

**TESTIMONY OF GEORGE HEWITT**  
**Former member of the National Committee**  
**of the Communist Party**

MR. HOUSTON: Yes. Will Mr. George Hewitt take the stand?

GEORGE HEWITT, called as a witness, after being duly sworn was examined and testified as follows:

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Hewitt, you have heard the instructions that have been given to other witnesses, have you not as to—

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: —speaking.

MR. HOUSTON: Will you please state your name?

MR. HEWITT: George Hewitt.

MR. HOUSTON: In what city do you live, Mr. Hewitt?

MR. HEWITT: New York City.

MR. HOUSTON: Where were you born, Mr. Hewitt?

MR. HEWITT: Brooklyn, New York.

MR. HOUSTON: When were you born?

MR. HEWITT: May 27, 1905.

**Party Member from 1926 to 1944**

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Hewitt, are you now, or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir, I have been a member of the Communist Party since 1926. I left in 1944.

MR. HOUSTON: 1926 to 1944 you were continuously a member of the Communist Party.

MR. HEWITT: In regard to that, Mr. Houston, I was recruited in the Y.C.L., Young Communist League in the year of 1926 and then went into the Communist Party in the year of 1927.

MR. HOUSTON: One year later.

MR. HOUSTON: Have you ever held office or positions of responsibility in the Communist Party?

MR. HEWITT: I have many—I've held many offices. I at one time was the—a member of the National Committee of the Party. I was a member of the National Control Commission; I was section organizer at Harlem; I was an editor of the "Negro Liberator," one of the front newspapers that the central committee of the party placed out in their drive toward Negro recruitment. Later on I became another organizer in the Long Island section of New York City.

MR. HOUSTON: You've been a teacher—

MR. HEWITT: **Oh, yes, for seven-eight years in the Worker's School, New York City, I taught the principles of Communism, Marxism, Leninism and the Negro question.**

MR. HOUSTON: You've also been—have you been an educational director at anytime in the party?

MR. HEWITT: This was following my trip to Russia. After I had been in Russia for two years, or two and a half years, I returned and was given

the position of section organizer in the Long Island area, known as section 9, one of the—one of the largest communities in New York, where I had the possibility of working with educational groups there, meeting with students, teachers from City College, Columbia, Adelphi Aca—School. I met with people from uh—uh—Brooklyn College and well, I believe—

MR. HOUSTON: Were you ever, at any time, educational director for the State of New York?

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir, I was. I—uh—served as assistant educational director to Isidora Begun, the school teacher in New York who was expelled—

MR. HOUSTON: How do you spell that Begun?

MR. HEWITT: Uh—Begun.

MR. HOUSTON: Begun.

MR. HEWITT: —who was expelled from the public school system in New York around the year of 1935, '36 along with Willie Anna Burrougs.

MR. HOUSTON: How do you spell that?

MR. HEWITT: Burrougs, a teacher in one of the public schools in Jamaica, who later was sent as a recompense to the Soviet Union, permitted to bring two of her children there and given hospitality of the Russian leaders.

**Communist Party Aliases**

MR. HOUSTON: Were you given a party name, a name other than your own when you joined the party?

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir. I was given a name on my passport. It was Edward Jackson. I was given quite a discussion, or lesson, on conspiracy. The reason they gave me this name was because they stated in the combination of legal and illegal work, certain Communists had to combine the legal with illegal, travel illegally—some traveled legally—and I came into this category of being of one who had to travel illegally, because, as they stated, I had to pass through countries of Fascist inclinations, such as Poland. Therefore, I was given the name Edward Jackson; and when I got to Russia I was given the name George James; on my return I was given the name Timothy Holmes, which was the name I used for eighteen years while an active organizer in the Communist Party.

MR. HOUSTON: Is it common practice for the Party to have people take a name other than their own?

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir. It has proven very effective, from the angle of doing important courier work for the Central Committee of the Communist Party, and it may be for the Executive Committee of the Communist International.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, how did you happen to join the Party, Mr. Hewitt?

