

Q. Now, Mr. Stith, that is a description of the data, with its authorities, that's in this chart. Is that right?

A. That's right.

Q. And you have in the possession of the Committee, all of the authorities quoted in this chart.

A. That's correct.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, I ask that this be introduced as an exhibit of the Committee.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: It will be introduced and accepted in the record as a—Committee's Exhibit No. 59. And in accepting that into the record, I would like to also include the sincerest thanks and the amazement of this—the Chairman and this Committee, of Mr. Stith's ability to read constantly for three hours, and to keep us quite well entertained.

MR. HOUSTON: That's it, Mr. Stith. Thank you very much.

Mr. Chairman, I have one more witness that's come here from a considerable distance. The testimony will not take very long, and I suggest that we go into that without recess.

I would like to also suggest that the door be closed, and ask, Mr. Chairman, that nobody be permitted to leave this room until after the witness has left the stand.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: That will be instruction of the—the Chairman, that the door be closed and that no person will be permitted to leave this room until after the forthcoming witness has left the premises of the Armory Building here.

MRS. AGNES BRIDGES, after being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HOUSTON:

MR. HOUSTON: Now, if you will just relax, we are making a recording here and I ask that you answer questions, not just nod your head, but audibly, so that we may have the recording. That's the way we are recording these proceedings.

Q. Please state your name. Please state your name.

A. Agnes Bridges.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, I am going to refrain from asking this witness as to her present address. Is that agreeable with the Committee?

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: That is agreeable, and I am uncertain whether the—her name was recorded on our device. If you will proceed with that in mind.

Q. You are Mrs. Agnes Bridges?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And for the past twenty-five years you have resided in the City of San Francisco?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. I will ask you, Mrs. Bridges, do you know a man by the name of Harry Renton Bridges?

A. Yes, sir, he was my husband.

Q. He was your husband. When did you first meet Harry Renton Bridges?

A. I think about in '22. Excuse me, I think about in '23.

Q. You say 1922?

A. '23.

Q. 1923. And where did you meet Harry Renton Bridges?

A. In Marshfield, Oregon.

Q. In Marshfield, Oregon. What was Mr. Bridges doing at that time?

A. He was on a Government ship.

Q. He was on a Government ship. As a sailor?

A. Yes.

Q. Did Mr. Bridges make love to you?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. And did you subsequently start to live with Mr. Bridges?

A. Well, he went on to San Francisco first, on the ship.

Q. He went to San Francisco first.

A. And he asked me to come down later.

Q. And he asked you to come down later.

A. And I went down a few weeks later.

Q. You went down a few weeks later. Can you fix that date? That was also in 1923, was it not?

A. Yes.

Q. And you started living as man and wife with Harry Renton Bridges?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did Mr. Bridges marry you at that time?

A. No.

Q. Did he give any explanation why he didn't marry you?

A. He said he didn't believe in marriage.

Q. He said he didn't believe in marriage. Did he elaborate on that statement any?

A. No, he didn't. He just—

Q. Did he say the Communists don't believe in marriage?

A. No, because I didn't know anything about the Communists then.

Q. You didn't know anything about the Communists at that time. I will ask you, Mrs. Bridges, when your daughter Betty was born. Was that 1924, Mrs. Bridges?

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Take your time in answering, Mrs. Bridges, and try to be at ease if possible.

A. Well, at the end of 1924.

Q. Betty was born at the end of 1924?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, did Mr. Bridges ever marry you, Mrs. Bridges?

A. No, he didn't.

MR. HOUSTON: Yes.

THE WITNESS: Oh, yes, he did. Not then.

Q. When were you and Mr. Bridges married?

A. A few weeks before the 1934 strike.

Q. A few weeks before the 1934 strike. Did Mr. Bridges make any explanation to you of why he married you at that time?

A. Yes, he did. He said that—why he wanted to get married, that he wanted to on account of the strike coming on in—the 1934 strike, that he wanted to take his papers out.

