

COMMUNIST METHODS OF INFILTRATION
(EDUCATION—Part 7)

HEARING
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
EIGHTY-THIRD CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION

MAY 15, 1953

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PUBLIC LAW 601, 79TH CONGRESS

The legislation under which the House Committee on Un-American Activities operates is Public Law 601, 79th Congress [1946], chapter 753, 2d session, which provides:

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, * * **

PART 2—RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RULE X

SEC. 121. STANDING COMMITTEES

* * * * *

17. Committee on Un-American Activities, to consist of nine members.

RULE XI

POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

* * * * *

(q) (1) Committee on Un-American Activities.
(A) Un-American activities.

(2) The Committee on Un-American Activities, as a whole or by subcommittee, is authorized to make from time to time investigations of (i) the extent, character, and objects of un-American propaganda activities in the United States, (ii) the diffusion within the United States of subversive and un-American propaganda that is instigated from foreign countries or of a domestic origin and attacks the principle of the form of government as guaranteed by our Constitution, and (iii) all other questions in relation thereto that would aid Congress in any necessary remedial legislation.

The Committee on Un-American Activities shall report to the House (or to the Clerk of the House if the House is not in session) the results of any such investigation, together with such recommendations as it deems advisable.

For the purpose of any such investigation, the Committee on Un-American Activities, or any subcommittee thereof, is authorized to sit and act at such times and places within the United States, whether or not the House is sitting, has recessed, or has adjourned, to hold such hearings, to require the attendance of such witnesses and the production of such books, papers, and documents, and to take such testimony, as it deems necessary. Subpenas may be issued under the signature of the chairman of the committee or any subcommittee, or by any member designated by any such chairman, and may be served by any person designated by any such chairman or member.

RULES ADOPTED BY THE 83D CONGRESS

House Resolution 5, January 3, 1953

* * * * *

RULE X

STANDING COMMITTEES

1. There shall be elected by the House, at the commencement of each Congress, the following standing committees:

* * * * *

(q) Committee on Un-American Activities, to consist of nine members.

* * * * *

RULE XI

POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

* * * * *

17. Committee on Un-American Activities.

(a) Un-American Activities.

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COMMUNIST METHODS OF INFILTRATION (EDUCATION—PART 7)

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1953

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES,
Washington, D. C.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ¹

The subcommittee of the Committee on Un-American Activities met, pursuant to call, at 10:30 a. m., in room 429 of the Old House Office Building, Hon. Kit Clardy presiding.

Committee members present: Representatives Donald L. Jackson (appearance noted in transcript), Kit Clardy, Gordon H. Scherer (appearance noted in transcript), and Francis E. Walter (appearance noted in transcript).

Staff members present: Robert L. Kunzig, counsel, and George E. Cooper, investigator.

Mr. CLARDY. Let the record show that the chairman has appointed a subcommittee of one, consisting of Congressman Clardy, to conduct this hearing.

Are you ready, Mr. Counsel?

Mr. KUNZIG. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

The first and only witness today is Mr. Ballis Edwin Blaisdell.

Would you stand and be sworn, sir?

Mr. CLARDY. Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I do.

TESTIMONY OF BALLIS EDWIN BLAISDELL, WEST CHESTER, PA.

Mr. KUNZIG. Mr. Blaisdell, are you accompanied by—I see that you are not accompanied by an attorney. You do understand, don't you, your rights to have an attorney?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes.

Mr. KUNZIG. Do you wish one?

Mr. BLAISDELL. No.

Mr. KUNZIG. You prefer to come and testify without any legal advice here today?

Mr. BLAISDELL. That is correct.

Mr. KUNZIG. We just wanted to be sure you know of your right to have an attorney present.

¹ Released by the full committee.

Would you give your full name, sir?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Ballis, B-a-l-l-i-s, Edwin Blaisdell, B-l-a-i-s-d-e-l-l.

Mr. KUNZIG. Mr. Blaisdell, what is your present address?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I live at 815 Roslyn, R-o-s-l-y-n, Avenue, West Chester, Pa.

Mr. KUNZIG. When and where were you born?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I was born in Lynn, Mass., May 11, 1911.

Mr. KUNZIG. Were your parents born in this country or abroad?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Both of them were born in this country.

Mr. KUNZIG. Has your family been in this country many generations back?

