

Mr. FORBES. No; they carry banners.

Mr. ESLICK. With writings or mottoes on them?

Mr. FORBES. Yes, various phrases written on those banners.

Mr. ESLICK. At their meetings on the street, did you ever see the red flag there?

Mr. FORBES. I have not, to my knowledge, ever seen it.

Mr. ESLICK. Do you know, in their halls, whether they use the red flag rather than the American flag?

Mr. FORBES. No, I could not say. I have not been in their halls, myself; I have detailed men in there who probably can give you that information.

Mr. ESLICK. But you do know, in their open meetings, they advocate the overthrow of government and society by force?

Mr. FORBES. I have read stenographic reports; we have sent stenographers down there in the crowd to take down these speeches there and I have read these after they have been taken down, where the speakers practically advocated taking possession of the city hall, the police department, and anything of a lawful nature.

Mr. NELSON. Has anybody a copy of those stenographic reports or speeches?

Mr. FORBES. I have had it done on different occasions and those reports are available to this committee.

The CHAIRMAN. Does Mr. Jennings have them?

Mr. FORBES. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Are there any other questions? If not, thank you very much.

TESTIMONY OF EWING D. COLVIN

(The witness was duly sworn by the chairman.)

The CHAIRMAN. Please state your full name.

Mr. COLVIN. Ewing D. Colvin.

The CHAIRMAN. And what is your official position?

Mr. COLVIN. Prosecuting attorney for King County.

The CHAIRMAN. How long have you held that position?

Mr. COLVIN. Nearly six years.

The CHAIRMAN. Will you tell the committee what you know about the activities and propaganda in the city of Seattle?

Mr. COLVIN. What I know is from reports that have been made to me by investigators we have had, in conjunction with certain members of the police department, or departments of the police force, as to their street meetings and as to their meetings in the halls. In these street meetings, as stated by the chief, according to the reports I have, which will be available, the same as those of Mr. Jennings—they will be available to this committee—the speakers have continuously and frequently advocated the overthrow of the Government by force; they have agitated and suggested the attacking of the police officers; they have frequently called attention to what happened to the old Czar's régime in Russia and have said the same thing would occur here; they have urged their members to get recruits to their forces in the Army and in the Navy, and to get former service men who were familiar with the use of machine guns, and have predicted that it is only a question of time when there would be a revolution in this country and the soviet system of

proletariat, or dictatorship, would be established here. That is almost a nightly occurrence on our streets, according to the reports I have had made to me, and they have various meeting halls in the city, and have established a communistic school for the instruction of their agitators or workers—not for the instruction of any children I have ever heard of, but for instruction of the workers.

The CHAIRMAN. Where is that school established?

Mr. COLVIN. That is in the lower end of the city. The exact address I do not have, except as it will be in the reports.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you taken any legal action against them?

Mr. COLVIN. I have not. I have had cases where I could, and the office could start prosecutions against certain of these agitators on very short notice and on evidence where we could get them under the State syndicalism act. I have not done it for the reason that I did not know how it would affect the work of this committee, for one thing, and another reason is it has been my desire, if I started such prosecutions, not to get just the few soap-box agitators, but to try to get some one else whom I feel, as the evidence indicates, is behind their agitation. I could not reach them.

The CHAIRMAN. How do you get your evidence; is that from the stenographic notes, or do you go to the meetings yourself?

Mr. COLVIN. I have never attended a meeting myself. Just how that evidence is secured, I would rather not disclose at this meeting.

The CHAIRMAN. You know it is a correct report; you are satisfied the reports that come to you are correct reports of those meetings and the speeches made at those meetings?

Mr. COLVIN. I am satisfied of that fact, because I have checked them with different parties and find that the reports that come to me coincide.

The CHAIRMAN. And it is your view the reports show activities of a revolutionary character?

Mr. COLVIN. They advocate the overthrow of our Government, the change of our economic and governmental system by force.

Mr. NELSON. As I understand, he is going to give us further evidence in executive session?

Mr. COLVIN. The evidence I would have are these reports, which I have already gone over, reports which Mr. Jennings will have for you, and I have verified, not all of them, but a large number of them by having other parties and Mr. Jennings to attend the meetings. In other words, I have had persons working directly out of my office with Mr. Jennings?

Mr. NELSON. How many communists do you estimate there would be in Seattle?

Mr. COLVIN. I am afraid my best estimate would be a guess.

Mr. NELSON. What would be your best estimate?

Mr. COLVIN. It is hard to draw the line of demarcation between out-and-out communists and communistic sympathizers. I think they would run higher than what the chief said in his testimony, but I have probably taken into consideration sympathizers, which are much more numerous.

Mr. NELSON. How many communists who are active sympathizers are there, in your opinion?

Mr. COLVIN. They would run up into several hundred.

Mr. NELSON. How many would you say?

Mr. COLVIN. I could not give anything accurate, because it would be a mere guess.

Mr. NELSON. I understand that. Nobody knows, but how many would you estimate?

