

Mr. BACHMANN. What are you seeking to accomplish through your organization of the Young Pioneers?

Mr. FIELDS. I do not belong to the Young Pioneers.

Mr. BACHMANN. The Young Communist League?

Mr. FIELDS. I am not seeking any personal gains for myself; that is, having saw the rottenness and misery and poverty—

Mr. BACHMANN. You said all that before; I do not want to repeat that in the record. What are you seeking to accomplish?

Mr. FIELDS. But this is part of my answer.

Mr. BACHMANN. I want to know what you, yourself, and the party you belong to are seeking to accomplish in the United States?

Mr. FIELDS. The Communist Party is seeking to accomplish in the United States the removal of the workers from hunger, misery, and poverty that exists under the capitalistic dictatorship; it seeks to establish—we seek to establish—a society for all classes.

Mr. BACHMANN. How are you going to accomplish it?

Mr. FIELDS. We are going to accomplish it through the organization of the workers.

Mr. BACHMANN. In what way?

Mr. FIELDS. Well, there are various types of organizations of the workers. In the first place, we urge the workers to organize in the economic field.

Mr. BACHMANN. Stop right there: After you get them organized, how are you going to accomplish it?

Mr. FIELDS. After we get the people organized, we attempt to get them organized in various fields.

Mr. BACHMANN. After you get them organized, how are you going to accomplish your purpose?

Mr. FIELDS. Well, there are various means. When we get the working class behind us, or, rather, we, of course, ourselves, can not do anything; we are scientific; that is, we do not set up a dogmatic program, which we say to the workers, "Now, you accept this program"; rather we follow the trend of history and we know that under certain circumstances the workers are going to protest against the hunger and the misery and poverty—

Mr. BACHMANN. Is it not a fact that what you are seeking to accomplish is to take over the government we have in the United States and substitute in its place the Soviet form of government; is not that the fact? Now, you can answer that yes or no.

Mr. FIELDS. We want the workers to have a workers' and farmers' government.

Mr. BACHMANN. Is it not a fact you are seeking to substitute the Soviet form of government in this country for our present form of government, whatever it may be?

Mr. FIELDS. We are seeking to have a workers' and farmers' government instead of a capitalistic government.

Mr. BACHMANN. And, to establish that in the place of the present government?

Mr. FIELDS. What do you mean by "in place of the present government"? Whenever the Democratic Party comes in, don't you have a complete change of government? You have different men.

Mr. BACHMANN. You understand what I mean by that. I said you are seeking to establish the Soviet form of government. We do not have the Soviet form of government, whether it be the Democratic Party in power or the Republican Party in power.

Mr. FIELDS. Perfectly true.

Mr. BACHMANN. You know I am not talking about that; now answer my question. I said you are seeking to substitute here, in this country, the Soviet form of government in place of the present government; is not that the fact?

Mr. FIELDS. If by "soviet government" you mean a government controlled by the working class, which think of the interests of the working class, yes.

Mr. BACHMANN. Well, you could have answered that before without any trouble, could you not?

Mr. FIELDS. Not until I get your meaning clear.

Mr. BACHMANN. To what extent are you going to substitute the workers' government for the present form of government? Are you going to use force and violence, if necessary, to bring that about?

Mr. FIELDS. No; we do not believe in violence. As I said before, we believe in a scientific approach to these subjects; that is, we do not believe in clubbing people and beating them into senselessness.

Mr. ESLICK. You say your father and mother were born in the United States?

Mr. FIELDS. No; they were not born in the United States.

Mr. ESLICK. What nationality are they?

Mr. FIELDS. My father is a naturalized citizen of Italian descent; my mother is a naturalized citizen of Armenian descent, and I was born in this country.

The CHAIRMAN. Is Mr. Laurie here?

Mr. LAURIE. Yes.

TESTIMONY OF JOHN LAURIE

(The witness was duly sworn by the chairman.)

The CHAIRMAN. What is your full name?

Mr. LAURIE. John Laurie.

The CHAIRMAN. Are you a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. LAURIE. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. You are an American citizen?

Mr. LAURIE. No; I am a naturalized citizen.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, you are an American citizen?

Mr. LAURIE. I am an American citizen; yes.

The CHAIRMAN. When were you naturalized?

Mr. LAURIE. Oh, about six years ago.

The CHAIRMAN. From what country do you come?

Mr. LAURIE. Scotland.

The CHAIRMAN. Where were you naturalized?

Mr. LAURIE. In the city of Seattle?

The CHAIRMAN. You have lived here ever since?

Mr. LAURIE. I have lived here 22 years.