Mr. BLAISDELL. On my mother's side I am a descendant of the first settlers in Lynn, Mass., in 1629, and on my father's side, the first settlers in Amesbury, Mass., in 1630.

Mr. KUNZIG. What is your present occupation?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Research chemist in the pioneering research laboratory in the textile fiber department of the Du Pont Co.

Mr. KUNZIG. Would you give us a brief résumé of your educational background, starting, let's say, with high school?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I attended Lynn Classical High School and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, both as an undergraduate and graduate.

(Representative Donald L. Jackson entered the hearing room at this point.)

Mr. KUNZIG. When were you an undergraduate, and then later when did you graduate?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I graduated in 1932 and completed my doctor's degree in June of 1935, received it in June of 1935.

Mr. KUNZIG. Would you then give the committee a brief résumé of your occupational background?

Mr. BLAISDELL. After getting my doctor's degree I worked as a research associate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for 7 years—

(Representative Francis E. Walter entered the hearing room at this point.)

Mr. BLAISDELL. On a problem in measuring temperature very accurately and getting the correct temperature scale for use on steam table.

Then I worked at the Linde Air Products Co., L-i-n-d-e, in T-o-n-a-w-a-n-d-a, New York, from 1942 to 1946. I did a variety of research work there of an engineering kind.

In 1946 I joined the Du Pont Co. in the same job that I now have, and have worked on dyeing problems of synthetic fibers, mostly.

Mr. KUNZIG. In 1946 you took the job which you presently have?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Correct.

Mr. KUNZIG. And you have been with Du Pont that entire time?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes.

Mr. KUNZIG. In Wilmington, Del.?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Originally in Buffalo, N. Y. We moved to Wilmington, Del., in the summer of 1950.

Mr. KUNZIG. Mr. Blaisdell, are you now a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. BLAISDELL. No.

Mr. KUNZIG. You are not?

Mr. BLAISDELL. No.

Mr. KUNZIG. Have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes.

Mr. KUNZIG. Would you describe to this committee how you happened to become a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. BLAISDELL. That is a lengthy story. Shall I make it fairly lengthy?

Mr. KUNZIG. Well, give the main high points.

Mr. BLAISDELL. As has already been mentioned, I graduated from school in 1932. I was a chemist in that course. There were 24 students. Of that 24 only 1 got a job at that time, and he went to work for his uncle.

I would say that unemployment and the economic conditions of the country during the depression were the prime thing that caused me to look around for answers to what could be done about it. I started to read things like the New Republic and the Nation and books I got out of the school library.

Mr. KUNZIG. Were you influenced by the New Republic and the Nation?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes.

Mr. KUNZIG. They added to your desire to become a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. BLAISDELL. No, but they showed me that there were other ways of looking at the way things were done in this country than the way I had been brought up to look at them.

Mr. KUNZIG. And then you followed the trail along these other ways?

Mr. BLAISDELL. That is correct.

Mr. KUNZIG. Would you continue?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Well, I read more and more of this stuff, and at some time, I don't remember exactly when, I looked up an international bookshop in the phone book and went to it and there was able to get pamphlets by Lenin and Marx, and so forth, and——

Mr. KUNZIG. Where was that international bookshop?

Mr. BLAISDELL. It was in downtown Boston; I don't remember exactly where it was. I can find the place but I don't know the address.

Mr. KUNZIG. Did you know a Margot Clark, M-a-r-g-o-t C-l-a-r-k?

Mr. BLAISDELL. No. I know that name at a later time, much later. She was running a bookshop in Cambridge.

Mr. KUNZIG. In Cambridge?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes.

Mr. KUNZIG. Well, continue then with your present discussion.

Mr. BLAISDELL. Well, by this time I had more or less come to the conclusion that the Marxist analysis of what was wrong sounded pretty good to me and that their program for correcting things sounded reasonable, but what might be called the trial ground for these ideas was Russia, and there was a very wide difference of opinion as to what was going on in Russia, and, principally to go see for myself, I visited Russia in the summer of 1935.

Mr. KUNZIG. What did you do in Russia in the summer of 1935?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Well, the original intent was to attend Moscow University summer session. This was advertised in the New Republic, and so forth, and they were trying to get students to go there and I enrolled and went, but when we arrived in Russia the summer school had been canceled and they offered us the opportunity to travel for the same length of time.

