

Q. Did you hear any part of the so-called services that took place there that day?

A. I did.

Q. Who were the speakers?

A. Mr. Pennock and Mr. Fisher,—Dr. Fisher.

Q. Had you ever seen this Dr. Fisher before?

A. No, I didn't.

Q. Had you ever seen this Mr. Pennock before?

A. No.

Q. Then at that time you didn't know either of those two gentlemen. Did you hear Mr. Pennock offer a prayer of any kind there on that occasion?

A. I don't remember of Mr. Pennock having any prayer. Mr. Fisher said some kind of prayer.

Q. What, to the best of your recollection, was it?

A. Well, I don't just recall what—

Q. What he said?

A. What he said.

Q. Do you remember anything about the—any of the remarks Mr. Pennock made on that occasion?

A. Yes, he made the remark that we were sending lots of supplies and food and money overseas to help people over there, and we weren't taking care of our people in this country, and if we didn't—if they didn't do it pretty soon there'd have to be some action taken.

Q. If they didn't do it pretty soon, there'd have to be some action taken. Now did he say what that action would be?

A. Well, I don't know what he meant by it.

Q. Was a change of our form of government mentioned?

A. Well, he said that there would have to be some change in the way things were handled.

Q. Now, you heard that newspaper article refer to the fact that she had been trapped behind a radiator. Was there any truth in that?

A. No, there was not.

Q. Did—were you among those persons who came in at the time her body was found?

A. No, I wasn't.

Q. I see. I didn't know whether that was true. But you learned that that was not true.

A. Yes.

Q. Now, Mrs. Hamilton, was there anything sacred about that so-called funeral service at all?

A. Not that I could see or hear anything of it.

Q. How did it impress you?

A. Just like what they call a political rally. It wasn't really a good political rally.

Q. Was that being done there over the body of this deceased elderly lady there—

A. It was.

Q. —in your presence, and in the presence of all these other persons.

MR. WHIPPLE: That's all, Mrs. Hamilton.

(Witness Excused)

MR. JOHN R. HAMILTON, produced as a witness, after being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. WHIPPLE:

Q. Will you state your name, please?

A. John R. Hamilton.

Q. Where do you live, Mr. Hamilton?

A. 6214 Roosevelt Way.

Q. What relation, if any, are you to the person who just testified?

A. Husband.

Q. Where do you work, Mr. Hamilton?

A. County Assessor's office.

Q. Here in King County?

A. King County.

Q. Did you know Marie Redenbaugh— Now will you talk over in that microphone there so we will get this— Did you know Marie Redenbaugh during her lifetime?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. How long did you know Marie Redenbaugh before she passed away?

A. Well, I've known her ever since I was a child.

Q. Well, would you give us—would you care to give us some indication of the years, as to the length of time you've known her?

A. Oh, about sixty.

Q. About sixty years. Now, Mr. Hamilton, did you ever have occasion to visit her in her apartment there in Mrs. Crosetto's home?

A. Yes, I have.

Q. Did you visit her frequently?

A. Well, I didn't visit near as frequent as the wife did.

Q. Did you have occasion to observe her as she would visit you people over in your home?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, over these years, Mr. Hamilton, do you know of any work that she was peculiarly fitted to do, or had been trained to do?

A. Well, she was a trained nurse in—for children, as I understood it.

Q. She was a trained nurse.

A. Yes.

Q. Now, there has been some testimony, that is—strike that. There has been a newspaper article read in the record this morning, laying the blame of this woman's death on the Legislature for not giving her funds enough to sustain herself, to buy medicine and food and so forth and so on. I would like for you to state whether there was any truth in that article, or not.

A. That was a malicious falsehood.

Q. That was a malicious falsehood. Now, why do you say that was a malicious falsehood?

A. There was no resemblance of fact to it whatsoever. She was as well fed as anybody was. She was well clothed, I would say, as the ordinary person.

Q. During all those years, Mr. Hamilton, that you knew her, did you ever know her to lack or want for anything to sustain her body, in the way of food and clothing?

