

MR. HOUSTON: You collected some dues?

DR. WINTHER: Yes, I think so. I think perhaps for a month or so,—I can't recall.

MR. HOUSTON: You were in a position to know who was and who was not members, as a result of that?

DR. WINTHER: Yes, I was.

MR. HOUSTON: These people you have testified to—

DR. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: —you did collect dues from?

DR. WINTHER: Yes.

Should Get Party Consent for Vacation

MR. HOUSTON: You testified that you took a vacation in the year 1936, was that right?

DR. WINTHER: Yes, I left Seattle right after school, in 1936.

MR. HOUSTON: And did you have any conversation with **Mr. Rapport** when you returned, concerning this vacation?

DR. WINTHER: I'm not sure. I know the general attitude was that a man was not supposed to take a vacation without the consent of the Party, which meant **Mr. Rapport**.

MR. HOUSTON: They had quite iron discipline then, did they not, in the party?

DR. WINTHER: It didn't work very well.

MR. HOUSTON: It didn't work very well?

MR. HOUSTON: **Mr. Chairman**, I believe that is all from this witness, unless you and the Committee have some questions, I suggest that he be excused from the subpoena,—that's up to the committee.

You don't intend to leave town in the next week or so, do you?

THE WITNESS: No.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: On the understanding, **Doctor Winther**, that you will be on call if the Committee wishes to hear from you again, I will release you from the subpoena and wish to thank you sincerely for your appearance here.

MR. HOUSTON: Thank you very much.

Mr. Chairman, I suggest that we have about a ten-minute recess.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: The Committee will be in recess for ten minutes.

(Recess)

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: The Committee will be in session. Will you call your next witness?

TESTIMONY OF MRS. MABEL WINTHER

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

BY MR. HOUSTON:

MR. HOUSTON: You have heard the instructions that were given to the previous witnesses, that this hearing is being recorded, did you not, **Mrs. Winther**?

THE WITNESS: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: If you will comply and try to speak distinctly.

MR. HOUSTON: Please state your name.

MRS. WINTHER: My name is **Mabel Eline Winther**.

MR. HOUSTON: How do you spell **Eline**?

MRS. WINTHER: **Eline**.

MR. HOUSTON: **Eline. Winther, Winther.**

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: You are the wife of **Dr. Winther** that preceded you—

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

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

MRS. WINTHER: Since 1924.

MR. HOUSTON: 1924. **Mrs. Winther**, have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

MRS. WINTHER: Yes, I have.

Names Associates As Former Members

MR. HOUSTON: Do you recall when you joined the Communist Party?

MRS. WINTHER: Well, it's a long time ago, but I believe—it's my belief that I attended my first unit meeting in June of 1935.

MR. HOUSTON: June of 1935.

MRS. WINTHER: Yes, that's what I believe.

MR. HOUSTON: That's the closest you—

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: —can fix the date. Now did you attend very many meetings of the Communist Party?

MRS. WINTHER: I was in the Party until the fall of 1936, and I believe that we had two absences from Seattle during that time. That's my belief. I think that we were away in the summer of 1935, and also in the summer of 1936. That's what I think; it could be checked, because I could really—

MR. HOUSTON: With the exception of these two vacations, though, you attended your meetings quite regularly?

MRS. WINTHER: Yes, I think I attended rather regularly. I was taking classes at the University, and I was very busy, and I may have missed meetings, I don't recall.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, where would these meetings be held?

MRS. WINTHER: They were held, I think, turnabout at various homes of the members of the unit.

MR. HOUSTON: Did you ever have them meet at your home?

MRS. WINTHER: I think so.

MR. HOUSTON: Out at your home. Now, why did you join the Communist Party?

MRS. WINTHER: I joined the Communist Party because my husband had been inducted into the Party, and I considered that sufficient reason to enter it because I didn't think that it would be a good state of affairs to have him a member of a secret organization to which I was a stranger.

MR. HOUSTON: You have joint ventures and you are very close, and—

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: —you went in because—

MRS. WINTHER: Yes, I knew all the people concerned.

MR. HOUSTON: No great ideological reasons, or anything like that?

MRS. WINTHER: No.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, you mentioned meetings. Do you—did you attend the same meetings your husband attended?

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: And you attended with him.

MRS. WINTHER: Yes, we were members of the same unit.

MR. HOUSTON: The same unit. Now, do you know which unit this was?

MRS. WINTHER: I don't know that they had names or classifications. I just know that it was the only unit I ever attended.

MR. HOUSTON: Was—did you recognize other people in the unit meetings?

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Were they University professors and their wives, in the majority?

