belonged to a Pension Union over in Everett?

A. Yes, sir.

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

A. In '43, in 1943.

Q. What local did you join over there?

A. Twenty-five.

Q. Is that the daytime local, or the night local?

A. The night local.

Q. At the time you joined the Pension Union over there, who was the president of the local?

A. Art Johnson.

Q. And who at that time was the secretary-treasurer?

A. Mrs. Johnson.

Q. Is that the Mrs. Johnson who has been referred to here as Rose Parks Johnson?

A. Yes.

Q. And do you know whether or not her name was Rose Parks prior to her marriage to Mr. Johnson?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Now, Mrs. Hough, do you know a person by the name of—strike that. Mrs. Hough, when did you become the chairman of the—

A. Treasurer.

Q. —I mean treasurer of the—of that local?

A. May the 6th, 1944.

Q. Did you have any troubles as chairman of that local after—treasurer of that local after May 6, 1944?

A. Well, not until the last year and a half.

Q. Just, without going into a lot of details, principally what was the trouble about?

A. Well, it started out that—money. They wanted to send everything to Seattle?

Q. Who wanted to send everything to Seattle?

A. Why, first one and then the other would make a motion, and they'd say "Yes," and then they'd send it.

Q. Well now, were those persons members of the Everett local?

A. They had to be.

Q. For instance, do you recall at this time any of the reasons they gave for sending this money to Seattle, or who it was supposed to come to here?

A. It was sent to the state office and the "New World" and the W.C.F. when it was invoked.

Q. Was there any explanation given as to why that money was being sent?

A. They must have it, they were going broke.

Q. Well now, who was it that had to have it because it was going broke?

A. The state office, and the "New World." I still get—I got a letter yesterday from the "New World," begging me for money, to go out and solicit.

Q. Well, when you refer to the "New World," just what do you have reference to?

A. The "New World" newspaper.

Q. Is that the publication that Terry Pettus is the head of?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Now, do you remember a Mrs. Hendrickson?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Mrs. Ellie Hendrickson?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is she a member of that local?

A. She is.

Q. That you belong to?

A. She is.

Q. Did you ever overhear any conversations with her about the—you and she and your husband, about the Communist Party?

A. Why yes, she called at our house a great many times at night, on her way from Seattle.

Q. The question is now, did you ever overhear any conversation between she and your husband relative to the Communist Party?

A. Well, he asked her several times if she was a Communist when she stopped in there. We knew that there was something that she was stopping for, and—but she never would own up to it.

Q. You mean that she never would admit that she was a Communist?

A. No.

Q. Did she ever deny that she was a member of the Communist Party?

A. She didn't say anything. That's the way they always do.

Q. Do you know a person by the name of Bill Pennock, William Pennock?

A. I do.

Q. Is that the same William Pennock that's the President of the Washington Pension Union?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And did you ever ask him whether or not he was a member of the Communist Party?

A. No, I never did.

Q. Did you ever overhear any conversation between this Mrs. Hendrickson and your husband concerning a card party?

A. Well, I happened to be out of the room at that time.

Q. Oh, I see. Pardon me.

A. But the invitation meant me, when she invited him.

Q. Did you hear the conversation?

A. No, I didn't hear it.

Q. You didn't hear it. Well, I don't want to go into that unless you heard it. Now, concerning the—the activities of persons that were officers of your own local organization, did you ever see any Communist-inspired literature offered for sale, or distributed in your local there?

A. Plenty of it. It was given away, and they'd get you to buy it if you would.

Q. Get you to buy it if you would.

A. Uh-huh.

Q. If you wouldn't buy it, would they give it to you?

A. Give it to you.

Q. Now who seemed to have charge of that?

A. Well, Bobier was the man that used to bring lots of literature there. Jack Bobier.

Q. Is that the same Jack Bobier that was—whose name was mentioned this morning?

A. Yes.

Q. Well, did Jack Bobier ever have occasion to pay his Old Age Pension dues to you?

A. Oh yes, lots of times.

Q. Did a man by the name of Pete Ohman ever pay his Pension dues to you?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you ever have occasion to accept Pete Ohman's Pension dues when he gave you first a card that wasn't a Pension card?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Just tell briefly that circumstance.

A. Well, he came up one night to pay his dues and he handed me a nice little green—pale green card. And I said, "Well, Mr. Ohman, what do you think I'm going to do with that card?" "Oh," he said, "that's my Communist card," he says, and then he took out the other card, and he says, "I'm all paid up, too."