Q. He wanted to take out his citizenship—

A. Citizen papers.

Q. —papers. And with the 1934 strike coming on, he wanted to marry you then?

A. He said it would look better if he was married.

Q. He said it would look better if he was married?

A. Yes, and—

Q. And did he marry you then?

A. He did.

Q. And that was in 1934?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, during the time that you have lived with Mr. Bridges, had you asked him before this to marry you?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. And had he made any statement that the Communists don't believe in marriage?

A. He did. He said the Com—the Party didn't believe in marriage.

Q. He said the party don't believe in marriage. And then he married you in 1934, just before the 1934 strike?

A. Yes.

Q. And before he—and he intended to make application for his citizenship papers?

A. Yes.

Q. Did he say that if he didn't marry you, there would be a smear against him?

A. He did, yes.

Q. Now, during this period of time you had continuously lived with him as man and wife?

A. Yes.

Q. And he was the father of your daughter Betty?

A. Yes.

Q. He has never denied parentage of Betty, has he?

A. No, he hasn't.

Q. Now, Mrs. Bridges, was Harry—was Harry Renton Bridges ever a member of the Communist Party?

A. Yes, he was.

Q. He was a member of the Communist Party. Did they ever hold any Communist meetings in your home?

A. Yes, they did.

Q. Where was the location of your home at the time?

A. At 3249½ Harrison Street.

Q. 3249½ Harrison Street, in the City of San Francisco?

A. Yes.

Q. Now how often did they hold these Communist Party meetings?

A. Well, sometimes it was once a week, and sometimes twice a week, at my house.

Q. Will you—sometimes twice a week, but would you say that always once a week?

A. Yes.

Q. Always once a week and sometimes twice a week. Now, Mrs. Bridges, do you know the names of any of the people attending these Communist Party meetings in your home?

A. Yes, I do.

Q. What are the name of some of them?

A. Well, there was John Shoemaker—

Q. John Shoemaker.

A. Johnny Larson—

Q. Johnny Larson.

A. Scotty Frater—

Q. Scotty Frater.

A. And I think it was Lee Pressman, I forget his first—

Q. Lee Pressman.

A. Uh-huhm. And Henry Jackson.

Q. Henry Jackson. Was that Harry Jackson?

A. Harry Jackson.

Q. Harry Jackson, uh-huh.

A. And a few others.

Q. Did a Mr. Schmidt ever attend—

A. Oh, Henry Schmidt.

Q. Henry Schmidt. Did a Mr. Freeman attend Communist Party meetings in your home?

A. Yes, he came quite often.

Q. He came quite often. Now what would Mr. Bridges tell you when they were going to hold a Party meeting in your home?

A. He wouldn't—he told me to stay in the other room, not to come in at all.

Q. He told you stay in the other room and to stay out of the meetings?

A. Yes.

Q. Now where in your house did they hold these Party meetings?

A. In the kitchen.

Q. In the kitchen. Now did Mr. Bridges ever keep Communist literature around your home?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. He did. Have you ever seen any of the little application blanks for membership in the Communist Party?