Mr. KUNZIG. What subjects were to be taught in that summer school?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Well, Russian language. Now, I am sort of supplying not from memory but what I would reason to be their courses on economics and that sort of thing, and also some scientific courses. As I remember it, the courses I enrolled for were Russian language and some of the scientific courses, but I can't remember them.

Mr. KUNZIG. What else did you do then when the school didn't come through?

Mr. BLAISDELL. The scheduled term for the school was about 4 weeks, I guess, and the equivalent time that I spent in travel, I spent about 2 weeks in Moscow and then took what was more or less a routine trip between the big cities, going south through Kharkov, Rostov, into the Caucasus and back through Kiev and out again, out of Russia again, I mean.

Mr. KUNZIG. Well, now, you had read the various books and magazines; you had taken a trip to Russia; did you then decide to join the party?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I did, yes. I don't remember exactly when, but I think in the spring of 1936.

Incidentally, let me interpolate here. I am not sure of the date 1935, either, but that date can be fixed because it was the date of the Roosevelt-Litvinov pact—

Mr. CLARDY. The what?

Mr. BLAISDELL. The Roosevelt-Litvinov pact—the United States recognized Russia, and vice versa.

Anyway, the next year, in the spring of 1936 I looked up the Communist Party in the phone book and went to their office and joined.

Mr. KUNZIG. To go back just a bit, that summer that you went to Russia did you meet any Communist group on the boat going over?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes.

Mr. KUNZIG. Would you explain briefly about that?

Mr. BLAISDELL. There were a large number of people going to this summer school. The tour that I took was arranged through a travel agency.

Mr. KUNZIG. What travel agency?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I can't remember the name of it. It was one that advertised in the New Republic, I believe.

Mr. KUNZIG. I would try some—

Mr. WALTER. Does it still advertise in the New Republic?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I don't know. I haven't read the New Republic for a long time.

Mr. KUNZIG. Were these groups going to these classes in Russia largely Communists, so far as you knew?

Mr. BLAISDELL. That I wouldn't know. Coming back on the boat the groups organized seminars which were held in the dining room of

the boat, and after 2 or 3 of them, the organizer of these things and the people that had been giving the speeches—whose name was Isidore Begun, B-e-g-u-n; that, of course, I know from reading since, not at that time—Isidore Begun announced that he himself was a Communist and he wanted to thank the officials of the boat line and the public in general for permitting them to hold these meetings on the boat, and when the Communist Party was such an unpopular organization.

Mr. CLARDY. You said something that intrigued me there. You said you learned of this man's name later from something you read. Did you mean by that, that at the time he was going under an alias, under some other name, or he just didn't give you any name?

Mr. BLAISDELL. He said, "I am Isidore Begun. I am a member of the Communist Party and I wish to thank the boat."

Mr. CLARDY. No, you gave a sort of an aside.

Mr. BLAISDELL. I didn't know how to spell it at that time. I got—later read the Daily Worker and it became obvious he was an active worker in the Communist Party.

Mr. KUNZIG. Why did you read the Daily Worker when you became a member of the party?

Mr. BLAISDELL. The Communist outlook on life and ordinary persons are quite different. You read the Daily Worker to find news reported and parts of the news reported that you want to learn about, and parts that often are not reported in the other newspapers at all.

Mr. KUNZIG. Now, just a bit more about this group traveling on your boat. Weren't they sponsored by the World Tourists Bureau?

Mr. BLAISDELL. The largest group was; that was not the group I went with, and the people who were sponsored by World Tourists rather made fun of the rest of us.

Mr. KUNZIG. They were not part of the Communist group?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I wouldn't know.

Mr. KUNZIG. I see.

Mr. BLAISDELL. I would say Isidore Begun was a part of the large group, and—I assume, but don't know specifically.

Mr. KUNZIG. You joined the party, I believe you said, roughly, to the best of your knowledge, in 1936?

Mr. BLAISDELL. That is right.

Mr. KUNZIG. How did you go about joining, what steps did you take?

(Representative Gordon H. Scherer entered the hearing room at this point.)

Mr. BLAISDELL. The detailed steps I can't remember. As I said before, I looked up the Communist Party, which was listed as such in the phone book, went to their office and said I wanted to join. Exactly what happened I don't remember, but I wound up in what was called a neighborhood branch in Brookline, Mass., which was where I lived.

Mr. KUNZIG. Who was in the neighborhood branch with you?

Mr. BLAISDELL. It was quite small—as far as I can remember, about five people, none of whose names I can remember. There was myself; there was a Communist Party functionary. I can describe these people more or less.