The CHAIRMAN. When did you join the Communist Party?

Mr. LAURIE. Oh, about five years ago, I think it was; four and a half or five years ago.

The CHAIRMAN. Were you a socialist before then?

Mr. LAURIE. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you hold any position in the Communist Party here?

Mr. LAURIE. No.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you been a candidate for office?

Mr. LAURIE. Yes. I am a candidate at the present time—in this election.

The CHAIRMAN. You were not a candidate for any other office before?

Mr. LAURIE. No.

The CHAIRMAN. This is the first time you have been a candidate?

Mr. LAURIE. The first time I have been a candidate.

Mr. NELSON. Did you belong to the I. W. W.?

Mr. LAURIE. No.

Mr. BACHMANN. You joined the Communist Party right after you were naturalized?

Mr. LAURIE. Yes; about two years and a half, I think it was; something like that.

Mr. BACHMANN. You have only been naturalized about six years, have you not, and you joined the Communist Party five and a half years ago, did you not?

Mr. LAURIE. No. I would not be exact on that.

Mr. BACHMANN. Did you have any connection with the Communist Party at the time you were naturalized?

Mr. LAURIE. No; none whatever.

Mr. BACHMANN. Can you be exact as to the time you joined the Communist Party; I mean how soon after you were naturalized?

Mr. LAURIE. Not offhand. I would have to look it up.

Mr. BACHMANN. Was it more than a year?

Mr. LAURIE. I think it was.

Mr. NELSON. Do you know what the Communist Party Internationale stands for?

Mr. LAURIE. Yes.

Mr. NELSON. What?

Mr. LAURIE. Revolution.

Mr. NELSON. Anything else?

Mr. LAURIE. Building up the workers' and farmers' government in the United States.

Mr. NELSON. Is there anything else?

Mr. LAURIE. The abolition of private property.

Mr. NELSON. Anything else?

Mr. LAURIE. Well, these are about the main things, organizing the workers.

Mr. NELSON. Those are the things that appeal to you?

Mr. LAURIE. Yes. My life experience in the United States has been that the workers as a class will have to build up their own political organization, which will give expression to their interests and political faith as well as economic faith. I arrived in this country during the economic depression in 1907, and now we are in the worst depression they have ever had in the history of the world.

Mr. BACHMANN. You thought by joining the Communist Party so soon after you were naturalized you would accomplish the result?

Mr. LAURIE. Not necessarily. We do not accomplish things like that in two years or a year and a half.

Mr. BACHMANN. But, as far as you are concerned, you would go to the extent of the use of force and violence?

Mr. LAURIE. That will be determined by the workers.

Mr. BACHMANN. I did not ask you how it would be determined.

Mr. LAURIE. That is my answer to the question.

Mr. BACHMANN. My question was, "You would go to that extent, would you not, to accomplish those results?"

Mr. LAURIE. If necessary.

Mr. BACHMANN. If necessary?

Mr. LAURIE. If necessary; yes.

The CHAIRMAN. You came to this country of your own accord, did you not?

Mr. LAURIE. I came to this country because of the oppression and the economic depression and the conditions that existed in the country in which I was raised. I was a worker; I found out the conditions of the workers were the same in all countries.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. How old were you when you came over here?

Mr. LAURIE. Twenty-one.

The CHAIRMAN. You came over here of your own accord and have stayed here, of course, of your own accord?

Mr. LAURIE. I landed in Boston and had to get out of Boston; because of the panic, everything closed down, the same as it is now; in 1907.

Mr. ESICK. At the time you were naturalized did you believe in our form of government and the Constitution of the United States?

Mr. LAURIE. I did. I was, previous to that, a member of the Socialist Party, but my experience has taught me different.

Mr. ESICK. Since you were naturalized?

Mr. LAURIE. Yes; since I was naturalized, and my experience.

Mr. ESICK. You do not believe in it now?

Mr. LAURIE. Believe in what?

Mr. ESICK. In the form of government that we now have?

Mr. LAURIE. It is quite evident the form of government we have to-day does not function in the interest of the workers. I am a workman and interested in my class.

Mr. ESICK. The question was, "You do not believe in our form of government now and the Constitution of the United States?"

Mr. LAURIE. I am convinced it does not function in the interest of the workers.

Mr. ESICK. If you do not believe in it, why do you not go to some country in whose form of government you do believe?

Mr. LAURIE. Why should I go to some other country? I have been here 22 years and am going to stay here as long as I have breath.

Mr. ESICK. You had been in Scotland for 21 years when you came here?