A. Yes, I have.

Q. Where were these application blanks?

A. Oh, I forget the number on Pine Street, but we had them at the Pine Street address.

Q. Pine Street. Where, in reference to the room, were they kept?

A. In the bedroom.

Q. In the bedroom. Have you ever heard Mr. Bridges solicit anyone for membership in the Communist Party?

A. No, I haven't, but there was Norma Perry was out at the house.

Q. Norma Perry was out at the house.

A. I think when Harry Lundberg was there for dinner.

Q. And Harry Lundberg was there for dinner. Now what—relate that conversation to us.

A. Well, it was just after Mr. Bridges came out of the hospital. He wasn't quite well yet, and Norma—

Q. That was after Mr. Bridges' operation in May 1935?

A. '35. And Mr. Harry Lundberg came out for dinner, and after dinner Norma came out, Norma Perry.

Q. Norma Perry came out after dinner. Now she wasn't at dinner—just Harry Lundberg was at dinner with you?

A. Yes.

Q. And after dinner, Norma Perry came out?

A. Yes.

Q. Now what conversation, if any, took place on that occasion?

A. Well, there wasn't much said about the Party, but all of a sudden Norma pulled out some of those pink cards.

Q. One of the application blanks for the Communist Party?

A. Yes, and said to Mr. Bridges, "How about signing Harry up in the Party?"

Q. "How about signing Harry up." Now, did she mean Harry Lundberg?

A. Harry Lundberg.

Q. And what did Mr. Bridges say?

A. "Oh, not now. Give him time, we will take care of that."

Q. "Not now, give him time, we'll take care of that."

A. Yes.

Q. Now you have repeatedly heard Mr. Bridges discuss Communism in your home, have you not?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. Has Mr. Bridges ever told you that he was a member of the Communist Party?

A. Yes, he has.

Q. Did he tell you this on one occasion or on many occasions?

A. On many occasions.

Q. On many occasions he told you he was a member of the Communist Party.

A. Yes.

Q. I will ask you, Mrs. Bridges, did you ever see a Communist Party membership book of Harry Bridges?

A. Yes, many a time.

Q. You have seen his membership book many times?

A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever had this membership book in your hands?

A. Quite often.

Q. Quite often. Will you describe this membership book for us?

A. Well, I would say it was just large enough to put in a good-sized envelope.

Q. Large enough to put in an envelope.

A. Yes.

Q. And does it open up?

A. Yes.

Q. Well, suppose you go on and describe it for us.

A. Well, I would say it was about that long (illustrating), and quite narrow, and about that wide.

Q. Did it have any stamps in it?

A. It did, yes. It had a design—

Q. It had stamps. What's that?

A. Kind of a little design on the stamp.

Q. A little design in the center of each stamp.

A. Yes.

Q. Was that design the hammer and the sickle?

A. Yes.

Q. It was the—and this membership book had stamps in it, and each stamp had the sign of the hammer and the sickle?

A. Yes.

Q. Now what name was inscribed on this membership book?

A. Harry Dorgan. That was his mother's maiden name.

Q. Harry Dorgan.

A. Yes.

Q. And Dorgan was his mother's maiden name?

A. Yes.

Q. Is that correct?

A. That's what he told me.

Q. Did you ever have a conversation about him using this name "Dorgan"?
A. Yes, I did. I told him he ought to be ashamed of himself for putting his mother's maiden—maiden name on the Party book.

Q. You told him he ought to be ashamed of himself for putting his mother's maiden name on a Communist Party book.

A. Yes.

Q. Is that right? And what did he reply?

A. He said, "What difference does it make, they will never find out."

Q. "What difference does it make, they will never find out."

A. Yes.

Q. Now, I will ask you, did Harry Bridges carry this Communist Party book with him?

A. Oh, no.

Q. He wouldn't carry it.

A. No.

Q. Where in the house did he keep it?

A. Well, sometimes we hid it underneath the linoleum in the bathroom.

Q. Sometimes you hid it beneath the linoleum in the bathroom.

A. And—

Q. And where else?

A. And sometimes, there was a kind of thing up above the door, a piece of long wood, and he made a slit in there with the butcher knife and put it in between the wall and the—

Q. And the door?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, your testimony is that there was a piece of wood above the door, and he made a slit there that was room enough, and he put this Communist Party book above the door in this slit, is that right?

A. Yes.

Q. Now did he ever ask you to move the hiding place of the book?

A. Yes, he did.

Q. Well, will you recite some one of the occasions for us?

A. Well, there was one occasion that—oh, I will say it was about half-past eleven, or something like that.

Q. About half-past eleven at night.

A. Yes, that a fellow by the name of Eddy Caperson came out.

Q. Eddy Caperson. Is that C-a-p-e-r-s-o-n?

A. Yes.

Q. Uh-huh.

A. He came out to the house and he told me they had got—that Harry had sent him out because he thought the house was going to be raided; that they—that they had some papers and a certain book at the house, that I would know what it was—to hide them for him.