Q. He was all paid up, too.

A. Uh-huh.

Q. Now, going back to this—when did that occur?

A. Well, about last September, somewhere in there.

Q. Now going back to this question of literature, who was the—did you ever see any of the officers of the Pension Union there, of your local, distributing any literature?

A. Nels Walberg, our chairman.

Q. How do you spell that name?

A. N-e-l-s W-a-l-b-e-r-g. He was the president at that time.

Q. He was the president of your Pension Union.

A. Uh-huh.

Q. And was he the president of the Pension Union at the same time you were the treasurer?

A. Well, I was treasurer three years and a half. I had a good many presidents.

Q. Well, I say, was he during the time that you were treasurer?

A. Yes, the last half.

Q. All right.

A. The last six months.

Q. Now I hand you what has been marked for purposes of identification as Committee's Exhibit No. 13, and just briefly state whether you ever saw that before.

A. I have.

Q. Were you here present last week when this document, "The Secret of Soviet Strength" by Hewlett Johnson, was identified by two different witnesses—

A. I was.

Q. —as being Communist Party literature?

A. I was.

Q. Put out by a controlled Communist press by the name of International Publishers, New York City?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Now I'll ask you to state if—whether or not—where you saw this document?

A. Well, Mr. Walberg brought a whole lot of them in one night and laid them right down on my desk. The three officers sat in a row, and he laid them down there on the desk. And he tried to sell those for twenty-five cents apiece, and those that he couldn't sell he give away.

Q. And that's the same Mr. Walberg, now, that is the chairman of your unit of the Old Age Pension Union—

A. In Everett.

Q. —in Everett.

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Now, did you ever hear of a fund referred to in the Old Age Pension affairs, by the Byrd Kelso Memorial Fund?

A. Yes sir, I sent money to it.

Q. Do you know what the so-called Byrd Kelso Memorial Fund was?

A. Yes, it was a memorial for him, after he died.

Q. Byrd Kelso, if I remember correctly, was an old age pensioner that had been active through the years—

A. He was an organizer all over the state.

Q. He was a former organizer. Do you know, or has there ever come to your knowledge any information as to the amount of money that went into that fund?

A. Well, I think at one time we had fifteen hundred dollars.

Q. In the Byrd Kelso—

A. Yes.

Q. —Memorial Fund.

A. Uh-huh.

Q. Now, was that under the control of the Washington Pension Union?

A. It was. We sent it all into the state office.

Q. To the state office.

A. Yes.

Q. Now, have you learned of your own knowledge what happened to that so-called Byrd Kelso Memorial Fund?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Just state into this record what happened to it.

A. Thirteen hundred dollars of it was given to the "New World."

Q. When did that happen?

A. That happened at the last state convention, in Seattle.

Q. Was that the convention they had here last September—

A. Yes.

Q. —in Seattle?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. September 1947?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you mean to say to this committee that they took thirteen hundred dollars of the funds deposited in the Old Age Pension Union and turned it over to the "New World"?

A. They certainly did, and it was earmarked for the memorial, too.

Q. Did you ever see any—any kind of a record, or any copy of any official proceedings of the—from the Old Age Pension Union to that effect?

A. It was in the minutes, and every member that attended the state convention received one of those minutes. There's four sheets in it.

Q. Now, I don't know for sure, but did I ask you this question, whether or not you had ever asked William Pennock whether he was a member of the Communist Party?

A. No, I never did.

Q. You never did. Thank you. Now as a general thing, Mrs. Hough, who were the speakers that spoke to your Pension Union meetings?

A. Well, there is a good many of them. The last one we had was Jerry O'Connell, was sent up there, that was last September. But, oh, Pennock come up quite often, Tom Rabbitt came up, Dr. Fisher—

Q. Who is this Dr. Fisher?

A. Well, he's the—he belongs to the state office. I don't know what—exactly what rating he has. He's an educator, I guess, or something.

A VOICE: Educational Director.

A. Yeah, I guess that's it. Educational Director.

Q. All right, now were those usually the speakers?

A. Well, Rose Johnson, you know, she's—she's been a great worker in the Old Age Pension movement for a good many years, and she came and spoke quite often.

Q. Now at any time that those speakers would come up to your organization and speak to you, did they talk to you about things other than pension affairs?

A. Well, not often. Of course, once in a while they'd bring in about the Russians. I think the worst—the most that I ever heard spoken about the Russians, was one time down to a state convention where there was some kind of a Russian medicine they was advocating that would cure most anything, and lots of the old people was digging up and buying it.

