

MR. WHIPPLE: Well, there are several deductions, Mr. Chairman, we'd be happy to make, but that not being our province, we do not care to indulge in that at this time.

That's all, Mr. Robinson. Thank you very much.

(Witness Excused)

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, we wish to turn now to another phase of the hearing on the Washington Pension Union.

I have here, which I will wish to introduce as an exhibit, immediately upon my conclusion of an explanation of what it is, the issue of the "New World" which has been testified to repeatedly here, is the unofficial organ of the Communist Party, and who has been testified to and copies have been introduced showing a masthead bearing the statement of official publication of the Washington Pension Union.

This issue is Seattle, Washington, Thursday, July 17th, 1947. Prominently displayed under a banner line on the first page you find "Pioneer, 72, First Hunger Act Victim," and the article is as follows:

"On the day before she would have known the final indignity of a seven per cent pension cut, Mrs. Marie Redenbaugh, 72, was found locked in her apartment at 4308 Ninth Avenue Northeast, Seattle, apparently having suffered a stroke some days earlier, she died while being taken to the hospital. Friends revealed Mrs. Redenbaugh, whose health had been failing, died as a direct result of fear of the 'lien law,' lack of proper medical attention, and drastic slashes in her pension grant. More than two hundred senior citizens attended her funeral services on Friday, to pledge renewed vigor in the fight against the recently enacted 'hunger laws' which led to her passing. Her pension had been cut in May, from seventy-five dollars to fifty-three dollars. Her last days were spent with the knowledge that she would receive another seven per cent cut in July. Living in her apartment alone, in delicate health, Mrs. Redenbaugh needed the regular attendance of a nurse and the visits and professional advice of a doctor of her own choice. Because the medical care program had been destroyed by the pension wreckers, she could have neither.

"Having by frugality acquired a number of moderately valuable linens, she was troubled by the knowledge that at her death the state would place a lien upon them and upon her other modest possessions.

"Except for these worries and fears created for her, as for thousands of others, by the Republican and quisling Democratic coalition in the last session of the State Legislature, her health failed and the stroke proved fatal.

"At the simple, quiet, memorial services, Dr. C. H. Fisher, Washington Pension Union Educational Director, offered a brief prayer, and read appropriate verses from scripture. Referring to Biblical incidents, Dr. Fisher contrasted the hardship and suffering, callously planned by legislators, with the full and abundant life for which the Pension Union members are fighting. The same note was struck in a brief tribute offered by President William J. Pennock. 'Here was a woman known for her kindness, for the quiet strength of her character, for her Christian virtue,' Pennock emphasized, 'her neatness and untimely death was the direct result of the acts of abomination passed by the State Legislature.'

"He called upon the pensioners to rededicate themselves, to make real the freedom from want and fear, of which the late President Roosevelt spoke. He asked that they resolve that no other person should meet a cruel death at the hands of the anti-Social Security laws, and expressed his conviction

that Mrs. Redenbaugh would be glad if she could know that we will fight on for the right of senior citizens to a serene and happy afternoon of life."

"Following services at Butterworth Funeral Home, Mrs. Redenbaugh was buried in Washelli Cemetery. She was the last of her family, having been a widow for many years. There are no children surviving."

Mr. Chairman, I would like to introduce this into the record as an exhibit, with the explanation that the testimony which will follow will show that that is a complete distortion of fact, that in reality here was a woman well along in life, having lived in excess of her three score and ten years, who did not die from any of the causes that are set forth there; a woman who had ample food, ample medical attention; a woman who was not in any degree in want. There was found in her apartment, monies. There were loving relatives who kept a close contact with her and knew of her wants, these relatives being in financial position to extend money to her at any time of need.

Her executor and dear friend, was a Vice President of one of the large banks here in the City of Seattle. In times past, he has loaned them money over a period of many years, and stood ready to loan money again.

This is a complete distortion of the facts surrounding her death, and at the funeral it was nothing but a political rally attended by strangers who didn't even know the woman, and there was a Communist hootenanny held over the body of this woman.

I introduced that to show the complete distortion of facts, as printed in this "New World" and will now, by a series of witnesses, prove the statements that I have just made to you, and ask that that be introduced as an exhibit.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: It will be accepted and introduced into the record as Committee's Exhibit No. 50.