Q. Now this Eddy Caperson came out to the house and said that Harry Bridges had sent him out, that he had been tipped off the place was going to be raided—

A. Yes.

Q. —and that there were some papers there to be removed, and a book, and that you would know what he meant?

A. Yes.

Q. Is that—now was this Eddy Caperson a good friend of Mr. Bridges?

A. Very good, yes.

Q. He was very close to Mr. Bridges then?

A. Yes.

Q. Was this Eddy Caperson a member of the Communist Party?

A. That I don't know.

Q. You don't know. Had he ever sat in any of these Communist Party meetings at your house?

A. No, that was the first time I had seen him for quite some time.

Q. The first time you had seen him for quite some time; but you knew him and knew that he was very close to Mr. Bridges, is that right?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. Now, did you secure papers and—on that occasion and give to Mr. Caperson?

A. I did. I give him the Communist Party book and several letters that

was there. I figured out a place where we took them to, and I took them to a girl friend of mine, and her name was Mrs. Edna Markel.

Q. Mrs. Edna Markel. Now your testimony is that you got all these papers. You knew what Harry Renton Bridges meant, didn't you?

A. Yes.

Q. And he meant to get this Communist literature and these letters, and get them out of the house then, didn't he?

A. Yes.

Q. And this Communist Party book?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, you got them together. Did you put them in a suitcase or something.

A. I put them in one of those real large envelopes, brown.

Q. In a large brown envelope, uh-huhm. And did you give them to Mr. Caperson, or did you take them to Edna Markel?

A. No, he had a car and we—and he—him and I drove down to this party's house together, and I gave them to her and told her to hide them and take good care of them.

Q. Now, you got all this together, and you just didn't give it to Eddy Caperson, you took it down to Edna Markel?

A. Yes.

Q. Now you knew that Edna Markel was very close to Mr. Bridges also, didn't you?

A. Yes.

Q. And you knew—was Mrs.—was Edna Markel a member of the Communist Party?

A. Oh, no, I don't—

Q. You don't think she was?

A. No.

Q. But she was very close to Mr. Bridges?

A. Yes, we had been friends with her a good many years. In fact, she was the first lady friend that I met after I went to San Francisco.

Q. She was the first lady friend you had met. Now you had to do something quick and you thought of her, and you took them down to her then?

A. Yes.

Q. And gave them to her. And then you returned on home?

A. Yes.

Q. Now is that Edna Markel's name? Did it later become Edna McSherry?

A. That was her name before she got married.

Q. Oh, that was her name before she got married. Is that McSherry or Sherry?

A. McSherry.

Q. McSherry.

A. Yes.

Q. Uh-huhm. Now you have mentioned a Lee Pressman as being present at these Communist Party meetings in your kitchen. Who is Lee Pressman? Do you know what he did?

