

TESTIMONY OF TED ASTLEY
Veterans Counselor, University of Washington

MR. HOUSTON: Will Mr. Astley take the stand? Ted Astley.
 Mr. Chairman, will you call for the witness, Ted Astley?

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Mr. Ted Astley.

MR. ASTLEY: Mr. Houston, I want it understood that I—

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Take the stand and be sworn.

TED ASTLEY, produced as a witness, after being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Astley, have you heard the instructions to the witnesses to talk directly into the microphone?

MR. ASTLEY: I have heard all of the instructions.

MR. HOUSTON: Will you please state your name?

MR. ASTLEY: My name is Theodore Raymond Astley, and I am also known as Ted Astley because that is a rather long name. Most people call me Ted.

MR. HOUSTON: I will be very pleased to oblige you.

MR. ASTLEY: My friends call me Ted.

MR. HOUSTON: Where do you live, Mr. Astley?

MR. ASTLEY: I live at 4401 Union Bay Place, which is in the Veterans' Housing Project at the University of Washington.

MR. HOUSTON: Are you a resident of the State of Washington?

MR. ASTLEY: I assume so. I vote here.

MR. HOUSTON: What is your occupation, Mr. Astley?

MR. ASTLEY: I am a vocational counselor at the University of Washington Veterans' Guidance Center.

MR. HOUSTON: Who is your employer?

MR. ASTLEY: My employer is the University of Washington.

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

MR. ASTLEY: I was born in Atlanta, Georgia.

MR. HOUSTON: When were you born?

MR. ASTLEY: I was born in 1920.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Astley, I will ask you if you are, or ever have been, a member of the Communist Party?

MR. ASTLEY: **Mr. Houston, I will answer your question in my own manner. This is a question which cannot be asked of any citizen of the United States without a violation of the Constitution of the United States. The—**
 (starts shouting)

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: You will be quiet.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to report, for the record's sake, that the answer was totally unexpected and unresponsive to the question.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Do I understand correctly, that he is employed by the State of Washington?

MR. HOUSTON: Yes.

(Witness Excused)

TESTIMONY OF MRS. MAUD BEAL
Assistant Professor of English,
University of Washington

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

MR. HOUSTON: Mrs. Beal, have you heard the instructions given to the previous witnesses about speaking?

Would you please state your name?

MRS. BEAL: Mrs. Maud Beal.

MR. HOUSTON: And how do you spell it?

MRS. BEAL: Beal.

MR. HOUSTON: There is no "s" on it?

MRS. BEAL: No, sir. I'm singular.

MR. HOUSTON: Are you a resident of this city, Mrs. Beal?

MRS. BEAL: Yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: How long have you lived in the City of Seattle?

MRS. BEAL: Since 1925. Oh, pardon me, I am not a resident. I am a resident of north King County.

MR. HOUSTON: What is your occupation, Mrs. Beal?

MRS. BEAL: I teach at the University.

MR. HOUSTON: What do you teach?

MRS. BEAL: I teach people to write on paper what they know so that the college professors won't misunderstand them, if possible. Composition and English.

MR. HOUSTON: Composition and English. How long have you taught at the University?

MRS. BEAL: Twenty-two years.

Admits Communist Party Membership

MR. HOUSTON: Twenty-two years. Mrs. Beal, I will ask you, are you or have you ever been, a member of the Communist Party?

MRS. BEAL: I was a member of the Communist Party from about 1935, I think, to—I'm not sure when—my leaving the Party was gradual, and I think it was ten years ago, approximately.

MR. HOUSTON: 1938.

MRS. BEAL: It might have been '38 or '39.

MR. HOUSTON: '38 or '39.

MRS. BEAL: Yes. It was before the war, I know.

MR. HOUSTON: But you're positive it was—

MRS. BEAL: Yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you associate any particular thing with your leaving the Party?

MRS. BEAL: Yes, sir. I was—my work was very—at the time, was rather heavy at the University and I had difficulty keeping up with anything else. Then there was—of course the other was a matter of sort of inability to adjust myself, of searching my conscience, I suppose.

MR. HOUSTON: Now during this period of three or four years that you were a member of the Communist Party, did you attend meetings from time to time?

MRS. BEAL: Rather infrequently because of my work and my health. I did attend meetings, three kinds.

MR. HOUSTON: Is it your testimony that you only attended three meetings in that—

MRS. BEAL: No, I said three different types.

MR. HOUSTON: Oh, three different types.

MRS. BEAL: Study groups, social gatherings, and Party meetings. Communist Party meetings.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you recall what group you attended Communist Party meetings with? The name of the unit?

MRS. BEAL: There was no name. As far as I know, I was in a group of professional people.

MR. HOUSTON: In a group with the professional people.

Did you hold any positions in the Communist Party?

MRS. BEAL: No, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: Did you perform any assignments for them?

MRS. BEAL: Oh, I think I tried to conduct study groups. I don't remember exactly where or when, but I tried to do something about it.

MR. HOUSTON: How did you happen to join the Communist Party? Counsel states you want to tell us.

MRS. BEAL: I think I was converted by the indignities that I saw people suffering in the depression. I wanted to do something about them; I had to get some sort of action. I was terrified.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you think that the Communist Party was the answer to the problems that had arisen in this country?

MRS. BEAL: No, sir. They may have helped; I don't know.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, did you ever solicit anyone for membership in the Communist Party?

MRS. BEAL: If I did, I couldn't give that as testimony here, because I don't know. I want to be truthful.

MR. HOUSTON: Who solicited you in the Communist Party?

MRS. BEAL: Well, I read some books, and got disturbed. I suppose my Irish ancestry got to—got rather vocal, and a young man came out to my apartment and I think I talked him into it.