Mr. KUNZIG. Describe them to the best of your ability.

Mr. BLAISDELL. He was a short, round-faced, cheerfulish man, who was the treasurer of the Boston organization at that time.

Mr. KUNZIG. How did you know that?

Mr. BLAISDELL. He told everybody.

Mr. KUNZIG. I see. Who else was there?

Mr. BLAISDELL. There was a manual worker who was a tin knocker—that is a guy who straightens out bumps in fenders and such.

Mr. JACKSON (presiding). And social orders?

Mr. BLAISDELL. He hoped to do that.

Mr. CLARDY. May I correct you? Up in Michigan, the capital of the automotive industry, we don't call them a knocker; they are a bumper.

Mr. BLAISDELL. This is what he told me his name was at that time. Maybe that is a New Englandism.

Mr. CLARDY. New England would have to be different, I guess.

Mr. KUNZIG. Continue, please.

Mr. BLAISDELL. There was a man and wife in the jewelry business.

Mr. KUNZIG. What was their name?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I am not sure, but either the name of the jewelry store or their name was Howard.

Mr. KUNZIG. There is a Howard Jewelry Co. at 16 Tremont Street in Boston. Was that the Howard, do you know?

Mr. BLAISDELL. It could well be; I don't know.

Mr. KUNZIG. But it was a jewelry man by the name of Howard in whose home these meetings were conducted?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Certainly most often in his home.

Mr. KUNZIG. Where was that home?

Mr. BLAISDELL. In Brookline, but I can't remember the address.

Mr. KUNZIG. Do you have any idea of the street at all?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I am afraid not. In this particular case I don't even believe I could even find it.

Mr. KUNZIG. Now, what name did you use while you were a member of the Communist Party, Mr. Blaisdell?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Ed Baird, B-a-i-r-d.

Mr. KUNZIG. You were a scientist, is that right?

Mr. BLAISDELL. That is right.

Mr. KUNZIG. You were a man who certainly would not need to go under any alias of any kind or another, so why did you go under an alias?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I assume the reason—let me start over again. It was customary in the party to do it, and I assume the reason is that any records which might have existed, if discovered, would not reveal the actual names of people involved.

Mr. KUNZIG. How did you rationalize to yourself, a good American scientist from a background to the days of the Revolution, the necessity of going under an alias?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I realized the Communist Party was a highly unpopular organization; that if it became revealed I was a member I would probably lose my job, and I thought that was a sufficient reason.

Mr. KUNZIG. Did you receive a Communist Party card?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes.

Mr. KUNZIG. Did you pay dues?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes.

Mr. KUNZIG. How much?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I don't remember. They were considered to be quite steep in those days.

Mr. KUNZIG. How many years did you continue to pay dues?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I continued to pay dues up until the spring of 1950.

Mr. KUNZIG. 1950. Can you remember how much dues you paid in 1950?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes, \$2 a month.

Mr. KUNZIG. \$2 a month?

Mr. BLAISDELL. \$2. I am pretty sure it was \$2 a month.

Mr. KUNZIG. Did you pay \$2 a month all those years?

Mr. BLAISDELL. No, it fluctuated up and down.

Mr. KUNZIG. How low did it get?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I can't remember.

Mr. KUNZIG. But from 1936 until 1950, just 21½ years ago, you paid dues to the Communist Party?

Mr. BLAISDELL. That is right.

Mr. KUNZIG. Did you ever teach in any university, Mr. Blaisdell?

Mr. BLAISDELL. When I was an undergraduate at MIT, and before I had any connection with the Communist Party, I was a laboratory assistant for 3 summers in qualitative analysis; and I think when I was a senior, or maybe when I was in graduate school, I don't remember, 1 year during the regular school year in organic chemistry, freshman class.

When I was a research associate there after I became a member of the Communist Party, I taught physical chemistry 1 section, 1 year.

Mr. KUNZIG. Did you ever belong to the Communist Party branch at MIT?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes.

Mr. KUNZIG. When was that?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I don't know when I transferred from Brookline to MIT. I can place it within a 2-year span, between 1938 and 1940.

Mr. KUNZIG. Who were the other members of this MIT Communist Party group?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I would assume that the following were members because they attended pretty regularly: Myself, Isadore Amdur, A-m-d-u-r, Norman Levinson, L-e-v-i-n-s-o-n, Ted Martin—

Mr. KUNZIG. Those men are all professors at MIT today, isn't that correct?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes, the last three.