MR. HOUSTON: I will ask, Mr. Chairman, to introduce as an exhibit into this record, a certified copy of the death certificate of Marie Redenbaugh, who was born in 1875. This is the death certificate issued by the Department of Public Health, in which there is much personal data; and the M. D., the doctor who certified to this, was Dr. G. E. Wilson, and he certifies in this death certificate that death was occasioned by cerebral hemorrhage.

I would like to introduce this as a Committee exhibit, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: It will be accepted as Committee's Exhibit No. 51.

MRS. ALBERT CROSETTO, produced as a witness, after being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HOUSTON:

Q. Please state your name to the Committee.

A. Mrs. Albert Crosetto.

Q. Will you spell the last name, Mrs. Crosetto?

A. C-r-o-s-e-t-t-o.

Q. In what city do you live, Mrs. Crosetto?

A. Seattle.

Q. And where do you live?

A. 4308 Ninth Northeast.

Q. I will ask you, Mrs. Crosetto, if you knew Mrs. Marie Redenbaugh.

A. Yes, I did.

Q. What was your relationship with Mrs. Redenbaugh?

A. Well, she rented the rooms upstairs in our home.

Q. And had she lived in your home for any period of time?

A. Two years.

Q. Two years.

A. Or more.

Q. Now, did Mrs. Redenbaugh have any hobbies?

A. Yes, she did.

Q. What was this hobby?

A. She was a—well, I don't know the correct term, but she was a bird fancier, I guess you'd say.

Q. Did she have any birds in her apartment?

A. Yes, she had.

Q. About how many birds would she have?

A. Well, she had from—well, I think at one time she had probably one hundred.

Q. And then it would graduate down to a lesser number?

A. Yes.

Q. Did these birds—were any of these birds valuable birds?

A. Well, I assume some of them were. I don't believe they were—yes, I think they were valuable.

Q. They had a marketable value.

A. Yes.

Q. She bought and sold birds.

A. Yes. Uh-huhm.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: What kind of birds were they, Mr. Whipple?

MR. HOUSTON: I'm just getting to that.

Q. What kind of birds were they, Mrs. Crosetto?

A. They were canary birds.

Q. They were canary birds.

A. Uh-huh.

Q. Now, was Mrs. Marie Redenbaugh ever without food to eat?

A. No.

Q. You have been in her apartment many times?

A. Yeah.

Q. I'll ask you to describe what you know there was regularly in her apartment, in the way of food. Did she have canned goods?

A. Oh yes, plenty of canned food, and fresh food, plenty of it.

Q. Now, was she comfortably situated there?

A. Yes, very comfortably. She often said it was a very pleasant apartment.

Q. And did she have some furniture that had a value?

A. Well, I think her furniture was very—I don't think it was exceptionally valuable. She had one piece that was probably a genuine antique.

Q. And this antique piece had considerable value?

A. Well, I should think it would, yes.

Q. Now, were you the person that discovered Mrs. Redenbaugh in her last illness? Did you discover the body?

A. Well, I was—yes, I discovered it.

Q. Will you describe for us what you found there?

A. She was lying—we went into her room, and she had evidently suffered a stroke or a cerebral hemorrhage, and was lying on the floor. She had not struggled or suffered I—in any way, because she had—showed no signs of a struggle at any time. Her hair wasn't, you know, mussed up or anything like that and her earrings and her glasses and her jewelry were all intact. They didn't show any signs of struggle or anything like that.

Q. Did she have jewelry?

A. Well, yes, she did.

Q. Is it not a fact that she had a diamond ring that was worth considerable money?

A. Yes, she did.

Q. Can you place any estimate on the value of that ring? Her statements to you, or—

A. Well, I don't know how much it would be worth, but I think it was more than a carat diamond and was supposedly a very good diamond. I don't know how much that would be worth.

Q. Did she have other jewelry? You've mentioned earrings.

A. Earrings, and costume jewelry, and a watch, a new watch.

Q. A new watch, which she had—

A. Uh-huhm.

Q. I'll ask you, when you entered the apartment, did you notice whether or not there was any food in the apartment?

A. Oh yes, there was lots of food. She had been to the market the morning of the day she was taken ill, and there were lots of fresh food and—from the market.

Q. If I were to ask you if Mrs. Marie died—Marie Redenbaugh died as the result of want of food, what would your answer be?

A. I'd say she did not die from the want of food.

Q. The fact of the matter, from her living in your home there, did Mrs. Marie Redenbaugh want for any of the necessities of life?