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir, it was one of the—I would say the sore spots of my life. I was recruiting on the—recruited on the campus of New York University. I happened to be at a football game at the Yankee Stadium in which the National Student League and the League—I think the Students' Industrial League, the Communist front organization in combination—the National Student League was protesting the benching of Dave Meyers from the football team. The football team was playing the University of Georgia, and Meyers, Dave Meyers, a Negro player, was benched by Chic Meehan, and these student bodies, in my opinion, then, correctly protested this.

This was my first opportunity to come in contact with this type of—of struggle, and I very naively marched along the line of pickets. I was then invited to the home of one of the National Student League members, but when I got there I found out that I was asked to join the Young Communist League.

MR. HOUSTON: And you did join it?

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir, I did there.

MR. HOUSTON: And the Young Communist League led right on in to the Communist Party?

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir, it did.

### Every Effort to Recruit Negroes

MR. HOUSTON: Now, does the Communist Party attempt especially to recruit Negro people into its ranks?

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: Do they have a drive of any kind?

MR. HEWITT: They have had for a number of years all types of methods to attract the Negro people. I have had the occasion to sit in many sessions in the Kremlin and in the Comintern building in which, under the leadership of Harry Haywood, a member of the National Committee of the Party, questions of—on Negro formulation was being used as far back as 1930, where the Communist International advised all of us to emphasize the Negro question in this country on the basis of the right of self-determination, making the Negroes a nation in the black belt, and thus utilizing the slogan of the right of self-determination, which meant oppression of all opposition that would deny the right of the Negroes to set up this separate state, as opposed to the Government of the United States.

### Was Sent to Russia

MR. HOUSTON: Now, I am very, very interested in that program, and I want to get into it, Doctor, but let us proceed just a little rapidly. There is one or two things that I want to bring out very early in this.

You went to Russia under the auspices and instructions of the Communist Party, did you not?

MR. HEWITT: I did.

MR. HOUSTON: And when was this?

MR. HEWITT: That was the latter part of 1929.

MR. HOUSTON: 1929.

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: The latter part. And what was the occasion for your going to Russia?

MR. HEWITT: Well, at this particular time Josef Stalin, the Executive Secretary of the Communist International, had more or less tired of the many delegations that had gone over there, and had been selected by lieutenants or sergeants of his in the United States. They had continuously informed Stalin and Manuilsky and members of the Executive Committee of the Communist International that the Negroes were in rebellion already in this country; but year after year Stalin never saw any Negroes over there in the schools, and he insisted how come that if they were in rebellion, why don't you send them over to be—to be tutored? To be given instructions how to effectively

make the revolution in conjunction with their white brethren in the United States.

Stalin didn't know that the delegations going over there were playing a racket, even with Stalin. Many of them were people, Communists, who had run from the revolution. They had talked revolution but when things got hot in Russia they beat it to all parts of the world, including the United States, and thus resumed their fantasy of world revolution in this country, confusing many of the young people, including myself, and beckoned them to go on to this disastrous road that will only lead to one thing, the destruction of everything moral and spiritual.

MR. HOUSTON: I am going to come back to it, but you went to Russia then, in the fall of 1929, and you remained in Russia until approximately 1934.

MR. HEWITT: About—I would say '33.

MR. HOUSTON: '33.

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: Then you returned to the United States and from then on you were more or less in touch with the educational program of the Communist Party, were you not?

MR. HEWITT: I first assumed leadership in the section in Jamaica, which took in Long Island, up to Montauk Point. Then when they saw that I was really carrying it out as I should be, because by the time I came back the Party leaders were a little bit skeptical of me. I heard remarks that I was just too honest and naive. I just didn't know how to look at things materialistically and practically, which meant that I wasn't to believe all of the—all of the nice stuff that was written in the book. I—they tried to get me in the State of Louisiana, which was a way of killing me off. If I had accepted leadership in the State of Louisiana, I don't have to tell anybody in this audience what would have happened to me, as a Negro.