Mr. KUNZIG. And they testified just a few weeks ago before this committee?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes.

Mr. KUNZIG. Who else?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Professor Struik attended a large number of meetings; Lawrence Arguimbau, A-r-g-u-i-m-b-a-u, and a couple of times a Nathan Rosen. He was not a teacher. He worked there in the research project, too.

Mr. KUNZIG. What was the principal activity of this group?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Well, there was internal activity which consisted of bull sessions, you might say, discussing the principles of communism,

and so forth, and the activity in which we tried to influence other people was through the Teachers Union and American Association of Scientific Workers, which had a branch in Cambridge, I believe.

Mr. KUNZIG. Did you know a John Reynolds at that time as a member of the party?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I have been asked that before. The name seems familiar to me, but I wouldn't be able to recall it as a person I met at meetings, no.

Mr. KUNZIG. How about William T. Parry?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I can remember him, yes. He was at Harvard. I met him a few times.

Mr. KUNZIG. Did you attend meetings with him?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I think so, a few times.

Mr. KUNZIG. How about Marcus Singer, S-i-n-g-e-r?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I never heard the name before, as far as I know.

Mr. KUNZIG. How about a Professor Gelbart, G-e-l-b-a-r-t?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I have heard the name before. He was at MIT, a graduate student. I cannot remember attending meetings with him. He was in the Teachers Union and interested in leftwing things.

Mr. SCHERER. Interested in what, did you say?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Interested in leftwing things.

Mr. KUNZIG. Now, testimony before this committee showed that the MIT group later joined up with the Harvard group. Did you also so join?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes, that was before I left MIT.

Mr. KUNZIG. Was that in 1942?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I believe so, or maybe in the fall of 1940.

Mr. KUNZIG. Can you remember the names of any of the Harvard group with whom you then met?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Wendell Furry is the only one I can call up spontaneously, probably because he was a scientist and I knew of the fact he had a scientific reputation before I met him.

Mr. SCHERER. Was he a member of the party?

Mr. BLAISDELL. On the same basis that I have answered in the other cases I would answer yes now, namely, he attended meetings and I certainly would assume he would not be there if he were not.

Mr. CLARDY. They were closed meetings?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes.

Mr. SCHERER. What was the latest date that you attended a meeting with Dr. Furry?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I wouldn't be able to answer that.

Mr. SCHERER. Approximately.

Mr. BLAISDELL. I met more or less regularly up until June 1942. However, because of my failure to recall names, and so forth, although I don't remember this specifically, you know, I argue to myself that I didn't attend very often. I assume up until June 1942, but I can't remember that specifically.

Mr. SCHERER. You didn't attend any meetings with Dr. Furry later than 1942, then?

Mr. BLAISDELL. No. I left Cambridge in June 1942.

Mr. SCHERER. But he was still attending meetings at the time you left?

Mr. BLAISDELL. That is right.

Mr. CLARDY. Your paths haven't crossed anywhere since then?

Mr. BLAISDELL. No, sir; no.

Mr. KUNZIG. Was literature ever passed out at either Brookline, Harvard, or MIT meetings?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes.

Mr. KUNZIG. Was it sold?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes.

Mr. KUNZIG. How much?

Mr. BLAISDELL. You mean how much did the pieces cost?

Mr. KUNZIG. Yes.

Mr. BLAISDELL. Oh, 10 cents, 15 cents, 2 cents, a quarter.

Mr. CLARDY. Two cents? What did you get for 2 cents?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Oh, 5 or 6 pages, a speech by Browder, or something like that, perhaps.

Mr. CLARDY. Those speeches went pretty cheap, apparently?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Not as long winded as some others.

Mr. KUNZIG. What was to be done with this material?

Mr. BLAISDELL. You were to read it for your own edification, and in a good many cases you were supposed to read it and use it during discussions at the next meeting.

(Representative Francis E. Walter left the hearing room at this point.)

Mr. KUNZIG. What activity did you play in 1948, what part did you play in activity in 1948 with regard to Florence Luscomb, L-u-s-c-o-m-b?

Mr. BLAISDELL. This is the reason I was able to straddle those dates when I transferred from Brookline to Cambridge. In 1938 I circulated petitions to run Florence Luscomb for Congress on some third party designation that was cooked up specifically for the purpose. It was probably called the Progressive Party, or something like that. I don't know the exact name.