A. No.

Q. Now, did you attend the funeral of Mrs. Marie Redenbaugh?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. Where was this funeral held?

A. It was held at Butterworth's. I'm not sure, but—

Q. Will you describe from the very beginning of when you appeared at the Butterworth Funeral Home, all the way through, just what took place. Will you tell us about that funeral?

A. Well, when I went into the funeral parlor, I was amazed to find the room crowded with people. There were—well, I believe there was hardly standing room, and the people there were not—well, they were people I should assume on the pension, at least they weren't very well dressed at any rate, and they were—some of them were blind, crippled, and very poor, but they were all quiet and all this and that. Anyhow, we—when I went in there were all these people seated there, and then the people who conducted the

funeral came in, this minister and Mister, the head of the State Pension Union came in, and they read, or conducted the funeral.

And the first person to speak was the—Mr.—

Q. Fisher?

A. No.

Q. Pennock?

A. Pennock. And he said that we were gathered here to pay tribute to dear Sister Marie, and that she was a martyr to our cause, and she had died alone and forgotten due to lack of food, or malnutrition, and because of the things which she had done without, and fear, and all this. Then, that was very well received by the members of the committee, I guess, or the Pension Union. And then the other man spoke, and he read from scripture, and at the time I thought he was not very—well, I thought he was almost illiterate. I found since he was very brilliant. But anyhow, he—he didn't seem to know the scriptures very well.

Q. He wasn't familiar with the Bible, then.

A. No. And he spoke of the fact that, well he intimated that the rich received so much here, and the poor didn't, and all that, the rich man, you know, in the Bible. And then he brought out the fact that we were sending so much money to Europe for the displaced persons, and he mentioned an amount, I can't remember the amount, but he said that it was too bad that our own people couldn't receive that, but also qualifying it by saying no doubt that the displaced persons in Europe deserved it.

Q. Did this man attempt to give the impression that he was a minister? Did you gather that impression?

A. Yes. I—he didn't say he was, but he didn't say he wasn't.

Q. Did—was any attempt made to pray at this funeral?

A. Oh yes, uh-huh, they offered a prayer.

Q. And what was the nature of the prayer?

A. Oh, I can't remember that exactly. It—

Q. Was it more along the same line that you have discussed with us?

A. Yes, uh-huh.

Q. I'll ask you whether or not Mr. Pennock in his prayer, said, "Oh, God, here lies the first victim of the 'hunger act', we pray you that there be no more."

A. Well, I don't know just the exact words, but that was the general effect of the prayer, yes.

Q. Did you ever—have you attended other funerals, Mrs. Crosetto, in your lifetime?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. Was this funeral conducted in the manner of the other funerals?

A. No.

Q. How would you describe this funeral?

A. Well, I would say that it was the first time I have ever gone to a funeral where a corpse was used as a background for a political rally.

Q. You would describe this funeral as a political rally, then.

A. Yes, I certainly would.

Q. Did it appear to be a desecration to you?

A. Well, yes, it wasn't kindly or it wasn't—well, it was very poor taste.

Q. Did any of the deceased's friends walk out during the course of the funeral?

A. Yes, they did.

Q. In other words, it was due to the disgusting and—

A. Yes.

Q. —revolting nature of the funeral?

A. Yes.

Q. That her close and dear friends got up and walked out. Now did you know anything about a letter in the newspaper, requesting all pensioners to attend this funeral?

A. Yes, there was a letter in the paper.

Q. Do you recall what paper it was published in?

A. Well, I believe it was in the "Post," "Post-Intelligencer."

Q. "Post-Intelligencer."

A. Yes, uh-huh.

Q. Do you recall what the context of this letter published in the "Post-Intelligencer" was?

A. Well, it seems to me it was to the effect that if the pensioners, or the old age people, who were interested in—who were interested in a pension should be there.

Q. Regardless of whether they knew Mrs. Redenbaugh or not.

A. Yes, well, I'd assume that. I don't know how they'd interpret it.

Q. Now I'll ask you if before the funeral, did anyone go through Mrs. Redenbaugh's apartment? Did a bank Examiner—Mr. Truax—

A. Oh, yes. Yes, they did.

Q. Now, were you present when they went through her—

A. Yes, I was.

Q. —apartment?

A. Uh-huhm.

Q. Do you have any knowledge of the things they found in the apartment?

A. Oh, you mean, all her furniture and her personal things, yes. They found furniture—

Q. Did they find any food in the ice box?

A. Yes.

Q. Did the—was the ice box full of food?

A. Yes.

Q. Was there any food on the shelves?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know whether or not they found any money in a tea cup?