Mr. COLVIN. Oh, it would run, active workers, probably a score or so—active speakers. Then a large number of people, two or three hundred, attend their meetings at a time and at the different hall meetings; they have scores come there. And they are not always the same people, but they will have different faces, new faces coming and going.

Mr. NELSON. Would you want to give us your best estimate of the number of communists in Seattle, and active sympathizers?

Mr. COLVIN. Trying to calculate them by number would be very difficult. I fear it would be just a mere guess, and probably would not be worth anything.

Mr. NELSON. Well, we came up to get the best information we could, and all you give us now is that you think there is a score of speakers.

Mr. COLVIN. And their followers—I would say that the chief's estimate of 500 would be very conservative. Put it that way—it is very conservative.

Mr. NELSON. Do you know of any activity here of the Young Communist League; that is, taking in the younger people?

Mr. COLVIN. If you come to children of school age, high-school age, I have not seen any indication of anything of that sort. If it exists, it has not come to my knowledge.

Mr. NELSON. You know of no school, either for children of grammar or high school age, or a little older?

Mr. COLVIN. I know of no such school.

Mr. NELSON. Do you know of a man named Fred Walker, of Seattle, known as a district organizer of the Young Communist League?

Mr. COLVIN. I do not know him, but I know of him.

Mr. NELSON. Do you know whether he has made any efforts to carry on a school here once a week?

Mr. COLVIN. Among children, or people of school age?

Mr. NELSON. No, older.

Mr. COLVIN. There is a school established for the training, as I said, of older persons—grown persons.

Mr. NELSON. And you have such a school here?

Mr. COLVIN. We have; yes.

Mr. NELSON. What do you know about its attendance?

Mr. COLVIN. I could not give you the number of attendants; no.

Mr. NELSON. You know of no active work against the American school system, or against religion, here in this town?

Mr. COLVIN. Nothing only agitation on the street—street speaking and in their halls.

Mr. NELSON. You know of no activity of the communists in attempting to foment strikes in various trades in Seattle and vicinity?

Mr. COLVIN. Yes, the vicinity; yes.

Mr. NELSON. Where?

Mr. COLVIN. In the vicinity of Grays Harbor.

Mr. NELSON. Among what class?

Mr. COLVIN. Lumbermen; also in the vicinity of Klamath and Cowlitz County, during this last summer; but particularly in the latter they were very unsuccessful. There was some labor trouble, strike, I understand, affiliated with the union of the American Federation of Labor, and some communists went in there and tried to stir up trouble and the members of the union took care of them themselves.

Mr. NELSON. What were the trades that were striking—lumber?

Mr. COLVIN. Lumber and fir timber, too; lumber and timber.

Mr. NELSON. Was the Grays Harbor strike successful?

Mr. COLVIN. I understand it was unsuccessful. Their agitation down there, though, was quite extensive; more so than any other place.

Mr. NELSON. You know nothing further in regard to their showing of propaganda films here?

Mr. COLVIN. Only what has been reported to me through the police.

Mr. NELSON. What was that—they tried it once?

Mr. COLVIN. That they tried it once and I have heard there was a film run on the soviet system, here in the city, in connection with the university. I am not sure of that, however, but I heard it.

Mr. NELSON. Connected with what?

Mr. COLVIN. The university. Whether that was soviet propaganda, or just an educational film, I am unable to say. That might have been just an educational film.

Mr. BACHMANN. Mr. Colvin, what percentage of these communists and their sympathizers are native Americans?

Mr. COLVIN. I think the agitators are largely foreigners, many of them who have adopted American names after they have come here, but when you find out about them they are really foreigners, mostly of Russian extraction.

Mr. BACHMANN. Would you say the great percentage of them?

Mr. COLVIN. Yes; a very large percentage of them.

Mr. BACHMANN. Would it run up as high as 90 or 95 per cent?

Mr. COLVIN. I would say 75 per cent at least, and the others are Americans who are of the type who are just natural agitators of the kind we had out here even before that.

Mr. BACHMANN. Of the I. W. W.?

Mr. COLVIN. When the I. W. W. was going strong here. You would find very strong with them the type that can not get along with the American Federation of Labor and laboring men, and can not get along with them when they are outcasts.

Mr. BACHMANN. Are they trying to attract the colored people in this section into their movement?

Mr. COLVIN. I have had a lot of literature submitted to me, which was circulated, in which they were appealing especially to the colored people; but I do not believe they have made any progress with the colored people that is noticeable. There is at least one man I know of, a colored man here, who was an agitator; but among the colored settlement, I do not believe they have made any progress at all.

Mr. BACHMANN. Do you think your State laws are adequate to take care of the situation?

Mr. COLVIN. We have a very broad State syndicalist act here that I believe can reach those agitators on the street, but I do not believe

it is adequate nor does the State have the machinery to get those I have reason to believe are behind those agitators, and are furnishing them the means, the livelihood, while they carry on this propaganda. We have a State law that would be effective if we had the machinery to put it into effect, to reach these people, but we do not have the machinery to reach anybody other than the soap-box agitator.