Therefore, I was sent to—to lead the Furriers Trade Union, the floor—the floor work—the floor boys. I was instrumental in organizing this in the Furriers Union; and from there they sent me to the State Committee of the Party, where I assumed work with Isidora Begun and Morris Schappes. I was the Assistant Education Director to Begun. He withdrew and I took the place of Educational Director in the state apparatus; Schappes then took it the next year and I resumed working as the head of the Negro work in the Educational Department, in which I taught in secret schools, both of local and national matter, and I believe the state activities ended there.

### Identifies Prof. Gundlach and Prof. Rader as Attending Secret Communist Party School

MR. HOUSTON: Now, Mr. Hewitt, were you ever in the City of Seattle before in your life until you came to this hearing?

MR. HEWITT: This is the first time.

MR. HOUSTON: Since you have been in attendance in this room have you seen any people that you've recognized?

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: Would you name those people that you recognize?

MR. HEWITT: Well, Professor Gundlach.

MR. HOUSTON: Professor Gundlach, Professor Ralph H. Gundlach?

MR. HEWITT: That's right.

MR. HOUSTON: You're positive that's the same man?  
 MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir.  
 MR. HOUSTON: Anybody else?  
 MR. HEWITT: Mrs. James.  
 MR. HOUSTON: Mrs. Florence Bean James?  
 MR. HEWITT: That's right.  
 MR. HOUSTON: Anybody else?  
 MR. HEWITT: Professor Rader.  
 MR. HOUSTON: Professor Rader. Is that Professor Melvin Rader?  
 MR. HEWITT: Melvin Rader.  
 MR. HOUSTON: Now, you've had occasion to meet him face to face?  
 MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir.  
 MR. HOUSTON: He is the man that—you're positive of your identification?

MR. HEWITT: Very definite.

MR. HOUSTON: All right. Now, let's go back, and suppose you tell us the circumstances under which you met Professor Ralph H. Gundlach.

MR. HEWITT: In the State of New York, in the year 1938 and '39, there was for the first time a practical attempt made to carry out the decisions of a conference that we had in Moscow, under the leadership of this same Manuilsky who was the U. N. leader for the Ukraine. He was one of the top secret men working with us in the Lenin School. At this meeting was Elizabeth Lawson, "Pop" J. Mindel, who is now the—

MR. HOUSTON: Will you spell that—

MR. HEWITT: Dr. Mindel, known among the comrades as "Pop."

MR. HOUSTON: Now how do you spell that?

MR. HEWITT: Mindel, who is at present the Commissar of Cultural and Educational Activities in the United States for the Communist Party, and a few others that I will go into a little later; but nevertheless, this meeting in the United States was an offshoot of this preparation made in Moscow. It was the first secret school of professionals ever held in this country. It had about seventy students.

MR. HOUSTON: Seventy—

MR. HEWITT: About seventy students. I saw the list of a number of these students. I worked closely with the National Educational Department; I taught in this school, and I taught also in the state secret school where I had the occasion to meet and converse with a number of these Communist professors, under strict obligations of secrecy.

#### School at Briehl's Farm

MR. HOUSTON: Now, where was this school held?

MR. HEWITT: Up near Kingston, New York, on Briehl's farm, Briehl's.

MR. HOUSTON: And that's the one that had the seventy students.

MR. HEWITT: That's right.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, these students, you say, were professional men. Were they prominently teachers, or engineers, or lawyers, or what?

MR. HEWITT: **Teachers from universities.**

MR. HOUSTON: Teachers from universities.

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir. The other school took more—took the state teachers, which comprised more of the high school apparatus, personnel.

MR. HOUSTON: **Now, how were these people selected, to be in attendance there?**

MR. HEWITT: **Very carefully, by the National Board or National Committee of the Party.**

MR. HOUSTON: The National Committee itself.