A. Yes, they did.

Q. Do you know the amount of that money?

A. Oh, it was two or three dollars, or maybe more, I can't—

Q. Your testimony was then, that—is that there was food in the ice box, food on the shelves, and even money there.

A. Uh-huh.

Q. Did the—was the stuff subsequently removed from her apartment?

A. Yes, it was.

Q. Now, where was this funeral held?

A. It was held at Butterworth's.

Q. Butterworth's Funeral Home.

A. Yes, uh-huh.

MR. HOUSTON: I believe that's all. Thank you very much, Mrs. Crosetto.

(Witness Excused)

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Mr. Houston, I wonder if we have reached a point here where we can recess for a few moments. I have some telephone calls to make.

MR. HOUSTON: All right, that's very agreeable, Mr. Chairman. We can recess between these witnesses.

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

(Recess)

MRS. LUCY OSBORN, produced as a witness, after being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HOUSTON:

Q. Will you please state your name for the record?

A. Lucy Osborn.

Q. And how do you spell Osborn?

A. O-s-b-o-r-n.

Q. Where do you live, Mrs. Osborn?

A. 4344 Ninth Northeast.

Q. I will ask you, Mrs. Osborn, if during your lifetime you knew Mrs. Marie Redenbaugh?

A. I did.

Q. Will you explain the relationship, so that we will know whether you knew her well, or just knew her.

A. Well, I knew Marie—I have known her for about twenty years. For ten years I've known her very well. I've been in her home on the average of once a day.

Q. That was the last ten years of her life.

A. Yes.

Q. You have been in her home once a day. I will ask you if at any period during that last ten years of Mrs. Redenbaugh's life, was she in want for any of the necessities of life?

A. No, she wasn't.

Q. Did she have plenty of food?

A. Always plenty.

Q. Did she have the types and kinds of food she wished?

A. Yes, she had the best of everything.

Q. Did she occasionally buy special delicacies and things like that?

A. Well, most everything she bought was vegetables.

Q. Did she complain to you at any time about not having sufficient money to get the things she needed?

A. No, no she didn't.

Q. Did she have necessary medical attention?

A. She did.

Q. Now, I will ask you if you were present with Mrs. Crosetto when you went to the apartment and found Mrs. Redenbaugh.

A. Yes, I was.

Q. Will you describe for us just what you found when you went into the apartment?

A. Well, we—we looked all over and couldn't find her, and Mrs. Crosetto called downstairs before I had gone up and said, "Well, she isn't here." And I said, "Well, she must be there someplace." And Mrs. Crosetto went into the bedroom and her coat and dress were on the bed and she says, "Well, here are her clothes." So I said, "Well, I'm coming up." So I went up too, and I stepped in the sitting room door and couldn't see her, and I just turned around to go out when I heard a peculiar noise, and so I stepped back and she was lying behind a large swing rocker, on the floor.

Q. Now, was she locked in the apartment in such a manner that she couldn't get out?

A. No, just as we would lock our door, that's all.

Q. Now, did you observe the apartment when you went in that day? Did you see any food around the apartment?

A. She had just come home from the market a short time before, and had plenty of food.

Q. Plenty of food.

A. And she had an ice box in the hall, and she had everything in there.

Q. Did she have canned goods around the apartment?

A. She had lots of canned goods that she had canned herself, pickles, and vegetables, and fruit.

Q. Did Mrs. Redenbaugh have any birds?

A. Yes, she did.

Q. About how many birds did she have in her apartment at that time?

A. Oh, I don't know I'm sure. It'd be between seventy-five and a hundred, I'd imagine.

Q. And these were canary birds?

A. Beg your pardon?

Q. Were they canary birds?

A. Yes.

Q. Did these birds have a value?

A. They weren't what you call "banded" birds, or registered birds, and they didn't have the value that other bird raisers would have, you know, but she did sell them.

Q. She sold them.

A. She sold them to people that didn't require the registration.

Q. Would—at any time during the last ten years, has she been so destitute of money that she was unable to buy bird food and the things for the birds?

A. Well, lots of times toward the end of the month she would run short of money, but she always borrowed it from me.

Q. You loaned her money from time to time.

A. Yes.