

Q. Now, did you ever hold an office in the Pension Union yourself, Mr. Hiller?

A. Yes. I was chairman for nine months at Green Lake Local No. 10.

Q. What year was that?

A. Well, I'm awful poor at the dates and such things as that, but it was somewhere about the same time, that—

Q. About 1942?

A. Somewheres, yes.

Q. Now were you a member of the Communist Party at that time?

A. I was part of the time. I want to state here that I didn't belong to it only for two—for about two months I paid dues.

Q. All right—

A. And I didn't like their system, so I—

Q. You got out. Now then, when you were chairman of the Green Lake chapter—or Green Lake Branch No. 10 of the Old Age Pension Union here in the City of Seattle, did your wife hold any position with that same local?

A. She was secretary-treasurer.

Q. And was she a member of the Communist Party at that time?

A. Absolutely.

Q. Do you know a person by the name of William Pennock?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. Did he hold any official position in the Communist Party during the time—I mean—strike that. Did he hold any official position with the Washington Pension Union during the time you were a member of the Communist Party?

A. Well, he did, at least he was always opening the meetings and speaking and so on, you know.

Q. I'll ask you if Mr. Pennock ever had occasion to introduce you and your wife?

A. No, he never introduced us. I knew her before I knew Pennock.

Q. To refresh your recollection, I don't think you quite understand the import of my question. Did—was there ever occasion in which Mr. Pennock introduced you and your wife to a crowd?

A. Oh, yes. He asked me where I lived, and he—I come up to the meeting held at Moose Hall there, you know, and when I come in the hall why, he come up and shook hands with me, and he called me Comrade Hiller.

Q. Called you what?

A. He called me Comrade Hiller.

Q. Comrade Hiller?

A. Yeah. And after everything—I was seated and everything, he told everybody in the hall to get up, you know, and give us a hand. And they all stood up, you know, and clapped their hands for us, you know.

Q. Yes. Mr. Hiller, did you ever serve on the—as a member of the Executive Board of the Washington Pension Union? Were you ever on the Executive Board?

A. No, I don't think I ever did, but—I know I didn't, because I belong to the—they elected me, you know, as a member to the State Board.

Q. Well, that's what I have reference to, the State Board.

A. Well, oh, well—

Q. What year was that, Mr. Hiller, do you remember?

A. '32, or—'32 or '33.

Q. Well, now, do you mean '42 or '43? 1942 or '43, is that the year you are referring to?

A. Yes, that probably is more like it.

Q. All right. Now, what percentage of the membership of the State Board, if you know, were members of the Communist Party during the year 1942 or '43, when you were there?

A. Well, there was a big bunch of them. They elected them here and there, you know, it didn't make much difference, you know, and if they attended, it was all right, the meetings, and if they didn't, why there was still always a bunch there that would fix things up to suit themselves.

Q. Do you know whether there were other Communists elected to the State Board besides yourself?

A. Well, as far as I could judge, they were all Communists in my estimation.

MR. HOUSTON: That's all, Mr. Chairman.

MR. WHIPPLE: That's all, Mr. Hiller, thank you.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman, I'm requesting that this witness be excused from subpoena now and permitted to return to his home.

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Yes, he may be released. Thank you very much for coming, Mr. Hiller.

MR. HOUSTON: Will Mr. Johnson resume the stand?

MANNING JOHNSON, resumed the stand for further examination, and testified as follows:

#### DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HOUSTON:

Q. Now, Mr. Johnson, when we recessed for lunch, you had just concluded your testimony pertaining to the National Negro Congress, that Phillip Randolph took a walk, and that it was now just a shell with Communists and close fellow-travelers and sympathizers remaining, is that correct?

A. That's correct.

Q. Now will you detail for us the next step that was taken. Your—the Negro Commission of the National Committee of the Communist Party didn't go out of existence with the National Negro Congress, did they?

A. No, it still functions. It functions today. Of course, the composition has changed. The—the National Negro Congress since the disintegration after the—after A. Phillip Randolph resigned, is a problem for the Communists; and as a problem they have sought a graceful way out. Publicly they announced that the Negro Labor Congress would merge with the Civil Rights—Civil Rights—let's see, I want to get that name correct. I have it listed here. The Civil Rights Congress.

