

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: You will be excused, and you will be in Seattle if we should need to call on you again?

THE WITNESS: Yes.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: With that understanding, you will be excused, and thank you for appearing.

MR. HOUSTON: Just one thing; Mr. Chairman, pardon me, may I recall Mr. Armstrong just one moment?

I don't want any doubt about this. You got out of the Communist Party, didn't you?

THE WITNESS: Oh, yes.

MR. HOUSTON: In 1940.

THE WITNESS: That's right.

MR. HOUSTON: That's fine.

(Witness excused)

TESTIMONY OF ALFRED HOWARD BOWLES, JR. A Teacher

ALFRED HOWARD BOWLES, Jr., produced as a witness, after being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

BY MR. WHIPPLE:

MR. WHIPPLE: Will you state your name, please?

MR. BOWLES: Alfred Howard Bowles, Jr.

THE REPORTER: How do you spell it?

MR. BOWLES: Bowles.

MR. WHIPPLE: Where do you live, Mr. Bowles?

MR. BOWLES: In Seattle.

MR. WHIPPLE: How long have you been a resident of the City of Seattle?

MR. BOWLES: Roughly, four years. Four or five. Five years.

MR. WHIPPLE: Mr. Bowles, what business or occupation are you engaged in at the present time?

MR. BOWLES: I am an announcer, and student of—or rather, a teacher of announcing.

MR. WHIPPLE: In the radio field?

MR. BOWLES: Yes, I teach radio announcing.

Was Member of Communist Political Association

MR. WHIPPLE: Mr. Bowles, I would like to ask you if you have ever been a member of either the Communist Party of the United States of America, or of the so-called Communist Political Association?

MR. BOWLES: I have been a member of the latter.

MR. WHIPPLE: By that you mean you were a member of the Communist Political Association?

MR. BOWLES: That is correct.

MR. WHIPPLE: That was at a time when the Communist Party was known as the Communist Political Association.

MR. BOWLES: That's correct.

MR. WHIPPLE: Will you state for the record, Mr. Bowles, when you became a member of the Communist Political Association?

MR. BOWLES: Roughly, May or June of 1944.

MR. WHIPPLE: Were you a resident of Seattle at that time?

MR. BOWLES: Yes.

MR. WHIPPLE: Where were you employed then?

MR. BOWLES: Seattle Pacific Shipyards, in Seattle.

MR. WHIPPLE: Mr. Bowles,—

MR. BOWLES: Seattle Todd. Todd-Pacific.

MR. WHIPPLE: Was there a card or any other means of identification issued to you as a result of your joining the Communist Political Association?

MR. BOWLES: Not immediately, not till some six months later.

MR. WHIPPLE: Will you recount for the record, Mr. Bowles, the manner in which you became interested in Communism or let's say the manner in which you joined the Communist Political Association?

MR. BOWLES: I never had any particular interest in it. I was working in the shipyards, and I met a fellow there who invited me down to a party or a dance at the Polish Hall. At the time, I believe it was sponsored by the Commonwealth Federation of Washington, or some such name, and he told me if I went down there there would be lots of beer and refreshments and lots of good times, so I went down. Myself and another fellow.

Well, I lost track of him during the evening. He evidently didn't get mixed up like I did, but downstairs the beer was flowing like water and, if I recall, they were practically bringing it in in barrels and you could go up and take a mug and put it on your table, and it wasn't long before I had taken in quite a bit.

About that time a girl came up. I don't know her now, and I didn't at the time—

(Laughter)

She did, however, look quite interesting, and she started working on me, and at the time I turned her down.

MR. WHIPPLE: Now just a minute.

MR. BOWLES: I mean, she was working on me to get into the Party.

MR. WHIPPLE: I wanted to clarify that point. What was the apparent mission of this young lady that—

MR. BOWLES: To get me into the Communist Party.

MR. WHIPPLE: Now will you proceed?

(Laughter)

MR. WHIPPLE: Will you proceed, now, with your story, please?

