

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.

Q. And had she needed any money now, would she have borrowed it from you?

A. She certainly would have.

Q. Would you have loaned it to her?

A. I certainly would.

Q. And this month, did she borrow any money from you?

A. No. She still had money when she—when we found her. Her purse had, I think it was a dollar and sixty-five cents in small change.

Q. And was there any money around the apartment?

A. Yes, there was a little change here and there.

Q. In tea cups and tea pots and things like that.

A. That's it, uh-huh.

Q. Did you subsequently attend the funeral of Mrs. Redenbaugh?

A. I did.

Q. Will you describe that funeral for us? In your own words.

A. Well, I think it could be called a political meeting more than a funeral.

Q. A political meeting.

A. I don't know why—

Q. What led you to say that?

A. Well, in the first place, it was full of people who were not her friends, people that had answered this ad that was put in the paper, these union people.

Q. And what was the nature of the service? First, do you know who conducted the service?

A. Dr. Fisher and William Pennock.

Q. Dr. Fisher and William Pennock. And did it resemble any other funeral service that you've ever attended?

A. No, it didn't. The only part about it was a solo that was sung by a blind woman that was like any other funeral I had ever been to?

Q. That was the only part—

A. The only part.

Q. —that was similar to any other funeral. Now, did you note some of the close friends of Mrs. Redenbaugh leaving the funeral during the course of the sermon?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. And why did they walk out?

A. Because they were so disgusted.

Q. So disgusted. Did you consider walking out yourself?

A. Well, if I hadn't been so far up in front, I think I would have.

Q. Now, do you recall anything that Mr. Fisher stated in that—at the time of that—his address?

A. Well, he said that it was too bad that we could send money and food to foreign countries when our own old people were suffering for food and medical aid.

Q. Did he make any kind of a statement about changing our present form of government?

A. He said he thought it was time for us to do something about it.

Q. Did he use the word "change" our form of government?

A. Yes, change it.

Q. At this funeral service, solemn last rites for Marie Redenbaugh, this man made a statement that if we couldn't do better for our old folks, it was time we changed our form of government.

A. That's right.

Q. All right, now which one of the two made that statement?

A. Well, I think it was William Pennock that made it more plain.

Q. William—oh, both of them made it then.

A. Both of them spoke of it, yes.

Q. Uh-huhm. Now, do you recall who prayed at that funeral?

A. Both of them.

Q. Both of them prayed. Do you recall anything they said in their prayer?

A. Well, I don't know which one it was—I think it was Bill—William Pennock that said that, "Oh, Lord, this is our first victim, Sister Marie, and let there not be any more."

Q. And your testimony is that this resembled a political rally.

A. Yes.

Q. And did the audience appear enthusiastic about the things that they said?

A. Well, I don't know—I know that all of her friends were very much disappointed to think that it had taken place.

Q. And the non-friends, how did they appear?

A. Well, I got right out, I don't know, I—

Q. Your description of this funeral is that it resembled a political rally.

A. It certainly did.

Q. And you were disgusted with the whole affair, is that right? Did you express this disgust to anyone?

A. Oh, we all talked about it together.

Q. You thought it was a shame?

A. I did.

Q. Did Mr. Pennock, among other things, state that this woman had died because she was unable to obtain medical care?

A. Lack of—for nourishing food and lack of medical care.

Q. He stated her death—

A. Yes.

Q. —was due to lack of nourishing food and medical care.

A. That she was the first victim.

Q. She was the first victim.

A. Uh-huh.

Q. Now you know this of your own knowledge to be false?

A. Certainly it was false.

Q. And you have been in Marie Redenbaugh's apartment every day for the last ten years.

A. Yes. Sometimes two or three times a day.

Q. Sometimes—

A. She lives just a few houses below me, and when I couldn't get her over the 'phone, I'd go down to see her.

Q. Now, when you first went to the funeral home, where was the casket?

A. Well, it was in a large room when I went, but I understand it was set up in a small room, a family room, and so many people came they had to change it to the large room.

Q. To the large room.

A. Uh-huhm.

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

(Witness Excused)

MR. WHIPPLE: Mrs. Redenbaugh?

MR. HOUSTON: Well, just a minute—do you mind, Mr. Whipple?

Mr. Chairman, at this point in the record I would like to introduce an exhibit which is a subscribed and sworn to affidavit of Mr. Arthur Truax who is Vice President of the First National Bank. He's just recently undergone a major operation, and is in one of our Seattle hospitals at this time, and is unable to be here. I would like to read the affidavit and introduce it as an exhibit.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: You may do so. It will be accepted as Committee's Exhibit No. 52, after you have read it.