MR. HEWITT: Of the Communist Party.

MR. HOUSTON: Were they selected from all over the United States?

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, at this time you were Educational Director for the Party in the State of New York?

MR. HEWITT: I was.

MR. HOUSTON: And this school was more or less your responsibility?

MR. HEWITT: Yes, together, of course, with the Political Bureau of the National Committee.

MR. HOUSTON: And you are conversant completely with its formation?

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: And the mechanics of how the students were enrolled?

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: And with the students that were there?

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, I will ask you if any of the men you have named were in attendance at that school?

MR. HEWITT: **Professor Gundlach.**

MR. HOUSTON: Professor Ralph H. Gundlach?

MR. HEWITT: That's right.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, that—is that the same Professor Gundlach who took this stand yesterday?

MR. HEWITT: It was, yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: And he attended this secret Communist school. **Is there a shadow of a doubt as to whether he could have attended that school and have not been a member of the Communist Party?**

MR. HEWITT: **No, sir, he could not. He would have to be a member of the Communist Party to attend that school.**

MR. HOUSTON: **And selected by the National Committee?**

MR. HEWITT: **Yes, sir.**

MR. HOUSTON: Did Professor Melvin Rader attend that school?

MR. HEWITT: The same answer applies.

MR. HOUSTON: Selected by the National Committee of the Communist Party.

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: **Now you are positive that that is the Melvin Rader you have seen here in this room?**

MR. HEWITT: **Yes, sir. A little thinner.**

MR. HOUSTON: A little thinner.

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: And that you met face to face less than an hour ago.  
 MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir.  
 MR. HOUSTON: Now what year was this school held?  
 MR. HEWITT: That was in the—about the year '39—'38 and '39.  
 MR. HOUSTON: '38 and '39.  
 MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir.  
 MR. HOUSTON: '38 and '39. How long was the course?  
 MR. HEWITT: It was supposed to be a course of a month and a half.  
 MR. HOUSTON: Six weeks.  
 MR. HEWITT: Six weeks intensive study of Marxism-Leninism for the professional personnel.

### School Taught Revolution Against U. S. Government

MR. HOUSTON: This was secret, completely from the public.  
 MR. HEWITT: Definitely.  
 MR. HOUSTON: Was this school—**did it teach revolution against the Government of the United States?**  
 MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir. It taught Marxism-Leninism, Political Economy, Parliamentarianism, methods of illegal and legal work, the state, which is the basic concept of Marxism-Leninism, and when you speak of the state, or teach the state, you teach the dictatorship of the proletariat, which means how to overthrow the capitalist form of government.  
 MR. HOUSTON: Now, I will ask you, Mr. Hewitt, just so we won't leave it hanging in the air, your recognition of Mrs. James was not in connection with this school?  
 MR. HEWITT: No, sir.  
 MR. HOUSTON: Now, will you tell us a little bit about the courses that were held in this school, what was taught, and the program of it?  
 MR. HEWITT: Of the—  
 MR. HOUSTON: Of this Briehl Farm school.  
 MR. HEWITT: As I stated, briefly, the—it had to be an intensive six weeks course. It was in line with the penetration of the cultural front on the American scene. Mr. "Pop" Mindel was the responsible man with George Siskin, and J. Peters. All of these were instructors in these—in the schools. Some of them are up now for deportation.

Incidentally, Peters wrote the Peters Manual, which was one of the text books of the school. If you will read—if you will look into the text book, into the text of Peters Manual, you will find that a very clever instruction is given about behavior in court, how Communists should behave in court, how to act, how to carry out decisions, how to behave, how to discipline, when not to be in a disciplined manner, when to form a demonstration; everything that I have witnessed here in the last two days have shown me that there has been a thorough job and a thorough assimilation of Peters Manual.