MR. BOWLES: So, I turned her down, and went upstairs, and up there I found a nice looking young girl and danced with her, and I told her what had happened. Well, she says, "You're not going to get another dance out of me, unless you go down and sign up." So, more or less as a whim or a lark, as Mister—or, Dr. Matthews would say, I went downstairs and signed up. I went back upstairs and continued my dancing.

MR. WHIPPLE: Now, Mr. Bowles, for the sake of the record, could you establish the approximate date of this occurrence? Just as best you can.

MR. BOWLES: I would say either May or June of 1944.

MR. WHIPPLE: Thank you. Now, do you remember who signed you up in the — in the Party?

Card Delivered Him by Prof. Joseph Butterworth at Repertory Playhouse

MR. BOWLES: No, I don't, but six months later, Dr. Butterworth came around with a card, and I took this card not knowing at the time that if I had refused it I would have been out of the Party. Before that time I had written a letter asking to get out, and I got no action on it; so when Dr. Butterworth gave me the card, through sheer ignorance I took it, and found out that they had to be re-registered every year; so I was forced to wait a year, and a year later I looked up Dr. Butterworth and refused the card at that time, and I've been out ever since. That's been two and a half years.

MR. WHIPPLE: Now, Mr. Bowles—

MR. BOWLES: But it took me a year and a half to get out.

MR. WHIPPLE: Thank you, sir. Mr. Bowles, you referred to Dr. Butterworth. Would you further identify this party as to just what position he might occupy?

MR. BOWLES: Well, I understand he is a professor out at the University.

MR. WHIPPLE: Now, just recount to us the circumstances, Mr. Bowles, of Professor Butterworth's delivering to you the card in the Communist Political Association.

MR. BOWLES: I don't know where it took place, but I believe it was at some doing at the Repertory Theatre. I believe at that time it was what they called a topical review. I'm not certain in my memory whether that was the occasion, but he delivered it to me while I was there.

MR. WHIPPLE: Now you were in attendance at the Repertory Playhouse—

MR. BOWLES: Yes.

MR. WHIPPLE: —at a play.

MR. BOWLES: Yes.

MR. WHIPPLE: **While you were in attendance at the Repertory Playhouse at a play, Professor Butterworth delivered to you your Communist Party card.**

MR. BOWLES: **He did.**

MR. WHIPPLE: Now that was approximately what month of what year?

MR. BOWLES: That was either December of 1944 or January of 1945.

MR. WHIPPLE: Now, was that the first time, Mr. Bowles, that you had met Professor Butterworth?

MR. BOWLES: I believe it was.

MR. WHIPPLE: After having met—

MR. BOWLES: I think I had seen him casually before that time.

MR. WHIPPLE: After having met Professor Butterworth on this occasion, did you have any subsequent occasion or opportunity of meeting again?

MR. BOWLES: Yes, now I don't actually recall when this was, but during one time I did go to a few parties that they held during that six months period I was talking about before I—before this card was delivered.

MR. WHIPPLE: Let's go into that other thing.

MR. BOWLES: Yeah.

MR. WHIPPLE: What do you refer to when you went to a few of the parties they held?

MR. BOWLES: Well, they were holding little parties at their houses. They weren't official; it was just a gathering.

MR. WHIPPLE: A social party?

MR. BOWLES: Yes.

MR. WHIPPLE: And so forth? Parties at which other Communist Party members would be in attendance?

MR. BOWLES: Well, presumably, yes. I don't know whether all of them were.

MR. WHIPPLE: I see, and you say you might have met him at some of those?

MR. BOWLES: Yes, I had seen him casually, but then in—it probably was January of 1945, he gave me this card; then later on at one time I was up in his apartment, and I had a talk with him there. That was the last time I saw him until I looked him up in December of '45 and refused my card and got out.

MR. WHIPPLE: Now, what was the occasion of your going up to Professor Butterworth's apartment?

MR. BOWLES: Well, one of th—this fellow in the shipyards that I was telling about who invited me down to this party was the one that took me up there.

MR. WHIPPLE: Who is he, incidentally?

MR. BOWLES: His name is Walt Kolemian.

MR. WHIPPLE: Will you spell the last name, please?