MR. HOUSTON: "State of Washington, County of King. I, Arthur Truax, of lawful age, being first duly sworn on oath, depose and swear that I am a Vice President of the First National Bank of Seattle, Washington, with offices at Second and Cherry in said city.

"I have known Mrs. Marie Redenbaugh and her mother for many years. They came to Seattle from Iowa or from some state back in that section of the country, and came to my attention through my wife. Mrs. Truax was a member of a club known as the 'Seattle Fruit and Flower Commission,' a welfare organization. And the Redenbaughs were one of the cases that were assigned to her for visitation. She found them to be such good people, nice and genteel, that she became quite interested in their case. Because of her interest, I met them and became interested also.

"Through the ensuing years I and a couple of the boys at the bank were instrumental in saving their home for them. In fact, we made the payments on a mortgage on their place.

"Marie Redenbaugh was the wage earner. Whenever she was stuck and needed help, she always came down to the bank and we were always good for a touch. About a year ago, Marie came to me and told me she was making me Executor of her will. She mentioned the fact that she was leaving my wife her diamond ring, and a highboy and a mirror to a niece. I never saw the will at the time and knew nothing of its contents beyond what she stated.

"The Monday following the Fourth of July, a Mrs. Osborn, whom I have later found to be a very nice lady and a friend of Mrs. Redenbaugh, 'phoned me that they had found Mrs. Redenbaugh in her room and had sent her to the Harbor View Hospital, stating further that she doubted if she would live to reach there. That left me up in the air. I didn't know whether I would be stuck with the funeral expenses or what the situation would be. I 'phoned the hospital and was told that Mrs. Redenbaugh had died on the way to the hospital, and the body had been delivered to the morgue. I immediately called the morgue and told the deputy coroner who I was and asked him to hold all jewelry for me. I asked him what disposition was

being made of the body, and he told me he had received instructions from a Mrs. Bettinger—" B-e double t-i-n-g-e-r "—to send the body to the Butterworth Funeral Home. Thinking this was a good break for me and that I would not be stuck with the funeral expenses, and assuming that this action of Mrs. Bettinger meant that friends or members of the family were taking care of the situation, I did not countermand the instructions.

"I later called the Butterworth Funeral Home and talked with Butterworth about funeral arrangements. He told me that the State would pay one hundred dollars on the funeral, if the expenses did not run over one hundred and fifty dollars. I got her 'phone number from him and called Mrs. Bettinger. I was worrying about keeping the expenses down within the prescribed limit. While I did not mind furnishing the fifty or fifty-five dollars extra, I did not want to be stuck for the entire amount.

"During my talk with Mrs. Bettinger, she informed me she had had a great deal of experience in handling funerals of this type, that Butterworth's she was sure would keep the expenses low enough, that they handled many such funerals, and that she had been a very good friend who made a practice—that she had a very good friend who made a practice of officiating at the funerals of these poor people. She mentioned the name of Bill Pennock, whose name I have heard mentioned in times past, yet it meant nothing to me at this time.

"She also stated there was a certain Dr. somebody, I don't recall his name, who though not a Doctor of Divinity, was a doctor of a certain theological school, who would take care of the religious part of the ceremony. She also mentioned a blind singer who worked with these two men. Upon being assured that the expenses would be kept to a minimum, I told her to go ahead.

"I went out to the house that evening and found that the birds were hungry and needed feeding. I didn't know just what to do with them, but many of the women came in and any of them would take the birds and take care of them, I just gave the birds to them. I had a copy of the will, and taking a Mr. Nederer from our trust department with me, we took an inventory of the apartment. While in doing so, we found thirty dollars in cash in various parts of the apartment.

"I noticed she had two cupboards filled with canned goods. We estimated the value of her belongings at two hundred dollars, aside from the bequests of the highboy and the mirror to the niece back in the Midwest, and her diamond ring to my wife.

"Later on I called Butterworth again, and during the conversation told him that I didn't think there would be more than a dozen or so people attending the funeral. He told me he had a small chapel we could use, and thought we could manage to keep the expenses down so that the State would pay its share.

"I also got in contact with the visiting representative of the Social Security or Pension, who visited the pensioners and informed her of the arrangements being made, and had her route the necessary papers, so there would be no delay in the payment of the State's share. The funeral was set for two o'clock, Friday afternoon, July 11th, 1947. I made arrangements to get away from the bank in time to pick up my wife and attend the funeral. While we were en route from our own home to Butterworth's, my wife mentioned that Mrs. Osborn had 'phoned her and said there was an article in that morning's 'P.I.' which we should read. I thought little of this until we arrived at Butterworth's. Upon entering the doors of the funeral home, I