Mr. LAURIE. Yes, sure; but there would not be any advantage in my going back to Scotland, in so far as conditions are concerned,

because conditions in Scotland are precisely the same as they are here.

Mr. ESLICK. You do believe in the soviet form of government, do you not?

Mr. LAURIE. I think it is of advantage to the working class to have the soviet form of government.

Mr. ESLICK. Then why do you not go to Soviet Russia?

Mr. LAURIE. I don't know if I can get in there; I am not a Russian.

Mr. ESLICK. You are not a Russian?

Mr. LAURIE. No.

The CHAIRMAN. We will now call Mr. Jennings.

TESTIMONY OF SOWOLL E. JENNINGS

(The witness was duly sworn by the chairman.)

The CHAIRMAN. Have you given your full name?

Mr. JENNINGS. I did, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Are you a member of the police force?

Mr. JENNINGS. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. What position do you hold?

Mr. JENNINGS. Why, at present, I am working directly under the inspector as an investigator.

The CHAIRMAN. How long have you been a member of the police force?

Mr. JENNINGS. Fourteen years.

The CHAIRMAN. All 14 years in the city of Seattle?

Mr. JENNINGS. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Are you familiar with the activities and propaganda of the communists here in Seattle?

Mr. JENNINGS. Quite so.

The CHAIRMAN. Will you tell the committee what, of your own knowledge, you know upon that subject?

Mr. JENNINGS. Why, about the 21st of December, or of February, I was detailed by the inspector to check up on the movements of the Communist Party and during that time I have attended several meetings in the halls and street meetings and come to the conclusion, from the propaganda and the speeches and agitation, that they are a militant and revolutionary organization, functioning in this country solely for the purpose to overthrow our present form of government, or any organized institutions of this country—preaching that, agitating it, advising it in every possible way; getting it to all workers through the mills, factories, and shops, our forests here, and every other place.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you know of the existence here of any communist school?

Mr. JENNINGS. There has been a school teaching communism out at 1413½ First Avenue. They have their classes there. I have reports on them for about once a week for the last two months.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you attend the various communist meetings?

Mr. JENNINGS. I attend the street meetings, some of them. I have not been in their halls for some time, but I have attended one of their school classes.

The CHAIRMAN. Are you able to testify as to the character of the speeches?

Mr. JENNINGS. I have here sketches of several of them that have been written down, that I could read.

The CHAIRMAN. Will you present them to the committee and have them marked as exhibits? We do not want to take the time now to read them, but just have the stenographer mark them.

Mr. JENNINGS. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Just present them and say what they are and the stenographer will mark them.

(Mr. Jennings submitted a paper which was marked "Jennings No. 1.")

Mr. BACHMANN. What is Exhibit Jennings No. 1? Do not read it, but just tell us what it is.

Mr. JENNINGS. It was a street meeting held at Occidental and Washington Streets on July 14, 1930, under the auspices of the Communist Party.

The CHAIRMAN. Who were the speakers there?

Mr. JENNINGS. Yetta Stromberg; a fellow by the name of Wahrel; a fellow by the name of Cannally; a fellow by the name of McNeil; a fellow by the name of O'Hanrihan; a fellow by the name of Reynolds; a fellow by the name of Laurie; a fellow by the name of Steiner; a young communist member, Minon Hobson; a fellow by the name of Jackson; Leon Glazier; Sidney Bloomfield; and a fellow by the name of Summers—a colored man.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you the statement there that Mr. Glaser made?

Mr. JENNINGS. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Is that the same Mr. Glaser who testified here to the effect he was not a communist?

Mr. JENNINGS. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. What did he have to say?

Mr. JENNINGS. Leon Glaser, who is the financial secretary and treasurer of the Friends of the Soviet Union, said:

The war danger is important and it is the duty of us communists to be at the demonstration August 1, which is against imperialistic war. The capitalists must do something to kill off the workers and crush the soviet union, while our aim is to establish a soviet union here. It is a sworn duty of us communists to support Soviet Russia, turn the guns on the bosses who are trying to down that government.

The CHAIRMAN. That is the same Mr. Glaser who testified here he was not a communist?

Mr. JENNINGS. That is Leon Glaser who testified from this stand this afternoon.

The CHAIRMAN. Under oath?

Mr. JENNINGS. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, there is mention there of the name of Bloomfield?

Mr. JENNINGS. Yes; Sidney Bloomfield.

The CHAIRMAN. Did he testify to-day?

Mr. JENNINGS. No, sir.

(Exhibit No. 1 submitted by Mr. Jennings is in full as follows:)