A. Well, he is a member of the Communist Party.

- Q. He's a member of the Communist Party.
A. Yes.
- Q. And what kind of work did he do?
A. Oh, I—I really couldn't answer that question.
- Q. You don't know?
A. No, I don't know.
- Q. Did you know Mr. Morris Rappaport?
A. No, I don't.
- Q. You don't recall Mr. Rappaport ever being—
A. No.
- Q. —in those meetings. Now do you know how to spell the name Markel?
That's M-a-r-k-e-l, is it not?
A. Yes, that's it.
- Q. That's her. Edna Markel. And you've already spelled Caperson, that's C-a-p-e-r-s-o-n.
A. I think it's C-a-p-p-e-r-s-o-n.
- Q. Now, did you hide Mr. Bridges' card for him on more than one occasion?
A. No, that was the only time.
- Q. That was the time. And he said he'd been tipped off. Did he say the F.B.I. was going to raid his house?
A. He didn't say. That was all that Mr. Caperson said, that it was tipped off the house was going to be raided and I would know about those things, to hide them for him.
- Q. Now, I want to ask you again, Mrs. Bridges, you say you've had this membership book of Mr. Bridges' in your hands many times.
A. Many times.
- Q. What do you mean by "many times"? Ten times, twenty times, fifty times?
A. Well, it would be that—like they would be having the meetings, they would have the book around, you know, or something like that, and he would tell me to—tell me to put it way.
- Q. After the meeting he would tell you to put his book away.
A. Yes.
- Q. Mr. Bridges—did he make any attempt to hide from you his membership in the Communist Party?
A. Well, not till—I never seen—I never seen the book after we took it to Mrs. Edna Markel.
- Q. After you took it to Mrs. Markel, you never saw it again?
A. I never saw it again.
- Q. And Harry Bridges didn't keep any other book around his house after that then?
A. No, he didn't.
- Q. Now can you identify the time by year, that you took this book to Edna Markel?
A. Well, that was—I don't exactly know how long after the strike—it was quite a few months after the strike.
- Q. Quite a few months after the strike.
A. Yes.

- Q. Was it before Mr. Bridges' first hearing?
A. Oh, yes.
- Q. Much—much time before his first hearing?
A. Oh, yes.
- Q. Now, your daughter was always very close to you, wasn't she?
A. She was.
- Q. I will ask you, Mrs. Bridges, did you have—did the opening rift between you and Mr. Bridges—what occasioned that?
A. Well, I—no—it did start—really, he didn't care much about me after I didn't believe in what he was doing.
- Q. After you didn't believe in Communism—
A. Yes.
- Q. —and so expressed yourself to him, then he didn't care as much about you. Now, did you have any discussion over Betty?
A. Well, yes, we had that—well, quite often.
- Q. You had that quite often.
A. Uh-huhm.
- Q. Did he want Betty to do something that you didn't want her to do?
A. Well, I didn't like the idea of—I have nothing against any nationality, and there was quite a few colored people around the dances, which I hadn't anything against colored people, and I just didn't want my daughter to mingle with different ones, and he fought against that.
- Q. In other words, you have nothing in the world against colored people,—
A. I haven't.
- Q. —but you didn't want your daughter mingling and dancing with the colored people then,—
A. No.
- Q. —is that right?
A. And because I said that she—for her not to, then he got quite angry at me.
- Q. He became very angry at you—
A. Yes.
- Q. —when you told her not to dance and mingle with the Negroes?
A. Yes.
- Q. Would it be your testimony here that Mr. Bridges wanted Betty to dance and mingle and go out with Negroes?
A. Well, I don't exactly know whether he wanted her to go out with them or anything like that, but he said that he didn't see no harm in her dancing with them.
- Q. You don't know whether he wanted her to go out with them or not, but he wanted her to dance with them?
A. Yes.
- Q. And he remonstrated with you about your telling her that you didn't want her dancing with Negroes then?
A. Yes.
- Q. Now, are you and Mr. Bridges still man and wife?
A. No.

Q. Are you divorced?

A. Yes.

Q. When were you divorced, Mrs. Bridges?

A. Two years the end of last August.

Q. Two years the end of last August. I will ask you, Mrs. Bridges, did Mr. Bridges ever threaten you if you exposed him?

A. Many a time.

Q. He threatened you many times. Did he threaten your life if you exposed his membership in the Communist Party?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. He did. And he did this on repeated occasions?

A. Yes.

Q. The fact of the matter, once he tried to kill you, didn't he?

A. I don't much see—I don't know how I ever—I don't know how I lived through it.

Q. You don't know how you lived through it. Well, will you answer the question "yes" or "no"? He did try to kill you once?

A. He did.

Q. Well, we won't go into that, and I won't bother you now, but you definitely know that he threatened you and he did try once to carry the threat out, didn't he?

