

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

was literally astounded. A large crowd was in the hall. I would estimate there were better than one hundred and twenty-five people. An amazing number of them appeared to be lame, halt, or blind. I noticed that each one seemed to be holding or carrying a small card or slip in their hands which read, quote, two o'clock, Butterworth's, unquote. I immediately got hold of Butterworth and requested a copy of the 'P.I.' In this I read the article which purported to be a letter from Mrs. Bettinger, requesting the attendance of all Old Age Pension Union members who were dissatisfied with the proposed cut in their pensions.

"I might say at this time that several of the men at the bank had laughed at me when I told them of the proposed plan for the funeral, and asked me where I had been all my life, and—that I didn't know about Bill Pennock.

"With all this happening as it had, I now demanded an audience with Pennock, and upon being introduced, went with him to a small anteroom, where I at once said, quote, Mr. Pennock, you do not intend to introduce anything into this funeral service in connection with this Pension Union, unquote. He told me that he had intended referring to it, stating that he had been an old friend of Mrs. Redenbaugh's and had visited with her on occasion and thought she would want him to.

"I emphatically stated I did not think this was either the time, place, or occasion for such. When the ceremony began, Mr. Pennock made a very nice introductory talk, referring to our dear departed friend and so forth. He introduced the other speaker, who read some scripture, as I recall, and made a short talk. Following this there was a song by the blind lady, who as I best could tell, was a white woman of medium build, baby face, inclined on the heavy side.

"Following the song, both Pennock and the other fellow made a very fiery speech in which they said Mrs. Redenbaugh's death was due to the lack of proper food and medical attention, and laid the blame on the State Legislators.

"I sat there fuming. I just didn't know what to do. It was a terrible state to be in, and several times I started to get up and stop it, and then I thought that making a scene would just make things worse, so I would keep still.

"It was finally over. I noticed that several persons in the audience got up and walked out during these latter speeches. I, myself, also was indignant, and also noted that the majority of the older people were nodding and smiling in agreement as each speaker made a point. When the audience filed by the casket, Mrs. Louise Redenbaugh, a sister-in-law of the deceased, stopped in front of the man with Pennock, the other speaker, and really told him off. She gave it to him in regard to the speech and was so indignant she could hardly articulate. During her statement she told him Mrs. Redenbaugh had the very best of food, that she had been a nurse and could have obtained the very best medical attention without any trouble whatsoever, and that the speeches were not only ill-advised and out of place but an actual misrepresentation of the facts.

"Mrs. Truax and I went out to Washelli Cemetery, and there Mr. Pennock, and his friend, and about a dozen of the friends of the deceased, were all present. Mr. Pennock made a short talk in which he stated we were there to pay our last respects to the dear departed, and then the other man stepped forward.

"I really believe they intended to take up where they had left off at the funeral home, but before the second man could get started, one of the assis-

tants from the funeral home said, 'This concludes the ceremony.' And that ended everything.

"I turned things over to the trust department of my bank, to help me out in handling the effects of the estate. Instructions were given, Bushell's, to obtain the furnishings and place them in storage for future auction. I contacted the two nieces in the Midwest to whom the balance of the estate, if any, would go. And they wrote me a very nice letter, agreeing in every respect with my handling of things. My wife has the diamond ring which was left to her, although I told her at the time there might be some question as to her right to it until the completion of the settling of the estate.

"Butterworth's sent me a statement for fifty dollars net. I was very incensed at the statement made that Mrs. Redenbaugh died of malnutrition; as I stated before, she had a large supply of canned stuffs in her apartment and I know that she had plenty to eat. She knew and made use of the fact that I was always good for a touch, and had she needed anything I am positive she would have contacted me.

"In addition, she had over thirty dollars in cash in her possession at the time of her death, and her current pension check was due. Her monthly pension check was around eighty dollars, although I believe it was to have been cut later on. Incidentally, this last check has never been received by me. I left instructions for it to be sent to me, but I've never received it, and do not know what happened to it.

"Also, I might add that Mrs. Redenbaugh made an income off her birds, from fancy work and from sewing.

"I am sure that these facts contradict the statements made by Pennock and his friend at the funeral.

"I have read the above affidavit, consisting of five pages, and thoroughly understand the matters and things contained therein. These statements are made by me of my own free will and accord, without promise of remuneration or reward of any nature, and without duress or threat of violence.

"Signed, Arthur Truax.

"Subscribed and sworn to this 21st day of August, 1947, before me, an investigator of the un-American Activities Committee created by the House Concurrent Resolution No. 10 of the Thirtieth Legislature, and authorized to administer oaths by the Chairman of said committee, under Section 12, Paragraph 2, of said Resolution. Ernest P. Stith, Investigator; Aaron R. Coleman, witness."

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: That has been admitted as Committee's Exhibit No. 52.

MRS. MARY LOUISE REDENBAUGH, produced as a witness, after being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

#### DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. WHIPPLE:

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Mr. Whipple, it's my understanding that Mrs. Redenbaugh must be released in time to catch a train. Now, are you advised of that?

MR. WHIPPLE: I am advised of that, Mr. Chairman, and in that connection I'll do my best to conclude her testimony by twelve. It might go over just a few minutes, but if you will bear with me I will complete her testimony so that she can make arrangements to catch the train.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: All right, if you will proceed.