Q. Let's get a little straight on that. Let me see if I understand you correctly. Do you mean here in the state convention in Seattle—

A. Yes. Yes, that was two years ago.

Q. —they was advocating that you old age pensioners send over to Russia and get some kind of a medicine?

A. No. No, they had it right down there, I guess, from the conversation.

Q. They had the medicine there at the—

A. Yes.

Q. —and wanted you to buy it.

A. It would cure anything. And so they was all buying it.

Q. Well, who threw that pitch out to you old people?

A. I think Mr. Pennock did.

Q. The present president of the—

A. I think so. There was several talked about it.

Q. Was it represented to you that this medicine was made in Russia?

A. Yes, I think it was.

Q. And the sales talk for the medicine was made by Mr. Pennock?

A. Well, there was several others. I can't remember them now. A good many got up and spoke about it. Of course—

Q. How much did they want a bottle for it?

A. I don't know.

Q. But it would cure anything, would it?

A. Yeah, pretty near.

Q. Now, that is a rather ludicrous illustration of what took place, but did things like that occur from time to time at the state convention, and—

A. No, I never—I never heard them pull anything like that before.

Q. You never heard them—

A. No. No.

Q. Now, I will ask you this question. Based on the—based on the months of experience and activity that you had in the Pension Union—

A. Yes, sir.

Q. —did you become acquainted with the state officers?

A. Yes, I often went down to the meeting.

Q. What state officers did you become acquainted with?

A. Well, I knew Mr. Pennock, and I know Mabel Conrad very well, and Mrs. Atwood, the treasurer, because I sent the money to them every month.

Q. Now let's—you mentioned Mrs.—Mabel Conrad. Now what position did she occupy?

A. She's secretary-treasurer of the state.

Q. The state office. Now what position is Mrs. Atwood in?

A. Well, she's—she's supposed to be a treasurer, but Mabel Conrad does the—

Q. Mrs. Atwood is supposed to be treasurer, but Mrs. Conrad does the work.

A. That's the way I understand it. I never got a receipt signed by her.

Q. Did you ever get a—did you ever get a receipt or a check in your life signed by Mrs. Atwood?

A. No, I never did.

Q. How old is this Mabel Conrad that you refer to?

A. Oh, I haven't any idea. She's forty years, I guess, something like that.

Q. She isn't up to the pension age yet, is she?

A. Oh, no, no.

Q. How old is Bill Pennock?

A. Well, I read in the paper that he was thirty-three.

Q. He certainly isn't of pension age, is he?

A. No.

Q. Now the question I'd like to ask you is, based on the months of experience you've had in the Pension Union there in Everett, and your activities with the state organization, is there any control of the Washington Pension Union within the pensioners themselves, or is the activities of the Washington Pension Union controlled by a number of people that don't have anything to do with the drawing of pensions?

A. Well, I'll tell you, we get letters and bulletins from the state office every month, and they generally lays down what's going on. And of course we have—we have officers, but they're controlled by—pretty much from Seattle.

Q. When you say they are controlled by Seattle, do you refer to the state officials here in Seattle?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. I'd like to ask you whether or not, this question at this point, whether or not you have observed any infiltration of Communism into the affairs of the Washington State Pension Union.

A. Well, I don't know exactly how to express that, but to my knowledge, I think that it's pretty bad.

Q. Well, I'll ask it another way. Were you ever read out of the Old Age Pension Union?

A. I certainly was. The 19th day of November, '47.

Q. The 19th day of last November—

A. November.

Q. —you was read out of the—

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Now, why were you read out of the Pension Union?

A. Well, they said that I had disrupted the activities, and that I was associating and working with the Canwell company—committee.

Q. Did they say anything about—

A. And I didn't even know this committee at that time.

Q. You never even knew that there was such a thing as—

A. No, sir. November the 1st, I knew nothing about it.

Q. Yet they accused you of that—

A. Yes.

Q. —and got you out of the Pension Union.

A. Yes.

Q. Did they say anything to you about red-baiting?

A. Oh, yes, yes, I talked too much and everything like that, certainly.

Q. They charged you with being a red-baiter.

A. Yes.

MR. WHIPPLE: I guess that's all, Mrs. Hough. Thank you very much.

THE WITNESS: All right. Thank you.

MR. WHIPPLE: Oh, pardon me. There just is one other question.

THE WITNESS: All right.

MR. WHIPPLE: Just drop over—be seated here, this might be important.

THE WITNESS: I will.