And now, besides this, you have one of the shrewdest teachers in the person of Mr. Mindel. His pet theory was how to steal intellectuals. He said, "You have to handle intellectuals with kid gloves, in the beginning, but then you have to put them through the mill," and he certainly did. When you got away from an instruction of "Pop" Mindel you just simply had a very definite inner confusion. An intellectual will come out of there beaten, as I have seen some

of these prominent professors behave—beaten men who have been injected with this inner conflict that prevents them from understanding that the idealism that all Americans should adhere to is the idealism of Americanism, and that the idealism and ethics given to them by "Pop" Mindel is the ethics of a Stalin and the ethics of Soviet America for the destruction of our great country.

Therefore, I can understand the reactions of many of them because I know the theories of Mindel has been passed on, which is indeed the theories of Stalinism as promulgated in the Soviet Union.

Besides this, my friends, you had a very thorough, or they had a very thorough, instruction on the dialectical materialism, which tells us that—that everything is materialistic, and that they are opposites, negative and positive; the two must come together inevitably, there must be a combustion, and with this combustion comes a new life.

So, the Communist Marxists say that—we can make this historical, that's in the scientific field; therefore, we Marxists makes it historical, and they—by making it historical, they place as the opposites in our American life the workers and the capitalists, though a capitalist has the state, that's the fist of the capitalist, the two must always fight. The struggle is inevitable. The combustion must come. When the combustion comes the workers will win out because that's the positive teaching; and from that will arise the new state, the proletariat, the dictatorship of the proletariat, and with it must go bloodshed. Let us not forget this, because "Pop" Mindel was very accurate, and always jokingly telling us about Lenin's criticism of Gorky, when Gorky said to Lenin, "My God, so much bloodshed!" Lenin said, "Don't be a stupid intellectual. All the years of your life you have seen the capitalists throw us around. So, what's a little blood spilling now?"

This was the famous remarks that "Pop" Mindel constantly injected in his studies to these intellectuals, constitut—thus, leaving them in a sad shape of mind.

I can understand, Mr. Houston, and I'm, strange to say, very much in sympathy with the turmoil that's going on with this inner conflict, this conflict that makes them believe that they see the idealism far away in Russia somewhere. It has become their God; but the thing is striking home now, it's striking very close; it's coming home, and the bloodshed is not far, because Stalin is making it very clear today that the di—the principles of Communism never change, and this is what was taught in school; the tactics and the strategy change, the strategy, that is long-range; the tactics are short; consequently all of these buggyride of changes that you see, but the principle never changes. That is, the bloody overthrow of this—of the United States Government; and they say it's the dictatorship of capitalism.

This is in essence what was taught, what I taught for a number of years in the Workers School and in the secret schools, and what I heard is being taught in the professional and secret schools of the National Committee of the Communist Party.

### Secrecy of Communist Party Membership

MR. HOUSTON: I will ask you, Mr. Hewitt, there is one point I want to clear up here. Mr. Hewitt, will you explain a little bit about the secrecy of some of the members of the Communist Party? Are there members who keep their membership secret even from other Communist members?

MR. HEWITT: Oh, definitely.

MR. HOUSTON: Will you explain a little of that?

MR. HEWITT: This is what I meant a minute ago by the combination of legal and illegal work. I've had occasion to visit several prominent, even—I can name the person here. Morris Schappes. Bella Dodd, who just recently came out and admitted she was a Communist. For eight years, no one in the world would dream she was, yet I was visiting her and giving her instructions, for a period of six years. Morris Schappes, from City College, and this can be seen in the papers because when they asked him what Communists he knew outside of City College, he said he knew Tim Holmes; and the result was, of course, the F.B.I. and everybody came to my home and thought that I was some courier, and they were thinking correctly, when Mr. Horton didn't negate from naming me.

This was an instance in which Horton informed on me—or Schappes informed on me, because I could be sacrificed. The Party gave him the instructions—inform on me and save the bigger fellows. And he did it. They went under assumed names, and scores of others. Their only contact with the Party was through couriers, not even through a note or letter or anything.