MRS. WINTHER: I think so.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, do you know Professor **Garland Ethel**?

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Did Professor Ethel attend these Communist Party meetings that you attended?

MRS. WINTHER: I don't remember whether Professor Ethel was a member of my unit. I know that he was a member of the Party.

MR. HOUSTON: You know that he was a member of the Party.

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: And you have discussed this with him?

MRS. WINTHER: Oh, yes, I talked to him as one member to another.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, do you know Professor **Harold Eby**?

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Was he a member of the Communist Party at the time you were?

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: And you have talked and discussed this with him?

MRS. WINTHER: Well, I never had any business dealings, as I remember, with Mr. Eby, but he was around and we met, and I don't think he ever took me into any consultation of any Communist affairs.

MR. HOUSTON: Isn't it a fact that when you wanted to quit the Party Professor Eby is the one you told you were through?

MRS. WINTHER: I don't remember telling anybody I was through with the Party. I was through with it and I don't think I informed anybody about it. That's what I think.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you know Professor Eby's wife, **Lenna**?

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Was—did she attend these Party meetings that you attended there?

MRS. WINTHER: She was at Communist gatherings, but I—I don't remember that she was ever a member of our unit.

MR. HOUSTON: Of your particular unit.

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you know whether or not she was a member of the Party at the time you were?

MRS. WINTHER: Yes, she was.

MR. HOUSTON: She was a member of the Party, there, at the time. Do you know Professor **Joseph Cohen**?

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Was Professor Joseph Cohen a member of the Communist Party at the time you were?

MRS. WINTHER: I thought so, yes.

MR. HOUSTON: You accepted him as such?

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: He accepted you as such?

MRS. WINTHER: I don't know.

MR. HOUSTON: You don't know how he accepted you?

MRS. WINTHER: No.

MR. HOUSTON: But he didn't argue with you about it?

MRS. WINTHER: No, we merely talked about it as far as I know.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, do you know Professor **Joseph Butterworth**?

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Did he attend these meetings, too?

MRS. WINTHER: As I say, I don't think he was ever a member of my unit.

MR. HOUSTON: Your unit. Was he a member of the Party?

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

Jesse Epstein Again Named

MR. HOUSTON: He was. Do you know **Jesse Epstein**?

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Was Jesse Epstein a member of the Communist Party—

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: —at the time you were?

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: And did he attend meetings?

MRS. WINTHER: The first meeting I ever attended, Mr. Epstein was present.

MR. HOUSTON: Was he—

MRS. WINTHER: But I don't remember; I think he was a member of

my unit, for a while, and probably was changed to another one, or something happened, I don't know.

MR. HOUSTON: There is a lot of comings and goings in the different—

MRS. WINTHER: Well, just like any other organization, they are not absolutely standard; they change.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, do you know a **Miss Maud Beal**?

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Was Miss Maud Beal a member of the Communist Party when you were?

MRS. WINTHER: I assume she was.

MR. HOUSTON: Was she at these meetings?

MRS. WINTHER: She was at the first meeting I attended.

MR. HOUSTON: The first meeting you attended. Do you recall whether she ever attended any others or not?

MRS. WINTHER: I do not.

MR. HOUSTON: Did you know **Selden Menefee**?

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Was he a member of the Communist Party?

MRS. WINTHER: I am not positive.

MR. HOUSTON: You're not positive. Were you ever given any duties to perform in the Party?

University Professor Delivers Party Literature to Agit-prop

MRS. WINTHER: I was—sometime during my membership in this unit, I was made kind of an officer in the unit which is known as Agit-prop. I think later they changed that name to Educational Director.

MR. HOUSTON: What were the duties of the Agit-prop?

MRS. WINTHER: Well, the duties were supposed to be to take care of the Communist literature that was always ready and present at the unit meetings, and if anyone wanted to buy a pamphlet or something of that sort it was my duty while I was Agit-prop to collect the money for these pamphlets from the person who picked it up and turn it in to the—whoever had charge of the funds.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, who did you get the literature from?

MRS. WINTHER: Well, I—the literature was brought sometimes to the meeting of the unit, and a number of times it was brought to my house when I was supposed to take care of it, and on those occasions I remember **Mr. Melville Jacobs** bringing it to me once in a while.

MR. HOUSTON: Professor Melville Jacobs of the University of Washington?

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: And he would bring you this literature that you were supposed to sell?

MRS. WINTHER: Yes, leave it at my house, and I would take it over at the unit meeting, or sometimes it would be delivered to the unit meeting. That's the way I remember it. It's a long time ago, and that's all I can say.