MR. BOWLES: I don't know how it is spelled. I believe it would be Kolemian to the best of my knowledge.

MR. WHIPPLE: All right. Now, was there any particular thing discussed in Professor Butterworth's apartment that you remember, Mr. Bowles?

MR. BOWLES: Only one thing. In the course of conversation they were talking about, I believe, a proposed bill to the Washington Legislature to keep them from referring to colored people in books, radio and other things of that nature in a derogatorial or laughable manner.

MR. WHIPPLE: Did you make any comment concerning this bill?

MR. BOWLES: Yes—well, I said that I was all in favor of—of keeping the colored people out of that status but that I didn't see how they could pass a law requiring a man not to put certain things in a book or—or how they were going to judge it, how could—who is going to judge whether the reference was a derogatory reference, or a laughable reference, or whatever the case may be.

Q. Now, did Professor Butterworth make any comment about your observation?

MR. BOWLES: Yes, he did. Yes, he jumped all over me.

MR. WHIPPLE: What did he jump all over you about?

MR. BOWLES: Because I just didn't follow along, I guess.

MR. WHIPPLE: Now, do you recall at this time what other persons were present with you in Professor Butterworth's apartment?

MR. BOWLES: Walt Kolemian, for sure. He's the only one I can recall definitely.

MR. WHIPPLE: After that—I'll ask you if any time during the forepart of 1946 if you had an occasion to visit the viewing of a Russian film at the Ship Scalers' Hall here in—

MR. BOWLES: I waited a year, as I said, knowing that I would have to wait a year to get out. I had taken this card through not knowing any better so I realized that every year they were going to come around with a card so in December, 1945, I went down to this film that they were showing where I knew that I could see Butterworth, he would probably be there and I did manage to see him and I turned down a card at that time.

MR. WHIPPLE: You did see him there?

MR. BOWLES: Yes, I found him there.

MR. WHIPPLE: Now, what arrangements did you make about paying any arrear dues?

MR. BOWLES: **Well, we had quite an argument. I told him definitely no, we argued for about five or ten minutes and finally he said he would let me out if I would pay my back dues.**

MR. WHIPPLE: **He said he'd let you out if you paid your back dues?**

MR. BOWLES: **Yes.**

MR. WHIPPLE: And what did you do about that?

MR. BOWLES: I paid them.

MR. WHIPPLE: How much did you pay?

MR. BOWLES: I paid roughly ten or fifteen dollars. It was very little.

MR. WHIPPLE: Now, Mr. Bowles, prior to your going into the Communist Party had you made any study of Marxism, Leninism, etc.?

MR. BOWLES: No.

MR. WHIPPLE: Had you really been interested in getting into it at all?

MR. BOWLES: No.

MR. WHIPPLE: Now, from the time that you paid this dues and got out, as you say you have, have you had any further contact with the Communist Party in any nature?

MR. BOWLES: I would like to say for the record, since I'm here to tell my story, that I had very little association with them after January '45 until I went down and refused a card. Since that time I have been officially out for the past two and a half years I haven't even seen any of them. I have not received even a single phone call and it seems that I was dropped completely, and I dropped them, and I haven't had any further doing whatever.

MR. WHIPPLE: Now, of course, during the period of time that you were a member of the party, there were other names that came to your attention that we haven't discussed this morning and if it should become necessary you could recount at some later hearing—

MR. BOWLES: Well, it's—well, what I would like to say is probably the amount I know you could count on fingers of two hands.

MR. WHIPPLE: The point I'm making is there are some other names that I deliberately am not asking you about at this time.

MR. BOWLES: That is correct.

MR. WHIPPLE: That is all. Thank you very much for your testimony.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: May this witness be excused? You'll be through with this—you are excused and thank you for appearing.

(Witness excused)

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Ernest Stith. I'd like to run, if you could, about another half hour.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: I wish to be at ease then for about two minutes while I take up a matter with the—members—members of the committee.

(Recess)

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: We will proceed.

MR. HOUSTON: Will Mr. Angelo Pellegrini come forward?

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: The record will show that Mr. Henry is appearing as counsel and I believe that we understand the procedure.

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