

- 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.

And personally I wish to thank the members of this committee for the part that they have played in preparing this case, for the many many hours and the many trips throughout the State that each man has made here to be in attendance to help solve the problems that we have had to solve as we have undertaken the task assigned to us by the people of the State of Washington through their Legislature.

In stating that no person mentioned here has wished to take advantage of our witness chair and the opportunity to testify under oath, I wish to mention that I believe three, and only three, requests have been made to this committee. One of them I mentioned before, Louise Alice Gervais, who neglected to give her address, and whom we have been unable to contact, did request an opportunity to appear before this committee. We will at a later date, at whatever effort it takes, find her place of residence and notify her officially that she may appear before this committee, even though she was not mentioned here in any other way.

We had two rather facetious requests, or letters, it might be termed a request, from the American Youth for Democracy, requesting that they be permitted to speak here; but we felt that that organization was quite adequately taken care of by the committee of Congress and the Attorney General of the United States, and there seems to be no reasonable misunderstanding about their Communist control and Communist origin, and we do not feel it was a proper subject of this—I will not say a proper subject of this Committee, but that we did not have time to go into that activity. Perhaps we may at a later date.

There are many things that I would like to say and I shall not at this time attempt to draw any conclusions about what our findings have been. I think the people of the State of Washington will draw those conclusions.

As to what our future hearings will be, or when they will be, we cannot announce at this time. There are several fields of Communist activity, Communist penetration, of which we feel we must investigate and expose; at the proper time we will release such information. Until that time, I wish to thank you for your attendance, and wish you all the best.

(Applause.)

(WHEREUPON adjournment was taken.)

CERTIFICATE

I, RUSSELL N. ANDERSON, the stenographic reporter employed by the Un-American Activities Committee of the State of Washington to report the proceedings of its hearings held on January 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31, and February 2, 3, 4, and 5, 1948, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the matters therein set out.

I do further certify, that the transcript of the proceedings above referred to was verified by Adalyn M. Odey and myself as being true and correct, we having compared word for word said transcript with the electronic recordings taken of the proceedings and the testimony given at said hearings.

Russell N. Anderson.

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