

the facts to support that, or if he wishes to revise that statement. This is not the sort of statement that we wish to make unless it is supported.

BY MR. WHIPPLE:

Q. According to your testimony this morning, Senator Sullivan, regarding Mr. E. L. Pettus of Puyallup. Just what did you have in mind in making the statement that you made there as to the amount of money that he received?

A. This is common knowledge. Any person that attended the Puyallup Fair will remember a booth set up there in the year of 1938, September, and at that fair this organization, and Tom Brown was the leader of it—I don't give Pettus half the credit that I do Tom Brown in leading the people astray, because Tom Brown is a younger fellow and he knew better, but they were there and issuing membership cards and a lot of these old folks thought they were joining the Washington Old Age Pension Union and they found out they were joining this other organization. We hopped upon this thing so quickly that we isolated it just to Pierce County. I myself went over to Pierce County many a Sunday evening and spoke at their meetings.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Mr. Sullivan, may I interrupt? Did you have complaints from old people who joined this group who felt they were joining another organization? That is what we want to know.

A. Yes, sir. To show you the smallness of Brown, one time this old lady come into our office and told us about it. She lived outside of Puyallup. Never called up—didn't say a word. Brown came out there to her house in a car and said he was going to take care—help her to get an increase in her pension. Well, she was all for that, even though she didn't know him or anything about him. Well, then before he left he charged her for the gasoline that it cost him to go out there, and I think she paid him a dollar besides. She tells this herself in the office. But I mean, this was a common occurrence. I mean the members of the Pension Union at that time and the members of the State Board will well remember the fight that we had in our State Board meetings of clearing up that situation in Tacoma. It existed for at least six months.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Mr. Sullivan, you would not indicate that you had any knowledge of the amount of money that might have been raised through that channel; that was the point I wished to clear up.

THE WITNESS: Yes. It ran into thousands of dollars and we made every effort on our part, the Pension Union, of forcing them to turn the money over to the Washington Old Age Pension Union. We done it at our State Board meetings. We never got a penny.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: That is all.

MR. WHIPPLE: Thank you, Senator, that is all.

WITNESS EXCUSED.

HOMER HUSON, having been duly sworn, testified on direct examination, as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. WHIPPLE:

Q. Will you state your name?

A. Homer Huson.

Q. How do you spell your last name?

A. H-u-s-o-n.

Q. Where do you live, Mr. Huson?

A. 6024—32nd Ave., Southwest.

Q. What business or occupation are you engaged in at this time?

A. I am a truck driver, but at the present time I am working for an export company—an export package company for foreign goods.

Q. Mr. Huson, are you appearing here at this time voluntarily or as a result of being subpoenaed by this committee?

A. As a result of a subpoena.

Q. Mr. Huson, I will ask you to state whether or not you have ever held any official position with the Old Age Pension Union?

A. For quite a long while as the executive secretary of the Pension Union.

Q. Was that before the Pension Union was organized as a state organization, or after it was organized as a state organization?

A. After it was a state organization.

Q. Mr. Huson, I will ask you to state at this time if you have ever been a member of the Communist Party?

A. Not to my knowledge. I have not been a member of the Communist Party, although I have had the privilege to sit in in their fraction meetings, due to the fact that a member of the Communist Party came to me, stating that my dues were paid in the Communist Party and I was eligible to sit in in their fraction meetings.

Q. All right. Now, who was this member of the Communist Party that came to you with that information?

A. Keith Bradley.

Q. When did that occur?

A. That was in 1937.

Q. And where?

A. At his home.

Q. Here in Seattle?

A. In Georgetown, Seattle.

Q. Here in Georgetown, Seattle. I would like for you to tell this Committee, Mr. Huson, whether or not you were subjected to any criticism by the Communist Party at the time you were an executive secretary of the Old Age Pension Union relative to Communist Party affairs?

A. On numerous occasions I was criticized by the Communist Party, but for my being "thrown out," so to speak, it came about through the northwest organizer of the Communist Party, Lou Sass, which I was called to his office—shall I explain?

Q. Yes.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: How do you spell that?

THE WITNESS: L-o-u S-a-s-s.

BY MR. WHIPPLE:

Q. Go ahead and explain that circumstance.

A. I was called to the office of Lou Sass with Bill Pennock and the proposition was put up to me that I was on my way out because they wanted to put William Pennock in as executive secretary—it would give him more prestige as running for office—some political office.

Q. Who made this proposition to you?

A. Lou Sass.

Q. Where was this proposition made?

A. The number. I believe, is 1718 Smith Tower, Seattle.

Q. And when was this proposition made to you?

A. 1938.

Q. Do you know whether or not that that address you gave was the Communist Party headquarters at that time?

A. It was not a Communist Headquarters that I know of, although it was the office of the northwest organizer who at that time was Lou Sass.