A. Yes, he did.

Q. This Lee Pressman that you have mentioned—I keep coming back to that, because there is a very famous lawyer by the name of Lee Pressman, and I don't want any mistaken identity here. Was this Lee Pressman a lawyer?

A. Not that I know of.

Q. Not that you know of. You don't think he was a lawyer, do you?

A. I don't think he was.

MR. HOUSTON: I believe that's all, Mrs. Bridges.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: We wish to thank you very sincerely, Mrs. Bridges, for the effort that you have made in being here. I think that it is an indication that you, as a very fine American, are willing to undergo the stress and strain and the—all of the trouble that it has taken you—for you to be here, and we sincerely, in the name of the State of Washington and the Un-American Activities Committee, and all the members of the Staff here, thank you for your presence here, and we wish you all of the best.

MR. HOUSTON: Thank you, Mrs. Bridges.

THE WITNESS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

(Witness Excused)

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Now it will be a few moments before we will open the door. I wish to take this occasion to make a few remarks for the Legislative Un-American Activities Committee.

This Committee has several scores of witnesses having important testimony bearing on this case, which we could introduce; but due to the fact that we feel that the case against Communism, the case against Communists in the Washington Old Age Pension Union has been quite thoroughly made, we hereby release all witnesses now under subpoena who have not been called from

such subpoena. We may at a later date—we probably will call you before a future hearing of this committee.

We are not adjourning or closing the hearing on the Old Age Pension Union, —the Washington Pension Union, but are recessing until such a time as we may be able to organize additional evidence and testimony, which we have received in the last few days, plus that part of our case which we do not feel that we can impose upon the staff and the members of this committee to hear at this time.

It is a significant fact, we think, that though we have made this witness chair available to all persons mentioned or named during the course of these hearings, that not one person named here has chosen to take advantage of his right to speak freely under oath in denial of any assertions made regarding him, or her.

We no doubt will hear much about the violation of the rights of free speech. I think it was Ben Johnson who said that the last recourse of a scoundrel is an appeal to patriotism, or words to that effect. Well, we have found that—that always the last refuge of the Communists is an appeal to the Bill of Rights.

There has been no infringement of the Bill of Rights at these hearings. There will not be in future hearings. Many people of the State of Washington have come forward here, people from all walks of life, to speak freely about a subject that has touched them deeply. The fact that those accused, or those mentioned, do not wish to avail themselves of that privilege, I think is self-evident; but we will not at this time draw any conclusions. We feel and have felt at all times that Communism cannot operate, cannot function in the light of day. We feel that with the publicity given their activities, during the course of this hearing, that the people of the State of Washington will properly and adequately take care of the Communists in that particular field of activity.

I wish also at this time to express the gratitude of this committee to several persons and groups of people; first, to the Director of the Washington State Patrol and the individual members of that patrol, who have been a part of these hearings. I would like to name those who have been in attendance here and who have worked far beyond the hours required of them in helping us hold these hearings.

Captain Furseth; Sergeant Campbell; Sergeant Baker; another Sergeant Baker;—L. H. Baker and J. E. Baker—Patrolman J. W. Agee; Patrolman C. E. Anderson; Patrolman C. T. Bowers; Patrolman R. M. Welch; Patrolman B. W. Whitman. I might say in connection with that, we wish to also thank the City Police Department, for the cooperation that we have had from Chief of Police Eastman and his men.

I wish to say that we have appreciated the prompt, courteous way that these officers of the law have maintained order, and sometimes with considerable provocation, but they have handled disturbers with the greatest possible gentleness, and that has been in harmony with our wishes.

In this group, also, I wish to thank the military branch here. We have received the fullest cooperation from General Llewellyn and his assistant here, Colonel Nelson. They have made available this hearing room, have maintained it, kept it in order, and it has been a very valuable service to us.

I wish to thank the members of the press for their attendance here, and their fair and complete coverage of these hearings.

I wish to also thank the long-suffering staff of the Un-American Activities Committee who have worked day and night in preparing this case.