

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, due to the demonstration we have just had, I wish to call this witness temporarily for just a few questions, out of order.

George Hewitt Identifies Florence Bean James

GEORGE HEWITT, produced as a witness, after being duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

MR. HOUSTON: Will you please state your name?

MR. HEWITT: George Hewitt.

MR. HOUSTON: Of what city are you a resident, Mr. Hewitt?

MR. HEWITT: New York City.

MR. HOUSTON: I will ask you, Mr. Hewitt, are you or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir, for eighteen years.

MR. HOUSTON: Have you ever visited Russia?

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir, I visited Russia from 1930 to 1934.

MR. HOUSTON: 1930 to 1934, and you worked and taught in Russia, is that right?

MR. HEWITT: I did, yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: I will ask you, Mr. Hewitt, if you observed the demonstration that we just had here.

MR. HEWITT: I did.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you recognize the lady that made that demonstration?

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir, I do.

MR. HOUSTON: Do you know what that lady's name is?

MR. HEWITT: Mrs. James.

MR. HOUSTON: Mrs. James. Where did you first meet Mrs. James?

MR. HEWITT: I met Mrs. James, first, in the Profintern Building in Russia, Moscow.

MR. HOUSTON: You met Mrs. James in the Profintern Building in Moscow, Russia.

MR. HEWITT: First. Secondly, at the Comintern Headquarters, which is known as the Communist International Headquarters.

MR. HOUSTON: Is that also in the City of Moscow?

MR. HEWITT: In the City of Moscow.

MR. HOUSTON: In Russia?

MR. HEWITT: And then thirdly, at a visit of the Lenin School.

MR. HOUSTON: At a visit of the Lenin School. Did you converse with this lady?

MR. HEWITT: It was a sort of a general conversation, in Moscow, Russia.

MR. HOUSTON: A general conversation. Did she inform you, and did you find out from her that she was from the United States?

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir, we were told that she was one of the "sparks" to be used to develop on the cultural field, agitation for the Soviet Government, in the United States.

MR. HOUSTON: Agitation for the Soviet Government, on the cultural field, in the United States. Uh-huh. Did she admit to you, or did information come into your hands, that she was a member of the American Communist Party?

MR. HEWITT: Yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, I ask that this witness step aside. We intend to use him for some other issues, later. It was just this phase I wanted to put on now.

(Witness Temporarily Excused)

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: I wish to state that the witnesses under subpoena, who were caused to be removed from the room, are not excused from attendance at this hearing and must remain on call. Their expulsion from the hearing room does not excuse them from their subpoena.

Mr. Houston, will you call—recall Professor Garland Ethel to the stand?

Professor Ethel Recalled

PROFESSOR GARLAND ETHEL, having been previously sworn, resumed the stand for further examination.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Be seated, Doctor. You were sworn yesterday. I wish to advise you for this Committee, that we are going to again ask you some of the questions we asked yesterday, which you refused to answer. We do so, while at the same time advising you that if you do not testify, do not answer in response to the Committee's questions, that we will take proceedings to have you punished for contempt of the Legislature in refusing to answer these questions.

We want you to be fully advised of the possible penalties for contempt of the Legislature, and with that in mind we are going to again ask you some of the questions that you refused to answer yesterday. Now, I think that I will ask those questions.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Have you ever—?

MR. ETHEL: Excuse me sir, for information. In answering your questions have I permission to say anything more than yes or no?

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: I think that we will expect a direct answer to these questions. We will not—we do not wish any explanations or quotations from Shakespeare or anything of that nature. I think it is within your power to answer yes or no and I think we are proper in asking that you do that on these specific questions.

MR. ETHEL: Sir—

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: We may proceed beyond that and ask questions and we will try to use discretion there but we are determining a question here of whether you wish to be in contempt of the Legislature or not.

MR. ETHEL: Sir, there is one thing in behalf of my counsel, Mr. Henry, that I would like to have understood. Mr. Henry has advised me fully and I would like to have it understood that he has discharged his completest obligation of counsel and is entirely exonerated from any responsibility for my actions whatsoever. He has given me essentially the same instruction that you have.

Refuses to Answer Questions

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: We are very happy to have that go into the record; we presume that counsel is giving you the best possible advice.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Have you or have you not sat in closed party meetings with Ralph H. Gundlach?

MR. ETHEL: I decline to answer that question, sir.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Have you sat in closed party meetings with Herbert J. Phillips?

MR. ETHEL: I decline to answer that question, sir.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Have you sat in closed Communist Party meetings with Professor Harold Eby?

MR. ETHEL: I decline to answer that one, sir.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Will you step aside? I wish to advise you that the entire—the unanimous opinion of this Committee is that we should cite you for contempt on your refusal to answer these questions. Now, if you will step aside we will—

MR. ETHEL: May I make one request, sir?

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: You may have your counsel—

MR. ETHEL: —state it—

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: No, I think not. You have refused to answer the proper questions of this committee—

MR. ETHEL: Yes, sir, uh—

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: You will step aside and have nothing more to say in this hearing.

(Witness Excused)

TESTIMONY OF HOWARD RUSHMORE Newspaperman

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Call your next witness.

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

MR. HOUSTON: I will ask you, Mr. Rushmore, as you testify, that you answer audibly and not with a nod of the head or a gesture as we are recording these entire proceedings, that you speak as directly into the microphone in front of you as possible, and that when you have an unusual name or one not put in evidence that you spell that name for the records that it may be correct.

MR. RUSHMORE: Yes, sir.

MR. HOUSTON: Will you please state your name?

MR. RUSHMORE: Howard Rushmore, Rushmore.

MR. HOUSTON: Of what city are you a resident, Mr. Rushmore?

MR. RUSHMORE: New York City.

MR. HOUSTON: I will ask you, Mr. Rushmore, are you, or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

MR. RUSHMORE: Yes, for a period of five years, 1935 to '39.

MR. HOUSTON: I will ask you, Mr. Rushmore, if you have ever been an official of the Communist Party?

MR. RUSHMORE: I have in the capacity of a newspaperman and writer.

MR. HOUSTON: Now, Mr. Rushmore, will you, in your own words, tell us how you joined the Communist Party and detail some of your duties and experiences in that?

Details Activity in Communist Party

MR. RUSHMORE: I first became acquainted with the Communists in Missouri where I was living at the time and in newspaper work. I met some Communists in Kansas City, Missouri, I believe it was in 1934 where a committee had been organized by Abner Berry, Berry, who is now on the national board of the Communist Party. Berry at that time was the—known as the section organizer of Kansas City, and a few weeks before that, a young Negro boy by the name of Tom Gunn, Gunn, had been very brutally lynched in Marysville, Mo. As a reporter I covered this story and was quite incensed by the entire matter, including the burning to death of the young lad who was quite innocent of any crime. The Communists very cleverly seized on this as an excuse to form an anti-lynch committee in Kansas City. I became acquainted with this committee and, as a rather young lad then, admired the stand they took without investigating what was behind them. Gradually I became interested in their work and also through the medium of a person name of Jack Conroy, Conroy, a writer living at that time in Missouri, editor of a magazine called The Anvil, Anvil. Being also interested in writing, Conroy had me submit several short stories to this publication which was completely controlled by the Communist Party.

Through the two media, I gradually became drawn into the Communist movement and joined it in St. Louis and the early part of 1935 joined the Young Communist League at that time.