MR. HOUSTON: **Would it become possible for a member of the Communist Party to be a teacher at the University of Washington, and that fact not even be known to the other Communist teachers?**

MR. HEWITT: **Very definitely so. Very definitely so.**

MR. HOUSTON: Is that—would that be an unusual case?

MR. HEWITT: No. **There are several such cases.**

MR. HOUSTON: What would that case—what would that illustrate?

MR. HEWITT: That illustrates the, from the Communist angle, a very disciplined form of activity, and abiding by Party discipline and decisions.

MR. HOUSTON: This particular person had a function separate completely from the other.

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir.

### **Names Prominent Negroes**

MR. HOUSTON: Now, I'm—who were some of the first Negroes that were recruited into the Communist Party, and how did they get them?

MR. HEWITT: This goes back a little before my recruitment. It entails men like Whitman, I don't remember the last—first name. I met him in Russia later on. I learned since that he's been liquidated. He was responsible for organizing the Communist front known as the Blood Brotherhood. You had also a Harold Williams, who I met in Moscow. He attended the Far Eastern University there. He has since been kicked out of the Party. You had James W. Ford, whom they picked up in Chicago in some sort of—I think he was a wireless clerk; and in haste to show Josef Stalin that they really had Negroes, Ford went directly to Moscow and made a report about Russian bureaucracy. Of course, he read the report; he didn't know a thing about Russian bureaucracy, but this was to show his brilliance. Somebody else wrote the report for him.

You had Cyril Briggs, who is now on the West Coast, was one of the charter members of the Party, he's been recently kicked out because of his independence of thought. He didn't particularly like the—the denial of democracy, although they talk a lot about democratic centralism in the Party. I am sure the eminent professors here would agree with me that you'd better talk what they want you to talk about, or else you will be suspected and spied upon,

considered a dissident element. I could go on with a number of other Negroes, but when I came into the movement the—I just couldn't understand the beaten demeanor of these men.

### **True Attitude Toward Negroes Revealed**

They gave me a secret letter to give to Joseph Stalin when I left. I refused to, however, be part in the controversy. I didn't know what was going on. I was in a confusion—or rather, in a confused state of mind. I saw these men. They seemed to be mature, older men than I. I respected them for their age and their experience, but there—something was wrong. Finally, when they gave me this sealed letter, I came to the conclusion that something—everything was not right, and I discovered it on my first day on boat.

On my first day on boat I found out, when I boarded the ship "Rotterdam," that the Communist leadership sincerely did not want to develop Negro leaders. They wanted you to be a tool, a "yes" man, as we know it in America here, an Uncle Tom. You have to be under their guidance, do as they say. We had a decision not to dance with any of the white girls on the "Rotterdam" because this would attract attention and the people would immediately pick us out as Communists.

When we got on the English boat on a transfer, the people there are quite different. They wondered why the negroes refused to dance with them, and one of the negroes got up and says, "I think it would be tactfully correct if we accepted and danced with one of the English people, because this would be natural, the way the people behaved there." This was refused by the leadership. Any time a negro walked on the streets of London, or Berlin, or Amsterdam, he was told that he had to be escorted by a chaperon. They just didn't trust us. There were only three of us on the ship—three Negroes on that ship, the trip I took, and they took one of these Negroes and played against us, the other two.

MR. HOUSTON: How many people were in this group that brought pressure on you?

MR. HEWITT: The first group was about thirty.

MR. HOUSTON: Did the Russian Government pay the expenses, or did the American Communists—

MR. HEWITT: The Russian Government sent the money over to the Central Committee of the Communist Party and this in turn was given to us. Before we even boarded ship, we had to take physical examinations, we had to see certain lawyers—of course, we had a corps of very shrewd Party lawyers. I think Nell Miscaro was very active in those days, the young lady who leads the—who represents the Communists in the deportation trials, and they had more than enough to go to certain places and forge names on passports and swear that you were a cousin of this or that.