Q. Civil Rights Congress.

A. Now the Communists—the Communists in the National Negro Congress have been instructed to infiltrate the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, as you know, is a splendid organization. It is definitely, in its policy, anti-Communist. It has sought over a period of years to right through

—right the wrongs by legal methods. That is, they feel that any of the grievances which the Negro people have can be settled peacefully within the framework of our existing democratic institutions. This, of course, is contrary to what the Communists believe, and the Communists practice.

The objective of the Communists in infiltration of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to gain control of the various locals of the organization, and to eventually elect delegates to the not—National conclaves, and to determine to a large extent the policy of that organization, and to eventually control it.

Why are they so anxious to control the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at this present stage? Did not they in the past accuse the leaders of the N double A C P of being social Fascists, Negro reformers, and so forth? Since the war, the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People has grown into a mass organization. It has won some notable decisions before the Supreme Court of the United States, with regard to the right of Negroes in the South to vote in the Democratic Party primaries, the elimination of discrimination in transportation facilities through the South, the right of Negro students to enter any university in southern states, along with any number of other important cases which they have succeeded in getting a favorable decision from the Supreme Court.

It enjoys an unparalleled position of prestige among the Negro people. And not only the Negro people, but amongst the white people of this great country of ours. It is then a mass organization embracing thousands of people. Any organization that embraces thousands, that is an organization that vitally concerns the Communists. They want to get where the masses of people are, because they want to disseminate their revolutionary policy and program. They want to ensnare them. They want to enmesh them in the web of Communist political policy.

Q. Now, did—failing to take over the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, did they cause publicity and other things that caused groups to shy away from them?

A. No, that isn't the case. They were instructed, as I understand, to go into the N double A C P—

Q. Now, when you say you understand, you're speaking as a former member of the National Committee of the Communist Party, and on the Negro Commission of the National Committee, are you not?

A. Well, I—I'm speaking as such.

Q. That's right. It's not your personal opinion; this is what you understood in an official capacity as a high-ranking Communist.

A. No, this is what I understand as a result of talking with Communists who have already infiltrated the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Q. That's all right.

A. I'm speaking of the present policy. I'm speaking of the present policy. They were instructed not to be too forward and too brazen in their efforts to gain control, to take it slow and to take it easy until they gained the confidence and the backing and support of the membership before pressing—pressing for positions of leadership and trying to put through Communist issues.

Q. Mr. Johnson, did you ever know of an organization known as the People's Committee?

A. Yes, I was for years a member of the People's Committee. The People's Committee is a front organization of the Communist Party. It has been up until recently. It was used as a vehicle of the Communists to entrench themselves among the—the negro people in Harlem. They conducted a number of campaigns there for jobs, in the subway systems and in the large department stores, and big business concerns. As a result of this campaign they were able to elect the chairman of that committee, Reverend A. Clayton Powell, Jr.—A. Clayton, C-l-a-y-t-o-n P-o-w-e-l, first to the city council of New York, and later to the Congress of the United States. They used Adam Powell like they sought to use A. Phillip Randolph.

Adam Powell is quite an able young man. His father founded the greatest—I mean the largest colored Protestant church in the world, with a membership of approximately forty thousand. When he retired he passed that—

Q. Forty thousand?

A. I beg your pardon?

Q. Forty thousand?

A. Forty thousand members.

Q. That's a big church.

A. It is.

Q. Did they all meet at one time, or did they have a series of churches?

A. No, no—they do not meet at one time. If you're not there at ten o'clock in the morning, you can't get in then. They stand in line trying to get in. Those are the figures that were given by A. Clayton Powell himself, with regard to the enrolled membership. Of course, you have many persons who do not go, but they have—they claim a membership of that many. Of course it was in the interests of the Communists to gain control of such a man, because he had a tremendous mass following among the people and he could be used.

It was no accident that when they used to call meetings at Madison Square Garden, that they could pack it. Madison Square Garden holds twenty thousand, and often they'd have to turn them away. They held those meetings there once every year.

Q. Well, now, you are not inferring that Congressman Powell is a Communist?

A. Congressman Powell is not a Communist, but he has followed the Communist line all the way through.

Q. Do you know who the local—no, I'll withdraw that. This program of yours, as a member of the Negro Commission of the National Committee of the Communist Party, was that carried out in the Pacific Northwest here?

A. Yes, it was. It was a national policy that we formulated.

Q. Do you know who was the head of the movement here?

A. I do not recall now who was the head of the movement here, but I know that we had—we had some leading contacts out here. I do not off-hand recall just who they were. There was one fellow by the name of Cato—

Q. Caton?

A. Caton, or Cato, or somebody. I don't know what his name was. I remember that name. Outside of him, I—

Q. Well now, what name do you remember?

A. It was Cato—Caton, or something.

Q. Revels Caton?

A. Revels Caton, yes. He—he was one of the leading Communists—negro Communists out here, and there was also a Baptist minister, if I'm not mistaken. I don't recall his name. He was also active.

Q. Was he a colored gentleman?

A. Yes, he was.

Q. Now you have testified that—

A. I would like to say this, if I may have your permission.

Q. Yes.

A. That—I want to say this because I want to guard against being misunderstood. The negroes who had been attracted to the Communist Party in great numbers in the past, have to a very great extent left the ranks of the Party. That is due to the fact that many of them soon discovered the insincerity of the Communists; secondly, they realized that they were being used as pawns in a political struggle for power. This sentiment was not only true of the—existed not only amongst the rank and file, but also in the top leadership.

I mentioned in—earlier in my testimony that the names of persons who were on the Negro Commission of the National Committee. I want to say that today I do not believe there is more than one of them left on that committee. You know my position today. I was considered one of their ablest members. Harry Haywood was removed from the Commission because of differences with Gerhardt Eisler, and today he is trying to eke out a living the best way he knows how. He is looked upon with contempt and scorn. Now here was a man who drew up the resolutions for the Communist International on the negro question. And today he is in disrepute, thrown onto the scrap heap of political destiny by the Communists.

Maude White was removed from the National Committee, removed from the Negro Commission of the National Committee, at the present time working in New York. I could go on down the line to show that every single leading Communist who was with the Party from the beginning is either an insignificant rank-and-filer or definitely outside of the Party.

Q. You have reference now to the negro Communists?

A. That's right. For example, George Hewitt, or alias Jim Holmes, Moscow-trained. He was expelled from the Communist Party because he fought against the cynical and contemptuous attitude of the Communists towards the negro, and because he disagreed on the question of a formation of a negro state or negro nation in the black belt of this country.

I say all that to say only this, that there are only a few of the old-timers left. I'm speaking of negroes now. Most of the negroes who are in leadership today are newcomers. The old ones are too smart for the Communists. The new ones, they can deceive them. You can search the history of this great nation of ours and you cannot show me one instance of a negro being a traitor. He has participated in every war this country has ever engaged in, he has helped in many ways, through sweat and through tears, helped build this nation into a great nation. I don't believe that traditionally and by his very nature that he is a traitor, or ever will become a traitor, though the Communists through their policy are seeking to break down their splendid record which the negro people have built up over the years. They seek to turn them into traitors in the same sense that they seek to turn all Americans into traitors, by hooking them up with an alien power. I believe firmly—I believe firmly that regardless

of the ills of democracy that this is the greatest country in the world, and I have boundless faith in the future of America, and I believe that every grievance which my people have regardless of whether it's in the North or the South, the East or the West, all of these grievances can be eliminated and will be eliminated through the regular channels, democratic channels of our government.

(Applause.)

Q. Mr. Johnson, here is Exhibit 9 which was introduced here yesterday. I will ask you to observe this exhibit and see if you recognize any of the people there.

A. Oh, yes, yes, yes. That's my old friend and comrade, Harry Bridges. And by the way, he's drinking a toast with Commissar Molotov. Well, well, well! He's in good company; he belongs there.

Q. Let's develop that testimony a little bit. What makes you say that Mr. Bridges is a comrade? I surmise you are inferring he is a member of the Communist Party?

A. Yes, Harry Bridges is a member of the Communist Party, and in my capacity as a member of the National Committee, I was—I'm in a position to state that—

Q. I think that's enough. Was Harry Bridges ever known under any name other than Harry Bridges?

A. He was known under the name of Rossi.

Q. Rossi. Did you ever hear of him being known as Harry Dorgan?

A. No, I haven't.

Q. While you were a member of the National Committee of the Communist Party, did you ever hear any discussion, or did you participate in any discussion concerning one ex-Congressman Jerry J. O'Connell?

A. Well, I only heard his name mentioned on one occasion in connection with some job the Communists were going to give him in the International Workers Order. And of course you know the International Workers Order is a Communist front organization, in fact it's dominated from top to bottom by the Communists. Any time a person is selected to work for that organization, he stands in high esteem with the Communist Party.

Q. From that conversation, which I assume was in a closed executive meeting with the National Committee, was it not?

A. It was discussed on the ninth floor, and I don't recall all of the participants in the discussion. I know Jack Stachel—Jack Stachel and J. Peters, and I don't remember the name of the other persons that were there, at the present time. That was in—I think that was back in 1938 when that took place.

Q. From the discussion, did you gather that Mr. O'Connell was under Party discipline?

A. I don't know. He evidently was working either under Party discipline or carrying out the line of the Party, because after all, they don't consider a person who's not going down the road with them, for a job in the International Workers Order. You surely wouldn't put a rattlesnake in your breast, would you?

Q. Now, Mr. Johnson, early in your testimony this morning, you testified that you attended a secret Communist Party school where you were trained for leadership.

A. Yes.

Q. Will we go back into that just a little bit and discuss a little more about the secret Communist Party schools, who is eligible to get in there, can you get in by asking?

A. No, you are recommended to that school on the basis of your ability. Only select Communists are chosen, persons that they feel have the quality for quality of national leadership.

Q. Now, in your testimony this morning, you referred once to the revolutionary character of the Communist Party. Let's develop that a little bit. Is it a reformist party?

A. The Communist Party is not a reformist party. The Communist Party is a revolutionary political movement controlled and directed by an alien power, namely, Moscow. It is world-wide in its scope. The—it is the Fifth Column of Moscow. It has as its objective the complete destruction not only of the United States, but the destruction of every democratic nation on the face of the globe.

There might be some people who want to dispute this, so I want to read briefly, for the record, just what the Communists are working for, in case someone might say, "Oh, he's just talking to hear himself talk, to appear sensational." Well, I never was a sensationalist; I never was a lover of it; I'll leave that for the Communists, who like to get up at gatherings of this kind and shout.

"The ultimate aim," this is the—this is the program—this is the program of the Communist International. This is the program of the Communist International, which is "must" reading for every Communist. "The ultimate aim of the Communist International is to replace world capitalist economy by a world system of Communism, Communist society, the basis of which has been prepared by the whole course of historical development, is mankind's only way out, for it alone can abolish the contradictions of the capital system which threaten to degrade and destroy humanity."

In other words, they tell you definitely that they are seeking to establish Communism throughout the entire world. Further: "Does the dictatorship of the world proletariat as an essential and a vital condition precedent to the transition of world capitalist economy to socialist economy? This world dictatorship can be established only when the victory of socialism has been achieved in certain countries or groups of countries where the newly established proletariat republics enter into a faithful union with the already existing proletarian republics," that being Soviet Russia.

Now, there's some people might not believe that they intend to destroy the government, and I want to read again from this document. "The conquest of power by the proletariat is the violent overthrow of bourgeois power, the destruction of the capitalist state apparatus," that is, bourgeois armies, police, bureaucratic institutions, judiciary, parliament, etc., "and substituting in its place new organs of proletarian power to serve primarily as instruments for the suppression of the exploited." They mean by this, that they intend some day, when they gain power, to destroy the Congress of the United States, your state governmental agencies like your State Senate, your State Legislature, your city government, destroy your law-enforcement agencies like your State Police, your city police agencies, and destroy your army, your navy; in other words, they mean to do away with everything that you have today which constitutes America. From top to bottom, they say, they're going to destroy this

apparatus and set up an apparatus in accordance with the program and policy and the wishes of the leaders of the Kremlin.

Of course, if you Americans want that you can have it, but I don't want any part of it.

Q. Do they believe in the liquidation of the capitalists—

A. Yes, they do.

Q. By blood?

A. Yes, and not only that, but they've got concentration camps already planned for us. Yes, they've got concentration camps ready and waiting for us. Yes, I—just a moment, if you'll bear with me. I'll read it to you. "Only—" this is the thesis—the thesis and statutes of the second—adopted at the Second World Congress of the Communist International.

Q. When? About 1930, wasn't it?

A. That was adopted in 19—no, that's the thesis of the—the statutes of the—that's right, of the Third World Congress. That was in 1930, if I'm not mistaken.

Q. 1930, at Moscow?

A. At Moscow. "Only a violent defeat of the bourgeoisie, the confiscation of its property, the amalgamation of the entire bourgeois government apparatus from top to bottom, parliamentary, juridical, military, bureaucratic, administrative, municipal, etc. up through the individual exile or internment of the most stubborn and dangerous exploiters."

In other words, they are planning to take all of their political opponents and put them into—internment and concentration camps, and the others exiled possibly to some remote island where—where they could carry out a living hell.

Q. Well, that's been carried out in Russia today to their political opponents. Isn't that the pattern that was used in Bulgaria, and Roumania, and Yugoslavia?

A. That is correct. That is the same policy that has been used in every country that the Communists have seized power, and that is also the policy that's pursued in Russia today, a ruthless and brutal liquidation of all political opposition. And I sometimes marvel at the folly of Americans who will listen to the babble of Communists that they are for democracy, that they are the champions of democracy.

Bringing it home, what is more democratic than this hearing here today? What is more democratic than this hearing today? After all, the chairman has said to anyone, "If you would like to come up here on this witness stand and express your views, you have the opportunity." But no, the Communists don't want that. They are not concerned with coming up here and airing their views. They're concerned only with one thing, to come up here—to stand up in the audience and create a rumpus, to stir up a confusion, to try to break up the hearing, and if they can't do that they want to smear those who are conducting it. The old smear campaign, the old campaign of character assassination, so typical and so common with the Reds.

They—there's one thing about this country, and I want you—I want to put this in the record, Mr. Chairman. You and I can get out on the street here and we can say anything we want about the President of the United States, any member of Congress, any member of the Presidential Cabinet. People passing by can agree or disagree, they can stop to listen or they can keep

walking. If the President himself, or any member of his Cabinet or Congress walks by while we're talking about him, the only thing they can do is argue with us, curse us out, or go to a movie. Isn't that democracy? Isn't that free speech? Yet the Communists say we don't have it in this country. No, the Communists are using the issue of—the First Amendment, not because they're interested in preserving the Constitution, because according to their records they are out to destroy it. They're not interested in democracy; they're only interested in using democracy to cover up for their cowardly and dastardly Communist conspiracy to destroy the Government of the United States.

(Applause.)

They don't want—they don't want this hearing. Do you know why they don't want it? Because their program and policy cannot stand the light. They love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil. God knows the deeds of the Communists are evil. And pernicious.

Q. I will ask you, Mr. Johnson, in this program that they have planned out and worked out in such detail that they even have planned where and how many concentration camps they will have in this country, do they believe in reorganizing our educational system?

A. Yes, their over-all master plan calls for the reorganization from top to bottom of your educational system in this country. The introduction in the school system of Communist-read professors and strictly Communist literature for indoctrination of the youth.

Q. Do they believe in nationalization of all the basic industries, and the banks, and the confiscation of property?

A. They—yes, their over-all plan calls for the nationalization of your basic industries, the seizure of all banks and all monies in those banks, all securities and making them the property of the state, and confiscation of all property.

Q. In the plans that they have worked out, have they devised a system or a program for the seizing of arsenals and the arming of the Communists?

A. Yes, they plan, when they have sufficient strength, and I hope and pray to Almighty God they never have it, to—to get—to seize, to break into the arsenals and armaments and seize guns and ammunition and to arm the Communist forces, who in turn will use those arms to take over the governmental machinery.

Q. But, Mr. Johnson, the Communists tell us that they are a democratic party and that they want to achieve their aims through the democratic processes of our government. That doesn't sound like it.

A. Well, you see American democracy with the Communists is not the end in itself, it's a means to an end. In other words, they only use our democratic institutions in order to further their subversive activities.

Q. Do they believe in the abolition of our army and navy?

A. Yes, they plan to abolish our army and navy as it is now constituted, and to reorganize it, under the control and domination of the Communist Party. And it—also your air force, both military and civilian.

Q. Do they have a land program pertaining to our large plantations and large farms?

A. Yes, they have a plan of infiltration into the farm organizations, in the grain interests, and for the purpose of winning over the farmers. They are not concerned with the wealthy landowners, the persons who have the big farms

and plantations, they're going to—they're going to exterminate them and seize their land, and divide it up among the agricultural workers.

Q. Have they made plans for the control of the radio, press and motion pictures?

A. Yes, they plan also to take over your motion picture industry, your press and your radio.

Q. How do they—pardon me.

A. In other words, they mean to take over everything in the government, and to reorganize it under the control and domination of the Communist Party.

Q. How do they consider the Democratic and Republican political parties?

A. The Democratic and Republican party will be liquidated. They are considered tools of the capitalist class and instruments of oppression, as they put it, and as such they must be liquidated.

Q. Now after they have done all of this, have they any plans for a form of government set-up?

A. Yes, they plan to establish what they call the dictatorship of the proletariat, which is really a dictatorship of the Communist Party, such as you see in Russia, a totalitarian government.

I want to say here, Mr. Chairman, that many of us say—laugh at this sort of thing. They treat it idly. But I want to recall to you two historical facts that are recent and fresh in your mind. When Hitler—when Hitler published his "Mein Kampf" we smug egotistic Americans sat back and smiled. We laughed. Hitler in that book had outlined a plan for world conquest, but the very fantastic nature of the program was such that we could not believe it possible. Well, we can say today if we hadn't laughed at Hitler, the world wouldn't be in such a hell of a mess as it is today. Excuse my language, I didn't mean to use that vernacular, but sometimes I do to emphasize a point.

There was another militarist, by the—he was a Japanese by the name of Tanaka, T-a-n-a-k-a. You remember Tanaka issued the famous Tanaka Memorial, or the famous Tanaka document. In that document he set forth the conquest of East Asia, and eventually the conquest of the world. We laughed. We sat back in smug complacency, and said, "Oh, that's poppy-cock." Well, what happened on that fatal day in December in 1941? Let not history, in the case of the Communists, repeat itself. We may not escape as easily as we escaped the last two times.

Q. Now, Mr. Johnson, I'll ask you, are the Communists taught loyalty to the United States, and to be prepared to defend the United States?

A. No, a Communist is not taught to be loyal to the United States. We were taught to be traitors. Every Communist is a traitor. You are taught to be a traitor. Your loyalty is not with Washington; your loyalty is with Moscow. Moscow, not Washington, is your fatherland. In other words, I meant to say Russia and not America is a Communist's fatherland. And they are pledged to defend the fatherland with all of the power at their command.

Q. Are they taught how to sabotage the key industries and acts to perform in case of war between the Soviet Russia and the United States?

A. Yes, the Communists are—first and foremost, are taught that it is his duty to defend Soviet Russia against all enemies. In the event of a war between the United States and Russia, the Communists in America will work with might and main with all of their power, with all of their resources in

the interests of Russia. They will do everything they can to hamper, to delay, to destroy, and to defeat every military move of our government.

By that I mean precisely this, that they will not hesitate, if they are in your Armed Forces, to raise the slogan which they have already prepared, "Turn the Imperialist War Into a Civil War." They will agitate among the troops not to fight against the Communists; to either lay down their arms, or if not, to turn their arms on their officers, and watch to take over the Government of the United States.

In so far as your industries are concerned, they have a master plan in that respect too. They mean to sabotage them. Harry Bridges, for example, that stalwart Communist who—who is so puffed up and so inflated as a result of his so-called temporary victory against the government, declared that "we," speaking of himself as a Communist and the Communists in his organization, "shall decide what we shall load on the ships." What does Bridges mean by that? Bridges means precisely this, that in the event of war between the United States and Russia, he will urge the members of his organization to refuse to load munitions in any war against Russia. That's what Bridges means. And that's what the Communists mean on the east coast. Their master plan calls for the stopping of the shipment of war material to our Armed Forces in the event of a war between our country and Russia.