A. Not a thing, no.

Q. Or medical care.

A. No.

Q. Now, without going into the conditions of her apartment and so forth, did you attend the—this meeting at Butterworths alleged funeral service?

A. I did, and it was—wasn't a funeral, it was simply a rabble-rousing political meeting, is all it was.

Q. Then it's your testimony it was not a funeral, but a rabble-rousing political meeting?

A. That's all.

Q. Why do you make that statement, Mr. Hamilton?

A. Why, the manner in which it was conducted, the remarks that were made.

Q. All right, who conducted the funeral?

A. Mr. Pennock and some man by the name of Fisher.

Q. Did you overhear the remarks of either this Mr. Pennock or this Mr. Fisher?

A. I did.

Q. Let's take the case of Mr. Pennock first. What were his remarks on that occasion?

A. His remarks was that this lady had died of malnutrition through the fault of the State of Washington, and legislators, and that some change in the government policy should be made. He didn't state how, but he made that statement.

Q. Now, did you hear him offer or attempt to offer any prayer there on that occasion? Or either of those two gentlemen?

A. I think Dr. Fisher offered a prayer.

Q. What did he say in that?

A. Well, he—the prayer seemed to be principally for a change in conditions for these old people, regardless of how they got it.

Q. I think you said you didn't know Fisher before that.

A. I didn't know either one of them.

Q. You didn't know either Fisher or—or Pennock. Did you hear either one of those gentlemen say anything relative to the change of our form of government?

A. He said that such a change should be made. He didn't say how it should be made, but that it was evident that it should be made.

Q. Who made that remark?

A. Fisher.

Q. Now, Mr. Hamilton, was there anything sacred about this so-called funeral at all?

A. Not a thing.

MR. WHIPPLE: That's all, Mr. Hamilton. Thank you.

(Witness Excused)

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to read an article that appeared in the "Seattle Post-Intelligencer" in the issue of Friday, July the 11th, 1947, and at the conclusion of the reading of the article, to introduce this issue of this paper as a Committee exhibit.

I am reading from page ten: "Pension Protest. On July 7th, 1947, my life-long friend, Mrs. Marie Redenbaugh, was found locked in her apartment at 1308 Ninth Avenue, Northeast, and died on the way to the hospital. She was the last survivor of her family. Her only child, a daughter, died at six years of age. Mrs. Redenbaugh was a nurse by profession and a true Christian by practice. This dear sweet soul died unnecessarily. Her death can be directly attributed, I am positive of this, to the new pension set-up, the worry and apprehension over the lien law, plus the lack of medical care, were responsible for her passing. She had already received a cut in her pension in May, of twenty-two dollars. She knew she was going to receive another cut on July 7th, which was delayed and came the day after her death.

"Her funeral services should be attended by all who detest and despise the new insecurity program. It will be held at Butterworth Funeral Home on Friday, July 11th, at two p.m. Mary E. Bettinger." B-e-t-t-i-n-g-e-r. "2839 Fourteenth Avenue, West."

I would like to introduce this as an exhibit and so marked and incorporated into the record, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: The specific page in question will be marked in evidence and admitted as Committee's Exhibit No. 53.

MR. HOUSTON: I might mention that that's under the column of "The Voice of the People," for more ready identification, which I understand is letters that are published by this paper, written to the paper for publication.

MR. WHIPPLE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to introduce into the record at this time, two instruments. One is the photostatic copy of the Articles of Incorporation taken from the records, and duly attested to, Articles of Incorporation of the Washington Old Age Pension Union. I would like to introduce, have that numbered as an exhibit and introduced into the record.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: It will be number—Committee's Exhibit No. 54, and accepted into the record.

MR. WHIPPLE: I would like particularly to call the Committee's attention to one of the purposes set up in the Articles of Incorporation. Quote, to study the science of government. I would like to introduce into the record at this time a photostatic copy of the—and amendment to the Articles of Incorporation and have same designated as an exhibit.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: It will be admitted and identified as Committee's Exhibit No. 55.

MR. WHIPPLE: This morning reference was made by the witness, Dana Robinson, of a list of firms receiving checks from—or institutions receiving