Q. It was the office of the Northwest organizer—

A. Not "organizer," excuse me. It was the secretary—northwest secretary. Rappaport—Morris Rappaport was the northwest organizer at that time.

Q. The office of the northwest secretary of what?

A. Communist Party.

Q. Thank you. Mr. Huson, what was the attitude of the Communist Party originally toward the organization of the Old Age Pension Union?

A. Very definitely opposed to the Union in principle, as they wouldn't be any advantage to the Communist Party, first; second is they were opposed to the initiative proposition because previous to that an initiative had been put on the ballot, Number 115 by John C. Stevenson and which they used that, at that time, as stating that we had no possible chance of putting over a pension initiative.

Q. Mr. Huson, just going back one word further to that occasion when Mr. Sass made the proposition that Pennock take over your duties in the Old Age Pension Union, was there anyone else present other than Sass and Pennock at that time?

A. That was all.

Q. Just the three of you?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Thank you. Now, how long did you continue attending these Communist Party fraction meetings that you refer to?

A. As far as the Pension Union meeting fractions themselves, I continued even after William Pennock was the executive secretary, but it wasn't long—it was only a short while and it was due to the fact that N. P. Atkinson was placed into the Pension movement, and it seemed that at the time that he went in I was more or less isolated and forgotten about on these fraction meetings, or the understanding of how the pension union should work according to the line of the Communist Party.

Q. Now, you referred to the Pension Union fraction meetings. What were those fraction meetings—fraction meetings of what?

A. Of the Communist Party members.

Q. Within the Pension Union?

A. Party members of the Pension Union.

Q. Yes.

A. No member of the Pension Union unless he was an avowed Communist could attend these fraction meetings.

Q. Could attend those fraction meetings and you sat in those meetings?

A. Yes.

Q. Now then, what other members of the Washington Pension Union sat in those meetings whom you say would have to be an avowed Communist at the time you sat in? Will you name them, please?

A. I can give you quite a list.

Q. Well, let's start out. Do you know N. P. Atkinson?

A. Correct.

Q. Did he sit in those meetings?

A. Yes.

Q. Those meetings generally were during what years?

A. Basic year was when the drive was on, and the political move, as I stated, on Initiative and infiltration into the Pension Union, was 1938.

Q. 1938—and you continued to—you say—a while after William Pennock was executive secretary, and what year was that?

A. Up until I imagine the middle of 1939.

Q. Middle of 1939. Did N. P. Atkinson sit in those fraction meetings in the Communist Party within the Pension Union?

A. Well, N. P. Atkinson has been a problem to the Communist Party. The members themselves don't know whether he is in or out of the party. Now he has been expelled two or three times to my knowledge, so there has been different times when he hasn't been in on the meetings, due to that fact.

Q. Do you remember a Mr. Ed Pettus, whose name has been mentioned here by Mr. Sullivan?

A. Yes.

Q. Did he sit in those fraction meetings?

A. Not to my knowledge. He was in Pierce County and most of this was done in King County.

Q. Do you know anything about those resolutions that Mr. Sullivan referred to, that Mr. Pettus introduced at the 1940 convention?

A. I recall the resolution definitely coming before the state board, and I also know the reason for it was that Tom Brown and Edward Pettus were in this organization in Pierce County and setting up a dual organization, as we called it at that time, whereby they were taking under a different heading twenty-five cent dues which many of these cards came into the office from pensioners themselves when they were being charged for these cards. Now as to the amount of money; no knowledge has come to me or at that time, on the report from the committee who investigated that, as to the actual figure of funds taken, but there were many cards, many of these application cards with signatures on them where they had paid twenty-five cents a card to Edward Pettus and to Tom Brown.

Q. Going back to this resolution now. Who introduced that resolution?

A. The resolution, I don't recall whose signature was on the resolution. In fact I read the resolution, but I can't recall—

Q. Now, did you ever hear of a Mrs. Clara Wheeler?

A. Yes. She took over on the grievance committee in place of O. R. Mundy. O. R. Mundy's job was to, as people came in, to ask them what their grievances were, and whether or not they could be helped through the County Commissioners or State Welfare, or whatever procedure we were using in order to have increases in their pay. O. R. Mundy was very well liked by the Pension Union and it was a mystery to me at that time why he was thrown out. He was a likeable person and he got along well with the old people and they came in more or less to talk to him after, if something could be done or couldn't be done in their case, nevertheless they liked to visit with him. Of course he'd have his weak moments and the Communist Party was

quite free at that time with their membership cards. It wasn't very much of a job for anybody to join the Communist Party. There were times when Mr. Mundy would very openly wear his Communist button, lay his card on the counter and ask the old people—in my estimation at times it sounded like it was intimidation, that if they didn't join the Communist Party they couldn't expect any results. Well, many of the old people took that attitude that they couldn't receive anything from the Pension Union and therefore it was more or less up to the officers to put him down to keep affiliations with the Communist Party.