Q. Does that mean—

A. And I defy any man to say anything to the contrary, because I sat in council—in meetings in high circles in the Party when this particular question was discussed. They are to blow up bridges, destroy railroads, cripple munition factories, wherever they are, and they are to do that in the interests of the fatherland, Russia. Anything to hamper and to cripple and to delay; and that, of course, works in the hands of the Communist military machine.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Johnson, I certainly thank you for appearing here, and there are two or three other phases of this question that, if you are available later, we might take up, at a later date.

Before you leave I would like to ask you one question.

Q. Why are you appearing here voluntarily, why did you come from New York here to testify at our request?

A. I came here voluntarily to testify because, as I said before, I have realized my mistake in ever becoming associated with the Communists. I realized that it was my duty to keep alive and maintain forever the highest traditions of my people, that is, never to be a traitor. And to have stayed in the Communist Party would have made of me a traitor to this great country of ours.

I will always, as my forbears have done, fight for this country, and serve it. Any person that seeks to undermine it or seeks to destroy it, I will always stand ready and willing to give all that I possibly can give, and rally all that I possibly can rally to help preserve our democratic institutions and our democratic way of life. And I think that any problem that we have, we can solve it in the good old American way. I believe that the American people should do that.

And I want to say this, that it was a pleasure for me to come here, and I hope and trust that the members of the Pension Union, many of whom are good solid Americans, many of them who can trace their ancestry back to the pioneer days when their forefathers fought the cold and the heat and the snow and the hostile Indians to come here and to pioneer this great great wealthy Northwest; that it is something to cherish and it's something to hold on to, and it's something to fight for; and above all, remember this, that you

know what you have, but God knows you don't know what you're going to get. Stick to America as America has stuck to you. And that is my opinion.

I feel that I have done an irreparable wrong to my country in ever connecting myself with the Communists. And I want to repay that debt that I owe; and so long as I shall live I shall use my talents and my experience in dealing and working with the Communists, to undo the wrong which I have helped them do.

And I hope and trust that you will follow the same policy here in Washington. Now let's get rid of the bloody, slimy, stinking, scummy Communists once and for all.

*At this point Carl Brooks, later named in this report by a witness as a Communist Negro leader, made a disturbance and by direction of Chairman Canwell was removed from the hearing room by officers of the State Patrol.*

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: This is getting monotonous. We will now be in recess for five or ten minutes.

(Recess)

CHAIRMAN CANWELL: Proceed.

JESS FLETCHER, produced as a witness, after being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

#### DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HOUSTON:

Q. Will you please state your name?

A. Jess Fletcher.

Q. Where do you live, Mr. Fletcher?

A. 8731 Phinney Avenue.

Q. Mr. Fletcher, I'll ask you to state whether or not you have ever been a member of the Communist Party.

A. I have.

Q. When did you first affiliate yourself with the Communist Party?

A. Well, thirty—the latter part of '36—'37.

Q. And when did you become disassociated with the Communist Party?

A. That's hard to say. The secretary or organizer, Heinie Huff, said I was dropped three or four years ago. It's hard for me to determine when the Iron Curtain come in front of me, because I made the mistake of trying to practice free speech and democracy and they quit inviting me to their meetings.

Q. I will ask you, Mr. Fletcher, did you ever have a card in the Communist Party?

A. I did not, but they took my money, plenty of it too.

Q. Did you ever make inquiry as to why you were not given a card in the Communist Party?

A. Yes, I did. Morris Rapport, whom I knew when I was in the Industrial Workers of the World, or the I.W.W., was at that time the district secretary. I knew Rapport when he was in the I.W.W., and we voted on whether the I.W.W. would affiliate with the Third International, and the I.W.W. turned it down, but those that voted to affiliate with the Third International in 1919 or '20, turned to be Communists, and fellow-worker Rapport was a Communist. So after the—