MR. HOUSTON: You talked him into it?

MRS. BEAL: Well, I was perfectly willing to do something.

MR. HOUSTON: Did you talk him into—

MRS. BEAL: I didn't know. I—

MR. HOUSTON: You talked him into signing you up for the Communist Party?

MRS. BEAL: Well, I was trying to be funny, but that isn't true, of course. I—we talked things over and—I mean he had no trouble at all.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you recall this man's name?

MRS. BEAL: I couldn't until I heard it mentioned in this room.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you know now, who he was?

MRS. BEAL: Yes, I think it was a man by the name of Roberts.

MR. HOUSTON: Roberts.

MRS. BEAL: To the best of my memory.

MR. HOUSTON: Was that Bob Roberts?

MRS. BEAL: I think so.

MR. HOUSTON: Mrs. Beal, did you ever sit in a Communist Party meeting with Ralph Gundlach?

MRS. BEAL: Mr. Houston, I—that's been from ten to thirteen years ago. I honestly want my testimony to stand up. If I were in a meeting and tried to recall any of these individuals—it might have been a study group, I don't know. People were in and out of meetings in those days and—I saw them socially, I couldn't say. I actually couldn't.

MR. HOUSTON: Could you have sat in Communist Party meetings with Ralph Gundlach?

MRS. BEAL: I don't know why I couldn't have, if he—I mean I—I had no way of knowing.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you know Mr. Gundlach?

MRS. BEAL: At the University? Yes, I know him.

MR. HOUSTON: Did you know him at this time?

MRS. BEAL: I couldn't say because I don't remember when I first knew Mr. Gundlach as a person. Mr. Gundlach is in a different department and for years I was a Teaching Fellow and I knew only the people in my department.

MR. HOUSTON: Did you ever sit in any Communist Party meetings with Sophus Keith Winther?

MRS. BEAL: I may have, but I didn't know him. I couldn't—I mean—I couldn't take an oath that he was a member of the Party during then. I mean my memory simply doesn't place him as that. I know he admitted on this stand that he was, but I wouldn't have gone on the stand and identified him as one.

MR. HOUSTON: You're not identifying anybody as one, are you?

MRS. BEAL: No, sir, because I don't want to go on record as doing any guesswork, whatever. I didn't see any Party cards and I didn't collect any dues.

MR. HOUSTON: How did you happen to attend the first Communist Party meeting after this young man recruited you in the Party?

I mean just what I asked. She says she joined the Communist Party; she says she attended meetings; she doesn't remember anybody. How did she happen to go to the meeting, then?

Refuses to Name Other Party Members

MRS. BEAL: Mr. Houston, I couldn't tell you about these meetings because—I couldn't swear to a meeting that I attended ten years ago.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you recall where any of these meetings were held?

MRS. BEAL: Around various homes in the University district.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you recall whose homes they were held in?

MRS. BEAL: Mr. Houston, I can't identify people with a definition—I release my attorney from any responsibility to my answer—I can't identify people with the definition of Communist that has been developed in this room. They were all my friends. I was in their homes. I can't violate their

hospitality. They were decent to me and I hope to God they'd turn me down if I didn't behave decently to them.

MR. HOUSTON: Did you ever sit in a Communist Party meeting with Ralph H. Gundlach?

MRS. BEAL: Same answer.

MR. HOUSTON: You refuse to answer?

MRS. BEAL: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Well, Mrs. Beal, we—I think you understand the position you are placing us in, and yourself, and I'm going to ask you to step aside.

TESTIMONY OF MRS. JUDITH FLETCHER

JUDITH FLETCHER, called as a witness, after being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

MR. WHIPPLE: Mrs. Fletcher, in addressing your answers to questions asked we'd appreciate you to speak in the microphone and spell out any names. Will you state your name, please?

MRS. FLETCHER: Judith Fletcher.

MR. WHIPPLE: Where do you live, Mrs. Fletcher?

MRS. FLETCHER: Just out of Monroe.

MR. WHIPPLE: Is that in the State of Washington?

MRS. FLETCHER: Yes, it is.

MR. WHIPPLE: How long have you been a resident of the State of Washington?

MRS. FLETCHER: About thirty years or thirty-two years.

MR. WHIPPLE: Mrs. Fletcher, what relation, if any, are you to Jess Fletcher?

MRS. FLETCHER: I am his wife.

MR. WHIPPLE: Mrs. Fletcher, I'll ask you to state whether or not you have ever been a member of the Communist Party?

MRS. FLETCHER: Yes, I was.

MR. WHIPPLE: Mrs. Fletcher, approximately when did you become a member of the Communist Party?

MRS. FLETCHER: Well, I believe around 1937, or '38.

MR. WHIPPLE: Do you remember at this time, Mrs. Fletcher, who recruited you into the Communist Party?

MRS. FLETCHER: No, I don't.

MR. WHIPPLE: How long did you remain a member of the Communist Party, Mrs. Fletcher?

MRS. FLETCHER: Well, it's rather indefinite—I think sometime in 1944.

MR. WHIPPLE: You were a member of the Communist Party from about 1927 until—

MRS. FLETCHER: No, '38.

MR. WHIPPLE: About nineteen thirty—

MRS. FLETCHER: '37 or '38.

MR. WHIPPLE: —'37 or '38 to 1944. Something like a six or seven year period—in through there.

Now, do you know a person by the name of Harold Eby?

MRS. FLETCHER: Yes, I do.

Identifies Professor Eby and Wife as Communists

MR. WHIPPLE: How long have you known him?

MRS. FLETCHER: Well, I met him, I believe in 1938 or thereabouts.

MR. WHIPPLE: At that time what if any business or occupation did he have?

MRS. FLETCHER: I understood he was teaching at the University.