MR. HOUSTON: Was Professor Melville Jacobs a member of the Communist Party?

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Was he a member of your unit?

MRS. WINTHER: I think he was a member of my unit for a while, but I—I wouldn't like to state it under oath because I might make a mistake there, on my history.

MR. HOUSTON: But you know that he was a member of the Party?

MRS. WINTHER: Oh, yes.

MR. HOUSTON: And he did deliver this literature to you?

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, did you know his **wife**?

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Was she also a member of the Party?

MRS. WINTHER: I thought so.

MR. HOUSTON: Did you know Professor **Angelo Pellegrini**?

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: That's spelled Pellegrini?

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Was Professor Pellegrini a member of the Communist Party?

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: And was he a member of your unit?

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, did you know Professor **Joseph Cohen**?

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Was he a member of the Communist Party?

MRS. WINTHER: I thought so.

MR. HOUSTON: Did he attend those meetings with you?

MRS. WINTHER: Well, I don't think—I don't remember whether Mr. Cohen was ever a member of my unit, but I—I saw him at unit meetings.

MR. HOUSTON: At unit meetings.

MRS. WINTHER: That's right—I mean at Communist meetings.

MR. HOUSTON: At Communist meetings. Can you identify this picture?

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Who is that?

MRS. WINTHER: Professor Cohen.

MR. HOUSTON: That is the—

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: —Professor Joseph Cohen you have reference to now?

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: That is Exhibit No. 3.

MR. HOUSTON: For the record, that is Exhibit No. 3, which the witness has just identified.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, do you recall your vacation of 1936?

MRS. WINTHER: There was a vacation, I think it was a 1936 vacation on which we took a long trip by car, and—and we were at Sea Island, Georgia,

and came back through the South, and I think we were away a good long time.

MR. HOUSTON: And—

MRS. WINTHER: That was either in 1935 or '36, I would say.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you recall **Mr. Rapport** having anything to say about your taking this vacation?

MRS. WINTHER: Well, it didn't occur to me at the time that we took our vacation really, because I wasn't thinking very much about my views as a Communist; but I gained the impression when I returned that we had been criticized for taking a vacation without having the permission of the Party and without the consent of the Communist group.

MR. HOUSTON: You were supposed to get the permission of the Party before you took a vacation?

MRS. WINTHER: Well, that was the general impression that I gained. I think that would be true.

MR. HOUSTON: Now did you pay dues into the Communist Party?

MRS. WINTHER: I think the dues of a housewife was ten cents a month. I'm not absolutely sure.

MR. HOUSTON: Did you have any knowledge of the dues they collected from Dr. Winther?

MRS. WINTHER: No, I never pay any attention to the amount that he disburses.

MR. HOUSTON: Did he ever complain about the amount of the dues?

MRS. WINTHER: No, I don't think so.

MR. HOUSTON: And you got out of the Communist Party at the same time your—

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Did any of them come to see you and try to get you to return to the Communist Party?

MRS. WINTHER: No.

MR. HOUSTON: They just let you go and left you alone.

MRS. WINTHER: Yes.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, I have concluded with the witness, unless the Committee has some questions. I suggest that the same relationship remain with this witness as her husband, the Doctor; I am releasing those witnesses.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Well, we thank you for appearing, Mrs. Winther; and if you will remain on call, you will be released from the subpoena, but we may find it necessary to call you again. Thank you.

(Witness Excused)

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, the next witness will be on the stand a considerable length of time, several hours; I suggest now that we recess until after lunch.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Have you—have you determined the time with your witness when he is to appear, before I set the—

MR. HOUSTON: I have tentatively set the date at two o'clock.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: We will be in recess until two o'clock this afternoon.

(Noon Recess)

(2:00 o'clock P. M.)

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: The hearing is in session. Any requests to be made of the Committee I would prefer that you make that request in writing because of the volume of material we must process here we can't disrupt our schedule by interfering with it in this way unless it—

A VOICE: I just want to ask a question. As a member of the faculty some of our teachers are finding it impossible to be away from classes.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: We are going to try to do that and if you will give us a list of the ones who are—who find this in conflict with their classroom duties we will see what can be done about it.

And I am going to request that if the demonstration in front of the building becomes annoying to our procedure or interferes with our—conduct of our hearing, I am going to ask that the State Patrol abate the nuisance as it exists in front of the building. We do not care how much they demonstrate as long as it does not interfere with the orderly procedure of this hearing and if the State Patrol will be governed accordingly, if the noise becomes too great, we want you to abate the nuisance.

You will proceed, Mr. Houston, and call your first witness.

JAMES B. MATTHEWS, called as a witness, after being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows: