

STENOGRAPHIC TRANSCRIPT

CITY COUNCIL

UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

FIRST AND SECOND SESSIONS

March 13, 1952

March 20, 1952

REPORTED BY:

H.M. Levine

MCDONALD AND LEVINE

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CITY COUNCIL
UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

C. Lyman Schueler -- Chairman
Maxwell Alpert
Anna M. Arthur
William Bonnett
Michael J. McHale
John H. Reed

A hearing by the Un-American Activities Committee of the City Council was held on Thursday, March 13, 1952, in the office of Arthur B. Price, President of the City Council, Room 307 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland, beginning at 2:40 p.m.

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE PRESENT

C. Lyman Schueler -- Chairman
Anna M. Arthur
William Bonnett
Michael J. McHale

Arthur B. Price, Ex-officio

WITNESSES PRESENT

Mr. Jack Gerson
Mr. Ed Daugherty

(Following off the record discussion an adjournment
was taken at 3:55 p.m. until Thursday, March 20, 1952,
2 p.m.)

FIRST SESSION

CITY COUNCIL

UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

C. Lyman Schueler, 2d District, Chairman
Maxwell Alpert, 4th District
Anna M. Arthur, 3d District
William Bonnett, 1st District
Michael J. McHale, 6th District
John H. Reed, 5th District

CLOSED HEARING

The Un-American Activities Committee of the City Council met on Thursday, March 13, 1952, in the office of Arthur B. Price, President of the City Council, Room 307, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland.

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William Bonnett
Michael J. McHale

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WITNESSES PRESENT

Mr. Jack Gerson
Mr. Ed Dougherty

(Thereupon, following off the record discussion,
an adjournment was taken at 3:55 p.m. until Thursday,
March 20, 1952, at 2:00 p.m.)

SECOND SESSION

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SECOND SESSION

CITY COUNCIL

UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

C. Lyman Schueler, 2d District, Chairman
Maxwell Alpert, 4th District
Anna M. Arthur, 3d District
William Bonnett, 1st District
Michael J. McHale, 6th District
John H. Reed, 5th District

CLOSED HEARING

The Un-American Activities Committee of the City Council met, pursuant to adjournment, at 2:20 p. m., on Thursday, March 20, 1952, in the office of Arthur B. Price, President of the City Council, Room 307, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland.

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE PRESENT

C. Lyman Schueler, Chairman
Maxwell Alpert
Anna M. Arthur
William Bonnett
Michael J. McHale
John H. Reed

STAFF MEMBER PRESENT

Francis J. Valle, Esq., Counsel

MR. SCHUELER: The committee will be in order.

Let the record show that there are present the following members of the committee: Mrs. Arthur of the 3d District; Mr. Alpert of the 4th District; Mr. Bonnett of the 1st District; and Mr. Valle, who is counsel to the committee.

(Note: Mr. McHale of the 6th District and Mr. Reed of the 5th District entered the room during the hearing.)

MR. SCHUELER: This is off the record.

(Discussion off the record.)

STATEMENT OF ALBERT ADOMAITIS
15 Kossuth Street, Baltimore, Maryland

MR. ADOMAITIS: * * * * *

We have had occasions, during my experience, at the time of conventions and elections where questions was raised about political maneuvers in the Local, it seems to me, five years ago or ten years ago, but nothing had been proved at all. It seemed like it was against guys due to the opposition of the Regional and National office. The only things I know of --

MRS. ARTHUR: What do you mean by "political

maneuvers"?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, the political maneuvers in the Local itself. It seemed like whenever there was opposition from one side, some kind of opposition, they carried the label of Communist on somebody. It was like that within the years that passed by, and then the guys that had the label of Communist would come back to work in the yard, and they would be there.

MR. SCHUELER: Would they become members of your Local?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, they were members of the Local. They are members even today, as far as I know.

MR. SCHUELER: And they are still members of your Local?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes.

MR. ALPERT: Are there any rumors that any of your members are members of the Communist Party?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, like I said, when the time comes -- it seems like it comes at certain periods when we get this type of rumor blowed in, at different times, and then it seems like there is no basis to it.

MR. ALPERT: Well, does your Union make any effort to check up on these rumors to determine whether or not there is any truth to them?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, they do. We have had certain members that raised questions, as far as that goes. They raised it before the membership at which time the members had the right to vote against the guys. There was nothing that actually warranted any action against the rumors like that.

MR. ALPERT: You mean, they were all given a clean bill of health?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes. We had a guy here that run for Business Agent -- this was five years ago -- and, gee -- I mean his name was Seese, Ray Seese. They watched the yard and they accused the guy of this and that. Gee, after the strike which was in 1947, around the strike time in 1947 -- it was around that time -- and then since that time the membership elected him back as president -- I mean as Business Agent, and then here at the last election he lost out again, but he is back in the yard again, back as a painter. I mean, there seems to be no basis for things

like that. It seems to me like it is a political maneuver, as far as I know.

MR. SCHUELER: Do they belong to your Local?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Sies does, yes.

MR. SCHUELER: I have quite a few names that have been submitted to me, Mr. Adomaitis, as being members in your particular Local, and at the same time working in the Key Highway Plant, who have been named through the House Un-American Activities Committee as members of the Communist Party. Possibly, if I would call some of these names off, you could tell me whether they are members of your Local, or whether they are working in your plant. I know one particular member that testified before that committee was Milton Seif. Do you know him?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes.

MR. SCHUELER: Is he a member in your Local?

MR. ADOMAITIS: He is a member of the union in our Local. I think he is the one that you said, that person. I don't know why you brought the name in.

MR. SCHUELER: Well --

MR. ADOMAITIS: I think that you said Gerson was

here. He probably brought the name in.

MR. SCHUELER: Of course, what Gerson told us has nothing to do with what we are asking you to tell us. We want to try to find out what you know.

MR. ADOMAITIS: That seems to be quite an issue all the time there. As far as Mr. Gerson and a few other guys, it seems the guys is always involved. Certain individuals always climb on certain other ones from time to time, but it doesn't seem to have any basis to it a lot of times, and most of the membership seems to get disgusted with it.

MR. BONNETT: What office, if any, did Mr. Seif have with your organization as an official, I mean?

MR. ADOMAITIS: He is a Grievance Committee member, a shop steward of a department, that is.

MR. SCHUELER: And wasn't he just recently elected chairman of the Negotiating Committee?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes, one of the negotiators. He hasn't been elected chairman, he is just a member of the committee, a member of a 16-man committee.

MR. SCHUELER: To negotiate?

MR. ADOMAITIS: As a negotiator.

Are you referring to the Local?

MR. SCHUELER: He was elected to that position by the membership of your Local?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes.

MR. SCHUELER: Where was that election held?

MR. ADOMAITIS: It was held in a Local Hall.

MR. SCHUELER: And that Local Hall is where?

MR. ADOMAITIS: That Local Hall is 1300 Beason.

MR. SCHUELER: And Beason Street, that is down in South Baltimore?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes, down at Hull Street.

MR. SCHUELER: Would you be able to tell me whether you know of a Paul Armstrong that works at the Key Highway Plant? ✓

MR. ADOMAITIS: Armstrong?

MR. SCHUELER: Yes, Armstrong, working in the burning and welding department.

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, I know of an Armstrong, the only thing I know of him, I think he is in the "O" Department. I think he is there. I don't know if he is a ✓

committee man, or a shop steward. I think he is a shop steward.

MR. SCHUELER: He is a shop steward?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes, I think he is.

MR. SCHUELER: Would you know a Frank Martin that may be working in the Key Highway Plant? ✓

MR. ADOMAITIS: Who?

MR. SCHUELER: Frank Martin that is supposed to be working in the "O" Department? ✓

MR. ADOMAITIS: No, I couldn't actually recall offhand who that guy is. No, I don't know.

MR. SCHUELER: Do you know whether he would be a member in your Local, or not? He could be a member?

MR. ADOMAITIS: He could be a member, I don't know.

MR. SCHUELER: And he could be working in the Key Highway Plant?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes, he could be.

MR. SCHUELER: But you have no knowledge of him personally?

MR. ADOMAITIS: No. In fact, about personally

having any knowledge of each individual, I don't know any personal matters of any of these guys. I mean, I don't know anything like this Armstrong, I don't know where he lives, or anything like that.

MR. ALPERT: Would you say, on the law of averages, there would be good reason to assume that there are a certain number of people that belong to the Communist Party employed down there?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Definitely I couldn't say.

MR. ALPERT: You mean, according to the law of averages, you wouldn't even assume that?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes.

MR. REED: You wouldn't say that about any one?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Because I haven't run into it.

You mean if they come to me with any ideas, or anything like that?

MR. ALPERT: Do your unions have any committees to sift out these members accused of Un-American activities? Do you have any such standing committee?

MR. ADOMAITIS: The only ones I know of that are in a position to sift out our information is the National

Office.

MR. ALPERT: You mean locally?

MR. ADOMAITIS: With their regional staff locally.

MR. ALPERT: But locally you have no set up for that?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Locally we don't fiddle around with politics. We are more concerned with membership grievances, things like that.

MRS. ARTHUR: Well, if you had information that somebody was supposed to be a Communist, I wouldn't call that "fiddling around" if you were to investigate that type of information. If that information was brought to you, it would be "fiddling around" if you didn't investigate that any further.

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, I mean, from my experience -- I am in the yard a long time, and every time you hear something about somebody, you just don't go after everything you hear. You find out about it if it is worthwhile, because some days they accuse one guy of being something, and the next day they accuse a guy of being something else, well, here in this election time, or at this time for the

convention, something like that. That just seems to^{be} /the times that all this stuff seems to crop up.

MR. BONNETT: But that does come to you from time to time; doesn't it?

MR. ADOMAITIS: No.

MR. BONNETT: You just said it did.

MR. ADOMAITIS: Occasionally, yes.

MR. BONNETT: And you don't happen to know the names of any of them?

(No response.)

MR. REED: Don't you think that a man accuses himself?

MR. ADOMAITIS: When?

MR. REED: Well, when he refuses to answer the question as to whether he is a Communist, or not, or a member of a Communist organization.

MR. ADOMAITIS: I never keep a check, anything like that, of any of the guys. Frankly, I never had occasion to. Well, really, I couldn't say. Well, really, I couldn't say to the guy, are you or aren't you a Communist. I don't control the place.

MR. REED: Well, by the position you hold, aren't you responsible to see that the Communists do not dominate your union?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, sure. Frankly, as far as I am concerned, nobody is going to dominate the Local. As far as I am concerned, I rule the Local in such a way that the membership takes the hand in the control. In the years previous, why, it seemed to be possible that the control could be carried by only a few.

MR. ALPERT: Have you ever been approached by anybody to become a member of the Communist Party?

MR. ADOMAITIS: No.

MR. ALPERT: Do you know of anybody in your Local who is a member of the Communist Party?

MR. ADOMAITIS: No one that I know.

MR. REED: Do you allow a man to be a member of your organization if he refuses to answer that question?

MR. ADOMAITIS: What question?

MR. REED: The question that was asked before the Un-American Activities Committee as to whether he was a member of the Communist Party.

What was his name?

MR. SCHUELER: That was Milton Seif.

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, you see --

MR. SCHUELER: Let me ask you this --

MR. REED: Let him answer that question first.

MR. SCHUELER: Let me ask him this question, Mr. Reed, which is on your question.

MR. ADOMAITIS: Wait a minute.

MR. SCHUELER: Let me ask you this question first. If a man was asked a question if he was a member of the Communist Party, and he wasn't a member of the Communist Party, do you feel like that man would hesitate, or refuse to answer that question?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, frankly, I don't know. These guys seem to have their counsel, and they are advised by their counsel, it is something like that. I don't think these guys actually do that themselves.

MR. SCHUELER: Well, if I read you a statement out of the Congressional Record of the Un-American Activities Committee, will you then tell me what you think? You just listen to this: "Mrs. Mary Stalcup Markward" --

MR. ADOMAITIS: I have one thing here I want to ask about.

MR. SCHUELER: Yes.

MR. ADOMAITIS: I don't know what he (indicating) is doing here.

MR. SCHUELER: He is our stenographer.

MR. ADOMAITIS: First of all, I am here without counsel, and some of the things I might say I might get involved.

Do I get a copy of this thing?

I know the position that the National and the Regional takes. It seems to me that all this has been brought out. All this stuff has been brought out.

Now, I see he is taking it down in shorthand.

MR. SCHUELER: That is only a record for this committee.

MR. ALPERT: We have to keep a record of what we are doing, and in this way we will know what the records are.

MR. ADOMAITIS: It is a verbatim report, and that is the thing I am talking about.

MR. ALPERT: We can't be expected to review what has taken place here, unless we have records of these things.

MR. ADOMAITIS: You say I don't get a mimeographed copy, or anything, of this meeting?

MR. SCHUELER: Well, this is only a record of the committee, Mr. Adomaitis.

MR. ADOMAITIS: You see, here is the thing. Some times it is best not to say anything because sometimes you get yourself involved because it is something you don't actually know anything about.

MR. SCHUELER: How can you get yourself involved in anything, if you aren't involved in anything?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, my involvements are only in the fact that I was called up here.

MR. SCHUELER: We appreciate your presence and I am certain every member of this committee feels the same way. I am certainly grateful and I think every other member of the committee is grateful. We are only trying to do something as real American citizens in the defense of our country, in the defense of these United States, and I certainly feel and hope you will go along one hundred

percent with us in that respect.

MR. ADOMAITIS: I feel the same way because I know that is where my bread is buttered.

MR. SCHUELER: Now, I would like to read this statement, Mr. Adomaitis, that I referred to, from the Congressional Record of the Un-American Activities Committee. Mr. Tavenner was counsel that represented the Un-American Activities Committee, and this was his statement to Mr. Seif:
"Mrs. Mary Stalcup Markward testified here the day before yesterday and identified you as a member of the Communist Party. Was she correct in that identification?"

And this is the answer of Mr. Seif.

"MR. SEIF: I refuse to answer that question on the grounds it may tend to incriminate me."

Now, if he wasn't a member of the Communist Party, why would he hesitate to answer a question of that kind? Certainly, if I was accused of being a member of any subversive organization and I knew that in my heart that I wasn't, I would certainly defend myself in every degree.

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, I think the best thing to do there is actually to ask Seif because I don't know why

the dickens he answers likethat.

MR. SCHUELER: Well, we are hoping that later on we can get the other members, that have been called before the Un-American Activities Committee, to testify here before this committee.

MR. ADOMAITIS: That is the way I look at it. I know nothing about that about Self. All I know last Saturday in the membership meeting there was a lot of baloney flew around, and there was some of these remarks brought up, something like that, about the connections, or things like that, and you try to be non-partial, and let them be taken up, and let the members judge for themselves statements like that. The same thing I think you read off here was read before the membership there. ✓

MR. SCHUELER: Well, what do you mean by the membership meeting you are referring to?

MR. ADOMAITIS: At our membership meeting.

MR. SCHUELER: At your meeting Saturday?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes.

MR. ALPERT: And the members feel the same way that if you were not a Communist, if he weren't a Communist,

he should have stated so? Is that how some of the members feel?

MR. ADOMAITIS: No, the membership feels -- well, the whole crux of the story, this is supposed to be an accusation made by some woman, or something like that.

MR. SCHUELER: We aren't making that accusation here.

MR. ADOMAITIS: No, that is in the record.

MR. SCHUELER: And that is a public record.

MR. ADOMAITIS: And then Seif says he said it for himself, as far as he knows, but he is only governed by counsel. And he told them about his navy service, things like that, and the membership really kind of felt there was some injustice done, like a stacked meeting, and things like that.

MR. SCHUELER: How many members were present at this meeting that you refer to?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Oh, I will say roughly there was about -- let me see -- I will say there was about sixty people there at least.

MR. SCHUELER: Out of a membership of what?

MR. ADOMAITIS: That is the least.

MR. SCHUELER: And your membership is what?

MR. ADOMAITIS: A quorum of the membership constitutes about twenty-five members in good standing.

MR. SCHUELER: Twenty-five members constitute a quorum, but what is your entire membership?

MR. ADOMAITIS: The entire membership, as far as that goes, the working dues -- that is about 2,800.

MR. SCHUELER: And you had sixty people out of 2,800 present at this meeting that you are referring to?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes, that seems to be it, and even on the most membership meetings, that we sometimes wind up with a little less than that.

MR. SCHUELER: Has Seif held any other positions as an officer in your particular Local, that you know? ✓

MR. ADOMAITIS: Not that I know of for a long time outside of a shop steward and a member of the grievance committee.

MR. SCHUELER: How long has he been president of the Local, Mr. Adomaitis? I mean, how long have you been president of the Local?

MR. ADOMAITIS: I have been president for two years.

MR. SCHUELER: And you are elected for how long a term?

MR. ADOMAITIS: One year.

MR. SCHUELER: For a one-year term?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes, and I was re-elected.

MR. SCHUELER: You come up every year for election?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes.

MR. SCHUELER: How long have you been employed in the Bethlehem Steel Company?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Oh, let's see, since about eleven years.

MR. SCHUELER: Eleven years?

MR. ADOMAITIS: A little over eleven years.

MR. SCHUELER: What department are you in?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Rigging department.

MR. SCHUELER: You are in the rigging department. Do you know a fellow Ed Yerrl?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes, I know Yerrl. ✓

MR. SCHUELER: He is a member of your Local?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yezrl is a member of the Local.
He is a trustee of the Local.

MR. SCHUELER: He is a trustee of the Local?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes.

I mean, first of all, I think you have all that information there (indicating). Don't you know what he is?

MR. SCHUELER: No, I didn't know that he was a trustee in the Local.

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, you have the names there, and you certainly have it. If you have the names, you know that he is a trustee of the Local. You certainly must have there what he is.

MR. SCHUELER: Believe me, Mr. Adomaitis, I don't have that.

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, I will just verify what you have there, if you will let me look at it.

MR. SCHUELER: Here it is (indicating). That is my sheet. I didn't know he was a trustee. I know that he had been employed either as a chipper and a caulker; is that true?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well --

MR. SCHUELER: Is that true that he is employed as a chipper and caulker in the Bethlehem Steel Company working in the carpenter shop?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes, that is true.

MR. SCHUELER: I have him down here as being a chipper and caulker.

MR. ADOMAITIS: The only thing, he ain't a chipper and caulker. He is a wood caulker working in the carpenter shop.

MR. SCHUELER: Yes, that is what I understand.

MR. ADOMAITIS: The chipper and caulker classification is when a guy works on metal, not on wood.

MR. SCHUELER: Well, that verifies what I am saying. I didn't have the true information, and that is the purpose of this hearing before the committee, to try to get you men, who know, to tell us what their work consists of.

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, I am glad to assist you as much as I can.

MR. SCHUELER: Well, we appreciate that a whole

lot.

Do you know a Charlie Velson?

MR. ADOMAITIS: The only thing that I ever heard of Charlie Velson, we had a letter sent to the Local one time about a trip to Europe, but it seems that fell aside. It seems nothing else happened there. The National Office is quite familiar with that, I thnk.

MR. SCHUELER: Did the National Office promote this trip to Europe?

MR. ADOMAITIS: No, I don't know a thing about this trip, what the National Office did. As far as I know, they were against it, and then they seemed to drop the whole issue. The officers, myself and the other officers, went along with the National Office.

MR. SCHUELER: Was this Charlie Velson promoting this trip to Europe?

MR. ADOMAITIS: The only thing we had, we received a letter asking for the membership to send two people to Europe.

MR. SCHUELER: What was the purpose of this European trip?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, some sort of sightseeing trip, or something like that, to go visit trade unions, or something like that. I don't know the full details on it because some of the mail that comes into the office, I don't bother with it.

MR. SCHUELER: It was expected that the Local would pay the expenses for these two delegates that would be sent?

MR. ADOMAITIS: No. As far as I know, there was no expense talked about.

MR. BONNETT: Who was going to pay the expenses?

MR. ADOMAITIS: What?

MR. BONNETT: Who was going to pay the expenses for the trip?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, like I said, there was no expense, or nothing, talked about.

MR. BONNETT: Well, was each man to pay his own expenses, or was it to come out of the general fund?

MR. ADOMAITIS: I don't know. They had a letter sent, as I said.

MR. VALLE: How long did they stay away?

MR. ADOMAITIS: They didn't go.

MR. VALLE: They didn't go away?

MR. ADOMAITIS: As I say, this was C.I.O. policy, and I don't try to go out of hand. It seemed like they governed all that stuff.

MR. REED: How did that come about to send these delegates to Europe? Who was responsible for the trip that they were making, these delegates? Where did they go to?

MR. ADOMAITIS: I don't know too much about it, to tell you the truth.

MR. REED: Where did they send them to?

MR. ADOMAITIS: It was supposed to be Europe, as far as I know.

MR. REED: To Europe?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Europe, yes.

MR. REED: You don't know the name of the members that attended?

MR. ADOMAITIS: No.

MR. REED: Do you think you could find that out and let us know?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Frankly, I haven't gotten informa-

tion on that, nothing like that. I think the Regional Office, if anybody, has got that.

MR. SCHUELER: They possibly may have a copy of the letter you are referring to?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes, I think all that information, I think the Business Agent takes it up, the agents do that.

MR. REED: Do you think you could help the committee by getting that information by next Thursday?

MR. ADOMAITIS: The only one I could advise you to go to is the Regional Office, or National Office.

MR. REED: Where are they located?

MR. ADOMAITIS: First of all, I don't know if they would sort of like it unless there was some particular purpose, something like that. I don't know if they got it.

MR. REED: Were they still in your organization when they made that trip?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Who?

MR. REED: Well, what are their names?

MR. ADOMAITIS: There is nobody made a trip.

MRS. ARTHUR: He said they didn't make a trip. He said there was a letter about this trip, and that is

about all he knows.

MR. ADOMAITIS: As far as the letter goes, that is as far as I understand it.

MR. SCHULER: In other words, they were trying to promote the thing and it never developed; is that what you understand.

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes, nothing arose out of it.

MR. VALLE: Suppose you had in your own mind definite information that an official of your union was an active member of the Communist Party, was a Communist, what machinery is set up to do anything about it?

MR. ADOMAITIS: If he is?

MR. VALLE: Yes, what would you do?

MR. ADOMAITIS: From the sentiment of the Local, I think they feel the Government should handle all that, all them affairs.

MR. VALLE: What Government?

MR. ADOMAITIS: The F.B.I. and their services, and if there is anybody that seems to be put in the status like that, that is their job to take care of people like that.

MR. VALLE: I mean, you actually don't know. You treat him as if he were a Republican or a Democrat?

MR. ADOMAITIS: No, I feel like I am only acting as an individual, and if anybody told me, if I heard this about a guy, I wouldn't by-pass it. I wouldn't by-pass National policy. If I heard about it, then I would tell the guy he is out on a log. I wouldn't go along with anything like that. So far I haven't had anything like that.

MR. VALLE: In other words, then, if you knew a man was a Communist and he didn't interfere with the administration of your Local you wouldn't do anything about it?

MR. ADOMAITIS: No, no, don't put me on the spot. You say if I knew a guy. I don't know any.

MR. VALLE: I am assuming if you knew a man to be a Communist and --

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, I don't know exactly.

MR. VALLE: If he didn't interfere with the administration of your Local, you wouldn't do anything about it?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Certainly, if anybody is going to come in there and jeopardize the union, but in the Local there is a way of doing that. I express my opinion, all the members express their opinion, and they let the membership decide for themselves.

MR. VALLE: Well, if a man is a Republican, or a Democrat, and he interferes with the administration of your Local, you would do something about it?

MR. ADOMAITIS: If a guy is a Democrat, or a Republican, and it is against the National policy, and those guys are experienced in these activities, then we go on their recommendations, but as far as that goes we are only concerned with the problems of the Local individually and not on issues of politics. In fact, we haven't delved into politics at all down there, regardless of what it was. Nobody seems to prevail upon anybody about voting Republican, or Democrat, whatever the politics is.

MR. REED: This is important now. You have been in there for two years?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes, I have been president of the Local for over a year.

MR. REED: Let me get your opinion on this, and you can answer it for the organization, which you represent, or you can answer it as an individual. I am now speaking about the Ober Bill, before it became the Ober Law, before the Bill was passed by the Legislature.

Now, the Ober Bill was passed by the Legislature to keep the Communists out of State, City and Local Governments. You understand that?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes.

MR. REED: Now, only one man in the Legislature voted against it, a man by the name of Newcomer from Western Maryland, and he was defeated when he came up for re-election as a result of this. Now, the sentiment of the religious organizations, the civic organizations, of the State of Maryland was unanimously in favor of this Ober Bill, and yet on election day we found several unions -- and I am a union man myself, and I have been in organized labor for twenty-five years -- you found three or four union members standing on the corner, members of the C.I.O. and A.F.L. telling people who were going to vote on the Referendum to oppose the Ober Bill, to the passage of the

Ober Bill. You see, it had then been presented to the voters as a referendum. It was then found that 102,000 voted for it and 39,000 voted against it. Now, that Ober Bill was directed directly against Communism, to prevent its support, and what part did your organization take in that? You come out in opposition to the Ober Law. At that time the C.I.O. was on record against it, and the AFL of which I am a member. I am a member of the Railroad Shopmen in the A.F.L. We individually voted for it. That was brought about by the efforts in our organization. I don't know what the C.I.O. did. But, there were three or four men standing on some corners, many corners having as high as four men, and handing out ballots showing you how to vote against the Ober Law.

Now, how do you feel about the Ober Law? In the City we had 39,000 against and 102,000 who voted for it. That was in the City. In the Counties we had 111,000 who voted for the Ober Law, and this is on the referendum, and there was 39,000, a little over 39,000, not quite 40,000, that voted against the Ober Law. Now, you have twenty-three Counties in the State, whereas in Baltimore you have

six legislative districts.

Now, isn't that an accusation against labor organizations that they are a front for Communism? As I said, they had as high as four men standing on the corner telling voters to oppose the Ober Law.

MR. ADOMAITIS: You mean organized labor opposed the Ober Law?

MR. REED: Yes, they were standing on the corner telling the people to vote against the Ober Bill. The only man that fought it in the legislature, Mr. Newcomer of Western Maryland, was defeated at the next election.

The labor organizations also fought it in the legislature, and you had a former member of this council, H. Warren Buckler, opposed to it. You had your labor organizations at that time fighting the Ober Bill when it came up as a referendum on election day.

Did you ever have it before your Local at all?

MR. ADOMAITIS: No, we have never gotten into politics like that. None of these guys seem to have brought it up as an issue before the members. It seems like we are more or less involved in other Local issues, something like

that. I don't know exactly if we had the Ober Bill come up, or anything like that. I do know that the National Office, I believe, was opposed to it, but as far as any of those guys putting actual pressure on to really oppose it, I don't think that any of the guys did. I don't quite remember much about it.

MR. REED: Let me ask you this: How does Della, Charlie Della, hook up in your organization? ✓

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, the only way Della hooks up into the organization is the fact, I think, he is an official of the State Industrial Union Council.

MR. REED: Is that associated with your organization?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes. We are members of the Maryland Industrial Union Council also. We pay a per capita to it, and occasionally they have sent literature down to the Locals on certain political issues, but even when we get reports like that we don't seem to get time to even put those out to the members. A certain nucleus of those people do work on it a little harder. Of course, I don't know how they pick individual people, or anything like that.

MR. REED: I am here concerned with --

MR. ADOMAITIS: I tell you this one thing, I find as a member and as an office holder, that there is very many people that are registered and they don't vote, they just don't take those issues up.

MR. REED: I am here concerned with the fact that here in the City there were 39,000 that voted against the referendum and 102,000 voted for it, and we found labor organizations had sent men standing on the corner on election day passing out papers showing their opposition to the referendum. You understand that?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes.

MR. REED: Then, I want to ask you about Della. We got a letter here in this Council just five months ago, when we had a bitter fight over the nominations for the Municipal Zoning Appeal Board, and Charlie Della sent an individual letter to every member here endorsing a man by the name of Buckler, who was a former member of the Council, and Buckler was the man who opposed the Ober Law. And if you read the Sunpaper, I think it was reported that he appeared at a public hearing before the Legislature and

before the Bar Association that they shouldn't throw members of the Bar out if they are members of the Communist Party. He was one of them, and Duke Avnet was another.

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, I don't know those guys at all.

MR. REED: It seems like you are being a front for the Communist Party when you do things like that. You are not going to be a front for the Communist Party?

MR. ADOMAITIS: No, that is right.

MR. REED: Then, you should know and find out from below why they back people that are Red, or have a Pink fringe around them. H. Warren Buckler was at the Legislature against the Ober Bill, and he was arguing that a Communist had the right to be in the Bar Association. Now, Buckler opposed that law down there, Buckler was against it, and yet the C.I.O. endorsed him saying that he ought to be a member of the Municipal and Zoning Appeals Board, and Della sent letters to that effect. All we want to know is where the hook-up is.

MR. ADOMAITIS: I don't know. One way to find out anything about that -- well, I have attended the State

Industrial Union Convention that was held at the Southern Hotel, and Della was there. Now, I don't know where there is any connection, as far as those guys go, with this. They are representatives of the C.I.O. All we get is literature from those guys. I understand it is through politics, they are elected in their positions, but I don't know actually how they maneuver around and get there.

I think you would have to ask Mr. Moran, the president. I think he is president of the Baltimore Industrial Union Council -- the Maryland Industrial Union Council, I mean. I mean, those are the guys that know about that. Possibly Jack Gerson, he probably knows all about that.

MR. SCHUELER: Do you know of any members of your Local, Mr. Adomaitis, that at any time were members of the Maryland Committee for Peace?

MR. ADOMAITIS: No, I don't.

MR. SCHUELER: You never at any time knew of any individual that was a member of that committee?

MR. ADOMAITIS: No. Frankly, and I said this before, all this stuff comes up at certain times. They

come up when we are in the midst of negotiations. The guys are even sort of getting disgusted with this stuff coming up at this particular time and in the years past.

MR. SCHUELER: You say they are getting disgusted. Let me interrupt you right there. If these things that come up are found to be untrue, then we can appreciate the fact that individuals that may be named become disgusted.

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes, I am talking about that.

MR. SCHUELER: But when you have these things brought up, and they are not investigated and are not followed through, but then it is brought out that the things are true, would you say they have a right to become disgusted?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, what I mean, is the guys become disgusted because all they want to know is about, well, a settlement of the strike, they want to know about the issues of agreement with the company. They want to know about certain things that happen in the yard.

MR. ALPERT: Well, aren't they concerned with the fact that the whole plant might be crippled? Doesn't

that mean anything to them?

MR. ADOMAITIS: In which way?

MR. SCHUELER: As far as security is concerned.

MR. ALPERT: In whichway? Sabotage -- couldn't that happen?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Oh, I doubt it. Well, I really don't know to how much an extent an individual would go to sabotage.

MR. SCHUELER: There have been attempts made in other places.

MR. ADOMAITIS: I haven't been thinking about that.

MR. SCHUELER: Well, it is true. It has happened, it has been done, and you know of cases where it has happened.

MR. ADOMAITIS: No, I don't.

MR. SCHUELER: Well, that is what we are concerned with.

MR. VALLE: You don't think that a member of your union, who is a Communist, is a threat to the security?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, I frankly don't know any that members/are.

MR. VALLE: Well, if you knew that a man was a Communist, what would you do?

MR. ADOMATIS: Probably there would be a thousand guys watching every move that he made. I think everybody would have his eyes cast on him. It seems to me that is what would be done.

MR. VALLE: I am afraid I don't understand some of the philosophy behind the Communist Party, and I would just like to get some information, to understand it. I would like to know what some of the union leaders think about it. Now, if you know, suppose you tell us.

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes.

MR. VALLE: If you knew a man was a Communist and worked at your yard and was a member of your union, would you think he was a dangerous man, or would you not care about it at all?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, I actually don't know. I mean, I have never had any contacts with him actually. I don't get a chance to read too much about the press as to how they are dangerous, or anything like that. I haven't had anybody point out something and say this was done by a

Communist, or this was done by somebody else. I tell you these things is all new to me, as far as politics of that kind.

MR. VALLE: Well, I would like to ask you one general question.

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes.

MR. VALLE: Do you think, generally speaking as a citizen of Baltimore and of this country, do you think that the Communist Party is dangerous to this country?

MR. ADOMAITIS: From all indications, as far as I know, that is the way I am led to believe that they are.

MR. SCHUELER: You won't attempt to back up anybody that you felt, or had any thought, was a Communist?

MR. ADOMAITIS: No. Frankly, I don't think I am in a position to accuse anybody, and certainly if I had an idea about anybody being guilty of it I don't think I would back him up either. I ain't going to stand in the middle and say he is or he ain't, because that is out of my business completely.

MR. SCHUELER: Well, we weren't attempting to do that, and I am speaking for myself, but I think that no

other member of this committee is attempting to do that.

MR. VALLE: Has any member ever come to you and said to you, "So and so is a Communist"?

MR. ADOMAITIS: I don't know. I mean, I have heard, like I said before, by leaflets and accusations made from time to time that certain guys running for certain office in the Local are.

MR. VALLE: I mean, was the accusation made to you directly?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, in general.

MR. VALLE: I mean, did they come up to you and say, "So and so is a Communist, or so and so said he was a Communist"?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, we hear that every day in the yard. Everybody hears that.

MR. VALLE: No, I mean, did you hear it directly from someone?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes, I have heard it.

MR. VALLE: How often did you hear it directly from a member?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Directly from who? Directly

from a member?

MR. VALLE: Yes, directly from a member that reports it to you.

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, like I said, Saturday we heard the accusations made. I mean, they were brought up. I mean --

MR. VALLE: Well, who told you Saturday that someone was a Communist?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, when the guys brought up a motion on the floor to remove Seif.

MR. VALLE: Who was the one that made the motion?

MR. ADOMAITIS: A guy named Brady.

MR. SCHUELER: Do you know his first name?

MR. McHALE: It is Ed.

MR. ADOMAITIS: Ed Brady, you are right.

MR. VALLE: I mean, what did the Local do about that? Did you leave it up to the membership to decide what to do, or did you pursue it any further?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, I left it up to the membership to decide what to do then. It is the prerogative of the membership under our by-laws, and if there is anyone

that wants to, they can, prefer charges. The National Office has the same thing in their constitution or preambles. Things like that is in them, we can't condone anybody that is a Communist at any time. But, as far as a guy coming around and saying, "He is Red", something like that, it is something else. I tell you frankly, like this instance of Ray Seese, that is what gets me. There is a guy that was an officer of the Local, and then he run for Business Agent, and then he lost, he was accused, but he is back working in the yard, and I never heard a guy say anything against him. I mean, I am not a real friend of his, but he was a Business Agent with me in the previous term.

MR. SCHUELER: Who is this fellow you are speaking about?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Seese.

MR. VALLE: His name is Ray Seese?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes.

MR. VALLE: You heard the accusation that he was a Communist?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, yes, at the time.

MR. VALLE: And he was running for office?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes, at the time.

MR. ALPERT: This was five years ago I think he said.

MR. VALLE: Well, it was some time ago.

Do you know whether or not any official of the union did investigate to see whether or not the rumors were true?

MR. ADOMAITIS: If they investigated it?

MR. VALLE: Yes.

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, as far as I know, the only thing that I ever got is like second-hand information from somebody else. If they are investigated, they seem to keep it under cover. Our Regional Office, the staff from the Regional Office seems to be working on that when they have anything like that on anybody, as far as I know.

MR. VALLE: Have you ever reported any rumors to your Regional Office that someone was a Communist?

MR. ADOMAITIS: No. If we had to report something like that every time we heard about it, that would run into the thousands.

MR. ALPERT: Has the Regional Office ever

recommended any form of procedure along those lines?

MR. ADOMAITIS: The Regional Office?

MR. ALPERT: Yes.

MR. ADOMAITIS: The only thing we have that governs us, the only recommendations they have is in the by-laws and constitution and amendments.

MR. ALPERT: Have you ever received any directives from them as to what you are to do in case certain people are suspected?

MR. ADOMAITIS: No, no directive, no notices, or anything like that.

MR. REED: Would you say Seese is a Communist?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Who? Seese?

MR. REED: Yes.

MR. ADOMAITIS: I wouldn't think so. I may not be a proper judge, but as far as I know. I don't know too much about his personal life.

MR. REED: Well, what is your opinion of a man who appears before the Un-American Activities Committee and wouldn't clear himself by saying he is not a member of the Communist Party? Do you think he has some connection,

or that he leans to that group?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, I don't know how the dickens to take that.

MR. REED: Would you do that, if you were asked if you were a Communist?

MR. ADOMAITIS: From experience I know I can get involved in certain things sometimes by answering, and the best thing to do sometimes is to say nothing.

MR. REED: I mean, how would you answer that question?

MR. ADOMAITIS: The question if I was or I wasn't a Communist?

MR. REED: Yes.

MR. ADOMAITIS: If I wasn't a Communist, I would say I wasn't.

MR. REED: How do you think we feel about it? Here is a man who refuses to answer the question of whether he is or is not a Communist. You have him in your organization. What do you think about him?

MR. ADOMAITIS: As far as I know, he isn't.

MR. REED: Well, I think something ought to be

done.

MR. SCHUELER: How long has Seif been a member of your organization?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Oh, I thnk he has been there prior to the second World War, anyhow.

MR. SCHUELER: Longer than you have?

MR. ADOMAITIS: No.

MR. SCHUELER: He has been there since that time?

MR. ADOMAITIS: I think I have been in the yard longer than he has been there. As I say, he started off that he was in the navy -- I don't know how many years he was in the navy -- then he came out of the Navy and has been there since then. Well, you see, I became quite active in the past three and a half, four years.

MR. JEUNETTE: Who all are the officers of your union at the present time?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Who all are the officers?

MR. JEUNETTE: Yes.

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, we have myself as the president, a guy named Herb Adams is the vice-president, Maurice Blum is the business agent, Simon Jones the secre-

tary, Yerrl is the trustee, Mr. Cantwell is a trustee, and Mr. Frazer is a trustee -- wait a minute, I think I have it wrong. Mr. Jones is the treasurer, and Mr. Newhauser is the secretary.

MR. JEUNETTE: And Mr. Jones' first name is what?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Simon.

MR. McHALE: Is he colored?

MR. ADOMAITIS: No, he is a white man.

MR. JEUNETTE: Were all the officers present at last Saturday's meeting?

MR. ADOMAITIS: I believe they were. I am pretty sure they were. I think they were.

MR. JEUNETTE: Just following your conversation, I understood you to say that charges were brought against Milton Seif on the floor of the meeting that he was a Communist?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes.

MR. JEUNETTE: And you say there were sixty members present?

MR. ADOMAITIS: About sixty.

MR. JEUNETTE: How did the vote go? Was it ever put to issue?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, it was put to an issue. In fact, there was quite a discussion for about four hours.

MR. JEUNETTE: Well, I mean, was there any vote, and was he voted out, or voted to be kept in?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, they said unless he is found guilty, unless a man is found guilty of being a Communist at a fair trial -- the question was raised as a motion, we had to accept it as a motion, and we had to rule it out of order. I was chairman of the meeting, and the membership upheld me as chairman. That is the only way it is done.

MR. JEUNETTE: Who made that ruling?

MR. ADOMAITIS: On Seif?

MR. JEUNETTE: Yes.

MR. ADOMAITIS: I did. You mean declaring the motion out of order?

MR. JEUNETTE: Yes.

So the motion to oust him from the Union was declared out of order?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes.

MR. JEUNETTE: And there was no vote?

MR. ADOMAITIS: We vote on that actually when it goes before us. I think it was the decision of the Chair. It was one or two guys -- I think two guys -- made that motion and the membership of the whole voted in support of the Chair. That is all there was.

MR. VALLE: What kind of motion could a member make based on the testimony that he gave in Washington that you could have ruled that it was an improper motion?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, you see, the discussion had gone on the thing that the guy hadn't had a fair trial, and before he was throwed out he certainly should be given a chance to prove himself. That is the way the motion went.

MR. VALLE: In other words, do you feel that Mr. Self is not a Communist because he has not been found to be a Communist? ✓

MR. ADOMAITIS: No, but at that time from the evidence, from the way the motion was discussed, and from the facts that were brought out.

MR. VALLE: Did you know Saturday that he had made this statement in Washington before the Un-American

Activities Committee?

MR. ADOMAITIS: All I know they read it.

MR. VALLE: They read it off Saturday, didn't they?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes, they read it off.

MR. VALLE: And in view of that you held the motion was improperly made?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes, I held the motion was improperly made.

MR. VALLE: Well, in your opinion, what would a proper motion have been?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, the fact they should have asked him if the Government had actually given the guy a fair trial, and the discussion on Seif was about that. The discussion was they hadn't given him a trial yet. ✓

MR. VALLE: Well, suppose the motion would have been something like this: In view of Mr. Seif's testimony before the Un-American Activities Committee, I move that he be expelled from membership. Would you have ruled that was a proper motion? ✓

MR. ADOMAITIS: In view of what?

MR. VALLE: In view of the testimony that he gave

before the Un-American Activities Committee, I move that he be expelled from membership.

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes. I would have accepted the motion on that basis, and then the guy would have the right to know about his violation and get a fair trial, so therefore the guy isn't by-passed under the by-laws, because that specifically sets up that before any guy in the Local is removed, he would have to be put on trial. I can't be biased about anybody, because if you go ahead and by-pass a trial in the Local and accuse anybody you have to do it according to the by-laws. The guy has to be given a trial before a trial board that has to be formed in the Local.

MR. VALLE: What are your plans, or the plans of the Local, today about Mr Seif?

MR. ADOMAITIS: About Seif?

MR. VALLE: Yes.

MR. ADOMAITIS: As far as I know, it was more or less to remove Seif off the negotiating committee, and as a member of the negotiating committee, and it was made in a way that if we would remove him then we would have to have another election for a negotiator, and the sentiment

of the yard was the guy was doing a fair job as far as it goes on negotiations, and things like that, and then they would have to elect somebody else. In the meantime, that is the general sentiment of the guys there.

MR. VALLE: In other words, if it doesn't come up again at a membership meeting, you don't intend to do anything about it?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, I am only a small man about that. I am not in a position to go ahead and put a man on trial. I am only directed by the membership. I am supposed to be non-partial.

MR. VALLE: Don't you have the right to place charges against a man?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Place charges?

MR. VALLE: Yes.

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, yes, I could. I tell you frankly, that I am the president, but the way we are running our Local as a whole, the president doesn't make a choice between anything. The only thing, we give everybody a fair and equal chance regardless.

MR. VALLE: You don't think, then, that the

testimony Mr. Seif gave before the Un-American Activities Committee is sufficient for you to take any kind of action? ✓

MR. ADOMAITIS: That is true. The way I look at it, I am not going to step in and tell the membership exactly what they should do, that we should bounce a guy around, because years later his mother, or family, or whatever it is, might come around after me because this guy lost his job and say, "You caused this guy to lose his job", something like that. That is the way I look at this guy. As far as I know, he has two children, and I had occasion to go to his house I guess about three weeks ago. That is the first time I ever found out where the dickens he lived, and it was only for the sole purpose of going up and seeing a high Fidelity Unit that he had put up in his old apartment. Due to the fact that there was an outstanding grievance there -- well, the guys give about two hundred and some dollars, he got some money, and they told him to buy a television set because they understood he didn't have one. I judge him by the activities in the yard, and as far as Seif is concerned, if a guy came to me and tried to sell me something against him, some idea ✓

against him, actually, I would let the membership decide. If I tried in the membership hall to tell the members what someone else says he did --

MR. VALLE: Don't you think that if he was not a Communist that he could exercise his right, or prove to you that he was, without you having to realize whether he was or wasn't?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, I don't find that anybody exercises much influence on me as far as that goes. I think I consider the things as they are, judge them all as they are, all the way down, and I think they do that all the way down from the National Office. We put these things before the membership.

MR. VALLE: You say, before a man loses his membership, he is given the opportunity of showing that he is not a Red, a Communist, or anything else?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Oh, yes, we do that.

MR. VALLE: Now, when did you run for president?

MR. ADOMAITIS: What is that?

MR. VALLE: When did you run for president?

MR. ADOMAITIS: In June, two years ago.

MR. VALLE: At that time, did you have any opposition?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes.

MR. VALLE: On what side was Mr. Seif, do you know? ✓

MR. ADOMAITIS: On what side?

MR. VALLE: Yes, was he against you or for you, do you know?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Actually, I don't know if he voted for me or against me.

MR. VALLE: Actually, you don't know?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes, actually. It seemed like he is more or less neutral, kept a neutral position. He did always talk very favorable of me.

MR. VALLE: Do you know whether or not people placed charges against you?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Against me?

MR. VALLE: Yes.

MR. ADOMAITIS: For what?

MR. SCHUELER: Or were accusations made against you?

MR. VALLE: Why did they call you a Communist?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Oh, one time I even heard that, but that was way back when these rumors were passed around. They said that "Powerhouse" -- that is what they call me, "Powerhouse" -- and I said, "Gee, you don't know how to take it." I mean, you never know what the dickens to believe. They call me "Powerhouse" down at the yard.

MR. VALLE: Do you know the names of the people that said that of you?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, gee, I mean, the names of people that said that -- there are so many darn guys that made different statements. I can't keep a record of exactly who that was. When you get some information like that, you get it heavy during election time, during convention time, and frequently most of what we get is rumors, and it blows off gradually. Then we begin to say that the guy of the opposition doesn't like us and he tries a smear campaign.

MR. VALLE: Who ran against you, Mr. Adomaitis?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Who?

MR. VALLE: I mean, how many candidates were in

field with you for president?

MR. ADOMAITIS: I think one time there was about two of them. One real opposition was Ed Vincent. ✓

MR. VALLE: Ed Vincent?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes, and I had a guy named Munley. ✓
I don't know who else. Off the record, to be correct on it, I defeated a score of them. I think it is the private feeling of the guys in the yard that I didn't try no smear campaigns, or nothing like that. I just took it like it was. Before the membership meetings, or like on Saturday, the guys started raising the dickens on the floor, and that is this Ed Brady. The dickens was raised about leaflets ✓ not being passed on the third shift, and all of that, and I says, "Look, guys, why don't you let the guys talk whether it is Ed Brady, or anybody." They know that is my position on that.

MR. ALPERT: How long has Mr. Maurice Blum been ✓ there?

MR. ADOMAITIS: He is in this year, just this year. He has just been elected.

MR. ALPERT: Have you ever heard any rumors about

him?

MR. ADOMAITIS: You hear all kinds. You hear rumors about Maurice.

MR. ALPERT: I mean, his name sounds familiar to me and I was trying to recall something about him.

MR. VALLE: Any rumors about any other officers?

MR. ADOMAITIS: No.

MR. VALLE: How about the vice-president?

MR. ADOMAITIS: No, I didn't hear about the vice-president. I didn't hear nothing about any of the officers that amount to anything outside of some guys occasionally, and as I said before, this is around election time, they will say palsy walsy to you, and the next time when the issue comes up and they are running in opposition they will start rumors against you. It seems like it is the same thing every place, whether it is political affairs, or what, when there are two guys hooked up on opposite forces it seems like they are going to try to cut one another's throat.

MR. JEUNETTE: Is there anybody in particular you mean? You said they conducted a smear campaign, when

everybody calls everybody Communists?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes, they have smear campaigns.

MR. JEUNETTE: They do that if they want to win an election?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes.

MR. JEUNETTE: You have noticed that against Seif, Yerrl, Armstrong and Resnick. Have you ever heard more accusations made against those men than against anybody else? ✓

MR. ADOMAITIS: More against those guys than anybody else?

MR. JEUNETTE: Yes.

MR. ADOMAITIS: At this ^{recent} meeting it is only that any accusations have ever been made, and it seems to me like some of the guys there were in opposition, and the Regional or National Office guys are the only guys that ever get accused. It seems to me to be that.

MR. JEUNETTE: Well, you have never been accused yourself, and your vice-president has never been accused. How about Jones, Adams, those fellows? Were they ever accused? ✓

MR. ALPERT: He didn't say they had been accused. He said there were rumors to the effect.

MR. JEUNETTE: He said there were rumors, or they had been accused, one way or the other.

What are the rumors?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Like it is on the question when they didn't know how I stood on certain issues in the Local. This isn't in reference to any political thing.

MR. SCHUELER: I thought you were referring to the election when you were running for president.

MR. ADOMAITIS: It was about the things I was supporting, or who I was with, something like that, and you have guys say, "They do that, they don't do that." You have seen some guy on both slates, these guys that pull the support for both slates around election time. That seems to be the guy that gets around to be accused of anything. Well, that seems to be the guy. You actually have got to get down and live it down.

MR. JEUNETTE: Did you ever hear these people that were accused deny the accusations?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Oh, yes. Now, the closest guy

that I saw ever actually accused by the guys was Seese. Now, that Seese is a power man, and as he was business agent last year, he would be down that Hall about six days a week, evenings and mornings, and knowing a guy like that, and having a heart to heart talk with him, he would sort of put his faith in you. You see, I run with him the following year on the same slate and we were opposed then by the Regional Office and the National Office. They didn't kind of like us for issues we took up on the convention floor, or something like that, and then the rumors spread around. Now, how the dickens to control this, I don't know.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Adomaitis, I just want to ask you one more question. You are talking about who?

MR. ADOMAITIS: I am talking about this guy Seese. Why, they had one time, gee, they had a leaflet in the yard and then a letter on some guys. They were circulating these leaflets that was printed up in the Regional Office. Now, you sort of get disgusted. I don't like to talk about the Regional Office, but that is a fact you know. I just like to be neutral, in a neutral position. I don't like to make too much decisions, I like to let the membership

govern themselves. I don't like to say, "Look, you guys, you had better do this because I think it is right." If the guys want to spend one thousand or twelve thousand it is up to them. Sometimes I will make a recommendation, but I don't think it is right for me to tell them what to do. I don't think it is right for me to say, "I think you should support this and that, and not this and that."

MR. SCHUELER: There is one more question I want to ask you. Have you heard of the Progressive Party?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes.

MR. SCHUELER: Do you know what the Progressive Party stands for generally?

MR. ADOMAITIS: No, I don't know exactly what the Party stands for.

MR. SCHUELER: You know what the Progressive Party consists of generally, don't you?

MR. ADOMAITIS: What the Party consists of?

MR. SCHUELER: Would you say that the Progressive Party consisted generally of the Communistic viewpoints?

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, I never really was into the Progressive Party.

MR. SCHUELER: I mean, wouldn't you say that?

MR. ADOMAITIS: No, I don't know the platform. I wouldn't like to say what they are, or what their position was.

MR. SCHUELER: You do know that Seif did run two elections on the Progressive Party? ✓

MR. ADOMAITIS: Yes, I think that is right, and he even ran for Comptroller in the City last year.

Wasn't it at this last election?

MR. McHALE: Yes.

Did the union endorse him?

MR. ADOMAITIS: No, he ran on some independent ticket.

MR. McHALE: It was on the Progressive Party ticket.

MR. ADOMAITIS: Was it on the Progressive Party ticket? But doesn't he have to run under the Ober Law, and he has to sign a non-Communist affidavit. Doesn't he have to sign that?

MR. SCHUELER: That has been modified to some extent where it doesn't have to be made binding. I think

it went to the Supreme Court, and there was some modification made there.

MR. ADOMAITIS: He said he had to sign that he wasn't a Communist.

MR. SCHUELER: Did he say he signed the affidavit in accordance with the Ober Law?

MR. ADOMAITIS: He said he signed some affidavit.

MR. SCHUELER: Any other questions?

MRS. ARTHUR: No.

MR. ADOMAITIS: So, you see, here is a guy that runs for Comptroller in the City. You are doubtful yourself about what he is. If he runs on the Progressive Party, and he signs an affidavit what he stood for, he would probably be a little bit like a man running on the Democratic Party ticket or the Republican Party ticket.

MRS. ARTHUR: Perhaps, that is why he was defeated, because he ran on the Progressive Party ticket.

MR. ADOMAITIS: Well, I don't know. I couldn't say.

MR. ALPERT: Do you vote from Baltimore City?

MR. ADOMAITIS: I am a registered Democrat. Yes,

I vote.

MR. ALPERT: Are you a native Baltimorean?

MR. ADOMAITIS: No, I came from Pennsylvania, from the heart of the coal regions.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Adomaitis, I don't think there are any other questions the committee would like to ask you.

MR. McHALE: I would like to ask him one question. Could you tell me why the union didn't endorse Milton Seif for Comptroller? I mean, he is a brother member.

MR. ADOMAITIS: The question was never brought up.

MR. McHALE: Was the name of any other member brought up, and was an endorsement asked for him?

MR. ADOMAITIS: No, that is I mean --

MR. McHALE: I thought that as a brother member they would endorse him.

MR. ADOMAITIS: As far as our political questions, we always seem to be involved for about six months on wage negotiations since January, if we won't get back pay, for the year 1951, and now we are back into contract negotiations, and with the election of delegates to fill for the convention. I will tell you we have enough of that.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Adomaitis, the committee wants to thank you for coming in. We appreciate all the help you have given us, and I feel confident that if we were to call on you later on for other information you would not hesitate to give it to us.

MR. ADOMAITIS: All right.

(Witness excused.)

STATEMENT OF ERNEST J. MORAN
5513 Willys Avenue, Arbutus, Maryland

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Moran, I suppose that possibly from the conversation we had together you realize now the purpose. Well, the committee was formed after the Baltimore Sunpaper came out with headlines on February 17 that Reds were infiltrating our industrial plants in and around Baltimore, and as a member of the Council and being somewhat civic-minded, and as Fathers of the City, we feel like there is some responsibility upon us to try to sift out these undesirables. If it is at all possible, this committee can do it, and we hope to accomplish these objectives.

However, we are not definitely sure of ourselves on certain questions and we would like to be enlightened on

them. We have had cooperation of all those people that have been called in before this committee. We certainly are grateful for your presence here today.

MR. MORAN: I will try to help you out in any way I can.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Moran, what is your full name?

MR. MORAN: Ernest J. Moran.

MR. SCHUELER: And you live in Baltimore?

MR. MORAN: 5513 Willys Avenue. That is out in Arbutus.

MR. SCHUELER: And your position is what?

MR. MORAN: Assistant Regional Director in the United Auto Workers.

MR. SCHUELER: Assistant what?

MR. MORAN: Assistant Regional Director, United Auto Workers.

MR. SCHUELER: You were more or less responsible for organizing the Glenn L. Martin plant. Am I correct in making that statement?

MR. MORAN: In some degree, yes.

MR. SCHUELER: And I understand you did a good

job of it.

Could you enlighten this committee, Mr. Moran, to the best of your knowledge, as to any present employees in the Glenn L. Martin plant that may have at sometime or another been named or accused as members of the Communist Party, or had Communistic tendencies in any way at all?

MR. MORAN: Well, I am sure that there are some people working in the plant that I know that are associated with the known members of the Communist Party, but as to be able to say that they were members of the Party, I couldn't tell you that. I don't know.

MR. SCHUELER: They were associated with members of the Communist Party?

MR. MORAN: Yes.

MR. SCHUELER: But their associates weren't employed at the plant?

MR. MORAN: What is that?

MR. SCHUELER: Their associates, that you speak of, were not employees of the plant?

MR. MORAN: Yes.

MR. ALPERT: In other words, the Communist mem-

bers were employees of the plant?

MR. MORAN: At that time, they were employees.

MR. ALPERT: Oh, at that time they were.

MR. SCHUELER: You no doubt have read, or heard, or had some information in reference to Milton Untermyer, or Milton Mickey Unterman?

MR. MORAN: Yes.

MR. SCHUELER: He worked in the plant?

MR. MORAN: That is right.

MR. SCHUELER: Some three or four years ago; is that correct? In other words, from 1942 to about 1946?

MR. MORAN: That is about right.

MR. SCHUELER: Do you know whether he is employed at the plant at the present time?

MR. MORAN: Not to my knowledge.

MR. SCHUELER: You have no knowledge of him being at the plant at the present time?

MR. MORAN: No.

MR. SCHUELER: Would he still be a member of Local 738 now?

MR. MORAN: He is not a member of Local 738 now.

MR. SCHUELER: He is not a member of Local 738?

MR. MORAN: No.

MR. SCHUELER: At the plant they had created what they called the Air Club of the Communist Party. Do you know of any activities that may have gone on in the Air Club of the Communist party?

MR. MORAN: The Air Club? I am not too sure of any club by that title.

MR. SCHUELER: It was called the Air Club Committee. I guess it was the Air Club Committee, and it was a Communist front.

MR. MORAN: Is that the name, the Air Club?

MR. SCHUELER: That is the name as far as this committee is concerned, and I am wondering whether you could enlighten us as to anything, or as to the activities of the Club at the Glenn L. Martin plant?

MR. MORAN: Well, I never had too much information of the so-called cell that they had at the Martin plant. I am only familiar with the party members' activities within the Union, which was quite obvious at times, knowing quite a few of those people, but so far as any

activities of that named Club itself, I would have to say that I am not familiar with what may have transpired within the Club.

MR. SCHUELER: You have no knowledge of any activities, or anything, as far as the Club is concerned?

MR. MORAN: No, sir, I do not.

MR. SCHUELER: Do you know of any activities, or did you know of any members that may have been affiliated with the Tom Paine Club?

MR. MORAN: What do you mean by "activities"?

MR. SCHUELER: Well, the Tom Paine Club was another club that they described as a Communist front.

MR. MORAN: Now what do you want to know?

MR. SCHUELER: I am wondering, and the committee is wondering, whether there were any employees at the Glenn L. Martin plant that had taken an active part in the Tom Paine Club?

MR. MORAN: Well, it was reported that there were.

MR. SCHUELER: Yes, that is the point we are trying to arrive at.

MR. MORAN: It was reported that some of the Mar-

tin employees were active especially in the Tom Paine Club, but the other one is a new one to me. I hadn't heard that one before.

MR. SCHUELER: Well, I received information as to the Air Club at the Martin plant, that it was a Communist front, and then I received information about the Tom Paine Club.

But you do know of employees, that were working at the Martin plant, that were active members of the Tom Paine Club -- taking an active part in it?

MR. MORAN: Well, they claimed they were.

MR. SCHUELER: At the present time, Mr. Moran, would you say to the best of your knowledge whether any of these particular individuals -- and I have no names other than Milton Unterman, and I am asking if you yourself know this personally -- are working at the Martin plant? Do you know that? ✓

MR. MORAN: You mean, those that were active back in those days?

MR. SCHUELER: Yes.

MR. MORAN: No.

MR. SCHUELER: None whatsoever?

MR. MORAN: No.

MR. SCHUELER: To the best of your knowledge, would you say that you can feel confident there are no employees at the Martin plant at the present time that would be affiliated in any way with the Communist Party?

MR. MORAN: No, wouldn't say that.

MR. ALPERT: Now, that is a broad question.

MR. MORAN: I wouldn't say that. I would say that there are no party members active in the union and usually that is one of the first places they run to.

MR. SCHUELER: That is right.

MR. MORAN: If they are, they are not performing according to rules here of late. It could be very easy for some of them to be in the plant and we wouldn't know it. I understand there was a couple of them in the plant within the last six months and they were released, but they weren't members of the union.

MR. BONNETT: Mr. Chairman?

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Bonnett.

MR. BONNETT: What is the position of the Martin

plant in case they do find out that some present employee is a member of the Communist Party, or is a "Pink"? Would they let him go, or do they still hold on to him?

MR. MORAN: Are you talking of now, or back in 1945, 1946?

MR. BONNETT: We are interested in right now. What would happen at this time?

MR. MORAN: I think they would let them go. I know they let one of them go. I know that for sure.

MR. BONNETT: For that reason?

MR. MORAN: Sure.

MR. BONNETT: Do you have any objection to citing the names of the people who may have been, or who were suspected of being Communists at that time?

MR. MORAN: Well, I don't mind giving you any information that I have, but I don't want to be embroiled in something in the past tense unless you people really want it because I believe this kind of investigation can get dangerous if it is not properly controlled. I certainly don't want to injure anybody, who may have been a party member several years ago and has had a change of heart since

then or whatever you want to call it.

MR. BONNETT: Well, I asked you that because the fact that they were members of the Tom Paine Club may not necessarily pin them down as being Communists and, consequently, when I asked you that I thought maybe there could be some names, that you would know of, that might crop up in other organizations of a similar nature although they were conducted for other activities?

MR. MORAN: Well, first of all, I would say that the membership in those so-called clubs at that time, so far as the Communist Party was concerned, didn't mean a thing. Non-party members associated with known party members and they got them into those clubs for possible indoctrination, I suppose. But, as far as I am concerned, the clubs didn't mean anything to me, and I don't hardly think they have any particular significant meaning except possibly some people attended them and, if they attended them quite often, they should have known better. But that didn't necessarily mean membership.

Some of the people, who were the outstanding party members in Martin's, were a gal by the name of Helen Miller; a girl by the name of Jean Coppick - I believe that is right.

There was another girl, a tall, blond girl, but I can't recall her name right now. On the male side there was Mickey; a fellow by the name of Ed Peters -- oh, Fannie Scoville -- a fellow by the name of Goldberg.

I would have to check my files to give your more names than that.

MR. BONNETT: That is all right.

MR. MORAN: Some of these names will have slipped my mind. None of them are left in the plant. Most of them left right at the end of the war. That is when they all pulled out.

MR. BONNETT: Voluntarily?

MR. MORAN: Well, some of them left after we defeated them as officers of the Local Union. A couple of them left when they saw they couldn't get any place in the Union, that is when they pulled out. Then, the remainder went out either at the end of the war, or shortly after there was that big lay-off. They were laid off and they never came back. But these people were known to anybody who was around at that time. Everybody knew they were members. They didn't publicize it, but if you associated with them ~~they made no bones about it that they were party members.~~

MR. ALPERT: If you were in our place trying to ferret out communistic members in vital industries in and around Baltimore, and there seems to be such a thing -- and I am not paying you any unwarranted compliment because I think you deserve it, and because you know the score -- how would you proceed to go about this investigation?

MR. MORAN: Well, what do you want to find out?

MR. ALPERT: We want to cooperate as much as possible in an investigation to ferret out communistic members in our vital industrial plants. Now, can we get that information from labor leaders?

MR. MORAN: If you go to the right labor leaders, you can get it.

MR. ALPERT: That is what we are trying to get. That is why I asked you that question. Now, if you were in our position, what course of action would you recommend?

MR. MORAN: Well, if you go to the proper officials I am quite sure that all of them will be willing to tell you who they are. The only reluctance that I would say that any of them might have would be the same that I have, that is, that I am not particularly enthused about

some of these investigations that are going on, and if this one turned out to be one of those kind of investigations, why, I would keep my mouth shut unless I was forced to open it.

MR. ALPERT: All we are trying to do is to make the industry of Baltimore safe from this element. That is our primary purpose.

MR. MORAN: Well, I am quite sure that we have people who would give you information. For example, there are people in leadership positions in the steelworkers, if they were approached, would no doubt tell you who they are. I don't know of these people. I know the leaders but I don't know the people in the plant. That is a different organization. I don't know anything about that.

MR. ALPERT: Tell me this. This question came up, and I would like to ask you about it. What happens when a local union gets into conflict with the higher-ups?

MR. MORAN: What do you mean by the "higher-ups"?

MR. ALPERT: Well, the regional office. What if the local office gets into conflict with the regional office and somehow manages to maintain power in defiance of

the regional group, or interest? What happens in such a set-up? Maybe you know a little about that. In other words, the point I am trying to make is, and I will be a little bit more specific, if a certain union and its regional office are in conflict over the political points of view, they do not like each other from a political point of view, can the local union nevertheless defy the regional office and continue to operate as though nothing ever happened?

MR. MORAN: Well, that depends on what the issues are that cause those splits. If it is strictly an issue of desire to dominate, that is done without having policy matters to fight about. Usually those things develop in the local union. It may come up when it is dissatisfied with the so-called leadership that the regional office may be giving, or may be dissatisfied with the conduct of the individual staff members. For example, it is resented by the local union if they start coming into the office at noon and go home at two o'clock. Why, the local union people will resent that, and you have that in some places. Of course, that is not true of every place. You have some sharp dif-

ferences of opinion on policy.

We have that problem right now, as you well know, between our International and the Ford Local in Detroit. There is a difference on the matter of policy. The local union hasn't followed the International policy on working conditions and government issues, and has refused to clean out commies in the local union, and naturally there is strong resentment against the local leadership from the International leadership.

I suppose you have the same problems. Well, the best way I can put it, you have the same problems in unions that you have in political organizations. You always have bolters that don't want to go along with the rest. Someone always wants somebody else's job. You have a lot of that, and you have to try to eliminate that. That is an opinion of something that may be purely imaginary.

MR. ALPERT: But you may have a set-up where you have a local union, which may have an infiltration of communist members, and yet the regional office would be powerless to do anything about it?

MR. MORAN: In our union, and I won't speak for any other union, but in our union communistic officers are

going to be removed. In fact, that is exactly what is happening in Detroit now. If they lie about their membership when they run for office, and it can be proven that they lied about their membership, they will be removed, because they are barred by our constitution which says they can't hold office.

MR. VALLE: Supposing an official in your local goes before the un-American Activities Committee in Washington and refuses to testify or answer a question on the grounds that it may tend to incriminate him, what action would your union take against that local official?

MR. MORAN: Well, I think that would depend on the background of the individual himself. There are some people who naturally resent these investigations and are doubtful of the outcome of them, and I think they are honest in their opinions in saying they don't want to answer that question, but on the other hand you have others who refuse to answer the question because they know they are going to get into trouble. This is one of the individuals that I think we ought to take a close look at.

MR. BONNETT: What would you do if a man was

identified as a Communist?

MR. MORAN: If a man was identified as a Communist five years ago, and he was behaving himself and he wasn't an officer, we would probably not do anything to him. If he would run for office, we would try to defeat him. But then we run into something that we as International people don't like to do. We don't like to go into the local union and tell them they should not elect certain people in the plant. If you do that, you had better have a good reason. Surprising to say, the reason that he is a Communist, is not good enough. Usually those guys are good leaders, and they know where they are going to, and they give results and satisfaction to the workers in the plant. That is the main reason they are so hard to defeat.

MR. McHALE: I see in the papers where Tobin, the Secretary of Labor, is going to try to introduce a bill into Congress to give the unions full power to get rid of any officer, or any member of a union, that has been shown to be either communistically inclined, or a Communist. Do you think that is a good bill?

MR. MORAN: I don't think that is what he proposes.

I think what he proposed was to bar Communists from representing workers in plants with defense contracts, so that they are not Red dominated. He proposes to bar Red-dominated unions all together.

MR. SCHUELER: I think that is a good bill.

MR. McHALE: Actually, the unions don't have much power to get rid of a man?

MR. MORAN: I would want to see how that was going to be done first, because I am not sure that is such a good bill. I am not sure that is the best way of taking care of the Red-dominated unions. There are different ways than that of clearing them out.

MR. SCHUELER: I heard you make a statement, when I walked in the door, Mr. Moran, I didn't hear your full statement, but it was something to the effect that you would decline to give any testimony before this committee, and you gave some reasons. I didn't hear your full statement when I entered the door, but just part of it. I was assuming that you felt this committee was meeting for some personal reasons, but, as I say, I am not sure what you meant because I didn't hear your full statement. I want you to feel that

this committee is sincere in its efforts, and is only working toward the objective of trying to sift these individuals out, and I feel that can be done. The proof of that is what is happening in Detroit today.

We have no knowledge of what is going on in the Martin plant, we as members of this Council, and that is why we felt we should have some representative here today. As far as our City of Baltimore is concerned, we are very much concerned about our industrial plants and are trying to keep these individuals away so that the plants can operate with the maximum of security. We want them to enjoy the fullest security, and we hope to keep them that way if they are. When I had the opportunity to talk to Ed the other evening he, of course, referred me to you and thought personally you would cooperate in every way that you could.

Now, do you feel like at the present time the Martin plant, to the best of your knowledge, is clear of any such individuals? Would you say at the present time it was?

MR. MORAN: To the union's knowledge?

MR. SCHUELER: To the union's knowledge.

MR. MORAN: There are no party members in the plant. Now, of course, there could be party members in the plant that are not members of the union. If we have them in the union, they are not acting according to procedure at all. I say that because we have a lot of issues that come up that I know, if there were party members, they would vigorously oppose. They vigorously oppose certain issues that come up in the union, and that is the way you can tell and kick them out because you beat them on the issues when they expose themselves. There are none that have come to the front in the last -- well, I would say, since 1946. There may have been some in there, but they were very inactive.

MR. SCHUELER: What is the membership of Local 738?

MR. MORAN: It is close to 14,000.

MR. SCHUELER: It is close to 14,000. How many employees would the Martin plant usually have at the present time?

MR. MORAN: At the present time they have an overall employment of 22,000 -- well, it is about 23,000, of which there are 15,000 in the -- I think it is 15,000, or

right close to that, about 14,000.

MR. ALPERT: Mr. Moran, the question has come up as to whether or not there would be enough Communists in this plant to do a thorough job of sabotage. Do you think that is possible? Of course, you have to be familiar with the set-up.

MR. MORAN: Not to the extent right now that it is known that any of them may be around. I suspect, with what is going on, that there are party members in some of these plants, but whether there are unknown party members to be used precisely in the sabotage, or something like that, if the right time comes, I don't know. Right now with the heat on they are not going to expose themselves. That is why it makes it so difficult some of these questions. It seems to me, if I was a party member and I was out to do what they allege some of them want to do, I would feel the only way to accomplish that is to go underground, and that is one of the most dangerous things about these investigations. Unless they are conducted properly, you just drive these fellows underground where you will never find them until their "fait accompli." To my knowledge, at Martin's I don't hardly think

they could do anything unless you know about these underground fellows, and we know nothing about that.

MR. JEUNETTE: Are the employees at Martin's screened by checks made by the government? Do they have to get a clearance of some kind?

MR. MORAN: You have to get some kind of a clearance, yes. In certain sections of the plant they have to get a clearance.

MR. JEUNETTE: And the investigation is conducted by the government?

MR. MORAN: Yes.

MR. JEUNETTE: Besides that of the Martin plant and the union?

MR. MORAN: Those that work on confidential work get that. There are quite a few of them around.

MR. SCHUELER: Well, that protects the plant to a great degree if the government investigates these individuals that are working on this confidential work?

MR. MORAN: Yes.

MR. JEUNETTE: But that is something that the other vital industries do not have.

MR. MORAN: Yes, you take employees in the General Motors plant here, they are not investigated at all.

MR. SCHUELER: Do you know anything personally about the U.E.W., the United Electrical Workers?

MR. MORAN: The independent outfit?

MR. SCHUELER: Yes.

MR. MORAN: Not too much at the present time because our associations are zero. I don't know anything about them at the present time except what I read in the paper. We used to have some association with them back several years ago.

MR. SCHUELER: I knew you did, but that has been separated. It is some four years, I guess, isn't it?

MR. MORAN: That is right, and I think we all got out of the Council in 1948 I think it was.

MR. SCHUELER: About four years ago I think.

Would you be able to advise this committee, Mr. Moran, as to who we could possibly call on from the U.E.W. that could possibly be able to enlighten this committee to the same extent that you have? I am speaking for myself personally because I don't know whether any of

the other members of the committee can call on anybody, but I was wondering if you could enlighten us on somebody that you are personally acquainted with, someone whose background you know, someone you are quite familiar with?

MR. MORAN: I think that may be something like Frank Bender. He could tell you better than I about this thing.

MR. SCHUELER: Frank Bender?

MR. MORAN: Yes.

MR. SCHUELER: He is associated with the U.E.W?

MR. MORAN: No, sir, he is State C.I.O. Director, but he always had more association with that union than I did because, actually, he is sort of coordinator of all unions of the C.I.O. in the State. I only met those fellows in meetings, and so on, Council meetings. That is about the only time I met them.

MR. SCHUELER: Who is that -- Frank Bender?

MR. MORAN: Yes.

MR. SCHUELER: Do you know where his office would be located, Mr. Moran?

MR. MORAN: I think it is 20 -- his telephone is

Lexington 6698. His office is some place over on Macon Street, I think. He just moved there.

MR. ALPERT: He used to be on Gay Street.

MR. MORAN: For a long time he used to be on Lombard where we are, but he moved several months ago.

The only one in the U.E.W. I know of, who is a full, red-blooded character, is this fellows Nichols, and I guess he is still their national staff member here in town. There is no question about his membership.

MR. JEUNETTE: What is his first name?

MR. MORAN: I think it is Herb.

MR. SCHUELER: Herbert Nichols.

MR. MORAN: So far as I have been told.

MR. SCHUELER: He has definitely been identified.

MR. MORAN: I suppose there are members in the plant, but how you would find them out unless you can finger them, by getting somebody to tell you of them, I don't know how you could do it.

MR. JEUNETTE: I didn't understand when you described Nichols as a full-blooded character. Did you mean a full-blooded American?

MR. MORAN: No, just the opposite.

MR. SCHUELER: A full-blooded Red.

MR. MORAN: I don't think there is any question about it.

MR. REED: Mr. Moran, let me take you back to the time when the Ober bill was placed by referendum before the voters. How about your organization, did it back it, or was it against it? I understood that you people were opposed to it.

MR. MORAN: Yes, that is right.

MR. REED: Well, how did you people ever figure that it would endanger people's liberty when it was directed directly at Communism?

MR. MORAN: Well, I think that when you pass laws to in any way make martyrs out of individuals, or you put them under different rules than those that apply to other people and so long as the party itself is not outlawed in this country, you do the very thing that I have been talking about. Except for the outstanding leaders in the party, you will drive them to places where you can't find them, and some time you will wake up with one of them right next to you,

and you never even knew it.

I am not the most well-posted individual around town, or the best educated, but I resent restricting the freedoms of any kind of any individual as long as the things that they stand for are permitted in this country. As far as I know, the Communist Party has never been outlawed in this country. Now, if the United States Congress said, "There could never be any Communist Party", then I would say, "Those who join it do so at their own peril", and then we ought to take out after them.

MR. REED: Let's go back to the Legislature at the time of the passage of the Ober bill. Out of a total of 152 who voted only one was against it, and all the civic and religious organizations were in favor of the bill. How do you account for all that popular opinion being in favor of it, and yet the union was opposed to it? In addition, 100% of the outstanding lawyers were in favor of it.

MR. MORAN: I suppose, to some extent that is a matter of opinion. I think a lot of support for the Ober bill, to some extent it might be said, was due to hysteria a little bit, and then also I would say it is mostly

off balance. I don't think you are going to legislate party membership desires out of people's minds by legislation. You are just not going to do it.

MR. REED: Well, in what way are you going to do it?

MR. MORAN: You have to fight them on the issues, get them out on the open floor and whip them there as we do in the union. That is the way we do it. Then everybody knows who they are, and you don't have to look under the bed every night to see what is under there. I would rather walk down the street with a guy knowing he is a full-blooded Commie, because when I go to a meeting I will know what I have to face, what to face, rather than have them suddenly spring up with a group of friends. That is precisely what happened in the Martin plant in 1943. Helen Miller, Jean Coppick, Fannie Scoville, Mickey Unterman, all those guys, even though we labeled them party members, they were enthusiastic people about the labor movement, they were very well-posted, smart, knew parliamentary procedure of a meeting -- they knew all about it. And they had a lot of supporters from people working in the plant because they knew

the issues, but once we took out after them and exposed them as party members they lost their support and they couldn't do any harm. They could be watched all over because everybody knew who they were.

MR. REED: Let me ask you this: the Ober bill prevented people from holding office in the State and Local Governments if they were Red, especially in the school system where we got rid of a few Communists even before the Ober bill was passed. Do you think Communists ought to teach in the public schools?

MR. MORAN: Well, that depends. I don't know too much about the regulations of the school system.

MR. REED: They were admitted Communists.

MR. MORAN: I think that maybe if you had Communists in the higher echelons of the education system it would be a good thing.

MR. REED: Do you think so?

MR. MORAN: Yes, and for this reason. I don't mean they should be permitted to teach without it being known that they were members of the Communist Party. If you had known Communist members as teachers in higher edu-

cation where our high school students knew they were party members, they then would be able to learn the tricks and devices by which those people operate and thus equip our young people coming out of school today with the kind of tools with which to go out in public and fight those people. The way it is now, you take a boy that comes out of high school and who comes to work in the plant, as for example back during the war, and he is confronted with a known party member, he don't know what to do. Nine out of ten times they would even follow these guys in the plants because they were good leaders in the local union, and then when we started to fight against them our people didn't know how to fight those guys. They were leaders. If they had to debate them, they didn't know how to debate them. These people didn't know the issues and they were frustrated by having to fight somebody who they thought was a good guy. They didn't know what to do, and that frustrated them.

Now, don't misunderstand me, I am not advocating in any way that high schools, or any kind of school, should be infiltrated in any way with members of the Communist Party, but I do say this, that I think the fear of the party it-

self, if it prevents a transmittal of that kind of knowledge to our people, prohibits those people from knowing how they operate, and prevents them from doing the job when we have to take out after them. I know myself, in almost every plant I covered, that years ago there was a lot of party members, and when my union first started we didn't know what it was all about. Those guys did, and until we were able to smear them as party members we couldn't whip them in the union because, first of all, we couldn't debate with them, and, secondly, we had gone around building them up, and when we did try to expose them we suffered too because nine times out of ten you made martyrs out of the guys.

MR. REED: Why is it, I ask you, when we had an opening on the Municipal and Zoning Appeals Board that your organization sent a letter in here in favor of H. Warren Buckler? Now, that matter caused quite a controversy. As you remember now, we found that Buckler had come down to the Legislature speaking against the Ober bill, and he spoke in favor of letting Communists have the right to be members of the Bar Association. Now, besides the Communist Party and the Progressive Party, Buckler opposed the Ober bill. Of

course, you believe that Communists in higher education ought to teach our students, but how could you expect us to appoint a man with a record like that? Knowing how we felt about the Ober bill, about the Communist members of the Bar Association, how could you recommend a man like that, and you knew what he was before the nominations came up to the Council?

MR. MORAN: Maybe in answering some of these questions, after I walk out of here I may be labeled as some Red by some people who are uninformed about these things, but I am willing to do that because my record is clear on the question of party Communists, on what I have done to help clear it in Baltimore, and it is only for that reason I am willing to speak up, and most of what I do say is based on experience.

I have found this, that where you have party Communist members, and you let them expose their ideas, even though they are no good, there are enough things that come out of the discussions that, as a result of that, we sometimes find it is worthwhile to have some around. You get an opportunity to see the other side. In that way you let people make comparisons, choose sides, and if you have to debate them because a decision has to be made you will find that

people will usually make the right decision.

I am ashamed to think that we have people in Baltimore who oppose H. Warren Buckler, because he might associate with people who might have those ideas and thus label him in the same way. I think it is a travesty on American justice, because H. Warren Buckler has no kind of Communist affiliations whatsoever.

You can get a lot of good common sense ideas by getting on the floor and tangling with one of them, and still do a job. I think that is all to any man's credit. I say that any guy who fears an argument, or discussion, with Communist members lives in a vacuum. He lives in a vacuum if he is unwilling to meet the issues that we have to meet.

Some of these things have, to some extent, some historical background. The Communist members years ago made hay, because they were able to advance ideas that some other people were unwilling to advance. Maybe the history, as you went down through the years, didn't prove them right in every respect, but I think, if a lot of American people paid more attention to what they were saying and took the right course, a lot of the Commie ideas wouldn't

have advanced as they did. I know in my state, or town, where I lived during the depression, if the citizens paid more attention to the needs of the workers, the party workers wouldn't have gained control.

MR. REED: Now, following that, let's go to the election campaign in which the labor organizations participated. We found in the campaign that labor organizations had workers of the organization standing on the corner opposed to the Ober bill referendum. You had religious organizations, civic organizations, in favor of it. There was one member of the Legislature, Mr. Newcomer of Western Maryland, who voted against it and he lost when he came up for re-election. Now, in spite of all that, you had 39,000 votes against it. They didn't come out of the religious organizations, they didn't come out of the fraternal organizations, and they didn't come out of the civic organizations. You had all those organizations in favor of it. Now, where did the votes against come from?

MR. MORAN: After all, it was a highly unpopular bill, and I think that is why a whole lot of people had opposed the Ober bill. Well, first of all, I am quite sure

there are some people who voted for it who had their own con-
punctions about it.

I am a member of the Catholic Church, maybe not the best member they have, but I believe a little better than a mediocre one, and any time I hear someone mention that the Catholic Church supports that kind of legislation, all I have to say to the hierarchy is, "Why do you gripe about the anti-Catholic legislation in foreign countries, because it is on the same point but on the other side." The Catholic Church does a lot of griping about anti-Catholic rules in foreign countries against the Church, but the Ober rule against the Communist party is of the same tag, as far as I am concerned, because there are certain suppressions of certain freedoms.

MR. VALLE: Mr. Moran, you are giving too much credit to intelligence in human nature, and by that I mean you think that every citizen is able to make the distinctions that you are making, that every citizen is equipped with the ability to think and decide between communism and democracy. I think, basically, it is a little more than that. I think there is no question about a choice between communism and democracy.

In answer to your point about the Catholic Church, that the Catholic Church is against legislation that is anti-Catholic, of course, it is. You can't compare the Catholic Church with the Communist Party.

MR. MORAN: No, that is right.

MR. VALLE: Because, basically, the Communist Party stands for everything that is against all religions. They don't have any God.

MR. MORAN: That is right.

MR. VALLE: So, therefore, when the Catholic Church stands for anti-Catholic legislation it cannot be put in the same light that the Catholic Church is against the Communist Party, or is for legislation that will outlaw the Communist Party.

MR. MORAN: You see, that is exactly why on that question I would have to make a long study. If I had to cast a dissenting vote, or if I had a vote that would be a deciding vote on such a question as to whether or not we ought to have Communist teachers in education, I would have to find out more about the question than I do now. I wouldn't want to accept the responsibility of casting the

deciding vote based on what I do know now, to the extent that I know it now.

I can't see too much danger in it because we have too many people who come out of schools today, who aren't able by themselves to make the right kind of decisions, because they haven't been confronted with those issues in the schools. I have seen young people throw away higher positions in our union, completely slaughter opportunities, because they were uneducated in that line of knowledge, and they were headstrong when they were told they were going about it in the wrong way. They get all mixed up, and there are some very intelligent people there. It is just because they haven't encountered that before.

MR. VALLE: You mentioned before something about teaching in the higher echelons. Most of your leading universities teach the principles of the Communist Party to their students.

MR. MORAN: Well, who could better teach the Communistic principles than the Communists themselves?

MR. VALLE: You take all the Catholic Universities including Loyola College in Baltimore, they teach the princi-

of the Communist Party to their students, so they do believe in giving them that information, but we shouldn't permit Communist members to teach.

MR. MORAN: Well, I only advanced these things as opinions of my own based on my own experience.

MR. VALLE: I appreciate what you are saying, and to a certain extent I may go along with you, but it is a very dangerous philosophy when you say that the Communist Party advocated many good things for the workers, for the laborers, and if other people had advocated them the Communist Party wouldn't have progressed as rapidly as they did. That in itself is not all true because the Communist Party, what they did, was to take --

MRS. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, don't you think we are getting a little off the question?

MR. SCHUELER: Yes, I think we are getting off the question.

MR. VALLE: The Communist Party was taking their ideas from other organizations out of the teaching of Christianity -- and including Judaism -- and they were injecting that into their party. But, basically, they were

only using that to advance themselves and they didn't have the workers at heart.

MR. MORAN: Well, I have got just one more statement to make, then I would like to ask you a question. I don't say that what the party advocated, that what they advocated, was correct. What I mean was that agitation was what caused a lot of people to do the wrong thing.

I would like to ask the committee this question: Is this going to be a standing committee for awhile? I mean, if you want some help, in addition to what I have given here today, if we run across some more information, I wouldn't want to be placed in a position of having that information in the future and not being able, at least, to notify the committee of it. Is this committee a temporary set-up? Is it going to go out of existence? If that is so, then it is another matter.

MR. SCHUELER: There is a possibility, Mr. Moran, that this committee could stay for the duration of the entire term of this Council, which would be until 1955, and if the next Council, the Council that succeeds this one, sees fit to appoint a committee to succeed this one, then, it could

be something that would go on and on.

MR. MORAN: Are representatives of the employers going to appear before this committee?

MR. SCHUELER: We haven't gotten to that stage yet, but it is our intention to ask the personnel directors of the different industrial plants to come in, and, if we are able to get sufficient evidence to justify such a question, we are going to ask the personnel managers of the particular plants why they have men employed on their payrolls with the backgrounds they have, with the hope and thought of trying to prevail on them to sift the undesirables out. That is what this committee is trying to do.

MR. MORAN: That is the next question I was going to ask. If you had an employer that came in and said he knew that certain workers in the plant were members of the party, what would this committee's position be?

MR. SCHUELER: Well, the only thing we could do, Mr. Moran, is try to prevail on these people to try to get these members of the party out of the plant. I don't know that we have powers whereby we could force them to do it. That question has been in my mind, and I have been asked

this question by someone else that appeared before this committee. Now, there is another question. If we were successful in getting the personnel office to sift these individuals out, what action would the union take? I might cite the particular case of Milton Seif, who this committee feels definitely is under suspicion, at the Key Highway plant. Would the labor group go along in support if Seif is dismissed or discharged from the plant, or would the labor group try to get him reinstated or re-employed? That is the question that has been in my mind. I have asked that question of the shipyard representatives, and they said if we were successful in doing that they would go along. We were very much afraid they might walk out in defense of Seif, but that would be an unauthorized walkout. They felt sure the national body would support the original directives and not try to get the man back to work again.

I don't know of any other way we could do it. If you have a better suggestion, we welcome it, believe me.

MR. MORAN: I know that we walk on dangerous ground when we discuss these things.

MR. SCHUELER: That is why we are holding these

hearings in executive session, and no one knows who appears before this committee.

MR. MORAN: We have to be careful that the character of an individual is not discredited and assassinated. The first occurrence that came about was in Jersey about a year and a half ago where it was publicly announced that two members of the party were working in the plant, and they were forcibly ejected from the plant, and our union took the position that had to stop, we couldn't handle it that way.

And some of that has occurred again recently in Detroit, and in some of the smaller plants, and again our union has taken the position that you couldn't do it that way. I think that is going to be one of the main reasons, at least, for the reluctance of the labor members discussing party membership in the plants that they represent, if attempts are going to be made to fire them because of their membership. You deny people employment because of political ideas when our country has not seen fit to deny them employment per se. For example, a party worker cannot even work in Glenn Martin's under such rules even though there is no

law on that.

MR. SCHUELER: I haven't been able to find any law as far as that is concerned.

MR. MORAN: As far as I am concerned, there shouldn't be any law on that, because -- if there is a Communist member in the General Motors plant and we have to say he should be denied employment, that is where we get into trouble. If we condone discharges of people for political ideas, and then if somebody comes along and says, "Well, he is black and he shouldn't work in this plant," and we then throw him out, that isn't right. That happens the minute people get the idea they can do it, and they will do it. What dirt would be heaped on us, for example, if our people forcibly ejected one man who refused to pay dues to the union. We would be in trouble in that case.

And there isn't too much difference in any of those things from the standpoint of what is occurring today. It bothers me no end that we have to cause people to be discharged from their gainful employment for something which this government says is legal or, at least, they have a right to do. We are bordering an area without too much control

over it.

MR. SCHUELER: Well, what do you think the outcome will be with these dismissals that are right now taking place?

MR. MORAN: They haven't been dismissed yet.

MR. SCHUELER: Well, what do you think will be the disposition of the cases in your Detroit local? If they are dismissed from their job, what would be their position as far as the local is concerned?

MR. MORAN: They wouldn't get fired, but they wouldn't be re-elected to office.

MR. SCHUELER: Will you still carry them as members of their respective locals?

MR. MORAN: You will have to as a member.

MR. SCHUELER: Well, how in hell can we sift them out, then?

MR. MORAN: Well, that is the question to this delicate problem. That is what must be decided upon. In that plant I am sure everybody concerned would rather know about them rather than to deny them employment, and if they are fired, what is the party member going to do? He is go-

ing to try to wipe out his past, and if he has it in him to be a party member, you can't wipe it out that way, and because of an empty belly -- if the lady present will excuse that expression -- he will get a job somewhere else and nobody will know he is a Commie member. That is the idea in back of it. I am sure in Detroit they would rather know what they are doing, where they are, rather than have them disappear and then ten years later turn up in places where you least expect them. They have to eat. You are not going to kill everyone of them, and their families have to be supported. What do you do with those guys?

MR. SCHUELER: Well, you have given us some enlightening points. It is something to check on.

MR. MORAN: In our union they watch these members. In Martin plant they wouldn't let them out of hand, and I would rather know what I was walking into when the union held a meeting, what I have to fight with them about, rather than to have to fight on a misleading basis and have a lot of men on their side because they think they are right. Let's have a debate and let's fight it out in the open. You will find that you can tangle better with them when they

are out in the open. If you fight them on radical points and along party lines, on that angle, you are fighting Philistines.

MR. JEUNETTE: I don't think you are trying to deprive a man of his livelihood. The object is to let him make a living, but not in a position where, if war with Russia should break out, he would be dangerous. The courts haven't yet said that being a Communist is recognized that he advocates the overthrow of the government. This man should be put in a position where he can't do any more than his day's work.

MR. MORAN: That's it, and until it is done, I don't think it should be done. I don't think the courts would deny a known Communist member employment, I will put it that way. I don't think the courts would say an employer has the right to discharge a man because he is a member of the Communist party.

MR. BONNETT: You say you can't deprive him of a job where the Communist would be dangerous?

MR. MORAN: If a law is passed that says a man can't work in the Glenn L. Martin plant because it is a defense plant, if that becomes the law, our union would support

it. If he was fired for that reason, we would support it. I think it would strengthen our position in that respect. as soon as that became law.

MR. SCHUELER: Well, I kind of feel like that, and I hope and pray that if we ever go into war with Russia that legislation of that type would be passed very rapidly in Congress.

MR. MORAN: During the last war when, of course, toward the last we were allied with Russia, but during the first part when we weren't allied with Russia, there were known Commies at the plant and we came to know them. They had their places in the plant where they could be observed all the time, and it was much easier to keep track of all of these guys than if they had come in there unknown to anyone. I think the most experienced man in the Glenn Martin plant is Dan Siemon. He is quite educated on the party members, what each can do. I think he would rather know who they were, but I would rather let him tell you about that.

MR. SCHUELER: He works right in the plant?

MR. MORAN: Dan Siemon is director of industrial relations -- well, he is in labor relations over there.

They can put these people where they are watched and not be exposed to any kind of secrets.

MR. SCHUELER: Well, the set-up now at the Martin plant, from what I understood before, is that it was necessary for them to get security cards?

MR. MORAN: That's right, and they let them go, but this is in the field of security. It just so happens that the ones they let go, one of them was a party member and wasn't a member of our union, and he just chose to take his discharge and leave. Now, if he had been a member of our union, under the law we have to represent that man and we could have taken his case to court, and the court would have said that is not justification for discharge. There have been several cases on that.

MR. SCHUELER: There was a case involving the painters union in New York. In New York the courts upheld the actions of the painters local in discharging members from jobs. How is it that this painters local was upheld in their actions?

MR. MORAN: No. They must have been working on projects where it specifically said subversive characters

couldn't work.

MR. SCHUELER: I have an opinion on that, but I haven't read it completely because I haven't had a chance to do that. But it is an opinion of the painters union which expelled Communist members, and the courts upheld them in their action in New York.

MR. MORAN: Well, you come to another thing now. If we expelled a Communist member from our union and we have a shop agreement where everybody is supposed to belong to the union, then we can't discharge him if the company doesn't want to discharge him under the law. We can't get him discharged under the law. If we try a member of the union for being a Communist party member and prove it without doubt, and then go to the company and say, "We want you to fire that man for being a member of the party," we can't get him fired under the law.

MR. SCHUELER: Well, in this case they were able to do it.

MR. REED: There is no law that upholds them when they fire a man.

MR. SCHUELER: You can't fire him out of his job?

MR. MORAN: That's right.

MR. SCHUELER: You can't fire him out of the local if your by-laws or constitution are set up for you not to do that.

MR. MORAN: That's right, but if you can then he goes to another place where he can make his soap box speeches.

MR. BONNETT: I think you have some very good ideas on the subject, especially, if you can't identify them and you let them make their own decisions and plot against the government, but I don't think they want to have themselves identified. They will never play the game fair and square like you believe it should be played. They keep on doing things underhandedly.

MR. MORAN: Unless you have some other questions, I would like to say that our union in 1945, '46 and '47 was actually at times under the domination of the Communist party.

MR. REED: What is this now?

MR. MORAN: Our union during 1945, '46 and '47 at times was actually under the domination of the Communist party. There are some positions that our union took that were wrong, but it was because the people who controlled it

persuaded the others to go along. There were not enough to block those guys.

If we had been able to fight them on issues instead of party membership we would be able to beat them on issues out in the open. Reuther took over because he was able to beat them on issues and not on their membership. That is how he was able to control the union.

MR. SCHUELER: That is the only way you can curb that.

MR. MORAN: Yes.

MR. SCHUELER: I appreciate the ideas you have expressed, and I certainly feel that you have some good ideas. It is a good idea to keep them in the open as much as possible so that you know what their activities are, but I feel they will not identify themselves and do underhanded work. Possibly it may be a bad thing, as far as the security of our country is concerned, if we drive them all underground and not know what is going on with them. So when I started on this committee I expressed my opinion to this committee that was appointed that this thing is deeper than the depths of hell, and no matter how deep you go into it you never

seem to be able to reach the bottom of it. But, I think, if we could help in any way at all, no matter how small a measure of help it might be, we would have done something.

You say that the membership of your local for the years of 1945, 1946 and 1947, and you admit this, was definitely dominated by the Communist party?

MR. MORAN: I don't mean the local, I mean our whole union.

MR. SCHUELER: Your whole organization?

MR. MORAN: That is right.

MR. SCHUELER: It was dominated by the Communist party?

MR. MORAN: At times.

MR. SCHUELER: And you were able to defeat that set-up on account of the stand you had taken. That is why I said, when we first started our conversation, that we were all indebted to your organization for the great work they did in that respect.

I don't know of any other question.

Mr. Valle, do you have any other questions?

MR. VALLE: No.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Reed?

MR. REED: No.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. McHale?

MR. McHALE: No questions.

MR. SCHUELER: Anybody else?

(No response.)

MR. SCHUELER: Well, I want to thank you, Mr. Moran, for your presence and I want to apologize again for keeping you waiting.

(Witness excused.)

(Thereupon, an adjournment was taken at 5:15 p.m. until Thursday, March 27, 1952, at 2 p. m.)

R

JB Duckett

STENOGRAPHIC TRANSCRIPT

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CITY COUNCIL

UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

THIRD SESSION

<

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March 27, 1952

X

REPORTED BY:

H.M. Levine

MCDONALD AND LEVINE

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CITY COUNCIL

UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

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CLOSED HEARING

The Un-American Activities Committee of the City Council met, pursuant to adjournment, at 3:00 p. m., on Thursday, March 27, 1952, in the office of the City Council, Room 303, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland.

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE PRESENT

C. Lyman Schueler, Chairman
Anna M. Arthur
Michael J. McHale

MR. SCHUELER: For the benefit of the record, Mr. McHalé, Mrs. Arthur and myself, Mr. Schueler, are the members of the committee present.

We have the privilege of having Mr. Harry Cohen with us today.

STATEMENT OF HARRY COHEN
39 South Street, Baltimore 2, Maryland

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Cohen, give your full name and address for the record, please?

MR. COHEN: Harry Cohen, 39 South Street, Baltimore 2.

MR. SCHUELER: And you represent who, Mr. Cohen?

MR. COHEN: The Truck Drivers & Helpers Local 355.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Cohen, the purpose of this meeting, the reason I called on you to come before this committee, is because on February 17th the Baltimore Sunpaper carried a large headline that the Reds were infiltrating our industrial plants. This (indicating) is the paper that I am speaking about. And on the following Monday, the 18th of February, it was suggested on the floor of the Council that the President appoint a committee to try to investigate these

so-called Reds that were infiltrating our industrial plants in and around Baltimore City.

This committee was appointed on Wednesday, the 20th of February, and it so happens I was named chairman of the committee, with Mr. McHale, Mrs. Arthur, Mr. Bonnett, Mr. Maxwell Alpert and Mr. Reed as the other members. We have had representatives from other labor groups, that have come before us and have given us valuable information that we have been working on along with the investigators that are working out of Mr. O. Bowie Duckett's office with the Attorney General.

Could you give us any information, Mr. Cohen, to the best of your knowledge, of what you know of any of the industrial plants in and around Baltimore City that may be the cause for these charges that the Reds are infiltrating our industrial plants?

MR. COHEN: Frankly, I don't know of a thing. I haven't had any experience with the Reds, and I couldn't honestly state that there is one in Baltimore that I know of. I don't know one of my own knowledge. If there are any working in these plants, I don't know. I personally don't get

into these plants but very rarely, very rarely. Unless some of my members have a complaint, or a grievance, then I might come in and help them adjust that. And I might go in once a year, or once in two years, to negotiate a contract. Otherwise, I very rarely get into the plants.

MR. SCHUELER: Your particular local, the union you represent, is Local what?

MR. COHEN: 355.

MR. SCHUELER: Local 355?

MR. COHEN: Yes.

MR. SCHUELER: Have you at any time had any knowledge of any so-called Reds being members of your organization, Local 355?

MR. COHEN: Never at any time.

MR. SCHUELER: Have you ever heard any comments made by any of your members possibly referring to other locals that they may have had Red members in there?

MR. COHEN: No. I never heard any comments, or any statements, from any one so that I could say definitely that they knew definitely there were communists here or there. You hear a lot of statements, wild statements, by

people and I think it is unfair to hurt anyone unless you have facts, proof.

I never heard any definite statements to indicate any Communists actually being in any particular labor union.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Cohen, you have been a right active labor organizer in Baltimore City for a good number of years, and are pretty well acquainted and familiar with the different labor groups that are in and around Baltimore City. For example, there are the Shipbuilders' Local, the Mine, Mill & Smelters' Union, the United Electrical Workers, the United Steelworkers' Union, Locals 2609 and 2610. We have had information brought to this committee's attention by individuals that they are definitely sure that they are on the line with the Communist activities. Now, have you at any time heard anything in that respect?

MR. COHEN: No. You see, I have no way of getting any information of what goes on in any of those locals. The ones that you mentioned there being C.I.O. locals.

MR. SCHUELER: They all are C.I.O., I agree with you on that.

MR. COHEN: I would never get any inside informa-

tion from them, Very rarely would I come in contact with one of their members. If I did, it would be only on occasion, on very, very rare occasions, when some A.F.L. Union representatives might get into a meeting on legislation, or something of that sort, maybe political meetings, where C.I.O. officials might be present. That is the only contact I ever have with any of the C.I.O. people.

MR. SCHUELER: Would there be any information that you could possibly give to this committee that would help this committee in its effort to investigate these charges?

MR. COHEN: I am terribly sorry that I can't give any more help than I am giving. I realize that what I am saying is not of very much value to you. Honest to God, I couldn't accuse any citizens of Baltimore of being Communists, fellow travelers, or of being identified in any way with Communism.

MR. SCHUELER: Well, it is the concensus of the opinion of the members of this committee that being an outstanding labor leader in town you possibly could give valuable information to this committee, and that is why they prevailed upon me last week to invite you to come before the

committee today and possibly give some suggestions. Any suggestions that you might have, or any information that you could possibly give, would help this committee. I would like to say that the committee is sincere in its efforts, it is trying to do a job, and that is not only as members of the City Council where we are looked upon as the Fathers of the City, but as a civic-minded group that would like to insure the security not only for the people of Baltimore City but for the people in these United States.

I am quite confident that you appreciate and realize that the industrial area in and around Baltimore City is doing a lot of defense work, and so there is always the possibility of something happening if these Reds are infiltrating our plants. They could obstruct the efforts of these plants in their war efforts. We are trying to make the area as secure as possible. We are trying to make it safer than we have had it, if the Reds have infiltrated the plants, or possibly as safe as we have always enjoyed it, if the Reds have not infiltrated these plants.

So the purpose of calling you before the committee, Mr. Cohen, is to find out if there is any way that you can

advise this committee, or if there are any individuals that you might think of in the other locals, that could be helpful to this committee?

MR. COHEN: Well, let me say this to you. I think you know of my activities, of my background. You know very well how I feel. You know that I would be keenly interested in exposing in any way that I knew Communists that might exist in any industrial plant, or in any other plant, or factory, or store.

I had the experience of serving on the War Manpower Commission, as a member of that Commission, during the last war. And I knew definitely how important it is that there be no interruption in these production plants, particularly the plants that manufacture war materials.

If I knew of anything, I would certainly be glad to say so. I tell you, honest to God. I never say anything about any man unless I can prove it. And I am telling you, before my God, I know of no instance where I could put my finger on any Communist activities. There is no use of my staying here and kidding you, or kidding this committee. I know you aren't here for that.

MR. SCHUELER: No, we are not.

MR. COHEN: I know you are here for facts. I am sorry, but I can't be more helpful. What I am telling you is the honest fact.

My work is peculiar. It is somewhat different than most representatives of labor. I have what we term a "Miscellaneous Union." I have three thousand members in my local, but in order to have three thousand members I have over three hundred contracts. I may have places where there are only two members. All I have is truckdrivers. My local is composed of employees of companies who own and operate their own trucks, and it is quite natural that if some small business has got two trucks, all I have is two truckdrivers there. It takes a whole lot of them to make one thousand members. One or two places have one hundred, and one place has one hundred and-fifty, but there isn't many of them.

And because of the peculiar nature of our set-up, I am extremely busy. Most of the time I am handling negotiations on the contracts that run out, and they run out every day in the year. It has me busy on a continuous num-

ber of agreements, meetings, with the employees to find out what they want, and then there is the drafting of the agreement and presenting it to the employer, negotiating with them until you finally reach an agreement, and then you start all over again because you have to try to get it approved by the Wage Stabilization Board. You might as well say I am more or less an inside office man, and I rarely get around to the plants. Even to our own garages where our members work, I rarely get around, so I certainly don't get much chance to get into other plants.

It probably is because of that situation that I don't run into as many of these rumors and stories and stuff that you hear going around about Communism, and if I heard them as rumors or as stories I certainly wouldn't use them. I think it is one of the most severe things we could do, and that is to damage a man's character, or make a statement against him, unless we know it to be a fact, unless we know it to be true, and not something that we can't prove.

MRS. ARTHUR: Well, Mr. Cohen, when those rumors or stories come to you, don't you make any investigation of

them, or do you just take it for granted that they are stories or rumors and let it go at that?

MR. COHEN: No, if they came to me, I would investigate them. I would certainly attempt to find out about them. I am confident we don't have anything like that in our union because our constitution provides that even if a man smells like a Communist he isn't wanted. If he is proved to be a Communist, you could expel him. That is what our constitution provides for, and I can go ahead and do that, and we don't even have to bring him to trial. I can go ahead and do that and we will be supported by the international union because that is our law. And if anybody wants to take action against us for that, the international will answer them in detail.

I definitely don't know of a thing, Mrs. Arthur.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Cohen, I do want you to remember that it is not the intent of this committee at any time to hurt the character of any individual, or to put a person on the spot, or to defame anyone. It is the effort of this committee to try to get to the facts. As a matter of fact, you have never read anything in the papers as far

as the activities of this committee are concerned, even though we have been meeting regularly once a week. The information that we have received has never been revealed, and the committee is bound into complete confidence with one another. We are bound to secrecy, and not allowed to expose or reveal anything. So we are not trying to hurt anyone. We only want to know facts and information that could be investigated by competent investigators. When their report comes back, why, then we can act on that report. We wouldn't want to act until then. Otherwise, there might be some misunderstanding.

MR. COHEN: Well, again I have to say that I think I am fully cognizant of the importance of ferreting Communists out of our industrial activities. It is essential to be put on that basis.

I said to you before that I was on the Manpower Commission in the last war, and so I know full well the importance of production. I am also at present on the Regional Manpower Commission for this area, the Federal Regional Manpower Commission, a member of that Commission, and we meet once a month and we have the responsibility even

now -- while we don't have a critical period at the moment -- but we still have the responsibility to see that production goes forward and that nothing hinders it. And certainly if I knew of any situation, that you are speaking of, I wouldn't have waited to be called on by this committee to give information.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Cohen, at this time could I ask you this question. At any of these meetings of this War Manpower Commission has any mention been made of Communist activities in industrial plants in and around Baltimore City?

MR. COHEN: I would say, "no." I don't recall of any report made to us of any Communist activities, or of any occasion where Communism has resulted in a retardation of progress. We haven't had any Communistic questions to deal with.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. McHale, would you like to ask Mr. Cohen any questions?

MR. McHALE: No.

I could see Mr. Cohen's point when he says he has never heard of any Communist activities. The only

thing, like you mentioned, Mr. Schueler, I was wondering if Mr. Cohen would know of anyone that we could call in that might be helpful.

MR. COHEN: Well, the only ones that I could think of that might possibly have some information, and I don't know whether what they would have would be rumor, but they would be your officers of your local Federation of Labor. That would be --

MR. McHALE: Ed Johns.

MR. COHEN: Yes, Ed Johns, and Henry Warner of the plumbers. For the C.I.O. Union, those fellows like Della, Albert Atallah, the Steelworkers, Ernie Moran of the Auto Workers. I understand that they are now the officials of the C.I.O. in this area. I don't meet with them very often. I have my own feelings about the relationship between the A.F.L. and the C.I.O., and we keep rather aloof, and they will tell you so. ✓

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Jeunette, would you like to ask Mr. Cohen anything?

MR. JEUNETTE: No, I can't think of anything except about these things that you mentioned as being

rumors. You can't always decide for yourself what is a rumor and what is not a rumor. If there is anything in your mind that stood out even though you considered it as more or less of a rumor, something that you heard any number of times, it might be worth an investigation. Of course, as Mr. Schueler stated, we deal in facts, but the only way we can get facts is to start off with rumors. If there are rumors about a person, it is just as well for him to try to get him cleared as it is to establish anything against him.

MR. COHEN: I think you are right, and I think that is the point Mrs. Arthur was making before. The point she tried to make before is that even if it is a rumor you should try to run it down, and I think that is absolutely right.

The only thing, and I told you about this before, is if I had anything to report I certainly wouldn't be waiting to be called in by this committee to give that information.

I have received a couple of letters, received some cards, and some of them I threw into the wastebasket, but the others which I thought had a little value to them,

I took them to the F.B.I. where they belonged. I didn't wait, and I would do that tomorrow again.

If I was definitely sure there was a Communist in my union, the first thing I would do would be to call him and tell him he is not a member of the union, and I would report him to the F.B.I. We ought to let them look out for them, let them watch for them. That is their job. I couldn't be expected to continually watch out for them.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Cohen, you can appreciate why we think there are Communists in our industrial plants. The truth of the matter is that there are Communists in our industrial plants, and we know that they are in there. We would like to have further information so that the investigation can be made as thoroughly as possible. After the investigation is made and a report is forwarded, then this committee can decide on what further precautions to take, on whatever further action they deem proper to take. Of course, we have as our legal officer a member of the City Solicitor's office. Mr. Valle, who is on the staff of the City Solicitor's office, doesn't happen to be here today due to a court case, but he is the legal officer to this

committee, and this committee will not do anything without the advice of Mr. Francis Valle, as far as legal action is concerned. We know we are limited to a certain extent, as far as we can go as members of this committee, but the F.B.I. has greater powers and can go further than this committee will ever think about going, and if we get information that we can forward to the F.B.I. this committee will certainly do that too.

It is the hopes of this committee to try to function properly and sincerely. Our efforts are sincere in trying to sift these individuals out. I hope the success of this committee will prove just what I am saying. We have worked hard and we have tried to do everything we could.

MR. COHEN: Well, of course, this committee has its useful purpose; and if you go far enough I would assume the law of averages will help you to find something. By the law of averages you are going to find something.

MR. SCHUELER: Well, I found out a lot today that I was surprised to learn about.

MR. COHEN: As I said before, I definitely am opposed to Communism. I make that statement, if you want me

to make a blank statement.

MR. SCHUELER: Yes, we do.

MR. COHEN: I just got through discussing the American question with a man over in Horn & Horn's over a cup of coffee. I pointed out to him what they have on the other side. He happened to be a representative of management, which gives me an opportunity to talk to you about both sides. He finally agreed with me.

Well, we were talking about the candidacy, the possible candidacy of General Eisenhower. Now, I am opposed to General Eisenhower, not because he is a Republican, not because he is Eisenhower, but because I think he is a good general and should be kept in the position he has. I am opposed to a militaristic government because, if we get the one, we are going to have what we have in the other countries. Every country that has a militaristic government goes as follows: First, they have a militaristic government, and then they destroy the labor unions, outlaw them. I think that has been our experience, it has been the world's experience. As soon as you get the military leadership into the government, they outlaw labor unions but they don't

outlaw Communism as a party.

That is what we have in these other countries, and don't tell me it can't happen here. It will happen here if we don't stop it. I think that is my answer to your whole question. So far as my position is concerned, I don't want to see it happen here and I will do everything I can to stop it, what little I can do as an individual.

That is the whole situation, and it doesn't look good. I think we have too much Communism in this country, but I am wondering whether it is as serious as some of the propaganda that is handed around would want us to believe. I think there is a lot of scare behind it. Maybe it is good, and maybe we need it, but if Communism is to be stopped I think we ought to stop it at the top. I think it ought to be outlawed at the national level and not down here at the City Council in Baltimore. It ought to be outlawed by the federal government. You can go after the Communists and ferret them out here in Baltimore, and yet there is nothing done about the Communist Party by the federal government. So you tell the City Solicitor about what you have done, you get a write-up in the paper about

what you are doing, but then again they are all citizens and they have a right to be here.

MR. SCHUELER: The Communist Party has never been outlawed in the United States?

MR. COHEN: Indeed they haven't, and they have as much right to be here as you or I. You watch the outcome of this case in the federal court, you watch what they are going to do to them. Unless they can prove that they were engaged in a conspiracy, unless they prove that they advocate the overthrow of this government by violence, they can't do anything to them, and I say that is the mistake there. Until they outlaw them as a party, they can say, "We have a constitution, and guarantees us the right to be here."

So where are we today? I am in favor of getting them out in the open, fighting them out in the open. All this investigation does, and this is my opinion, is drive them underground. That is why the thing is getting so serious. I say, get them out in the open and then handle them out in the open.

MR. SCHUELER: Their activities have been under-

ground all along, Mr. Cohen. They have had secret meetings, and you never knew where they were meeting. It was in the last ten years, anyway, they did it. They never listed their place of meeting until the very hour of the meeting. Certainly, that is underground activity. If they wanted to be open and above-board, why wouldn't they advertise in the daily papers the purpose of a particular meeting, where it was going to be held at? But you never heard of them doing that.

MR. COHEN: Yes, they did that. They used to advertise openly when they called a meeting, the time and where they would meet.

MR. SCHUELER: That is in the last ten years.

MR. COHEN: There is one other thing I would like to say. When you keep on in a haphazard, unintelligent way, in order to protect their own interests, you drive them underground instead of driving them to the front. It is easier to attack them out in the open than to fight them underground, which is what you are doing. It would be easier to protect ourselves against them in the open in case there was an attack against the American government.

We have six on trial here now, and I don't know

whether those six are Communists or not, but the court will prove it, but don't tell me there are only six in Baltimore. Why did they pick on these six? It don't seem like the approach to me.

MR. SCHUELER: Well, they must have had something on these six, or they wouldn't have had them in the federal court.

MR. McHALE: None of these six people are labor men, are they?

MR. COHEN: Yes. George Meyers used to be president of the State C.I.O. office in Cumberland. ✓

MR. SCHUELER: That was up in Cumberland.

MR. COHEN: Yes.

MR. SCHUELER: How about Roy Wood? ✓

MR. COHEN: Roy Wood fought for labor representative here.

MR. SCHUELER: He was a labor representative. That is when they were trying to get into the labor movement.

MR. COHEN: Braverman was running some of the C.I.O. unions as their counsel. ✓

MR. SCHUELER: Well, that was before they knew him as well as they do today, don't you think so?

MR. COHEN: I don't know. That is the question. Did they know him then?

MR. SCHUELER: I mean, this is before they knew him as well as they do today. He represented these C.I.O. groups because they didn't know of his background, they didn't know it as well as they do today.

MR. COHEN: I still say, that is a question in my mind -- did they?

MR. SCHUELER: I hardly believe they did because they wouldn't have had him as a representative because the C.I.O. sincerely is trying to sift them out. The United Auto Workers is certainly trying to get them out, as far as their positions are concerned, if they are working in any of their unions.

MR. COHEN: We see from all indications that they are trying to get rid of them on the international level, on the national level, and that is where they are trying to clean house in the Auto Workers, but do we know what they are doing from day to day on local and state levels. That

is where the trouble is. It isn't with the national organization.

MR. SCHUELER: Well, Mr. Cohen, I don't know of any other questions unless one of the other members of the committee would like to ask you something.

Mrs. Arthur, do you have any questions?

MRS. ARTHUR: No.

MR. SCHUELER: I don't want to take up any more time than we need, and we are not going to take up any more time than we need, because you are a busy man. So, if the other members of the committee do not have any questions, I would like to say this. I personally want to thank you, and on behalf of the committee, for appearing here today, and am grateful for your remarks. I am sorry you weren't able to give us any more information than you did.

MR. COHEN: Well, I too am sorry. If I had anything that was worthwhile, or anything that I knew about, I wouldn't hesitate to tell you or anyone else. As I said before, on the one or two occasions when I got some cards which appeared to me to be Communist inspired, and some letters, I took them right up to the F.B.I., where they

wrapped them up in cellophane so that they could get the finger prints off of them, but I don't know what happened to them. As far as helping the committee, I want to be a good citizen, and if this community calls on me I will be glad to do whatever I can. If in the future I can be of any help, don't hesitate to call on me because I will be glad to come up.

MR. SCHUELER: I want you to remember likewise, Mr. Cohen, if you find out any information in your travels or on your regular business trips that could help this committee, we would appreciate it if you would make it available to us.

MR. COHEN: I can say right now to this committee of the Council, if I hear of anything I will be more than glad to come up. I have a lot of contention in my own union, which you probably know something about. Listen, I am not sleeping either. I am wondering whether some of these are not Communist inspired, but I can't put my finger on it. If I could, I would be glad to tell you or anyone else, that can do something about it.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Cohen, I appreciate your sug-

gestions and want to thank you on behalf of this committee.

MR. COHEN: You are very welcome, and thanks for your courtesy. Any time you think I can be helpful to you, call on me.

(Witness excused.)

(Thereupon, an adjournment was taken at 3:30 p.m. until Thursday, April 3, 1952, at 2 p.m.)

R

J. Bruce Duckett

STENOGRAPHIC TRANSCRIPT

CITY COUNCIL

UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

FOURTH SESSION

April 3, 1952

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REPORTED BY:

H.M. Levine

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FOURTH SESSION

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CITY COUNCIL

UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

C. Lyman Schueler, 2d District, Chairman
Maxwell Alpert, 4th District
Anna M. Arthur, 3d District
William Bonnett, 1st District
Michael J. McHale, 6th District
John H. Reed, 5th District

CLOSED HEARING

The Un-American Activities Committee of the City Council met, pursuant to adjournment, at 2:30 p. m., on Thursday, April 3, 1952, in the office of Arthur B. Price, President of the City Council, Room 307, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland.

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE PRESENT

C. Lyman Schueler, Chairman
Maxwell Alpert
Anna M. Arthur
William Bonnett
Michael J. McHale
John H. Reed

STAFF MEMBER PRESENT

Francis J. Valle, Esq., Counsel

MR. SCHUELER: If it is agreeable, I will call this meeting to order.

We do not want to keep Mr. Bender any longer than we have to. I know time is valuable to him.

Mr. Bender, the purpose of the Committee in calling you is this. You probably have seen this headline in our Baltimore paper of February 17 (indicating), "Reds Returning to Baltimore Industries."

There has been a special committee appointed by the President of the City Council to try to check, as much as we could possibly check, this report that has been publicized in the Baltimore papers, to see if we could find ways in trying to sift these undesirables out of our industrial plants, particularly, where there is war work going on. We felt like we could be helpful in the matter of security, so far as the security of the people of Baltimore City and the people of our nation, is concerned.

It was suggested that we have you come before us in the hope that you would be able to give us some information, or help us in our efforts, in our work, in trying to learn more about this report that has been circulated.

STATEMENT OF FRANK J. BENDER
20 West Franklin Street
Baltimore 1, Maryland

MR. SCHUELER: Now, if you would give your full name, Mr. Bender.

MR. BENDER: Frank J. Bender, 20 West Franklin Street, Baltimore 1, C.I.O. Regional Director for Maryland and the District of Columbia, and the National C.I.O. Representative.

Now, I can make a statement for you, which I think might be helpful to you to get this. I think it is something which you are after.

MR. SCHUELER: All right, Mr. Bender.

MR. BENDER: I have been a stumbling block for the Communist Party for a good many years, and I have even been threatened to be bumped off. Of course, they are no friends of mine, and I don't get too much information because of the position I have taken with them.

About a year ago a man by the name of Apple, or Appel, I think, connected with the House Un-American Activities Committee had a list of some four or five hundred names of Baltimore in particular and throughout Maryland,

that were reported to have been members of the Communist Party in 1945, the last list that they could get. He didn't turn the list over so that we could read it, but he read off a number of names to see if we could identify these names, and some I identified.

Some of them were in aircraft, some at Glenn Martin, or at Sparrows Point, a few in the shipyards, and one or two other steel plants.

And I am going to give you the same recommendation that I gave to him. Our C.I.O. Union, our C.I.O. Parent Organization, has a lot of affiliated unions, such as, the United Steelworkers. Their director for this area is Albert Atallah, and his address is 3600 Eastern Avenue, and his telephone number is Broadway-3147. Under him there are nine or ten, what we call, local unions, with a total membership of some twenty-seven or twenty-eight thousand people. I would recommend that he be contacted for the steel industry and that he arrange a meeting with the presidents of the various local unions that function, have been certified to function, in various plants. You must understand that Mr. Atallah, while he is at the top, doesn't have

direct contact with these members, but he does have contacts with his presidents. He meets with them about twice a month, I would say. Then, these presidents in turn meet with the stewards, and that is where you come down to the levels of the workers in the plants. Of course, they couldn't tell you who are members, but they could tell you of the people who act, who talk like Communists, those who associate with those people in the City. Now, that is the way to get to the grass roots in the steel industry.

In the shipyard industry, I would recommend that you contact Jack Gersen, 100 South Howard Street, and the telephone number is Saratoga-6563, and follow the same policy with him. ✓

Now, in the, what we call, U.A.W., who have contracts with Glenn Martin, who have contracts with the Fisher Body and the Chevrolet Plant of the General Motors, the American Radiator that made brake shoes for the tanks during the last war, and two or three other minor ones, contact them and follow that same course.

Now, as far as our office is concerned, we are in the organizing end. We have no contacts with local

unions except three, and they are not in defense work. One is the Atlantic Waste Paper Company, which is a junk place with about twenty men.

I think, Mr. Alpert, you know the situation very well.

MR. ALPERT: Yes, I know that.

MR. BENDER: The other one is the Southern Galvanizing Company with possibly sixty employees. The other one is the J. S. Young Company and the Young Aniline Work Company. They are two different companies, but in reality is the same, and that has about eighty or ninety employees. They make licorice extract for flavoring tobacco, and other things, there.

But we have very little under our office to do with them because, when we organize a plant, we turn it over to the jurisdiction it is in. We have other international unions, but they are not in the defense plants. There is the International Union of Electrical Radio & Machine Workers, and they have two contracts in the City, and the main plant is the Friez Plant, Julian Friez at Towson.

Mr. Alpert, you know which one I mean?

MR. ALPERT: Yes, I know the one you mean. That is the Bendix Corporation Plant.

MR. BENDER: It is a subsidiary of the Bendix Corporation.

MR. SCHUELER: That is the Friez Instrument Division of the Bendix Corporation.

MR. BENDER: Yes.

It is a very anti-Communist setup. In fact, we took it away from the left wing group. I went to debate with the U.E. left wing group. There was evidence that it was Communistic that came to the C.I.O., and to get it away from the U.E. left wing organization. The president of that organization -- the name doesn't just come to me, but I can get it for you, Mr. Schueler, and transmit it to you.

MR. SCHUELER: Yes, Mr. Bender, that will be appreciated.

MR. BENDER: Oh, I will get it right now. I believe that this boy that is with me will remember it. He is in the next room.

MR. SCHUELER: That will be appreciated.

MR. ALPERT: You seem to have shown a pretty good memory so far.

(Thereupon, Mr. Bender left the room and returned.)

MR. BENDER: James Liberto is the president of that organization, and he can give you complete information on any persons that he may suspect of being on that side.

MR. ALPERT: What is his name?

MR. BENDER: James Liberto. ✓

MR. ALPERT: What is his present address and phone number?

MR. BENDER: He is not in the phone book, but you can get him at the Friez Plant at any time. I don't know his address.

MR. ALPERT: Oh, I thought you knew his phone number and address. I see, you can get him at the Friez Plant.

MR. BENDER: Now, the head of the Auto and Aircraft Industry in this area is E. J. Moran. His office is at 112 East Lombard Street, Baltimore 2, and his telephone number is Saratoga-5870. ✓

Now, that is the best breakdown I can give you. I am giving you this from memory.

MR. SCHUELER: Your memory serves you very well, I am sure.

MR. BENDER: If you can get Mr. Appel to pick out the names for you, and then check with these people, it might give you a basis from which to start. There are some here, but they are not operating in the same way that they used to operate. Right at the present time they are quiet.

MR. ALPERT: Are they quiet because they went underground?

MR. BENDER: I couldn't say whether they went underground or not, but they are just speaking in an undertone.

MR. ALPERT: I see.

MR. BENDER: But these presidents of the local unions know how certain people vote, and by certain arguments that they make, give us an idea of these people. We often find out about that element as soon as one gets up to talk. He may not admit being a member, and he may not

be a member, but you can tell if he walks like one, talks like one, acts like one, or associates with them. Of course, a good many since the war have left from this area, but there are some here yet, and some may have withdrawn, if there is such a word possible, from the Communist Party. I was told yesterday that there aren't any people who can resign from the Communist Party. They have to be expelled. Now, I don't know whether that is true or not.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Bender, may I ask you this question?

MR. BENDER: You may ask me anything you like.

MR. SCHUELER: Thank you, Mr. Bender.

What jurisdiction would you have over the presidents of these various locals?

MR. BENDER: None whatever. None whatever.

MR. SCHUELER: None whatever as the Director of the C.I.O. of the State?

MR. BENDER: I am Director of the Organizing end.

MR. ALPERT: Yes, he said he was on the organizing end.

MR. SCHUELER: Oh, you are Director of the organ-

izing end?

MR. BENDER: Yes, and we don't cover any individual organization. We organize them and then turn them over.

MR. SCHUELER: What do you do?

MR. BENDER: If a plant or office comes within the jurisdiction of steel, we turn it over to the steel industry. If a plant or office comes under the jurisdiction of furniture, it is turned over to furniture. I just came out of a Board hearing where the question of jurisdiction arose, and after the election the furniture workers won and it was turned over to the furniture workers, and it is so on down the line. It requires a lot of hard work.

MR. ALPERT: I know it does because I have been in touch with Mr. Bender. We have been friends for a number of years.

MR. BENDER: We have been friends for a number of years, and we have had a lot of arguments too.

MR. ALPERT: Yes, that is true, but I know what kind of a job it is to get these places organized.

MR. BENDER: Also, as part of my duties, there is also the question of jurisdictional disputes between

plants. Let's say that Mr. Bonnett over there (indicating) has a plant, and a question comes up as to whether it belongs to auto or whether it belongs to steel. Before it comes to a labor board election, an opinion has to be given as to whether it belongs to one or to the other.

MR. ALPERT: In other words, Mr. Bender, once it is set up your hands are clean of it?

MR. BENDER: Clean of it.

MR. ALPERT: In other words, your activity is directed to plants that have not been organized.

What I would like to ask you, Mr. Bender, is this. In what industries do you think it is most likely that there are Communist activities?

MR. BENDER: There are three I have mentioned.

MR. ALPERT: Those three that you mentioned?

MR. BENDER: The aircraft-auto, steel and ship-yards. Those are the key ones in this area.

MR. ALPERT: There is one more question I want to ask you, and then I will let some of the other members of the Committee ask you whatever they want to, with the Chairman's permission, of course, and the question is this. Do

you think that under the setup in the industries, as it now exists, there is much room for sabotage?

MR. BENDER: Oh, I don't know. I couldn't see much room, if a person wanted to sabotage, but you must understand that Communism is a form of religion that will take any chance. Communists will take any chance.

MR. ALPERT: In other words, you can never tell what might happen?

MR. BENDER: Yes.

When I was a young man in industry -- I come from the coal industry -- we would have for every three or four hundred men a general manager and two or three foremen, and that is all we had. In plants it was the same thing. Today you generally have a foreman over this group, a foreman over that group, and so you have much closer supervision today than you had then.

The only man I could swear was a Communist, and the only reason I could swear he was a Communist, was because I saw his book. This was as far back as 1937, and as soon as I saw it I went over to John Lewis and said, "You must fire this fellow." He said, "Why?" I

said, "Because I saw his book and he is a Communist."

MR. SCHUELER: What was his name, Mr. Bender?

MR. BENDER: Mike Pappas.

MR. SCHUELER: Mike Pappas?

MR. BENDER: Yes.

MR. ALPERT: What is he doing now?

MR. BENDER: He was a foreman, I think. I don't know where he is now.

MR. SCHUELER: I have his name in my records here, I think.

Mr. Bender, would you know a Bernard Redds, that is president of the United Electrical Workers in one of the local plants down on Clinton Street somewhere?

MR. BENDER: Is that an electrical plant?

MR. SCHUELER: That is the U. E. W. He is affiliated with the C.I.O., and I understand that the organization at one time was with the C.I.O., and the C.I.O. --

MR. BENDER: I don't know. It is not on Clinton Street.

MR. SCHUELER: I thought it was on Clinton Street.

MR. BENDER: Now, then, the Westinghouse group, both plants of the Westinghouse group, are in with the left wing union. I am sorry we didn't get the cooperation that the left wing group got, when we were trying to take it away from the Communists, by management. Now, there are some very good people in the plant who are very hostile towards Communism.

MR. SCHUELER: Would you recommend anyone in that group?

MR. BENDER: Yes, I was just going to do that.

One is John Green, and there is another man by the name of Murray, an elderly man of Scotch nationality. I don't know his other name. But if you get to John Green he will give you Murray's full name, and he could point out some people for you. Now, as to the president of the union, whether he is a Communist or not, I don't know. The only thing I do know he works hand in glove with them.

MR. SCHUELER: This John Green and Murray are with the Western Electric?

MR. ALPERT: No, he said Westinghouse.

MR. BENDER: Yes, they are with Westinghouse.

MR. SCHUELER: I meant to say Westinghouse. That is what I wanted to say. They are with Westinghouse.

MR. BONNETT: This Westinghouse Plant that you are talking about, is that the one that is located on Wilkens Avenue?

MR. BENDER: There are two plants in the Westinghouse group. One is on Wilkens Avenue, and the other one is out on Washington Boulevard.

They will readily speak to you, and if there is any question tell them I sent you to them.

MR. SCHUELER: Would you know Mr. Murray's first name?

MR. BENDER: It doesn't come to me right now.

MR. ALPERT: You don't know it, but I thought you said John Green could give that information?

MR. BENDER: Yes, he is a buddy of John Green.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Bender, would you have any acquaintance with William W. Hill, that one time was president of the U.E.W. Local 130?

MR. BENDER: That is the same plant.

MR. BONNETT: Is he down there now?

MR. BENDER: Yes, sir. The only thing I can say, in 1943 I had a knock-down drag-out fight with the left wing element in the C.I.O. at our Cumberland Convention, and until that time Hill was on my side, and a year or so later he fought our side.

MR. ALPERT: In other words, he switched?

MR. BENDER: Yes, and fought our side as a Communist.

MR. SCHUELER: How about the name of Jack Zucker?

MR. BENDER: Oh, he isn't here any more.

MR. SCHUELER: Jack Zucker isn't here any more?

MR. BENDER: No. He was the man who switched the Westinghouse group from the right wing to the left wing group.

MR. SCHUELER: Jack Zucker did that?

MR. BENDER: Yes.

MR. SCHUELER: He was the International Representative too, possibly, at that time?

MR. BENDER: When he first came in here it was with the International Maritime Union, and then he came in with the food and tobacco workers, and then he came in

with the shoe workers, and from the shoe workers he went to the U.E. which is now independent, and he is now up in New York somewhere.

MR. SCHUELER: Would you know a Herbert Hirschberg?

MR. BENDER: He isn't here any more. He is still on the staff of the U.E., I think, in Ohio -- Cleveland, Ohio.

MR. SCHUELER: Would you know a Jeanette Kaplan? ✓

MR. BENDER: Yes, I knew her when she was here.

MR. SCHUELER: She was with Local 109?

MR. BENDER: Well, that is all the same. I think that is all the same.

MR. SCHUELER: All the same?

MR. BENDER: Now, wait a minute. Is 130 and 109 the same? I am just thinking. When she came, she was a leader of the group. That is when she came in. Now, 109 is the plant down here at Brandt Machine Shop. That was 109.

MR. SCHUELER: The Brandt Machine Shop was 109. How many people do they employ down there?

MR. BENDER: At that time it was 150, 175, and a fellow by the name of Shoemaker, I think, was the president of the local union. And I constantly violated the prerogatives of my office, and would handle grievances for the officers secretly because they didn't want anything to do with the left wing crowd. However, then Zucker came in and he changed, and there is a man by the name of Love that came out of that Brandt Plant, the 109 plant. It was Love or Dove -- I think it is Dove and not Love, but he began to work hand in glove with the left wing crowd, and then when they run out of money again he went back into the plant, and my understanding is that he is back in the plant. Now, I couldn't swear that he is a Communist.

MR. ALPERT: How do you determine whether he is a Communist? Do you base it on his activities? Do you mean his activities were such that you could suspect him of being a Communist?

MR. BENDER: By his associations with the Communists, what we called Communists, because he worked with them and worked against us.

(At this point of the hearing, Mrs. Arthur entered the room.)

MR. SCHUELER: I do not mean to disrupt your trend of thought, Mr. Bender, but I want to introduce Mrs. Arthur, who is a member of the City Council from the 3d District, and who is a member of this Committee.

MR. BENDER: Now, if while I am talking somebody wants to interrupt, you can go ahead and interrupt any time. It doesn't bother me at all.

Do you have any more names you want information on?

MR. SCHUELER: Those are all the names I have, as far as the U.E. union is concerned, but I would like to ask this question. Mr. Jack Grogan -- I think it is Jack Grogan or John Grogan --

MR. BENDER: That is John Grogan. ✓

MR. SCHUELER: That is John Grogan, who is president of the Shipbuilders Union?

MR. BENDER: At the present time, yes. ✓

MR. SCHUELER: And his vice-president, I assume, would be Ross Blood?

MR. BENDER: Not the vice-president, but the

secretary-treasurer.

MR. SCHUELER: Well, secretary-treasurer. I had it down here as vice-president. He has an office in New Jersey?

MR. BENDER: Yes, in Camden, New Jersey.

MR. SCHUELER: In Camden, New Jersey?

MR. BENDER: Yes.

MR. SCHUELER: We have had one of the presidents of the Shipbuilders Union here, and he somewhat resented giving us any information, as far as it going on the record. He resented it as far as it being made a part of the record.

MR. BENDER: What was his name -- Seif?

MR. SCHUELER: No, Seif is not a president of any of the locals. I understand that Seif is now working as a member of the negotiating committee. He is now negotiating for a contract as a member of the negotiating committee representing the local. I am talking about Jack Gerson. Now, he didn't mind giving any information, but he resented putting that information on record.

MR. ALPERT: Is that the big fellow?

MR. SCHUELER: No, that isn't the big fellow.

The big fellow was Adomaitis, the president of the local. The one I am speaking about is Jack Gerson. ✓

MR. ALPERT: Oh, I was talking about that big fellow who was president of a local.

MR. SCHUELER: I am talking about Jack Gerson who was in here the first day.

MR. BENDER: And he wouldn't give you any cooperation?

MR. SCHUELER: He didn't want to give us any information as far as the record is concerned.

Now, how can we refer back to any of the meetings, if we do not have any record of them? We would be at a loss unless we had something to refer to.

Now, all our meetings have been held in strict confidence, nothing has been revealed to the press, or to anyone. We felt like it would be more to our advantage to keep these meetings in executive session, and release nothing to the press at any time, because we felt like our efforts would be in vain if we did.

MR. BENDER: I think that is true too, because every time you put something out in the press you are just

ruining the effectiveness of the meetings. You are putting the other fellow on guard.

MR. MCHALE: That is right, you put them on guard.

MR. SCHUELER: That is true. That is why we are working under these circumstances.

We would like to get Mr. John Grogan to come in and give any information he has available. I have made several attempts to contact Mr. Grogan by phone. ✓

MR. BENDER: Where did you call him, in the New Jersey Office, in Camden?

MR. SCHUELER: I made several attempts to contact him by phone, but he happened to be on the West Coast, and they said they were expecting him home the latter part of last week. Now, whether he has come back, or not, I don't know.

MR. BENDER: Mr. Grogan is a strong Irish Catholic and very anti-Communist.

MR. SCHUELER: I would like to get permission from the National Office, from Mr. John Grogan, to give these men permission to give information they have available.

MR. BENDER: As I say, he is a strong anti-Communist and he ought to give such instructions, but I am surprised at Jack Gerson for taking that position. ✓

MR. SCHUELER: And I have asked other members of the Shipyard Workers Union if they would come in to testify before this Committee -- I don't know whether this is the fact -- but I feel as though Gerson has given them orders not to come before this Committee. I say that because they have all been reluctant to come before us. Now, I am going to make an effort to get in contact with Mr. Grogan hoping that he could possibly arrange to give us an afternoon here in Baltimore, if he can arrange it, and I think we can get him to go along with us. I think that would help us a great deal as far as the shipbuilders are concerned.

MR. BENDER: Here is what happened in the Shipbuilders' Union a few years ago. There was a member, or one of the officers, by the name of Philip Van Gelder now with the U.E. Independent. He became secretary-treasurer of the Shipyard Workers Union. My information is that his wife was a Communist, Philip Van Gelder was a Socialist, ✓

and she changed his opinion on the political philosophy and he became a Communist. That is my understanding. The one thing I do know is that he got into a powerful position practically controlling the Shipyard Workers' Union, and the men that were sent in here from the union and, I presume, into their local board were of the left wing crowd. Well, it was through the right wing leadership of myself and Father Cronin and a few others, that we were able to start a fire under certain people. Then Philip Van Gelder was drafted into the army, and when he was drafted, the personnel was changed and the right wing boys were in control. When he came back, he couldn't be re-elected, so he left the Shipyard Workers' Union. And since then, as far as the personnel, the effect of it has been it has gone from left to right, that way. But you still have some people here, one by the name of Seif, and a few others, that weren't on the National payroll, but they have worked themselves into confidence of the Shipyard Workers as being fighters, as we call it, for pork chops. They are still leaders in the shipyards. Now, whether they are Communists or not, I don't know, but I do know that is how

they get their support.

MR. ALPERT: Pardon me for interrupting you, but do you know Albert Adomaitis? Do you know him?

MR. BENDER: Who?

MR. SCHUELER: Albert Adomaitis?

MR. BENDER: No.

MR. ALPERT: You don't know him?

MR. BENDER: No.

Who is he?

MR. SCHUELER: He is president of the Shipyard Workers' Local, the Key Highway Plant of the Bethlehem Steel Company.

MR. ALPERT: Mr. Bender, his name doesn't register with you?

MR. BENDER: No.

MR. SCHUELER: He is president of the Local of the Key Highway Plant.

MR. ALPERT: The reason I mentioned his name, and I particularly wanted to mention his name, is because when he appeared here -- at least I got the impression and I may be wrong, I don't know -- he took deliberate pains to be

extremely naive about everything. He knew nothing about anything, and whatever he did know he knew as a result of rumors. All he knew was rumors, rumors, but never nothing specific.

Now, it may be that that is all he knew, and I am not saying that he was wrong in what he said, but sometimes you get the impression that I got. You know, it is like the impression you get when somebody is protesting his innocence too strongly. I think he over-did this naive act. I mean, that is the impression I got.

I thought maybe you might know him.

MR. BENDER: No.

Now, in conjunction with calling the representative of the Steelworkers' Union, I would also recommend that you call in Mr. Wrightson.

Mr. SCHUELER: Is he with the Steelworkers' Union?

MR. BENDER: No, he is personnel manager, or director, of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation.

MR. SCHUELER: He is personnel manager of the Bethlehem Steel Company?

MR. BENDER: Yes, Mr. Wrightson is.

I am sure you know of Mr. Wrightson.

MR. SCHUELER: I may have heard of him, but I don't know him personally.

That is Mr. Wrightson?

MR. BENDER: Mr. Wrightson.

MR. SCHUELER: At present he is personnel manager of the Bethlehem Steel Company?

MR. BENDER: Yes.

MR. SCHUELER: It was my hope that the Committee would call on the personnel managers of all these plants to try to learn from them what action they could take, if this Committee found it necessary to recommend some action to them. Of course, there is some question as to having a man dismissed or discharged from his position.

MR. BENDER: Well, there is one man out there I have in mind. Mr. Wrightson and I talked about these people, when they were appearing before the Un-American Activities Committee, or shortly after they appeared before the Un-American Activities Committee, about refusing to give testimony. One of them works at Bethlehem Steel. At least, as far as I know, he still works there, and I know

Mr. Wrightson knows him very well.

MR. SCHUELER: According to the testimony --

MR. BENDER: If I may be permitted to finish.

MR. SCHUELER: Yes, go ahead.

MR. BENDER: But it is my opinion that right now the newcomers that have come in would find it hard to distinguish a Commie from an anti-Commie unless the Commies get active in the organization again.

Some of them are still hold-overs from other times, when they were active, and I think they are still active. One is Mike Howard employed by Bethlehem Steel, and Mr. Wrightson knows him well.

MR. SCHUELER: According to the testimony that Mrs. Mary Stalcup Markward gave to the Un-American Activities Committee of Congress, I would say that at least five or six names that we have as being members of the Communist Party are now employed and working in the Bethlehem Steel Company, Key Highway Shipyard.

MR. BENDER: Well, Mike Howard was one of them. I don't recall the other one. I knew him very well since 1937. ✓

MR. SCHUELER: That is one name I do not have. You say it is Mike Howard?

MR. BENDER: Michael Howard.

MR. SCHUELER: I don't have that name of Michael Howard, and I say that because I am very well familiar with all the names I have.

MR. BENDER: He appeared before the Committee.

MR. SCHUELER: And you say he is working at the Bethlehem Steel Company Key Highway Plant, Shipyard?

MR. BENDER: Yes.

MR. ALPERT: Mr. Bender, does the C.I.O. as a body do anything to sift out these Communist workers?

MR. BENDER: Do you know what we did to keep away from law suits?

We couldn't say that the unions were Communistic, because we would be subject to law suits, so what we said was that they were following the Party line, the leaders not the members. But we found also where we charged these leaders with following the Party line that practically ninety percent, if not one hundred percent, of their followers were all following the Party line.

Now, Mr. Alpert, you know what they were trying to do in the State.

MR. ALPERT: I know that.

MR. SCHUELER: Is there any other member of the Committee who would like to ask Mr. Bender any questions?

MR. BENDER: If you have any other names, maybe I can give you some more information.

MR. JEUNETTE: Mr. Chairman.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Jeunette.

MR. JEUNETTE: I would like to ask a question.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Jeunette.

MR. JEUNETTE: This Jeanette Kaplan, that you spoke of, have you kept track of her in recent years? ✓

MR. BENDER: No. She was not in the last campaign that we had at the Westinghouse Plant.

MR. JEUNETTE: The reason I asked that question is because there is a Jeanette Fino. She is married to Benjamin Fino. I was wondering if that is the same woman. ✓

MR. BENDER: The same woman.

MR. ALPERT: I think she was originally a Baltimorean, and then went away from here.

MR. BENDER: The last account I have of her was when she was working at the Westinghouse Plant, or rather at the Western Electric Plant out here on Holabird -- Broening Highway.

MR. JEUNETTE: Is that Fino?

MR. BENDER: I think it is. I think it is one and the same person.

MR. SCHUELER: Are there any other questions, Mr. Jeunette, that you would like to ask?

MR. JEUNETTE: I could run down the list of names that I have, but I don't know if that would be helpful, because you have practically the same list.

MR. SCHUELER: Are you acquainted with Mr. Maurice Blum, president of the Marine & Shipbuilding Workers of America Local No. 24?

MR. McHALE: He is not the president. He is the business agent.

MR. SCHUELER: That is right, he is not the president. He is the business agent, rather. Are you acquainted with him?

MR. BENDER: No.

MR. SCHUELER: He has just been elected business agent. From what I understand he opposed one of the members that was the business agent prior to his election?

MR. McHALE: Are you talking about Ray Seese?

MR. SCHUELER: Yes, Ray Seese. He was supposed to be leaning toward the left wing.

MR. BENDER: Very heavily so.

MR. SCHUELER: Ray Seese was defeated by Maurice Blum, and Maurice Blum has been helpful to this Committee, but he doesn't want to come before this Committee and give any statement on record due to the instructions, which I feel, have been given him by Gerson.

MR. BENDER: I don't think it is because of Gerson. I say that because Gerson has always talked to me. Of course, I have never had occasion, since he has been in Maryland, to have a show-down where we had to take sides. The fight was before he came here. But he always left the impression with me that he was anti-Communist.

MR. SCHUELER: I don't have any doubt as far as him being anti-Communist is concerned, but I think he has given these men instructions.

MR. BENDER: I don't know.

Mr. Appel met with him, Mr. Schueler, and I know because I asked Mr. Appel to go in and see him. He had a number of names that were in the shipyard.

MR. ALPERT: That is the Mr. Appel who was before the Un-American Activities Committee?

MR. SCHUELER: That is Mr. Appel of the House Un-American Activities Committee. He was an investigator.

MR. BENDER: I don't know.

MR. ALPERT: He is a Baltimorean. He was born and raised here.

MR. BENDER: Some of the names on the list would surprise you.

MR. SCHUELER: I had some thought of possibly contacting Mr. Appel in trying to help this Committee to some extent, but we felt that we ought to get our labor leaders first, the labor leaders throughout the City, to give us whatever information they could and so try to steer this Committee into the right channel. Then, later on, we would call the personnel managers, or directors, of the industrial plants to give us whatever information they

have.

This Committee is working sincerely and honestly, and it has devoted a lot of time and effort in its work. And I feel like we certainly deserve some credit for what we are trying to do.

MR. BENDER: Well, Mr. Chairman, if at any time you desire information that I may have, it is yours for the asking.

MR. REED: Mr. Chairman.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Reed would like to ask a question.

MR. REED: Mr. Bender, I would like to ask something about you and your organization. It was found that most of the organizations went down to the Legislature and lobbied against the Ober Bill, and then on Election Day you find paid workers standing on the corner --

MR. BENDER: Now, wait a minute. Let me follow you.

You want to know if I went down to the Legislature and was against the Ober Bill myself?

MR. REED: That is right.

MR. BENDER: As a matter of fact, I spoke on the radio. Now, what is it you said about finding workers standing on the corner?

MR. REED: I found them on Election Day standing on the corner, all being workers, opposing the passage of the Ober Bill when we had it up as a referendum. Didn't they oppose the passage of the referendum?

MR. BENDER: That is right.

MR. REED: How do you figure that? You go back to the time it was before the Legislature, and you know how they voted on it. We only had one delegate that was against it, Newcomer from Western Maryland, from Washington County. I served in the Legislature for eight years myself, and I know what it means when only one man votes against a Bill. You had Newcomer from Washington County who was the only one that opposed the Ober Bill, and he was defeated for re-election. Now, I just wanted to get your opinion. How do you figure that labor could oppose the Ober Bill when it was just against the Communist line?

MR. BENDER: I beg to disagree with you.

MR. REED: Why?

MR. BENDER: Now, my position is this. If 'Communism is wrong and if it is not a political party --

MR. REED: A little louder, please.

MR. BENDER: I say, if Communism is wrong and if it is not a political party, then it should be outlawed as such. If it is a political party and it can get on the ballot legally, then I don't see how we can conscientiously say, "Yes, you can be on the ballot as a member of that political party, but we are going to prosecute you for being a member of it."

Now, it was not because of Communism that I opposed the Ober Bill. Under the Ober Bill in a strike, the company can go out -- and they have done it in my experience and I have been active in this thing since 1908 -- and employ men to go out and do unlawful acts -- and they have done it to frame us -- and we can be declared an unlawful organization and so have our organization destroyed.

Now, if they are after Communism, then hit Communism directly, but don't bring all of the other things in. We opposed it because of the way it affected genuine

labor unions. I didn't oppose it because of Communism.

Now, just because a majority is for it and only one man is against it doesn't make it right. We are all human beings and we are prone to error. Here is this Cardinal Mindzenty and these other people behind the Iron Curtain being sentenced. First I was torn between whether I stood for or against the C.I.O. to oppose the constitutional convention, but then I saw that the people's minds weren't suitable for a constitutional convention. We get irrational, we get fanatic, and since the constitution is the basic law everything should be on an even keel when we deal with this fundamental law, with these fundamental principles. I heard people down at the Annapolis State House practically paint the picture that the Communists were already on our doorstep ready to take over our Government here.

I spoke to the two United States Senators, Senator O'Connor and Senator Tydings, and to our members of the House when I appeared against certain legislation in Washington. I said, "You people are doing more to organize for the Communist Party than their own organizers can do for them

in the next ten years, because we go out and we try to impress people that our Government is of, for and by the people, with no one ruling class in this country, and you fellows are making liars out of us. They go out -- and that is what they thrive on -- and they say and they preach that our Government is on Wall Street, and so forth."

I don't believe in legislation where in order to get the guilty you have to hit a lot of honest people. Yes, I am in favor, as anyone else is, to outlaw the Communist Party because I don't think it is a political organization. I don't think it is.

Now, I appeared here in the Emerson Hotel one evening at a meeting called by the Kiwanians, and I was sitting with the former Superintendent of Schools, who was connected as Educational Director, I believe, with W.B.A.L. He is deceased. His name doesn't come to me. Well, they were going out to organize, to oppose that any Government employee, that all Government employees for the State, County and Municipality would have to take oath that they didn't believe in the overthrow of the Government, this loyalty oath. So, when I saw the meeting about to

break up, I said I have no objection to that, but I don't think anyone should take money from a Government he doesn't believe in. But after that then what?

I have reared a large family, a family of eight children, and my youngest is in the service now. Now, I wouldn't say to them, "Now, you don't do that, you don't do this." You just can't have, "Thou shalt, and Thou shalt not." You say in general what shall be done, and if anyone has any complaints you must try to reason with him so as to alleviate them.

Communism thrives on hardships. Communism thrives on adverse legislation. The Communists thrive on it. And I recall nine years ago on Pennsylvania Avenue and Madison, among the colored people, they were just thriving, and don't let anyone kid you it was otherwise. Whether their names were on the roll or not, I know they were getting a lot of support. Up in the west end of Baltimore, among our colored people, there was just a lot of it.

Well, take a lot of persons. They are prone to remember criticism, and don't give too much thought to nice things. You can say all the nice things about a

person and people don't remember that too long, but you take the bad things, the faults of a person, and they remember that forever. That is the way they do things.

MR. REED: Now, let me ask you this. You told me about your opinion of the Ober Bill before. At the time it was voted on in the Legislature, there was only one vote against it, and there are 147 or 148 representatives -- you have 29 Senators and 120 Delegates, something like that, so that you have about 148 or 149 representatives in both Houses -- and out of the 148 or 149 representatives only one voted against it. Yet you want to say that didn't make it right, but because all the labor organizations were against it that made it wrong?

MR. BENDER: No, I don't say that.

MR. REED: Now, let me point something out to you--

MR. BENDER: Mr. Reed, if you will let me finish. I read Judge Sherbow's decision very carefully on that, and I think he is perfectly right.

MR. REED: Well, his decision was overruled by the Court of Appeals.

MR. BENDER: That is right.

MR. REED: Now, let me point this out to you. Here is why I asked you that question. There was a large anti-Ober Bill vote by the labor organizations, and it reflects on the labor organizations. It is a reflection on the labor organizations on account of this action by them. There is antagonism in this country against labor organizations because they feel they are the fronts to some extent for the Communists, and to some extent are responsible for the increase in Communist activities. That is why we are having all these investigations today. Now, getting back to the Ober Bill in the Legislature. You said because the majority of the people said it was right that that didn't necessarily make it right. Well, you had your two important newspapers in Baltimore City for the Ober Bill, you had all your Churches, fraternal and religious organizations, and civic organizations for it.

Now, before you had the Ober Bill you had Communists teaching in the public schools. One of our councilmen brought it up, this question about Communist teachers in the public schools, and a teacher was fired, but if we didn't have the Ober Bill the schools wouldn't

have to fire a Communist.

MR. BENDER: No. I think you are wrong, Mr. Reed. I think it was your Constitutional Amendment that got rid of them.

MR. REED: But that teacher, that lady was fired out of the school system before the Ober Bill was passed.

MR. BENDER: Well, you had a Constitutional Amendment before the Ober Bill was passed.

MR. REED: Well, that is the Constitutional Amendment you are talking about.

MR. BENDER: I was infavor of the Amendment.

MR. REED: I am speaking as far as the referendum is concerned. Well, now, I ask you this. You had thirty-nine thousand people in Baltimore City that voted against it. We found workers representing your labor organizations standing on the corner with arm bands giving out ballots instructing people to vote against the Ober Bill. Were all your labor organizations opposed to the Ober Bill?

MR. BENDER: I think so.

MR. REED: Now, you aren't hurting my feelings because I am a member of the Railroad Union, the Union of

Boilermakers Iron Shipbuilders & Helpers of America at the Riverside Shops, and I disagree with you, and so does the rank and file.

MR. BENDER: Well, I disagree with my union at times too.

MR. REED: Now, that shows you how little the rank and file know what the labor unions do. Until I talked to the rank and file in the union I didn't know that nine out of ten men in the shop didn't know that the union was against the Ober Bill. The union leaders just go down to Annapolis and the rank and file doesn't know about it, because they are never consulted about it.

MR. BENDER: Isn't that the rule.

MR. REED: What?

MR. BENDER: I say, isn't that the rule. Isn't that the average situation. Doesn't that apply to your constituents.

MR. REED: Well, that is an illustration of what labor organizations do.

Now, you come in here with a fair attitude, you are honest about everything, as far as I can see, but of

course I differ with you on the Ober Bill. You can see what we have to do if we are going to stop Communism in this country. You can see that the Communists are using the labor organizations for a front.

Now, Mr. Schueler, I am in favor of what you said before about the personnel managers. We ought to bring these personnel managers in here and see if they lean, or are inclined, toward the labor organizations that are on the radical side. We want to see if there is some link between Communism and the labor organizations, and if these personnel managers cooperate with the labor organizations. We ought to make sure that these corporations are not cooperating with the labor organizations that have any links to Communism.

MR. BENDER: Well, Mr. Reed, I presume you know that we started out to clean house in the C.I.O., and we lost seven hundred fifty thousand members.

Now, we don't like to lose members.

MR. REED: Well, I know you don't like to lose members.

MR. BENDER: Well, we had to. Of course, that

was when the climax came. It was some years ago that I told our people, way back in 1943, that the time was going to come when you are going to have to meet this situation. They were more patriotic during the war, after Russia was attacked, but I said the time is going to come when you are going to meet and fight them. That was in December, 1943, and then about three years ago they wouldn't go along, and if our Government was in a fight with Communism and if they believed that our Government was always wrong and the Russian Government was always right, then the time had come when we had to bring people to trial, and we brought them to trial and found them guilty. We had to expell them from our organizations. Some of the unions that did that, the ones that now come to my mind, are the furniture workers and the transport workers. They fought it out in their own locals and they stayed with the C.I.O. They cleaned the Communists out of their locals.

Now, everyone of our unions has a clause, to the best of my knowledge, I think they all have, that no Communist can be a member or hold office.

MR. REED: Now, how can you prove that?

MR. BENDER: You have to give them a trial and find out.

MR. REED: How can you prove it? We had a gentleman in here about two weeks ago and he said that the locals can't do anything about it. He said it isn't their job to do that.

Now, getting back to the Ober Bill again, you had thirty-nine thousand people that voted against the Ober Bill referendum in Baltimore City, and one hundred two thousand in Baltimore voted for it. You find people going on the radio, leaders of unions going on the radio, speaking against the Ober Bill. Then you find labor organizations backing H. Warren Buckler who goes on the radio and is against the Ober Bill, and yet he is backed by labor. Something is going on. When H. Warren Buckler is mentioned for a position with the Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals he is backed by the labor organizations. Then we find Mr. Buckler down at the Legislature standing on the side of the Communists when the question came up of expelling them from the Bar Association. Now, labor has got a whole lot of morehousecleaning to do, in my opinion.

MR. BENDER: Well, I don't think so --

MR. REED: Well, from what we heard from some of those who came in here it seems like you fellows just started the job. You said yourself you got rid of -- how many was that?

MR. BENDER: I said seven hundred fifty thousand members.

MR. REED: Well, you got rid of seven hundred fifty thousand, but you can't tell me that you got rid of all of them.

MR. BENDER: Mr. Reed, I studied law. I went to work at the age of ten and I couldn't take the Bar examination.

MR. ALPERT: And didn't you also study for the ministry, Mr. Bender?

MR. BENDER: Yes.

MR. ALPERT: I thought you did. I thought you studied for the ministry.

MR. BENDER: I wasn't barred from there, though.

(Laughter)

MR. BENDER: The theory was, in studying law,

that you are there to see that the law is upheld and not to fight to avoid the law. If you had a client, and he was in violation of the law, it was your duty that when he went into Court to see that equity resulted. Now, we provide lawyers for murderers in order to see that they get a fair day in Court. Now, there was some discussion, I think, at the last Bar Association at Atlantic City that no attorneys should represent Communists. Well, I think, you are just going too far. After all, a man should be proven he is a Communist before we say he couldn't have legal counsel.

MR. VALLE: Mr. Bender, how has the passage of the Ober Bill affected your union?

MR. BENDER: Well, I will answer you the same way as when a similar question was asked of the Taft-Hartley Act. We haven't yet found out what the impact will be. When the Korean War ends, and we find that our work in Europe will soon be over, and we stop producing instruments of war, munitions, and we begin to have an unemployed army, as we had following the first World War, and when employers start reducing wages, then you are going to find out about

the impact of the Ober Bill and the Taft-Hartley Act against the American working people.

MR. ALPERT: I don't know why Mr. Reed always goes into the Ober Bill. The Ober Bill is not the issue here.

MR. BENDER: I don't think so either, but I am glad you asked me about these things.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Reed likes to bring the Ober Bill up.

MR. ALPERT: Yes, but that is not the issue. I think Judge O'Dunne went down to Annapolis and spoke in opposition to it. Didn't he? I may be mistaken.

MR. BENDER: I think he did.

MR. ALPERT: There are a lot of people who feel about it the way Mr. Bender does. What we are concerned about right now is Communism and not the Ober Bill.

MR. BENDER: If I can help you find the Communists, I shall be glad to do so. If I was a Communist, I would have told you so. I would stand up and say I am a Communist. I would stand on the street corner and proclaim my theory. Anything I believe in I will defend.

You know, I had to fire a girl one day. I had a little girl, who was with the left wing crowd, as you remember back in 1938, Mr. Alpert. A boy had come into my office and we discussed the situation, and she was the only other person in the office with us. We were discussing Communist activities in certain organizations. Within ten days he was called on the carpet by the left wing crowd. I did not take it up with anybody else. I said to this girl, "Who did you discuss this with?" I said, "The boy swears he didn't tell it to anybody, and God knows I didn't say anything to anybody, and you were the only other one here. Who did you tell it to?" She said, "Nobody." So, then, comes August 31st, or August 30th, when I had read where the Communist Party had filed their petition for candidates for Governor, State's Attorney, and for another office -- Comptroller. I had a suspicion that her name would be on that list, so on the 31st of August -- the other date was the 30th of August -- I goes down to Annapolis, and I calls up Governor Nice's home and told him what I wanted. He called from the State House and he said Mr. Bender is coming here and he wants

to see that list, and give it to him, and I saw that list and I even saw her father or brother, her name on that list for the Communist Party. I got back at five to five and my office was called. That was the 30th, not the 31st. I said it was the 31st. Her name was Helen, and I said, "I want this work done this morning." Came 1:30 I said, "Now, make out your salary bill because it is the last one you are getting from the C.I.O." It was the last one she ever got.

MR. BONNETT: Well, was she actively connected with the Communist Party?

MR. BENDER: Oh, she denied it. Dorothy Blumberg came and defended her and some other people.

MR. ALPERT: She had the right people coming to defend her -- Dorothy Blumberg.

MR. BENDER: Her husband is working -- he is in bad health -- but he is working at the Steel mill.

MR. BONNETT: Well, Mr. Bender, there is one thing I would like to get clear in my mind. You said something about the clean-up being responsible for the C.I.O. losing seven hundred fifty thousand members. That

is what I understood you to say.

MR. BENDER: Yes, but in fact we have gained that back. We have a million more.

MR. BONNETT: I was wondering about the reasons for the loss of so many people. I thought this happened immediately after the war with Japan was over and if that wasn't the cause for the loss, if it wasn't because work in the shipyards had fallen off, and what not. Wasn't that due to the fact that a lot of people were laid off at the time?

MR. BENDER: No, these seven hundred fifty thousand were the dues paying members. They were expelled at that time.

MR. BONNETT: You expelled them?

MR. BENDER: Yes, we expelled them. That many dues paying members were expelled, but within a year we had gained back over a million, and as you have all read in the papers we have taken about sixty percent of the membership of the U.E. throughout the nation.

There is one thing about these people, they get results, and they are fighting for the workers. I have had

it said to me in one plant where a certain fellow was a business agent that everybody recognized he was a Communist, but they said they didn't care because he fights for them. They said that you don't get many men like that. After all, there are bad boys in every community.

MR. ALPERT: Well, that is a pretty strange attitude to take.

MR. SCHUELER: That is right.

MR. BENDER: It takes some time to build a fire under them.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Bender, let me ask you this question. The U.E.W. is now controlling the Western Electric-- Westinghouse rather?

MR. BENDER: In Baltimore.

MR. SCHUELER: What is the possibility of your organization gaining control, if a fight was made by your representatives there?

MR. BENDER: We have lost two elections.

MR. SCHUELER: You have lost two?

MR. BENDER: Yes.

MR. SCHUELER: And how recently has the last

election been lost?

MR. BENDER: About six months ago.

MR. SCHUELER: Just six months ago?

MR. BENDER: There is a man by the name of Watts, who was president of that 130 Local. He has got that group pretty well under his control and receives plenty of cooperation from the company.

MR. SCHUELER: If the company cooperates with them, helps them, that lessens the possibility of the C.I.O. gaining control of the union?

MR. BENDER: That is true. However, I don't make this charge, I just put it out for your thinking. If a large corporation like General Electric, or Westinghouse, can keep their workers pretty well divided between two unions, they don't give a darn because they know they can play one group against the other, and it is profitable.

MR. SCHUELER: Profitable as far as the company is concerned?

MR. BENDER: That is right, and we don't get the cooperation we should.

MR. SCHUELER: Mrs. Arthur, do you have any

questions you would like to ask Mr. Bender?

MRS. ARTHUR: No questions.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Valle?

MR. VALLE: No, sir.

MR. SCHUELER: Does any other member have any further questions?

MR. ALPERT: There is one question I would like to ask Mr. Bender.

I think he is thoroughly conversant with the subject matter of the inquiry of this Committee. I would like to know whether or not he has any additional suggestions to make.

MR. BENDER: Yes, I would call Father Cronin in from Washington. He would give you some information.

MR. McHALE: How about Father Basinett?

MR. JEUNETTE: Yes, how about Father Basinett?

MR. BENDER: Well, I knew he worked with him. I don't know. But Father Cronin is one man who is one of the best informed on labor matters of anybody I know, both in and out of labor.

MR. McHALE: You mentioned he was from Washington.

MR. ALPERT: Yes, and I would like to know if the statement you made would be applicable to Baltimore as well.

MR. BENDER: He was here in Baltimore and he fought with a few of us side by side, and then it seemed as if the heavens came down upon us, but he never shirked, and he could give you a lot of information on the shipyard situation.

MR. McHALE: I think he was instrumental in getting rid of the left wingers. He attended meetings and he talked.

MR. BENDER: Yes.

MR. McHALE: You told me at Fairfield he attended meetings and talked.

MR. BENDER: Yes.

MR. McHALE: But he has left and, I think, Father Basinett has taken his place in Baltimore.

MR. BENDER: As soon as Father Cronin left the fight had ended outwardly. After Cronin left, they began to recover.

MR. ALPERT: There is one more question, if I may, Mr. Chairman.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Alpert.

MR. ALPERT: There is something that you said before that sort of shocked me, and that was the fact that large corporations themselves are interested, if it serves their own selfish purposes -- I suppose, I am justified in using that term -- to keep certain unions in power regardless?

MR. BENDER: Mr. Alpert, if you have any doubt about that there is James Carey, another boy, who is secretary of the C.I.O.I.U.E., who also fought side by side with us. I would like, if you could, to have you get him before you and have him tell you in his own words the consideration that the U.E., that is the left wing crowd, gets, and what the consideration the I.U.E. anti-Communist crowd gets from Westinghouse and General Electric.

MR. ALPERT: Would that also apply to other organizations that you know of?

MR. BENDER: Those are the only two I can speak about. I have heard Jim say it myself, I haven't sat in on the negotiations with them so I can only state what I have been told. Now, if they put that in the press, and

if it wasn't true, they could be sued.

MR. REED: Mr. Bender, when you were down in Annapolis and of course this is a while ago, about a year ago, I guess, you were lobbying, your labor organization was lobbying against the Ober Bill, and there were no religious organizations, churchmen or clergymen of any religious organizations on your side?

MR. BENDER: Well, I am a clergyman.

MR. REED: Well, what I mean by that those who were teaching in Baltimore City, some of the well-known ones.

MR. BENDER: Let me tell you this, Mr. Reed. Christ, after he fed the five thousand a few loaves of bread and fishes from the Sea in Galilee, the crowd evidently wanted to make him King over Jerusalem. What a stupendous layout. When he reproved them for their carnal desires, and they deserted him, he just turned around to his disciples and said to Peter, "Are you going to leave me also?"

Some of the finest men that have lived have been deserted by the majority, the finest men that have lived.

MR. REED: Can you name some of the men that were down at Annapolis that opposed the Ober Bill? Can you name some outstanding men in Maryland, or some labor organizations, that were opposed to the Ober Bill?

MR. BENDER: I think one of them was Judge Sherbow. He was against it.

MR. REED: He was overruled by the Court of Appeals. You mean Judge O'Dunne.

MR. BENDER: Well, I don't know.

MR. REED: Was he down there for a fee?

MR. BENDER: I don't know.

MR. REED: You had another one down there, who opposed the Ober Bill for a fee?

MR. BENDER: I don't know.

MR. REED: You don't know of anybody else?

MR. BENDER: I don't know. You see --

MR. SCHUELER: You don't know whether Judge O'Dunne was down there representing a group, or whether he was down there for a fee or not?

MR. BENDER: I don't know.

MR. REED: I would like to know --

MR. ALPERT: I don't think all this is germane to this discussion, Mr. Reed.

MR. BENDER: Mr. Reed, I would like to leave this thought with you, sir. I would like to approach the Ober Bill, the arguments I use against it, in this way. If we are wrong and we see the right, we ought to turn from the wrong and go right. Now, I would like to have, say, half a day with you to go into the merits of the Ober Bill and see where it hits Communism and see where it doesn't hit Communism.

MR. REED: You won't convince me after what I have seen and heard of it.

MR. BENDER: I have lived 63 years, and I wouldn't make a statement like that.

MR. REED: You won't convince me, not after one member of the Legislature only voted against it. I know that many of them down there were outstanding men, outstanding Americans and all of them except one fought for the Bill down at the Legislature. You also found outstanding organizations, fraternal, civic and religious, for the Bill, and yet you find these labor groups against it.

Your two outstanding newspapers were for it.

MR. BENDER: You don't mean to say that the Sun and the News-Post are always right, do you?

MR. REED: You look at it from this angle. They have taken some funny stands, but at the same time you have a lot of people reading them. But bad papers go down and the good papers remain. But I don't say the Sunpaper is a good paper.

MR. BENDER: I take this position, Mr. Reed. I take a position, and then years later I may find out I was wrong. I believe in the famous statement by John Adams, or rather by Stephen Decatur: "My country in her intercourse with foreign nations may she always be in the right, but our country right or wrong."

Now, we have had many laws passed in our states, and in the Federal Government, by big majorities only to be declared unconstitutional by the Courts, there are many of them.

MR. ALPERT: Mr. Chairman, what I am primarily interested in is this. Regardless of how Mr. Bender felt about the Ober Bill, and we already know how he felt about

the Bill, what I am concerned about is how he feels, what are his feelings, about Communism, and I gather from what he has told us that he is definitely anti-Communist. For that reason, we should consider him friendly and helpful to us, and we should avail ourselves of as much information as he can possibly give us along those lines.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Bender, on behalf of this Committee, I want to say this. I feel as though you have been the most helpful witness that we have had appear before us, and I am grateful personally, and I feel that every other member of this Committee goes along with me in that respect, so we want to thank you for your presence this evening.

MR. ALPERT: Mr. Chairman, he has already said that he holds himself in readiness to come before this Committee at any time.

MR. BENDER: You have a representative of the Electrical Workers Union by the name of Nichols.

MR. SCHUELER: What is his first name? Is that the Nichols that was before the House Un-American Activities Committee?

MR. BENDER: Yes.

Well, he has gone to school. There is a record of his activities. He has been sitting in on the Communist Party. Naturally, you can readily see that if he is a leader he is going to try to make disciples in his groups here.

MR. SCHUELER: We have heard a lot about Mr. Nichols.

Well, if there are no other questions that the members of the Committee would like to ask Mr. Bender, I move that Mr. Bender be excused at this time.

Mr. Bender, we are certainly grateful to you for the time you gave us. I hope we haven't inconvenienced you to any extent.

MR. ALPERT: I know he is a hard worker, and I know he is available sometimes twenty-four hours a day. I know that from past experience.

(Witness excused.)

(Thereupon, an adjournment was taken at 3:45 p.m. until Thursday, April 10, 1952, at 2 p. m.)

OB Durbett

STENOGRAPHIC TRANSCRIPT

CITY COUNCIL

UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

FIFTH SESSION

Baltimore, Maryland
April 24, 1952.

REPORTED BY:

H.M. Levine

MCDONALD AND LEVINE

COURT AND GENERAL REPORTING

506 MARYLAND TRUST BUILDING

BALTIMORE-2, MD.

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FIFTH SESSION

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CITY COUNCIL

UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

C. Lyman Schueler, 2d District, Chairman
Maxwell Alpert, 4th District
Anna M. Arthur, 3d District
William Bonnett, 1st District
Michael J. McHale, 6th District
John H. Reed, 5th District

CLOSED HEARING

The Un-American Activities Committee of the City Council met, pursuant to adjournment, at 2:15 p.m., on Thursday, April 24, 1952, in the office of Arthur B. Price, President of the City Council, Room 307, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland.

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE PRESENT

C. Lyman Schueler, Chairman
Maxwell Alpert
Anna M. Arthur
William Bonnett
John H. Reed

STAFF MEMBER PRESENT

Francis J. Valle, Esq., Counsel

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Atallah, if you will sit here (indicating), you will be closer to the desk and you won't have any trouble hearing us.

MR. ATALLAH: All right.

MR. SCHUELER: We have a quorum present, two of our members missing. I think they are late because they are attending the Lexington Market Opening.

Mr. Atallah and Mr. Watkins, we want to thank you for coming before the Committee to try to help us in our efforts, that we are making, in trying to sift out some undesirables that we understand are in our industrial plants.

In order to enlighten you as to the work of this Committee, Mr. Atallah, in the Morning Sunpaper of Sunday, February 17th, this headline came out (indicating), and on the following Monday in the Council Chamber, Mr. Friedel and myself suggested, if it would be possible, that the President appoint a committee to try to study the problems that this story carried. Certainly, we were all concerned with the activities of the Reds in our industrial plants, and we wanted to see if there was a

way where we could be helpful. I felt like it was our duty, our obligation, to try to help, and so Mr. Arthur Price, our President of the Council, on Wednesday appointed a committee, of which all these present are members along with Mrs. Arthur and Mr. McHale.

STATEMENT OF ALBERT ATALLAH
3600 Eastern Avenue,
Baltimore 24, Maryland.

MR. SCHUELER: If you don't mind, would you give the Secretary your full name, Mr. Atallah.

MR. ATALLAH: Albert Atallah. That is spelled A-t-a-l-l-a-h.

MR. SCHUELER: And your occupation is what in the C.I.O.?

MR. ATALLAH: Director of District 8, United Steelworkers of America. The office is located at 3600 Eastern Avenue, Baltimore 24, Maryland.

MR. ALPERT: District 8 takes in what territory, Mr. Atallah?

MR. ATALLAH: It takes in the entire State of Maryland, and, of course, the District of Columbia comes under it, and the State of Virginia was voted in District 8,

but I haven't officially taken that in. There are a little too many problems there, and the fellow has enough stuff over there to take care of, so I haven't taken it over.

MR. ALPERT: Would you say that most of your activities center around Baltimore?

MR. ATALLAH: Most of it in the State of Maryland.

MR. ALPERT: Well, I mean the State of Maryland.

MR. ATALLAH: Most of it in the State of Maryland, yes, sir, because outside of Baltimore there isn't any steel industry around here. In other words, most of it is in Baltimore City and around the vicinity of Baltimore.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Atallah, this Committee has been informed of your activities in trying to curb the Red activities in the local unions under your jurisdiction. We have been likewise informed that you could possibly help this Committee in enlightening it as to what your activities have been, and possibly make some recommendations to this Committee in the hopes of sifting these undesirables out of our industrial plants in and around Baltimore City.

Could you give us any statement, Mr. Atallah,

as to what you know as far as the Red activities may be concerned in your particular locals?

MR. ATALLAH: Well, Mr. Chairman, my activities in the capacity here as Director of the Organization is, number one, to make sure that we comply with the provisions of our International constitution, which in itself prohibits any member, or members, or even anybody who is a follower of that philosophy, to hold either elective or appointive office within our organization, local or national. That is number one. That is a mandate as far as our International setup is concerned, as far as the constitution is concerned. Of course, we also have our obligations as Americans, as American citizens, to protect our nation from such undesirable people.

We have been on the alert continuously, the officers together with the members -- not just the members, but also the officers of the various local unions.

You see, my job in my official capacity is not connected with only one local union, but with all of the local unions in this District. We take in all of the local unions, that is, all of the local unions that have

been organized by the United Steelworkers of America. We have several local unions, and this District, as of today, in Baltimore City and around the vicinity has around twenty local unions. Each one of the local unions has its own officers, and those officers, more or less, administer the affairs of their particular local union. Each one has its committees, and its stewards, and all of them have been instructed, in other words, to keep their eyes open to see if there are undesirable persons within their ranks, and, if there are any, to make sure that they are watched very closely and very carefully. Every move that they make must be watched.

MR. SCHUELER: Right there, Mr. Atallah, if I may interrupt you?

MR. ATALLAH: Yes, sir.

MR. SCHUELER: We have several names of those who are believed to be on the borderline, those believed to be leaning toward the Red philosophy, and who are employed in the steel industrial plant at Sparrows Point. Would you say that those members, at the present time, who are believed to be leaning toward the Red line, are

employed at the Steel Plant in Sparrows Point?

MR. ATALLAH: There are reports. I have received a report from some of our people, from some of the officers, that there are a few of them -- thank God for the small number -- just a few here and there, that their actions and their activities are closely related to that line. Some of them, one or two of them were reported to me that they have admitted that they were members of the Communist Party. The others, as far as I know, haven't admitted that. You know how foxy they are, how cadgy they are, in admitting those things. Now, when I say they admitted that, I don't mean to say they admitted it to me personally, but they have admitted it from what I hear up at the union, at the local union meetings, I believe.

About some of them I got the report from the investigator from Washington, the investigator of the Un-American Activities Committee. They have come into my office several times. I had several meetings with them, and some of them were at great length lasting anywhere from three to four hours, and went over the list.

They were confidential meetings between us.

MR. BONNETT: Mr. Atallah, just at that point, did you say that you went over your records with the F.B.I.?

MR. ATALLAH: No, I said I went over the list, and it wasn't with the F.B.I., but the investigator from the Un-American Activities Committee.

MR. SCHUELER: He didn't say it was with the F.B.I. He said it was with the investigator from the Un-American Activities Committee from Washington.

MR. ATALLAH: Yes.

MR. ALPERT: With regard to those that admitted they were Communists, was any action taken, as far as your organization was concerned?

MR. ATALLAH: As far as we are concerned, as far as our organization is concerned, one of them was fired.

MR. WATKINS: That is right, he was fired.

MR. ATALLAH: He is the fellow who is now under trial, a fellow by the name of Wood.

MR. WATKINS: That is Leroy Wood. ✓

MR. ATALLAH: Yes, Leroy Wood. I think he

worked in the pipe mill, and he was fired.

MR. WATKINS: That is right, he worked in the pipe mill.

MR. ATALLAH: Of course, as you know, we have no right to fire anybody and we have no right to hire anybody.

MR. ALPERT: Do I understand you to say that if anyone was an admitted Communist that he couldn't be a member of your organization?

MR. ATALLAH: Our constitution does not prevent them from membership in the organization.

MR. ALPERT: It does not prevent them from membership?

MR. ATALLAH: Yes, ^{but} it prevents them from holding any office of any kind, or from any activities in connection with that, whether appointive or elective.

MR. ALPERT: But ordinary membership, that is allowed?

MR. ATALLAH: Yes, and the reason has been this. We believe that the provisions of some of the laws, such as the Taft-Hartley Act, do not give us the right or for that matter from what I can understand, do not give the manage-

ment the right to fire anybody because they are Communists.

You know the Taft-Hartley Law? You gentlemen are familiar with it?

MR. ALPERT: Yes.

MR. ATALLAH: Even though somebody has done something wrong within one of our locals, has violated the constitution, he has the power to get a trial. He can get a trial, be given a hearing, and if he is found guilty then he can be suspended or he can be expelled from our organization, but we cannot force the management to fire him.

MR. SCHUELER: Would you be in a position, Mr. Atallah, to give us the names of both of these members that were named as admitted Communists? Are these members of the Communist Party working at Sparrows Point, or are they members of one of your locals?

MR. ATALLAH: One of them is gone. I think both of them are gone.

MR. SCHUELER: There were just two?

MR. WATKINS: There were only two, but they are gone.

MR. ATALLAH: They are both gone. They are no longer there.

MR. SCHUELER: Their names are what?

MR. ATALLAH: One of them was Wood. ✓

MR. WATKINS: One was the Organizer for the Tobacco and Agricultural Organization. I forget his name.

MR. ATALLAH: I don't recall his name.

MR. WATKINS: I know he was a tall, black-haired boy. I knew his name, but I have forgotten it. I just can't remember it now. But I can get it for you, if you want. I can call the office up.

MR. SCHUELER: Is it Harold Kotzka?

MR. WATKINS: No, it isn't that. ✓

MR. SCHUELER: How about Albert or Harold Kotzka, the man who was a representative of the Food and Tobacco Union?

MR. WATKINS: No, it isn't that. I will get it for you before I leave this room. I will call the office and get it for you.

MR. ALPERT: Well, what is he doing now, this fellow?

MR. WATKINS: He has left the City, and he is no longer here. I understand he was planted here for that reason.

MR. ALPERT: I see.

MR. ATALLAH: Now, there are some other people, but this is only hearsay. I hear their names from the staff members of the committee. I hear about their activities. I would also get a report of their activities at the local union meetings, but that is in the past. You see, I don't attend the local union meetings because I don't have the time.

MR. ALPERT: Would you pardon me for interrupting you at this point. Could we get a list of those additional persons that are under suspicion?

MR. WATKINS: Do you have the reports of the Un-American Activities Committee? You have names there.

MR. ATALLAH: I will be happy to help you out. Now, if you have any names of such people that are within our organization, I would be grateful if you would give them to us. That would help me a great deal too. Probably they are the same people we are talking about.

Probably there are some people that we don't know about, and we would like to get their names.

MR. ALPERT: What I had in mind were the names of those that you said had been exposed, or the ones that you were informed were closely allied with Communist activity. Could we get those names?

MR. ATALLAH: Those people, I believe, their names are very well-known because they were called before the Committee in Washington.

MR. WATKINS: That is right, and you have a record of those hearings before you over there (indicating).

MR. ATALLAH: Those are the people I know.

MR. ALPERT: I see.

MR. ATALLAH: While we are here, and if it is within the jurisdiction of the Committee, if it is not a secret -- you know what I mean -- if the Committee here is authorized or is at liberty to divulge some names, I will be happy to tell you what we know about them, if we know anything about them. If we don't know about them, probably, it would give us something to work on ourselves. It would be of help to the Committee and to ourselves if

we had names we didn't know about.

MR. SCHUELER: Well, we want to cooperate in every way we can with both sides. We are certainly grateful for your cooperation, and we would like to help you in any way that we can in your endeavors, and to enlighten you in any way we can. I feel you can help us from what I have heard about you, from the reports that have been brought to me in reference to your activities and in reference to the interest that you have shown in trying to sift them out of your organization. This Committee will help you in any way that it can. And I certainly appreciate Mr. Watkins' efforts. I feel you have one good secretary in your organization, and I am not saying that because George Watkins is present, but I am saying that because he is a good secretary. I am saying that because of my personal contacts with George over a number of years. I think I can state that freely about him.

MR. ATALLAH: I appreciate that. It is a pleasure for me to hear such a thing about any member of our organization, especially when he is in our official family.

Likewise, your statement goes both ways. Likewise, you will find my office, the members of my staff including myself, ready and happy to cooperate in every way we can, within our limitations, of course. When I say, within our limitations --

(At this point of the hearing, Mrs. Arthur entered the room.)

MR. SCHUELER: If you will excuse me, Mr. Atallah, this is Mrs. Arthur.

Mrs. Arthur, this is Mr. Atallah, and this is Mr. Watkins.

MR. ALPERT: Mr. Chairman, if I may?

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Alpert.

MR. ALPERT: Mr. Atallah, do you feel that as far as your organization is concerned that the situation is well in hand? In other words, do you feel that there is nothing to be concerned about?

MR. ATALLAH: Definitely so.

MR. ALPERT: You do?

MR. ATALLAH: I say that because if there is anyone within our local unions that there is the least

little bit suspicion about, by his actions, or by any motion, or by any move, or by any talk that they make on the floor, our members will take that up just like that (snapping fingers). Those few of them that may be suspected, they are very well-known to our members. They can get up on the floor, but as soon as they get up on the floor, you can hear from all corners, "Get down", or "Get out of the Hall", or "Sit down." They know it, and they wouldn't dare do anything. I know that as far as from all the reports I receive. We know that they won't ever try to get up and take the floor for anything other than perhaps an ordinary issue. They may get up and talk like any other person on any ordinary issue.

You know what I mean?

MR. ALPERT: Yes.

MR. ATALLAH: On an ordinary issue that is involved there, but all of those inflammatory remarks, or political remarks of any kind, or anything of that sort, or anything pertaining to Bills, or anything that may be before Congress on such things as Foreign aid, things like that. You know their activities. They used to shout to

the high heavens all over the country about this and that. We have none of that, none of that whatsoever.

As far as their activities in the various departments in the plants, we watch them very carefully. When we find that there is a dispute in one of the departments, you know, a grievance or a dispute, there is some question about some hospitalization, or pension, or something we watch the action on the part of the men. We always watch and try to follow the actions of the men. We have a deep concern about the actions of the people. If we find that any of those people in there, and if we have the least little suspicion about any men, we haven't anything to do with them. We are very careful at the time of a dispute, or when the question of pension comes up, or anything of that sort. If there is a better name on the face of this earth in regard to that movement, we are the one. We want to be honest with you.

MR. SCHUELER: Well, in your knowledge, Mr. Atallah, you say those are the only two members you know of, but they are no longer members of your organization. They were out and out active members of the Communist

Party, this Leroy Wood and the individual that George is going to look up for us.

MR. ATALLAH: Right.

MR. WATKINS: I will have that name for you.

MR. SCHUELER: Well, do you know the name of Dawson?

MR. WATKINS: He isn't connected with us. I do know of him.

MR. SCHUELER: Well, is he in town, or who is he connected with?

MR. WATKINS: He was connected with the Radiator Works, that is, before they shut down, and then they started up again, but he didn't come back. Ed Burt, I think he could help you out on that.

MR. ATALLAH: He wasn't in the steelworkers. This fellow was never in the steelworkers.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Reed, do you have anything you would want to ask Mr. Atallah?

MR. REED: Yes. I would just like to go back to the last election. I am a member of the Union of Boilermakers Iron Shipbuilders & Helpers of America,

A. F. of L., and I am at the Riverside Shops. You go back to the last election and see what happened then. How did you feel about the Ober Bill at that time? You were against it?

MR. ATALLAH: The Ober Bill?

MR. REED: Yes.

MR. ATALLAH: Well, to be honest with you, we didn't take any part one way or the other, as far as our organization is concerned. Some individuals may have taken part one way or the other, but the organization, I don't think you will find in the record, took part in it. You will find that our organization, or my office in particular, had not taken any part one way or the other against it. This was in the time when there was a lot of propoganda going on. It may be brought out that the Ober Bill may be good on one hand, but on the other hand it may be too broad. It isn't clear enough on a lot of things. It may infringe on the rights of different organizations, individuals, and so on and so forth. But our organization directly did not take any part one way or the other.

MR. WATKINS: In other words, we didn't participate in any way at Annapolis.

MR. BONNETT: In other words, you mean to say you officially did not participate as an organization?

MR. ATALLAH: Yes.

MR. WATKINS: Yes.

MR. ATALLAH: We didn't participate as an organization directly or indirectly one way or the other.

MR. BONNETT: But some individual members may have unofficially participated?

MR. ATALLAH: Yes, these individuals may have participated, but we cannot curb individuals in that case.

MR. ALPERT: It is a question here of individuals taking sides on a controversial issue, on something of a controversial nature?

MR. ATALLAH: That is something we cannot curb. We haven't the right to curb these individuals, if they want to do it on their own.

MR. REED: Well, you look at these figures in the last election when you had thirty-nine thousand people in Baltimore City that voted against the Ober Bill, a Bill

that was directed directly against Communism, against the teaching of Communism in local or State schools. It was a Bill that asked you to sign a paper that you are not a member of a subversive organization, and what did you find? The result was that you found your labor organizations on the corners on election day actively working against the passage of the Ober Bill, which was in the form of a referendum at that time.

MR. ATALLAH: What local is that?

MR. REED: I think you had them all. It was your labor organizations. You are the only man, that came in here, that said that you felt as though the Ober Bill was both good and bad. Now, every other labor man we had in here, every other member of a labor organization, felt as though it was bad.

MR. ATALLAH: Well, I will say this. Any statement that I make about the Ober Bill will not be a fair statement because I am not too familiar with it. I didn't study the Bill very carefully. I have heard remarks, a lot of people have discussed it with me, and the implication from that was that the Bill is not definite on certain

things. It has not defined certain things and, therefore, the Bill was too broad. I mean, the wording in the Bill could be interpreted to mean a lot of other things other than Communism or subversive organizations. It may be intended to be used against Communism, the intent of the Bill may be just to curb Communism, but the wording is so broad that it could be interpreted in other ways by people depending on what meaning you give to it. It may be interpreted to be used against labor unions, or against aliens, or something of that sort, whether they belong to the Communist Party or not. Now, a lot of people have interpreted that way, as against subversive organizations, but a lot of other people have interpreted it in their own way that is different because it is so broad. From what I can understand about it, from what I hear about some of its provisions, there are some provisions in the Bill which could be interpreted in different ways. You see, the provisions of the Bill do not define certain things clearly. You know what I mean. It is similar to the Taft-Hartley Act, for example. We have heard that from the enactment of the Act until the present time, and

this is about the Taft-Hartley Act, there are at least fifty different interpretations that have been given different provisions of the Act.

MR. ALPERT: Well, you have to have a test case to find out what they mean.

MR. ATALLAH: That is what they are. That is what they had.

MR. ALPERT: They already had test cases?

MR. ATALLAH: Yes, but a lot of people -- am I permitted, Mr. Chairman, to go ahead? I don't mean to make any speeches here.

MR. ALPERT: You go ahead, Mr. Atallah. This will enlighten Mr. Reed, I am sure.

MR. ATALLAH: You may find a lot of people connected with labor, and probably you may find some people from my own organization, have spoken against the Ober Bill, not because the Ober Bill is against Communism, but that has been because of their interpretation of that Bill. These people are not against the Ober Bill because they are supporting the cause of Communism, because they don't like to get rid of Communism, but because of their

interpretation of that Bill, because that bill is not definite on certain things. It has not defined certain things.

MR. REED: Well, let me ask you one thing. You talk about a lot of people considering the definition of certain things in the Ober Bill. Well, you go back to the legislature. Now, you have about 123 members in the House of Delegates, and you have about 29 members in State Senate, and only one member voted against having the referendum, and he was a man by the name of Newcomer, a member of the House of Delegates from Western Maryland, and when he came up for re-election he was defeated and he came from a labor district. Then you had some people who spoke against it down at the legislature, people like H. Warren Buckler, and Duke Avnet, and people connected with the Communist Party, and people from labor organizations opposed it at a public hearing. Now, what we are trying to find out if the people in the labor organizations are solidly against the Ober Bill. It is directly against Communism. And so far as the Taft-Hartley Act is concerned, it too is directly directed against Communism. So, some-

body is wrong somewhere.

MR. SCHUELER: Gentlemen, I think Mr. Atallah has certainly made himself clear on the Ober Bill, that he wasn't directly opposed to the Ober Bill nor his organization.

MR. REED: He certainly should make himself clear on it, and make the position of his organization clear on it. He is the director of the organization, and he certainly is the one to do it.

MR. SCHUELER: I think he made his stand clear. He made himself clear on it.

MR. ATALLAH: I might say this, I don't object to going on record, that I would oppose any part of the Ober Bill, if it interferes with the rights of a labor organization other than the Communism end of it. I don't mind telling you that frankly.

MR. SCHUELER: I certainly think that is clear enough, as far as the Ober Bill is concerned.

MR. ALPERT: Mr. Atallah, what suggestions if any do you have that might aid this Committee in sifting out, as the Chairman mentioned before, any undesirables

not only in the steel plants but, let us say, in any other industrial plants in and around the City because, after all, Baltimore is a big industrial City and we want to get rid of these people, these undesirables. Do you have any suggestions that you can make?

MR. ATALLAH: I don't know just how the thing could be approached. I can only repeat what I have told the representatives of the Committee, the Un-American Activities Committee.

Is that the name of the Committee?

MR. SCHUELER: That is right, the Un-American Activities Committee. That is the Congressional Committee you are talking about.

MR. ATALLAH: They told me, or they showed me, a list in the Baltimore area of about 175 or 200. I mean, we spent hours night after night. I know it was several times I talked to them. I talked to them in Washington. He called me from Washington several times. He asked me the question, he says, unfortunately, there is some people we know, and he read the record, he give me their record. He asked me if I knew some of the people. I didn't know

them directly, and thank God I didn't know them too well, but I have seen them here and there, the people whose names he mentioned. The record goes back for years. There was even a college graduate, and all that stuff, and he says, unfortunately, we haven't been able to get a straight story, or direct testimony, to definitely prove that this fellow here, or that fellow there has done this, or done the other. The only thing we can do is to call them before the Committee and publicize it, so the other working people will not be influenced by their remarks, if they ever get up anywhere and try to make speeches, or try to make remarks to influence. In this way everybody will know them. He says, have you any objection to that. I says, none whatsoever, none whatsoever. So they did that. They called before the Committee, I believe, a fellow at Sparrows Point. His name is Mike Howard. ✓

MR. WATKINS: That is Michael Howard, and you have him in the record of the hearing before the Committee.

MR. SCHUELER: Yes, I remember it is Michael Howard. I have his name too, Mr. Atallah.

MR. ATALLAH: They called him over there before

the Committee, and he testified before the Committee, and that was publicized. Well, he never bothered to say anything, not in the local union nor to my office, nor to anybody. You know, generally, some of them run in and say, what are you going to do about it, what are you going to do. They say, are you going to defend us. It is all that kind of stuff. But he didn't do that. Now, they called in another fellow -- I wish I had known that you were going to ask for this.

MR. WATKINS: Is that Silverberg you are talking about?

MR. ATALLAH: That is right, Silverberg. ✓

MR. SCHUELER: Silverberg was the guy I was going to ask you about.

MR. ATALLAH: Silverberg come into the office. Silverberg -- isn't that the fellow working in one of the cold mills? ✓

MR. SCHUELER: He testified before the House Un-American Activities Committee.

MR. ATALLAH: He is called before the Committee. He says the Committee is after his skin but they are unable

to pin him down to anything. I have never met that fellow. It was reported by Lee Smith, that is my staff man who services the local union. It came to the office two times. One day he came into the office and he had a newspaper in his hand like that (indicating). I believe it was the Sun -- not the Sun, but the other paper.

MR. ALPERT: The News-Post.

MR. ATALLAH: The News. He came in and they had headlines about the fellow who was going to be lynched, a colored fellow, I believe, who was going to be hung or executed somewhere in one of the States. I forget the name.

MR. REED: Was it Edwards?

MR. ATALLAH: No, it wasn't here in the State of Maryland.

MR. REED: Oh, it was in some other State?

MR. ATALLAH: Yes.

MR. BONNETT: It was Willie McGee.

MR. ATALLAH: That is right, Willie McGee was his name. And I was busy, and he stayed right alongside the desk and he held the paper before me like that (in-

dicating) and I looked around and saw the headlines. I looked at the headlines and I says, so what. I saw the headlines, and I says, what of it. He said, well, are we going to do anything about it. I just got hold of that paper, I folded it up, handed it to him and I said, take that paper and get out of the office. He said, what do you mean. I said, take the paper and get out of this office. I said, this office is not to be used by you, and the like of you. Get out and stay out. If they want to do something about it, we have an office in Washington, and if they want to officially do something about it, they can do something about it there. If they want to do something about it, let them do something about it, so get out. In other words, it is the first and last time I have seen the gentleman.

(At this point of the hearing, Mr. Francis J. Valle entered the room.)

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Atallah, excuse me for interrupting you. I would like for you to meet Mr. Francis J. Valle.

Mr. Watkins, this is Mr. Valle who is counsel

to the Committee.

All right, Mr. Atallah.

MR. ATALLAH: So, that was the first and last, but this fellow Silverberg, or whatever his name is, the other fellow, Ernie Stronsky, or whatever his name is, I don't know, well, they called on the telephone and related about the investigation. He said, I was supposed to go to Washington, and he asked, what are we going to do about it. I said, what do you mean what we are going to do about it. He said, well, they called me over, to go there, and testify. I said, well, why don't you go and testify. I said, what is holding you. He said, am I going to have a lawyer. I said, for what. You don't need any attorney to tell the truth. You go over there and tell them the truth. I said, that is all you need to do. I said, if you are guilty, tell them you are guilty, and if you aren't guilty, tell them you aren't guilty. That is all there is to it. We aren't concerned about this, and we have nothing to do with it. You have been called over there, and we have nothing to do with Washington. If Congress wants you to go over there and tell them what you know, that is a personal problem,

that has nothing to do with the organization. He says, does that end that, and I says, that ends that, and none of them has come in after that and tried to get any advice or assistance. And to those who call over the telephone, the advice is you go over there and tell them the truth. If you want to save your skin you tell them the truth, tell them what you know.

MR. SCHUELER: Silverberg was the party, I think, that organized the Baltimore County Committee for Peace? ✓

MR. WATKINS: That is correct.

MR. SCHUELER: Do you know of any activities that he may have taken part in at the plant in trying to organize that Baltimore County Committee for Peace?

MR. WATKINS: Well, it could never be proven.

MR. ATALLAH: None that has come to our attention could be proven. The only thing that has come to our attention was quite some time ago before the investigation took place. It was about some speeches made in the Baltimore area. Once or twice it was called to my attention that he got up on the floor, on the local union floor, and tried to more or less dominate the floor, tried to talk two or three

times, and the boys right away picked him up. You know, they knew who he was, and they just sat him down, and from that day until today that was the last that he ever got up on the floor, or done anything.

MR. SCHUELER: How long has he been a member of your particular local?

MR. ATALLAH: What is the record on him, George?

MR. WATKINS: I wouldn't want to say offhand.

MR. SCHUELER: Is it five years, or ten years?

MR. WATKINS: I couldn't answer it. I would have to look it up first.

MR. ATALLAH: I wouldn't say it goes back as far as ten years. I think it is about six. Maybe four or five, no more than about that. I never heard of that fellow until about a year ago.

MR. BONNETT: As far as his activities in your local meetings are concerned, he doesn't attempt to take the floor, or do anything?

MR. WATKINS: No.

MR. BONNETT: Is he still a member of your organization?

MR. WATKINS: He works what we call the B. J. Department, 42-inch strip.

MR. BONNETT: Where is that? Is that at Sparrows Point?

MR. WATKINS: At Sparrows Point.

MR. ATALLAH: You see, he is marked, and the fellows know him.

MR. SCHUELER: Is this fellow Kotzka with you?

MR. WATKINS: Yes, he is in the 56 Mechanical part of the mills.

MR. SCHUELER: Did he at any time to your knowledge take any active part as far as Communist activities are concerned?

MR. WATKINS: He came into office. He was elected, what we call, as a steward. We have a non-Communist affidavit that he must sign before he can become a steward. Now, this man came into the office and myself knowing what he was, being a J. P. and Notary, I refused to notarize his papers, and I took him over to our sister local where Brother Greif is and I asked him would he be kind enough to certify the man's affidavit that he didn't

belong to any subversive or Communist organization. After we found out he was being subpoenaed to Washington, our good secretary Mr. John Conners wrote and told Mr. -- whoever was secretary at that time -- just what he did. We sent those people a photostatic copy of this affidavit. He signed it. If you read the records, you have it all there. This secretary presented it to him and asked him if it was his handwriting, and he refused to answer.

I think you have it there (indicating).

MR. SCHUELER: That is right.

Could you have brought charges in the Union against him for signing the affidavit knowing it wasn't true?

MR. WATKINS: It never was proven.

MR. ALPERT: You mean, it was never proven that he was a Communist?

MR. ATALLAH: That is what we are up against.

MR. BONNETT: He is no longer a member?

MR. WATKINS: He is a member, but not a steward.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Bonnett, do you have any other questions you would like to ask Mr. Atallah?

MR. BONNETT: No, I haven't.

MR. SCHUELER: Mrs. Arthur?

MRS. ARTHUR: No, I haven't.

MR. BONNETT: I would like to say that I think the gentleman has been rather cooperative. That is the only thing I want to say at this time.

MR. SCHUELER: How about Robert Lee?

MR. WATKINS: That is the boy. Robert Lee, that is the name of the boy that stood up on the union floor. He and Leroy Wood. Both of them worked in the same department together, in the pipe mill. Robert Lee is the name.

MR. SCHUELER: Do you have any knowledge of his whereabouts, or where he could be located, Mr. Watkins?

MR. JEUNETTE: I understand that there is about three or four weeks of back pay that is laying waiting for him. His wife didn't appear before the Committee.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Jeunette, is there any information that you would probably like Mr. Watkins to get for you, that would be helpful to the Committee? I feel Mr. Watkins would get whatever information would be helpful.

MR. JEUNETTE: We are trying to find Robert Lee,

and when I say "we", I mean the F.B.I. is trying. I understand his wife was never before the House Un-American Activities Committee.

MR. WATKINS: She wasn't?

MR. JEUNETTE: No.

MR. WATKINS: Maybe we got our wires crossed.

You say they weren't able to locate her?

MR. JEUNETTE: No.

MR. WATKINS: Here at her home?

MR. JEUNETTE: No.

MR. WATKINS: They came over to our office and wanted to know where they could locate her.

MR. JEUNETTE: Who was that?

MR. WATKINS: The F.B.I.

MR. JEUNETTE: Where was she? Wasn't she on Bolton Street?

MR. WATKINS: On Bolton Street, that is right. She was working. I don't remember the firm, or anything like that.

MR. JEUNETTE: His wife is a school teacher?

MR. WATKINS: Well, I couldn't tell you that. I

don't know too much about it. I don't think she was a school teacher. I think you are mistaken.

MR. ATALLAH: If there is any information that the Committee wants from any of the local unions, about anybody you can ask for it, or if you find out that anybody is under suspicion in one of the local unions, that is, our local unions, the United Steel Workers, I would be grateful to you if you would let me know by telephone or drop me a note about it. You are welcome to come into my office, anybody, anytime, and I would be grateful to you if you would give me any information you have about our local unions. At least, it would open our eyes and give us a chance to look out for them, because that is protection to us too. We want to protect ourselves at the same time. We would be glad to cooperate and help in every way we can.

MR. JEUNETTE: Does the local union out here at the Key Highway Shipyard come under your jurisdiction too?

MR. ATALLAH: No. We have nothing to do with the shipyards. I will name our local unions for you so you

know who they are.

Do you have them?

MR. SCHUELER: I know we haven't got them.

MR. ATALLAH: Well, we have at Sparrows Point, the Bethlehem Steel Company, where we have two local unions in the steel plant.

MR. SCHUELER: That is Locals No. 2609 and 2610?

MR. ATALLAH: That is right, No. 2609 and 2610. We have another local union covering the Bethlehem Railroad, which is the Patapsco and Back River. That is a small one. Now, we have a small local union, which has just been chartered, covering the firemen at Sparrows Point, the firemen at the plant. We have another one, which has been chartered, covering the clerks in the kiln houses, and so on and so forth. That is as far as the Bethlehem Steel Company is concerned at Sparrows Point.

Then we move on out Sparrows Point and we come to a small place, Arcrods. We have a local union there. Then we move on further on the highway and we come to the Rheem Manufacturing Company. We have a local union there. That is as far as Sparrows Point is concerned.

Now, we have a local union at the National Can Company, and we have two local unions at the Continental Can Company, one at Plant No. 9, and one at Plant 16, in two different locations.

MR. SCHUELER: Do you have a Kandel at the canning company plant? ✓

MR. ATALLAH: No, not as I know of. We can check on that, and we will be glad to check on it.

Then, we have another local union at the American Can Company on Hudson Street. There is another local union at Halethorpe. That is a new plant of the American Can Company. That is the container plant. We have a local union at the Kaiser Aluminum. That is at Halethorpe right across from the American Company. Then we have a local union at the Federal Tin right down here at the end of town. We have a local union at the Rustless Iron and Steel. ✓

You know about the time Mike Clifford was called before the Committee. Well, he is no longer in the plant. He is no longer there. We got the things publicized, as far as that goes, even a few years back. ✓

MR. SCHUELER: That is where Clifford was working

when he was called before the Un-American Activities Committee in Washington?

MR. WATKINS: That is right.

MR. ATALLAH: And we gave all of those things plenty of publicity two years before that. We didn't wait.

We have another local union at the American Nut and Bolt Corporation that is around Mt. Washington.

We have another local union at the small plant of the Baltimore Foundry. We have one, of course, in Hagerstown. That is quite a ways from here.

MR. WATKINS: You mean the Eastern Stainless Steel.

MR. ATALLAH: Yes, the Eastern Stainless Steel on Eastern Avenue.

MR. SCHUELER: At the Eastern Stainless Steel on Eastern Avenue?

MR. ATALLAH: That is right.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Atallah, in these local unions that you have mentioned, do you feel as though there are any undesirables in these various plants as those you have mentioned, or as those that have been mentioned, as being

at the Bethlehem Steel Company Plant down at Sparrows Point?
Do you think there are any others besides those?

MR. ATALLAH: If there are any there, none of them have been reported to us at all. None of them have been reported to us. The only one that was reported to us, I believe, was at the Rheem Manufacturing Company, the one who was called by the Committee in Washington. His name was mentioned there, but whether he is still at the Company, or not, I don't know. But he is a dead pigeon anyway.

MR. SCHUELER: Do you recall his name?

MR. ATALLAH: I don't, but he (indicating) will be happy to call it back to you as soon as we get to my office.

MR. SCHUELER: I would appreciate it if George would call that information back.

MR. WATKINS: If it was in the Rheem Manufacturing Company, I don't take care of it. Anything outside of the Bethlehem Steel I don't handle.

MR. ATALLAH: Yes, he takes care of the records of the locals 2609-10, but I take care of the other records. As I said before, each local has its own set of officers.

Now, at any time, don't hesitate, if you have any information that you want to know about, anyone you want to locate in any one of the plants, don't hesitate a minute. Let's know about it, and I will be happy to have the local union check their records from A to Z. We will be happy to tell you about the record, the record about any man, and also tell you what he is doing over there, tell you about his activities, and just what kind of a fellow he may be.

MR. SCHUELER: That is very nice of you, Mr. Atallah.

MR. ATALLAH: We will be happy to help you out, if we can.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Watkins, I would like to direct a question to you. You could be extremely helpful to this Committee, if along with our investigator that we have working with us, Mr. Jeunette, if you would try to check on any of the associates of Robert Lee, with any of the associates that Robert Lee had while working at the plant.

MR. WATKINS: I wanted to ask this gentleman (indicating) a question that was running through my mind,

and it was about to cover what you just referred to.

MR. SCHUELER: What is that?

MR. WATKINS: This gentleman (indicating) asked a question about Robert Lee and his wife. I believe two of my boys had been down to Lee's house. This man sitting here mentioned that Lee's wife is a school teacher. I am just sitting here and thinking about that. He said she was a school teacher, but from what I remember about this woman, she was never any school teacher. She was working in a place, and I think I have records to prove that, I am pretty sure, and I will look for them when I go back. I will be more than glad to check them for you, if I still have them. This was over two years ago when all this took place.

MR. JEUNETTE: Wasn't it in the Seamen's Institute, or Seamen's Service, or --

MR. WATKINS: I don't know. I couldn't answer that. I know she wasn't a school teacher at that time.

MR. SCHUELER: Do you feel like you could possibly contact some of the associates and find out about his activities during the time he was there?

MR. ATALLAH: We know plenty of boys that know him.

MR. SCHUELER: You could probably get some information from them if you could contact them and talk to them in a casual way.

MR. ATALLAH: We have many boys that came up with Lee, that associated with him, but have drifted away with him. We have a bunch of good boys that worked in this project with him, but I could name one hundred of them that didn't know what it was all about. For instance, we have a fine young boy today, and I don't care to mention his name, he has a wonderful name and he comes from a fine family, but he got mixed up in this group, and he was almost pulled down in the gutter too. He didn't know what it was all about. I asked him what for he got mixed up, why he was getting mixed up, and he said he didn't know what it was all about. Then I explained it to him and he said, they used to tell me to go to these meetings, but I never took too much stock in them. That is how they operate. That is just how they operate. They are smooth. And this Lee is a slick article.

MR. SCHUELER: That is their weapon. They use the weapon of misleading. That is how they are successful in getting a lot of people to go along with them.

MR. ATALLAH: That is right, a lot of innocent people. A lot of innocent people go along with them because of that reason.

MR. ALPERT: Mr. Chairman, could I make this remark, if I may?

MR. SCHUELER: Yes, Mr. Alpert.

MR. ALPERT: Unless I am mistaken, this is the only organization of those that we have had appear before us whose members, apparently, are instructed to report back to the officers any activity which is in any way undesirable. You will recall that we have had others before this Committee, and all you could get from them was that they had heard rumors, rumors, but nothing ever gets back to them officially. Here, apparently, we have an organization where the members are instructed to report back to the officers because they want to know for themselves whether or not there are any undesirables in their organization. Now, it seems to me that if information can be obtained

in that way in this particular organization I don't see why it cannot be obtained in other organizations. The others seemed to be so vague about everything.

MR. SCHUELER: Well, it is hard for me to answer your question, Mr. Alpert. I can only say that I certainly am grateful that the organization that Mr. Atallah and Mr. Watkins represent is doing and hope it lives up to what they have told us about it. If the other organizations would work the same way, if the policies of their local unions were set up in that fashion, why, I am quite confident that we wouldn't have to operate, because this Committee could just be dismissed right now.

MR. ALPERT: That is right, and that is what I was thinking about too.

MR. ATALLAH: You see, I may be able to answer your statement in there, and give you at least an idea, if I may.

MR. SCHUELER: Yes.

MR. ATALLAH: There are probably some reasons for that. You see, my office is in charge of the local unions of the United Steelworkers of America. You know,

probably, that Mr. Watkins' office and I hold the responsibility of all of them. Of course, in turn, I hold the officers of each local union responsible for the conduct of their local unions, but in all of those local unions I have my staff working out of my office, a staff of men working out of my office. To my knowledge, I don't think that out of one hundred meetings that have been held in the local unions we haven't had one of my staff at the local union meeting making a report and observing what is going on at the local union. Then the staff man comes back the next day, or so, and meets with me and makes a report of what transpired at the local union including who spoke, who didn't speak, and what was the activities. And if he seen anything out of the way, anything out of line, or anybody in there, as far as getting up on the floor and he spoke on a thing, on any subject, he would report that to me. For that reason, I am able, more or less, to know what is going on in the various local unions and, especially, particularly at local union meetings.

In many cases at the Board meetings of other organizations they wouldn't know what happened at the local

union meetings because they didn't observe them. It is probably because they may not have enough of a staff to cover the meetings of the various local unions, and all the officers can say, if you call on an officer like myself, is that they have heard rumors. For example, I have around twenty local unions in the district including Mr. Watkins' locals. Now, if I don't have the facilities, if I don't have enough of a staff to cover all these meetings, and you asked me what went on there I wouldn't be able to give you very much information as to what I know except as to what I hear from rumors. It would only be rumors except if I had one of our men, one of our staff, over there to cover the meeting and report back to me what transpired at the local union meetings. My staff man can tell me what went on at the local union meeting, they can tell me about the members, and they know them by their first name because they service those local unions, they live with them, they take up their grievances with them. They are there with them continuously. They know the members. They know most of the people that are affiliated with the local unions. They know them personally. In other words, the staff men

are able to report back to me and tell me what has transpired, and also if there is something shady about a person the staff man will know it, just as quick as the local officers, or even perhaps before them.

Now, the other international unions may not have the facilities to do that. They may not have enough people on the staff to go around and cover all the meetings, and so all they can give you is rumors, or they heard this, or that, or they heard about him.

I am not trying to defend anybody, but I wouldn't condemn some of them, or any of them, because of their failure to come out point blank and say, yes, we know about this, or we know about that, or we don't know anything about him. I know if there is anything wrong they don't want to have it on their conscience. We all know this is a serious matter to say definitely that so and so is such and such without knowing personally about it. We don't want to have such things publicized unless we actually know. We don't want to destroy a person's reputation. It would be unfair and unjust unless we know definitely what the person's reputation is.

MR. SCHUELER: That is correct.

MR. ATALLAH: Yes, we know of a few shady people, as I said before, at Sparrows Point, and so on and so forth, but there is nothing definite where we could really pin it down and say that he is such and such because of this and that. Those are the things we have to be careful of.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Atallah, I would like to say this as far as destroying anybody's reputation is concerned. I also want to address these remarks to Mr. Watkins. It is not our intention to assassinate the character of any individual. We are not trying to do any such thing as that, and we are not going to do that. As a matter of fact, up to this time, we have conducted these meetings in executive session, and the press has never had a statement from any of the members of this Committee, and we are all bound in complete secrecy as to what transpires at these meetings.

MR. ATALLAH: That is all right.

MR. SCHUELER: We want you to feel when you leave here that whatever you have said before this Committee this evening will not be given out to anyone other than the members of this Committee. We want you to know that we are

grateful to you for helping us, for being so helpful to us.

I want the members of this Committee to know that when I contacted Mr. Watkins in trying to get Mr. Atallah before this Committee, I was informed that he was in New York, and Mr. Watkins wired Mr. Atallah and asked him to try to get down here today and come before this Committee, which Mr. Atallah did. I am certainly thankful and appreciate the interest you have shown, and I think I can speak for the entire Committee when I say that.

MR. ATALLAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. SCHUELER: I do feel like this Committee is very much interested, as well as Mr. Jeunette, in trying to learn the whereabouts or the location of Mr. Robert Lee. We would appreciate it if we could get any information on Robert Lee. You may be able to get that through the contacts you have at the Union Hall, Mr. Watkins, or at the plant with any of the members or fellows that worked with him down at the plant. If you could get that information in time to us, why, I am sure Mr. Jeunette and this Committee would be grateful to you. It seems like there is one individual that we cannot learn the whereabouts of, or learn

anything about him.

MR. ATALLAH: Mr. Chairman, I want you to feel free at any time, you and Mr. Jeunette, to call on us.

MR. JEUNETTE: Thank you.

MR. ATALLAH: At any time we could be of any help, or of service to this Committee and to you, sir, I want you to feel free to call at any time and we will be more than happy to cooperate in every way we possibly can, and at any time that you have a name that you want us to check on to find out whether he is employed in one plant, or another, under our jurisdiction, I will be happy if you would just let me know, or give me the name and the description of the man, because sometimes some of these people use different names. He may be Jones over here, and Miller on the other end. They can have various names. It is easy for us, it is no problem at all, we can check our files, our records, immediately. I will have the local unions' financial secretaries check their records and files immediately. We will take it up just like that (indicating). It will take no time. We can find out if he is located in one of the plants. All I can do is notify the staff, or

somebody at the plant, and they can check their files. At any time we will be more than happy to cooperate.

MR. ALPERT: Did you see that headline, Mr. Atallah, that Mr. Schueler referred to before?

MR. ATALLAH: I just got a look at it.

MR. ALPERT: Do you feel that there might be any exaggeration to that headline, or do you think it represents, basically, the true story?

MR. ATALLAH: Well, do you want my honest opinion, sir?

MR. ALPERT: Yes.

MR. ATALLAH: When you read headlines in the newspapers, ninety-nine percent of the headlines in the newspapers, all you can get out of those headlines is about five percent facts and you can discredit the rest of it on any issue. That is my honest opinion, but I may be wrong. Generally, the newspapers will exaggerate.

MR. ALPERT: Well, from what you know of industry in Baltimore, and of course you are mostly familiar with the steelworkers industry, but being a labor man you, of course, come in contact with others and you get to hear about them,

you get to know about them, do you feel that as far as other industries are concerned in Baltimore, that there is any reason for us to be alarmed over the situation?

MR. ATALLAH: Frankly and honestly, no. I don't think so. During the second World War, of course, there were many in the war that were close to us. At least at that time there were so-called cousins and brothers in the fight during the last war. Of course, they were in the war, at the beginning of the war, even before the intervention of Russia. Of course, later on, Russia did come in. At that time, anybody who didn't produce, or didn't double his production, or triple his production, was no good. He was a fascist or something of that sort. The Commies have tried in every way possible to get into every possible channel and spread their views in industry and business everywhere, and in the last four or five or six years in controlling the activities of these Commies in other parts of the country, what happened. We found that they tried to come in and invade, and probably a lot of them came in there, but it was just the surplus of some other industry. We found there was nothing here of any real importance as

far as they are concerned. I don't see anything to be alarmed about.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Atallah, I would like to ask your opinion on this.

MR. ATALLAH: Yes.

MR. SCHUELER: Don't you think that the international situation, as it is today, would encourage them more to try to get into our industrial plants? Don't you think it would encourage them more to do that today than five or six years ago?

MR. ATALLAH: Definitely.

MR. SCHUELER: With the international situation as it is today?

MR. ATALLAH: Yes, yes.

MR. SCHUELER: Of course, you have your own opinion, you have given us your judgment in the way you have expressed yourself, but I feel a little different about the thing, because I feel like if they could get control, they would get control, because that is their aim and desire to get control. They have done that in a lot of the C.I.O. local unions.

MR. ATALLAH: And the A.F.L.

MR. SCHUELER: Yes, both the C.I.O. and the A.F.L.
But they have been curbed to a great degree.

MR. ATALLAH: We kick them all out of the inter-
national -- anybody.

MR. SCHUELER: I would like to see you get into
this U.E.W., and take over these plants, such as, the
Westinghouse.

MR. ATALLAH: We are trying. We are trying.

Now, I don't want my remarks to imply, or to mean,
that we shouldn't be on the lookout, that we shouldn't be
on the alert. Please don't misunderstand my remarks. We
should always be on the lookout and on the alert, but there
hasn't been anything alarming at the present time. In a
sense now there is nothing alone to be alarmed about, but
I don't mean by that that we should wait until something
happens.

MR. SCHUELER: That is right.

MR. ATALLAH: We should always keep our eyes
open and try to prevent it, if we possibly can. Now, I
can only speak for the steelworkers over here. We have

a plant here at Sparrows Point, the second largest in the world, not just in America, but the second largest in the world, and in a plant of this size you have got just about everything in there, and we have been able to curb their activities there. I don't think our situation is alarming at the present time, at the moment. That is what I mean to say. But we should always continue to watch those people of shady character, the shady ones. I make that statement right now, and if the Committee wants it repeated, I can repeat it, but it makes no difference. What I said over here is an open book, I don't hide anything, and I will say it anywhere. I even asked the Bethlehem Steel Company about a year ago, or two years ago, what they are going to do about them.

MR.WATKINS: Yes, they were asked what they were going to do about them.

MR. ATALLAH: I asked them, why don't you fire those people. I said, I will expell them from the union, would you fire them. I said, you people are the cause of some of it. I said, you are causing all the feelings. I told them, you want us to do this, you want us to do that,

and then you want us to go along with the Taft-Hartley Act. They could have a department go on strike. Some of our departments were going to stop working because they didn't want to work with these people. What would happen to us in that case? The fellow can go and sue us under the law. They can sue the union if we get rid of them. We aren't going to be liable, we aren't going to subject ourselves to a suit. I said, if you people don't want them to work, you fire them. We can't help it. In other words, officials should take the complaint to the company, who has the power and the right to hire and fire them. They have hired them in the first place, and we can't fire them. We told them to fire them. I put it in writing so that we won't have any grievance of any kind. We want to get rid of them. They said, no, they wouldn't do it, so what can we do. I would put that in writing to the Bethlehem Steel, and even frame it. I would frame it, and put it on the wall.

MR. SCHUELER: That is just what this Committee is trying to determine, what to do, and that is our purpose in calling the labor leaders. We intend to call some of the personnel officers of the various plants in the community

before the Committee, after we have consulted and talked to the labor union leaders. We want to get their opinion, find out how they feel about this situation. I feel like that the personnel officials of the plants should certainly see to it that these individuals are taken out. But I have been told that if they are dismissed they could take it up with the grievance committees of the local unions, and the local union would have to make a fight for them to get them back on again. Whether that is true, or not, I don't know.

MR. ATALLAH: Now, that has been the cry, sir.

MR. SCHUELER: That has been the cry.

MR. ATALLAH: Take that fellow Manuel Wood --

MR. SCHUELER: You mean Leroy Wood?

MR. ATALLAH: That is right, not Manuel Wood, but Leroy Wood. We had Leroy Wood working in the pipe mill down at Sparrows Point. He is an admitted Communist. We had our convention in Boston, and if you gentlemen recall, when we had our convention in Boston, we threw him out. There was a fight to get him out of there. Now, I don't know whether this was nationwide, I don't know whether you

gentlemen recall the time when they were distributing Communist literature, and he was a delegate to that convention. Some fellows ran over and said they had been meeting, it was two o'clock in the morning, and I was called in my room about one-thirty in the morning, and said the boys are here. They went to a building in Boston where the boys came in and they had Micus over there, and in principle they agreed to come out with a leaflet over Micus' signature. We had one fellow that couldn't get in there, but he got in there, a fellow by the name of Davis, he was in the car waiting and watching every move they made. They came out, and I was told about it, and he was able to get two or three copies of that leaflet, at two o'clock in the morning at Boston. The next morning the leaflets were distributed, but the leaflets were read and the fellow was exposed on the floor of the convention and was kicked out. We had to send about half a dozen people to escort him out because he would never come out, and he would never have come out alive, and he didn't get out without having his face smeared with blood, and the police came in to protect him, the cops while he was on the corner, found out what he was getting

out, and even the cops said, get out of here before we finish you. They didn't even care if they killed him, so he went away. That fellow Wood, the following week after the convention adjourned, he came back here, and we found out Wood got out the same identical leaflet and was going to distribute it here in the departments. He was unable to distribute it in the open. He was working the night shift, so he took it into the plant under his clothes and put it in the washroom, and some of our boys saw him putting it in the washroom, and sent the foreman after him. When the foreman got in there, of course, the foreman suspended him for having literature distributed in the plant and for loafing on the job. They give him the notice of suspension, of the intention to discharge him, and he came in and he wanted to be protected. He wanted the union to defend him. The grievance committee man there, a fellow by the name of Brown, I think, he said, Al, I am not going to defend that Commie. I said, all right, you don't have to go there. He had an assistant there, and he wanted to know what we are going to do about it. I said, you are going to give him a hearing, the company is going to give him a hearing,

because that is the procedure, and I will have a man over there, don't worry about it. The company give him a hearing, and I had the assistant grievance committee man staying there. He said, what am I supposed to do, and I said, you stay down there and listen to what evidence they give, and then when the evidence is presented, the man is guilty. That is all there is to it, and if he is guilty he is out. So the man was fired. There was nothing to it.

MR. SCHUELER: If we could get similar charges against these other guys, that are working in these plants, it would be a good way to get rid of them.

MR. ATALLAH: If the Communists aren't hired by the company, there would be no need for trying to bring charges against them. The company wouldn't have to be bothered and the union wouldn't have to be bothered. But, the company is fearful on one side, and we are fearful on the other side. You know, this thing could be abused. If they want to make it hot for a person, they could go over there and say he is a Commie. I mean, it works both ways.

MR. REED: Yes, it works both ways.

MR. ATALLAH: But when it is known that a person's

activities are such, when his activities are known to everybody, to the management, to all of those in steel, that is enough, but as far as we are concerned, you have to name them. You can have them all, as far as I am concerned, and I am making that statement in the presence of all of you here. If you are convinced that the activities of a certain fellow tend to show he is a member of the Communist Party, provided the company doesn't use that as an excuse to fire anybody, or just gives that name to somebody just to fire him, but if anyone is proven to be a Communist by the F.B.I., or by the Committee, by any of the congressional committees, and make that statement in the presence of the person that he is a Communist because of his activities in the union or in the plant, or anywhere near there, they can fire him, and if they want a statement like that in writing, I will frame it and send it to them, if the union permits that.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Valle, do you have any questions?

MR. VALLE: No questions.

MR. SCHUELER: Mrs. Arthur?

MRS. ARTHUR: No questions.

MR. SCHUELER: Are there any other members of the Committee who would like to ask Mr. Atallah any questions?

MR. REED: I would like to ask him a question.

MR. SCHUELER: Mr. Reed.

MR. REED: How could you go about this? What kind of legislation would you need? Wouldn't you be going against the Taft-Hartley Law? If you know that someone is a bad risk, and that all indications point to the fact that he is a Communist, can't you get rid of him?

MR. ATALLAH: You just mentioned the Taft-Hartley Law.

MR. REED: I am asking you, how could you do that, get rid of him?

MR. ATALLAH: Don't ask me. You just mentioned the Taft-Hartley Law. I want to tell you something about the Taft-Hartley Law.

MR. REED: Let me ask you something first. You would like to have something whereby you could get rid of these members and at the same time you wouldn't be held

liable for getting rid of them. Now, I think the company wants to get rid of them too. You say you are handicapped. Now, it would work both ways because the company is handicapped too. Now, if there was a law whereby the company and the union could sit down and do something about it.

MR. ALPERT: Well, they could do it behind the scenes, if they wanted to get it done. For instance, a man can be fired and yet nobody know the real reason why he was fired.

MR. REED: You can't fire him, you say, on the grounds of being a Communist. You can fire them from Federal or State or local jobs, if they are Communists. There is legislation like that.

MR. ATALLAH: But when you put anything like that into legislation, I don't care what the legislation is, when it goes through the Federal Courts, or the State Courts, you find there are a lot of loopholes. You find five hundred thousand loopholes.

MR. ALPERT: Well, you don't need legislation. Mr. Atallah gave the answer to that problem before. When he was talking about this man who was found with the leaf-

lets, he said the charge was loafing on the job, and that is enough reason.

MR. REED: Let me ask you something about this. The Taft-Hartley Act compels labor organizations to give a written report to their members, the rank and file, as to how much money is spent, and at the same time it prevents the support of Communist activities by labor organizations. Can you give me your ideas on how the money gets to the support of these organizations?

MR. ATALLAH: The Bill doesn't say anything about giving it to organizations, how it is to be distributed, but every member sees the financial statement of the organization. It is either put on bulletin boards where each and every member can have access to it, or --

MR. REED: Let me stop you right there. Do you think that is done? Do you think they do that?

MR. ATALLAH: Sure.

MR. WATKINS: Yes.

MR. ATALLAH: In our organization, the steel workers, every month a financial report goes out and, as far as the local unions are concerned, they are posted where

all the members can see it, and in some local unions they are mailed to each and every member.

MR. WATKINS: Where a local union has a great many members, such as, in our local where there is about twenty thousand, between the two of them, we post it once a month.

MR. ATALLAH: And there are copies available for those who come in and want to look at them. There are mimeographed copies available for the members.

MR. REED: Don't you think that each month the rank and file ought to get a report?

MR. ATALLAH: That is for the rank and file.

MR. REED: Why didn't you do that before the Taft-Hartley Act?

MR. ATALLAH: We done that before the Taft-Hartley Act.

MR. REED: You did do that before the Act?

MR. WATKINS: Yes, even before the Taft-Hartley Act.

MR. ATALLAH: And as far as the international union is concerned, our books are audited every six months

by certified public accountants, one of the biggest companies.

MR. REED: What about the Communist affidavit, as far as the Taft-Hartley Act is concerned? Is the Act wrong in requiring that?

MR. ATALLAH: We resented that at the beginning, anyone who isn't a Communist, but I would say, go ahead and sign it. If I said I didn't resent it, I wouldn't be telling the truth.

MR. REED: When it was said that there were six hundred thousand Communists in the C.I.O., and they did get rid of them because they were Communists, don't you think that the Taft-Hartley Act --

MR. ALPERT: Mr. Chairman --

MR. REED: Wait a minute.

MR. ALPERT: He is bringing up the Ober Bill again.

MR. REED: I am not talking about the Ober Bill now, I am talking about the Taft-Hartley Act.

MR. ALPERT: I don't think we are concerned with the Ober Bill, or the Taft-Hartley Act, we are concerned with the Communists.

MR. REED: I am trying to get some information about these Communists as a member of this Committee.

MR. ATALLAH: Let me tell you about this affidavit.

MR. REED: I want to know about this as a member of this Committee, and I am a labor man too.

MR. ATALLAH: I want to tell you about that. It is just a mockery in itself, and I will tell you why if you want to know.

MR. REED: Yes, we want to know why.

MR. ATALLAH: Because there are dozens of them that were Communists -- first, let me correct your statement about the six hundred thousand in the C.I.O. that were Communists. There is no truth to that. There was no truth to that.

MR. REED: Well, one of the labor men said so. I think it was Mr. Moran, or --

MR. ATALLAH: Well, of course, he may have said so but --

MR. SCHUELER: If I may interrupt you, Mr. Atallah. We had a Mr. Bender, Mr. Frank Bender, and he made a statement that at one time the C.I.O. had dismissed about seven

hundred fifty thousand members, but since then they gained back that seven hundred fifty thousand into their organization plus many more hundreds, or thousands, and it is pretty nearly a million that they have now gained back.

MR. ATALLAH: That is true.

MR. SCHUELER: You remember that, Mr. Reed.

MR. REED: Yes, I remember that statement.

MR. ATALLAH: What I am trying to correct is this.

Let us assume I am a Communist, I advocate the overthrow of the government, and I am the director of the Steelworkers Union that has, let us say, thirty-five thousand workers, members. That doesn't mean all the steelworkers are Communists. It is true they expelled eleven, twelve or thirteen international unions because the leaders of those unions were Communists, but that doesn't mean that the rank and file of those unions were Communists. Do you follow my point? This point I am trying to correct. A lot of those people that we took back from those organizations where the charters were taken away we took back. We expelled the leaders, all those that dominated the organization, because of their Communist influence, but we got all

of these clean, good members back into the organization. There is the I.E. -- what is it? It was the United Electrical Workers. Was it the I.U.E.?

MR. SCHUELER: I.E.W.

MR. ATALLAH: And that doesn't mean all the officers. There are some in there, in the official family of this international union, that are Communists. That is why we threw them out, but a very small portion of the rank and file was.

Now, going back to that affidavit business, when we were talking about the Taft-Hartley Act, the reason of the affidavits was this. What happened in the union? What happened in the U.E.?

MR. REED: I don't know what happened. That is why I am asking you.

MR. ATALLAH: I will tell you. In the U. E., in the days when they were everywhere, there were Communists and, therefore, we expelled them. Then they went over to the office and they claimed that they resigned from the Communist Party. One day they were Communists, and the next day they are good, clean, honest citizens. They could

go from there to the National Labor Relations Board about their service, everything else, and they would say they are not Communists. Now, if they are not Communists, then Joe Stalin is not a Communist, and he is an angel. That is why I say it is mockery. That is why I say it has no basis to it, there is no foundation to it. Do you mean to say that a Communist, having been known as a national leader in the Communist Party, and having been known for years, do you mean to tell me that because they have signed a statement that they have resigned from the Communist Party that their hands have been washed clean, and they are no longer connected with the Communist Party? Who are we trying to kid?

MR. REED: Let me ask you about this. It is possible that you can enlighten me on this. You have enlightened me on a number of things, but I am still doubtful about this Taft-Hartley Act. If this Taft-Hartley Act is so bad, according to you, how come that Taft when he came up for re-election was able to carry such strength in Ohio, and some of the sections in Ohio were predominantly labor?

MR. ATALLAH: Because of the money that was put

up. There was a few million dollars put up to support Taft.

MR. REED: You mean that some of the labor men could have been bought with that kind of money?

MR. ATALLAH: Well, he was re-elected. They did it.

MR. SCHUELER: I could go on record and say that labor could be bought. I have seen it.

Well, if there are no other questions that any members of the Committee would like to ask, I again want to say that the Committee wants to thank you, Mr. Atallah and Mr. Watkins, for the interest you have shown, and I would like to remind you again that we would appreciate getting any information that would help this Committee.

(Witness excused.)

(Thereupon, an adjournment was taken at 3:40 p.m. until Thursday, May 1, 1952, at 2 p. m.)