Mr. ESLICK. These higher-ups, are they natives of your State, or of different States?

Mr. COLVIN. I do not believe they are natives of the State at all.

Mr. ESLICK. Taking the last two years, has the communistic activity been less or greater?

Mr. COLVIN. Much greater. As a matter of fact it has come to my attention officially largely in the last two years, more particularly within the last year.

Mr. ESLICK. In your opinion, are the communists increasing in membership or not?

Mr. COLVIN. I would say from the reports I have seen they are increasing.

Mr. ESLICK. Now, is that a gradual increase, or are they making rapid strides?

Mr. COLVIN. I think the increase this last summer has been probably due to the condition of depression here in the Northwest; to some extent it has been aggravated by that. But there is a general increase, as I say, coming to my attention primarily in the last two years. For four years it never bothered me at all; I never saw any agitation of it, or saw any movement of it.

Mr. ESLICK. Even before the depression, they were more active?

Mr. COLVIN. Even before the depression they were more active?

Mr. ESLICK. Then when the depression came, the soil was more fertile?

Mr. COLVIN. They became very active at that time, taking advantage of that situation, which, of course, is always an opportunity for them.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much. Mr. Freeman, do you desire to be heard now?

Mr. FREEMAN. Well, I would like to have Mr. Thorpe, editor of the Pacific Pulp and Paper Industry, present the information.

TESTIMONY OF LLOYD E. THORPE

(The witness was duly sworn by the chairman.)

The CHAIRMAN. What is your full name?

Mr. THORPE. Lloyd E. Thorpe.

The CHAIRMAN. What organization do you represent?

Mr. THORPE. I am the editor of the Pacific Pulp and Paper Industry, a trade journal published in the city of Seattle.

The CHAIRMAN. How long have you held that position?

Mr. THORPE. Three years, approximately.

The CHAIRMAN. You represent that paper here, and do you represent any group besides that?

Mr. THORPE. No group other than the paper.

The CHAIRMAN. Will you proceed and tell us what you know in regard to the communist activities and propaganda in the lumber industry, and also in connection with any evidence you may have in

regard to the dumping of soviet lumber, or prison-made lumber, in this country?

Mr. THORPE. My information is confined solely to the one question; that is, Russian pulpwood imports. I have here a statement which I will file.

The CHAIRMAN. Russian pulpwood imports?

Mr. THORPE. Russian pulpwood imports, and I would like to summarize just two or three points from this, and then file this with you.

As a publication, we have no quarrel with the present Russian Government, nor do we take any position on the moot question of whether the Russian pulpwood is or is not produced wholly or in part by convict labor; but we do submit that a number of points which vitally affect industry and labor of the United States have been entirely overlooked to the end that American welfare is suffering harm. And in connection with these Russian imports, there are these several points: The admitted shortage of pulpwood in the United States, but this shortage is confined, practically entirely, to the northeastern section, and the Government, in dealing with the pulp imports have entirely overlooked another region of the country and its ability to supply these wants. The document I will file will give statistics on the development of a domestic supply out here.

As evidence of the effect of these Russian imports, I quote here one paragraph from a letter written by Mr. Ossian Anderson, president of the Puget Sound Pulp & Timber Co., operating here on the Pacific coast. Mr. Anderson said:

I might cite that the day the department refused the Russian pulpwood carriers, we received an inquiry for large tonnage of unbleached pulp to go to the International Paper Co. to-day can buy sulphite cheaper than they can produce it sample tonnage to prove the quality of our product. The International Paper Co. have been buyers of large quantities of unbleached sulphite in the past, but with this cheap Russian pulpwood hope to start some old obsolete mills which have been out of pulpwood in the East and consequently eliminate them as consumers of domestic sulphite. I dare say that with the drastic competition we have had in the pulp market in the last few months, brought about by over-supply of foreign pulp being dumped in the United States at any price, the International Paper Co. to-day can buy sulphite cheaper than they can produce it from this Russian wood, even though bought cheaply, however contracted for a year ago when sulphite prices were \$10 a ton above the present-day market.

The CHAIRMAN. From just what are you reading?

Mr. THORPE. Just a letter written by Mr. Anderson to Colonel Greeley, secretary-manager of the West Coast Lumbermen's Association.

The CHAIRMAN. When was that written; what was the date?

Mr. THORPE. The date of this letter is August 10.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, you mention there that the International Paper Co. buy cheaper. Do you know whether they do buy cheaper from Russia?

Mr. THORPE. From the prices quoted, it is very difficult to obtain the exact prices, except the general prices quoted have been \$18.50 for Russian wood, delivered at dock. It does not include any additional price for rail haul and handling to the mill. It is generally estimated that such wood costs from \$20 to \$22 delivered at the pulp mill.

The CHAIRMAN. How much would American pulp be? Suppose you shipped wood from here to the same mill you referred to, how much would be the domestic price?