### **Describes Death of Gilbert Lewis**

I'd like to relate that Gilbert Lewis, this young Negro chap from Tennessee, a very brilliant boy, I believe he was a college graduate already, he—at the doctor that I went with him to, the doctor told me that Gil was too sick to take the trip; it would be disastrous, but they wanted Gil because he—although he was an intellectual, he was the simple kind, he was easy to give in, he was willing to give in to anything they said or told him to do.

He made this trip and in two months time he contracted a very serious

disease. The weather was too vigorous for him. This Dr. Mindel, who was the one responsible for sending Gilbert Lewis on this trip against doctor's orders, then came clamoring to me to see if I could do something. I went to Gil and he told me he felt that he was going to die and that he would like his last request that he gave to Dr. Mindel, a request that his body, in case he dies, be shipped back to his people in Tennessee.

And when we took him to the Crimea—I remember vividly, I lifted him on the train in Moscow and placed him in his bunk. He went to Crimea. Two day later, he died. I was asked to go down as a two-man delegation with Dr. Mindel. On the way down on the train, Dr. Mindel first tried to test me to see whether I was loyal toward the thing that Russia stood for; then when he was convinced that I wasn't shaky, he then informed me that I was going to witness an autopsy. I said, "Upon whom?" "Upon Gilbert Lewis." I said, "But his request was that his body be shipped home." He ignored that. He said, "That's the decision of the Central Committee."

Well, I didn't want to go against that decision, there was a hundred and—it seemed to me at that time, a hundred and sixty million against one. So, I went there and I witnessed this autopsy. I asked Dr. Mindel to come in and see the—see his boy being chopped up, and he said he couldn't stand blood. That was my real second shock, upon the sincerity of, and the morality of Communist leaders.

This I tell because it left a very vivid impression upon me and upon many of the other Negroes there, because we then had to be on watch. We realized that these people were callous, that everything nice and rosy in the United States wasn't just so; they showed us what they would do when they attained power. And to prove this further, on another occasion I went to a camp with another Negro chap from Detroit, who was beaten to the core. I went with him to just boost him up until we got passage home; a young chap named Noel, who testified before the House Committee in Washington. While away, they got after another chap that sided with the students against the administration. Five days later, when we returned, they'd informed us that he was cremated.

### Piatnitsky Threatens Hewitt

I very angrily and naively went into the Comintern Building and consulted this same Piatnitsky. Piatnitsky listened to me and he said he recognized me as the—as one of the headaches in the Lenin School, and then he stood up very sharply, pushed his finger in my nose, backed me up against the wall, and he said, "Now, listen. We don't want to hear any more about this. We are not afraid of the world, and we are not afraid of you." I said, "Very well, thank you, Tovarish," and I went out. I realized then fundamentally that the Negro question was just being made as a football.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, the girl that goes—that transcribes this, Mr. Hewitt, is going to have a little trouble with that word. What was that you called him when you thanked him?

MR. HEWITT: Oh, Tovarish, means comrade.

MR. HOUSTON: How do you spell it?

MR. HEWITT: Phonetically, Tovarish, with an "ish" on the end of it.

MR. HOUSTON: You speak Russian, incidentally, do you not?

MR. HEWITT: Yes, I do. I could also state that the—the way I acquired the knowledge of the Russian language was, thanks to the behavior of the

American leadership, I—in order to get away from them over there, I lost myself among the Russian people and among the children and the homeless.

I'm not talking from books; I'm talking from practical experience. I saw them. I conversed with them. I traveled more than eleven days on a Trans-Siberian Railroad. I had occasion there to meet and talk. I was censored many times for talking too much to the Russians, or they were talking too much to me; and I went along in this light, with the Russians.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, you were—went in little groups, did you not, to serve in Russian industry from time to time—

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: —and to speak to the workers in the factories?

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir. We—I went on several collective farms and several government farms, known as—the collective farms were known as kov-hoz, and sov-hoz.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: We will now be in recess for about ten minutes.

(Recess)