Q. That was done, was it?

A. That was done fairly well, to our knowledge.

Q. You said a while ago that a number of persons sat in these Communist Party fraction meetings within the Pension Union, with you. Now, during the years 1938 and '39, would you be kind enough now at this time to enumerate those that you remember that were in these fraction meetings?

A. Well, as I stated, there was William Pennock, N. P. Atkinson, Clara Wheeler.

Q. Who?

A. Clara Wheeler. She took the place of O. R. Mundy. Mrs. and Mr. Roy Everett.

Q. Everett, E-v-e-r-e-t-t?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Anyone else?

A. Of course there were many more. There was J. C. Bourne.

Q. Did you know a John Boan back at that time?

A. Yes, and there is a little story behind John Boan. He was quite an active person for the literature being distributed to our conventions and our meetings. It seemed to fall on him to always have the papers and so on there at the door where people could buy them that wanted to buy them, and these papers naturally covered all issues, not necessarily pension issues, but issues for and to pensions, as well as others.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Mr. Whipple, for the record, there are two names: Bourne and Boan.

MR. WHIPPLE: He spelled them out, B-o-a-n and B-o-u-r-n-e, John B-o-a-n and J. C. B-o-u-r-n-e. Is that correct, Mr. Huson?

THE WITNESS: That's correct.

MR. WHIPPLE: That's the way I remembered them.

Q. You referred to this John Boan. Was he one of these Communists who sat in these fraction meetings with you?

A. No, I have—I couldn't say whether he was or not, but accordingly he followed the line of the Communist Party, which seems to me automatically explains itself whether they are in the Communist Party, because they don't dare vary from that party line.

Q. Now let's get back to the question of these persons who sat in fraction meetings of the Communist Party with you in the Old Age Pension Union. Did you know of a lady by name of Mabel Conrad?

A. No, I don't only that she was on the state board, but I had no meetings with you.

Q. Do you know Hugh DeLacy?

A. Yes.

Q. What part did he play in the Old Age Pension Union with you?

A. Well, he is more or less of the higher bracket. He was president at that time of the Washington Commonwealth Federation. I had a little set-to with Hugh DeLacy on an issue over N. P. Atkinson. At a state board meeting a question came up that had to be referred to the Washington Commonwealth Federation after we had affiliated to them, condemning N. P. Atkinson for some misdemeanor that he had made, or something that he had done before the board—I can't recall just exactly what it was, but nevertheless in the minutes it shows that I have—that I was on that committee to report it to the Washington Commonwealth Federation and have an answer.

I went to the Washington Commonwealth Federation with that and brought it up in due time in the meeting to Hugh DeLacy, and Hugh DeLacy accused me of trying to disrupt their meeting, and at the same time Bill Dobbins there called me out in the hall and he was acting as their floor leader, as he usually does at conventions, both at the Pension Union and Washington Commonwealth Federation, and after I told him my story he said that he would take care of it and see that the proper steps was taken toward N. P. Atkinson, but from that time on I heard no more report, nor anything to the action that was taken on the request I was asked by a committee from the Washington Commonwealth Federation to report back.

In other words—

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Just a moment, please. Will you have somebody abate that noise out there?

Q. You refer to the name Bill Dobbins. Did he ever sit with you in any of these fraction meetings, of the Communist Party?

A. For a long while Bill Dobbins—it really goes back further than the Workers' Alliance here, or the Washington Commonwealth Federation. It goes back to the time of the Project Workers' Union. Bill Dobbins has been active in all those organizations since that time.

Q. I think you mentioned the name Tom Rabbitt, did you?

A. Tom Rabbitt was more or less of a stranger to me. He came from across the lake, and approximately at the time of this here drive for political figures and he came in and it seemed like he wasn't in to the Pension Union a month he was made an officer and from there he seemed to have climbed right on into the Legislature.

Q. Did he sit in these fraction meetings with you?

A. Not—possibly he has, but I don't recall of any particular instance.

Q. Do you know a man named Merwin Cole?

A. Yes. Merwin Cole, we've sat at times for meetings of the Washington Commonwealth Federation of which Merwin Cole was on the committees of a fraction—Commonwealth Federation, that is.

Q. You refer to these fractions. Are you talking about fractions of the Communist Party?

A. Fractions are all by the Communist Party. I refer to all of them as from the Communist Party.

Q. And these persons that you referred to as sitting with you or you sitting with them in fraction meetings, you are always referring to fraction meetings of the Communist Party?