Q. Sometime within the last few months, did William Pennock have occasion to come to your home?

A. Yes, he did. He came there at two o'clock in the morning. It was pouring rain.

Q. He came to your place at two o'clock in the morning in the pouring rain.

A. Yes.

Q. Now can you fix about, as best you can, when that was?

A. Yes, the 23rd day of November.

Q. Forty—

A. '47.

Q. '47. How long did he stay at your place?

A. Well, he stayed about three hours and a half.

Q. That would make it until about when?

A. Oh, about five o'clock, somewhere along there.

Q. In the morning?

A. Yes.

Q. Now what was the burden of his visit there at your place at—from two o'clock in the morning till five-thirty in the morning?

A. Well, he said his car broke down, but we live on a side road, and how in the world he ever found that place that night, at pitch dark, I don't know. But, he finally come into our place with the car, but he said it was broken down, and he wanted Mr. Hough to help him.

Q. Well, did it take all that three and a half hours to tell you that the car was broke down?

A. No, in the meantime, before that, he said he had been there and he left a note out under my rug, and in that note it said that he wanted me to call him up the next morning by 'phone, and he thought we could fix this little matter up. Well, I didn't know what little matter he was talking about. So finally Mr. Hough asked him, "Well, you might just as well come in and talk it over now." Well, he came in. And we all sit there. And he didn't broach any subject about fixing any matter up. Finally he come right out and he says, "Of course, you all know who Carmichael is, of the Builders Service in Everett." He's head of the A. F. of L. in Everett. And he wanted to know if Mr. Carmichael was working for the Canwell committee.

Q. Did you know that there was such a committee?

A. I didn't know there was such a committee, at that time.

Q. Was the question of this Byrd Kelso Memorial Fund discussed?

A. Yes. Yes, it was. And he brought up something about that, I don't know just what he said, and I said, "Now, I'll tell you, Mr. Pennock, I don't think that you had any business to give all of that thirteen hundred dollars away to the "New World," because there was a man east of the mountains that needed a car to do work, organizing, and they had promised him a car before that.

Q. Now he worked for who?

A. For the Pension Union, organizing the Pension Union, east of the mountains. And I said, "I don't think you had any business." And of course he got awfully mad at that. And then he brought up something about this Mrs. Hendricks.

Q. Now in the excitement and everything, did he go away leaving anything at your place?

A. Yeah, oh yes, he left his hat and his cigarettes. He was very much excited. And he had two people in the car and he wouldn't bring them in.

Q. Now then, shortly after that, if I remember correctly, that—strike that. How soon—how long was it after this visit that you were read out of the Party?

A. Well—

Q. Out of the Pension Union.

A. He went back to Seattle, that night; he left our place about five o'clock. And the next afternoon he came to Everett. We heard that he'd come to Everett, and stayed a short time, and then he went back to Seattle. Well, then they begun to get busy. Then November the 1st, at the meeting, they had a big crowd there, so—

Q. November, or December?

A. November. He was there October the 23rd.

Q. Instead of November 23rd?

A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Q. You want to change that now, to October the 23rd?

A. Yeah, Uh-huh. I had it written down, but I—

Q. Now when was it then that you were read out of the—

A. The 19th day of November, but in the meantime, when they—when they read this document—you have it there, I believe—a document when they read me out of the union that night, why I immediately resigned, and I wrote it out and give it to the secretary.

Q. That's when you severed your connections?

A. Yes, the 1st day of November.

MR. WHIPPLE: Thank you very much.

(Witness Excused)

FRANK E. HOUGH, 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. Frank Hough, H-o-u-g-h.

Q. Where do you live, Mr. Hough?

A. Everett.

Q. How long have you lived in Everett? Or, how long have you lived in the State of Washington?

A. Since 1909 I lived in Everett, and I lived here about sixty years.

Q. Did you ever have occasion to join the Old Age Pension Union?

A. Yes, sir. I joined the same time my wife did.

Q. That was when, about?

A. Well, that was in '43, between '43 and '44.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Just a moment. Now would you ask the question again, and let him answer after that truck gets by.

Q. About when did you join the Pension Union movement in Everett?

A. Between '43 and '44.

Q. And you were in the Pension Union—how long?

A. Three and a half years.

Q. Mr. Hough, during that three and a half years, were you active in the pension affairs, did you attend their meetings regularly?

A. Yes, pretty regular. Pretty near every Saturday night.

Q. Pretty near every Saturday night.

A. Yes, sir.

Q. I understand your wife held some office in the Pension Union.

A. Yes, she was the treasurer.

Q. And that's the lady who just testified just ahead of you?

A. That's my wife.

Q. And did you become acquainted with the—Mrs. Hendrickson during the time that you were attending these Pension Union meetings?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who was this Mrs. Hendrickson?

A. Well, now that's a kind of a hard question. She was a lady.