

MR. WHIPPLE: Are you referring now to Local 6 of the Building Service Union?

MR. FLETCHER: That's right, and they usually put on plays out there, and they would come to union leaders and sell nights for a play. The union would buy the house out and fill it with their members.

MR. WHIPPLE: What house do you refer to?

MR. FLETCHER: The Playhouse—or the Playhouse out here—

MR. WHIPPLE: The Repertory Playhouse?

MR. FLETCHER: The Repertory Playhouse, yes.

MR. WHIPPLE: All right. In that connection did you have any unusual experience with Florence Bean James?

MR. FLETCHER: Yes, she came to me to buy the house out, I think some—it was quite a sum of money, I forget the exact amount, and I didn't feel like taking it, and I don't—I told her I wouldn't take it. Later on I was contacted by Morris Rappaport.

MR. WHIPPLE: Who is Morris Rappaport?

MR. FLETCHER: He was then the district organizer of the Communist Party for the Northwest, and Rappaport brought this to my attention and told me that he thought I should buy that night, and Mrs. James was a good comrade and I should support the cause, and I bought it and wrote the check.

MR. WHIPPLE: Now could you tell us approximately when that was, to the best of your recollection?

MR. FLETCHER: Oh, it was somewhere around '38 or '39,—somewhere there.

MR. WHIPPLE: I think that is all, Mr. Fletcher, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Fletcher, that's all.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: You may be excused from attendance.

(Witness Excused)

## TESTIMONY OF ALBERT OTTENHEIMER OF REPERTORY PLAYHOUSE

MR. HOUSTON: Will Mr. Ottenheimer take the stand?

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Will you be sworn?

MR. OTTENHEIMER: I'm being sworn under protest, Mr. Canwell.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Will you be sworn?

ALBERT M. OTTENHEIMER, after being first duly sworn was examined and testified as follows:

MR. OTTENHEIMER: I wish to draw your attention, Mr. Canwell, to the absence of my attorney.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: You mean by your attorney, Mr. Caughlan?

MR. OTTENHEIMER: No, I mean by "my attorney" Mr. Clifford O'Brien, whom you ejected this morning. However, I'm not complaining of that at the moment, because his presence here would serve no useful purpose except to give the idea of how counsel is really allowed to protect the interest of his clients.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: I would like to have time for all these speeches, but we haven't.

Now if you will proceed with the questioning.

MR. HOUSTON: Have you heard the previous instructions as to speaking into the microphone and not nodding, but answering audibly, Mr. Ottenheimer?

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Ad nauseam; Mr. Houston.

MR. HOUSTON: Will you please state your name?

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Well I'm the Albert Ottenheimer who sat here four days hearing himself and his associates vilified by the greatest collection of liars and perjurers I ever heard.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Knowing Mr. Ottenheimer's profession, I don't want to deprive him of every opportunity to put on—well, I don't want to deprive him of every opportunity of answering here and I just wish to instruct him to make his answers responsive, or we will have to consider that he is refusing to testify, and he will be removed.

Now, if you will go on with your questioning.

MR. HOUSTON: Are you a citizen of the City of Seattle, Mr. Ottenheimer?

MR. OTTENHEIMER: I am, Mr. Houston.

MR. HOUSTON: Where were you born?

MR. OTTENHEIMER: I was born in the City of Tacoma.

MR. HOUSTON: How long—

MR. OTTENHEIMER: September 6, 1904.

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

MR. OTTENHEIMER: 25 years.

MR. HOUSTON: What is your occupation?

MR. OTTENHEIMER: I am an actor, and an artist.

**Refuses to Answer**

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

MR. OTTENHEIMER: And I will say to you, Mr. Houston, that I consider that an attempted censorship of the arts, and I can't answer that kind of question under the circumstances which are permitted here.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Will you ask the question again, and I wish to instruct the witness that that is a question that might easily be answered by "yes" or "no."

MR. HOUSTON: Are you, or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Mr. Houston, I object to answering that question on the basis I have stated, plus moral grounds, professional ethics, and illegal grounds.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Do I understand that you refuse to answer the question directly?

MR. OTTENHEIMER: I am—

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: I want a "yes" or "no" answer to that. Do you or do you not wish to be responsive to the questions? Now you must answer these questions or we will have to ask you to step aside. We are trying to be reasonable here. We would like to have you tell your story, but if you insist on not answering the questions of the Committee we will have to follow the usual procedure and ask you to step aside.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Well Mr. Canwell, I've formed my own opinion, listening here, to the reasonableness of this Committee.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Well, we will take it for granted that you do not intend to answer the questions of the Committee. You may step aside.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Thank you, sir.

(Witness Excused)

**TESTIMONY OF MELVIN MILLER RADER**  
**Associate Professor of Philosophy,**  
**University of Washington**

MR. HOUSTON: Melvin Rader?

MELVIN MILLER RADER, after being first duly sworn was examined and testified as follows:

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Rader, you have heard the instructions to the witnesses on the stand, have you not?

MR. RADER: I have, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: What is your name?

MR. RADER: Melvin Miller Rader.

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

MR. RADER: I live in the City of Seattle.

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

MR. RADER: I have been here since 1921. I came here as a student the first time, at the University of Washington, in 1921. My regular appointment at the University, however, was not made until the fall of 1930. I have been employed since that time by the University of Washington, except for a leave of absence during 1944 and 1945 when I was in Chicago.

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

MR. RADER: I want to answer that question very fully and explicitly and to the point. I think I can answer the question best if I can read a statement. I will answer the question "no," I have never been a member of the Communist Party, and I am not now a member of the Communist Party, and I shall be very glad to elaborate that answer any time.

**Admits Front Organization Affiliation**

MR. HOUSTON: Now I will ask you, Professor, if you were ever a member of an organization known as the League Against War and Fascism, which has been declared a subversive organization by the Attorney General of the United States of America?

MR. RADER: I have been a member of the American League Against War and Fascism.

MR. HOUSTON: On Sunday, evening, April 7, 1935, in the Labor Temple in the City of Seattle, did you speak for an hour and ten minutes on the Soviet Union at a meeting of the American League Against War and Fascism?

MR. RADER: You will please repeat the question, Mr. Houston? I—you are referring to a very specific event. Will you please repeat the question, because I want to tell the exact truth to the best of my ability.

MR. HOUSTON: On Sunday evening, April 7, 1935, in the Labor Temple, in the City of Seattle, did you speak for approximately an hour and ten minutes on the Soviet Union to a meeting of the League Against War and Fascism?

MR. RADER: Well sir, you have stated the question in such very definite and such very precise terms, that I don't see how I could answer that question "yes" or "no" without perjuring myself, because I'm uncertain.

Now, I do have some memory of speaking at the Labor Temple. I don't know under what auspices. I can't remember precisely. That's quite a time