A. Of the Communist Party. We don't have them in other organizations.

Q. Do you know Art Johnson and Rose Parks?

A. I knew Art Johnson as state board director and Rose Parks also was state board director. I believe she was the—I am sure she was the organizer of the Everett County Council for the Washington Old Age Pension Union.

Q. Did a complaint come to your attention officially as executive secretary from this Pension Union about their activities?

A. Yes. There was a resolution sent in from the Everett Council by—I believe it was the same name mentioned from the former witness, of a Mr. McCarter setting down funds and what-not that had been used for promoting a Communist Party meeting in Darrington, Washington.

Q. When was that?

A. That was in '38. Of course I can't give you the exact date on that one, although I went up there to Darrington on an investigation of that charge.

Q. And what did your investigation officially reveal?

A. I investigated—my investigation shows that a Pension Union had been set up. While Mr. Sullivan was making a talk before the group, two women that I was introduced to and was sitting talking to, stated that this is under the Pension Union, but it isn't anything but the Communist Party; that we are only from the Communist Party and we have a lot of old people up here that would like to come into the Pension Union but we can't go for these old—these Communist members that they had in at the time.

Q. Mr. Huson, do you know of your own knowledge whether or not any of the Old Age Pension Union money was donated to any of the Communist so-called front organizations?

A. I don't believe there was any of them that the Pension Union didn't assist by delivering their literature or donating funds of those that have been mentioned here, namely, the League Against War & Fascism, O'Connor-Ramsey release, Harry Bridges deportation—oh, numerous of other ones of the same brand.

Q. What effect, Mr. Huson, did the infiltration of the members of the Communist Party have in the Old Age Pension Union so far as their losing the affiliation of other worthwhile organizations?

A. Well, first and foremost, we had a membership I know was over 38,000 people. With that 38,000 people, when an issue comes up before some other organization, they stop and think twice that they would like to have our support as well as we, theirs. We had pension meetings—

Q. What organization do you refer to?

A. Such as these names, A. F. of L., C. I. O., all organizations of that type. Then also the Communist Party or any other party. After all, 40,000 votes is a lot of votes for any politician.

Q. Okay. Now, will you continue with your—did you lose the influence and support of these organizations at any time?

A. Yes, we have on numerous occasions. We lost the Grange. How this happened, I don't know. It was referred to previously.

Q. Just name some of these you lost in order to kind a—to get into the record here. You lost the Grange. Do you remember any others?

A. We haven't got any. We lost everything.

Q. You lost everything. Now, when was that first called to your attention?

A. In 1938, at the time that the Communist Party took over the Washington Pension Union.

Q. I guess that is all, Mr. Huson. Thank you.

(Witness excused)

WARD F. WARREN, having been first duly sworn, testified on direct examination as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HOUSTON:

Q. Mr. Warren, will you please state your name and spell it out, and as you pronounce names that we haven't been discussing here, new names, will you spell them out for the sake of the record, because we have a recording device and it can't always get this spelling.

A. Ward F. Warren. W-a-r-d F. period, W-a-r-r-e-n, Warren.

Q. Where do you live, Mr. Warren?

A. 905 Jefferson Street, Seattle, Washington.

Q. What is your occupation?

A. Stevedore, longshoreman.

Q. Has this always been your occupation?

A. No, it has not, for the past four years, approximately.

Q. What was your previous occupation?

A. Starting in 1933 I was King County storekeeper for a period of about two years, then I took a position in the Assessor's office, as deputy assessor for King County. I was on that position for approximately six years. Following that, I—prior to the war then that would be, just a—six or eight months prior to the outbreak of war I went to Portland, Oregon, and worked in the Kaiser shipyards there as a boilermaker and rigger, later returning about the middle part of the war to Seattle, working in the Lake Washington Shipyard as a rigger. Following that, and up to the present time I have been a stevedore and a longshoreman.

Q. Were you ever connected with the Washington New Dealer?

A. I have been advertising manager for a period of approximately six months of the Washington New Dealer, which is now the New World.

Q. Can you fix for us that time—what six months was that?

A. Well, Mr. Houston, that has been pretty near ten years ago. I would say approximately the latter part of 1938.

Q. Latter part of 1938?

A. Possibly the early part of '39.

Q. Was it shortly after the paper came into existence, or was it the latter part—I am trying to fix it a little more closely.

A. Well, the paper had had several names prior to the time I became advertising manager. My first remembrance is Washington Commonwealth; prior to the Washington Commonwealth, I should say the Commonwealth Builders, the Washington Commonwealth, the Sunday News, then I believe it went to the New Dealer and from there on it has gone now to the New World.