Mr. JACKSON. Cooked up by whom, if I might ask?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I don't know. This was a committee got together to run her in opposition to the incumbent, whose names I forget, but were—I mean whose name I forget, but was regarded as a reactionary person. I don't know whether I seriously believed she had any chance to beat him or not, and after the votes were counted very obviously she had no such chance.

Mr. JACKSON. Generally speaking, isn't a Member of Congress considered to be somewhat reactionary by Communists?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Opinion in that regard fluctuates up and down, I would say. There are some people with whom they are willing to work and who get themselves dubbed fellow travelers for that reason.

Mr. JACKSON. But unless one in general is sympathetic to the Communist aims and goals or shows a willingness to go along with the program, are they not considered to be reactionary?

Mr. BLAISDELL. That tends to become the cliché, certainly, which appears in the party press, and so forth.

Mr. CLARDY. At least, the members of this Congress that sit on this committee are so classified, aren't they?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I haven't read the party press for a long time, but I certainly assume so.

Mr. CLARDY. To get back to the line of inquiry that Congressman Jackson started, were not the people who promoted this candidacy known to you at least to be members of the Communist Party?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I received the petitions through the Communist Party branch and it was very obvious that the Communist Party was behind this with whatever strength they could muster. I wouldn't know how it originated, but I would assume in much the same way.

Mr. CLARDY. At any rate, all of the drum beating came out of Communist headquarters, as far as you know?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Most of it, certainly.

Mr. CLARDY. And did she attend Communist meetings so that you could—

Mr. BLAISDELL. Not to my knowledge.

Mr. CLARDY. Did you have any other acquaintance with her except this indirect one you are talking about?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes. I had met her because she was one of the visitors to Russia at the same time I had been, and I had met her on the boat.

Mr. CLARDY. Oh, then the invitation wasn't just extended to anybody? That was a pretty restricted group that went over, wasn't it?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I don't believe so. These ads of Moscow University appeared in the magazines and they were willing to take anybody who would come, as far as I know.

Mr. CLARDY. Well, they were seeking persons who at least had a sympathetic outlook toward the Communist Party, Russia, and so on?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I would assume they would expect to find those people coming, mostly.

Mr. CLARDY. You didn't find anybody else in the group along with you that was antagonistic, did you?

Mr. BLAISDELL. No; several doubters.

Mr. CLARDY. Who needed to be worked on, you mean?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I suppose you could put it that way, yes.

Mr. CLARDY. Thank you, Counsel.

Mr. KUNZIG. In 1940 did you do any work for the Communist Party in the mill town of Lawrence, Mass.?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes, that is the way I fixed the other end of this 2-year span. This was activity of the MIT group and we went to Lawrence, Mass., and circulated petitions, I believe for Earl Browder for the Presidency.

Mr. KUNZIG. In the election of 1940?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes.

Mr. KUNZIG. Now, Mr. Blaisdell, here is a difficult thing to understand. In 1938 you had become an enthusiastic member of the Communist Party; in 1940 you actually fought for a Communist for the Presidency and did specific work for it, but in 1939, in between those two dates, Germany had signed a pact with Russia and had started a world war. Didn't that have any effect whatsoever upon your belief in Communist ideals?

Mr. BLAISDELL. This pact between Hitler and Stalin was a big shock to everybody who was connected with the Communist Party in any way. A great many people resigned at that time.

Mr. KUNZIG. Did you?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I did not.

Mr. KUNZIG. How did you rationalize it?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I would say now, I don't remember exactly what I thought at the time, but I believe I thought this, that a war situation was brewing, Russia had made offers to the United States and England to sign a mutual security agreement and these offers were not being declined but nothing much was happening to them, and I would say that Russia believed that the effort of England to the United States was to make the war situation come out to be a war between Russia and Germany and that Russia had adopted the diplomatic move which it believed best to avoid becoming involved in the war itself. This is an abandonment of principle for practical strategy, and I would say I swallowed it at the time on that basis.

Mr. KUNZIG. You remained a strong believer in communism, isn't that a fact?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes.

Mr. KUNZIG. How did you rationalize the war against Finland by Russia?

Mr. BLAISDELL. This was in the same period and part of the same thing. This was, I would say, much harder to swallow.

Mr. KUNZIG. But you swallowed it?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes, sir.

Mr. KUNZIG. And you still remained a strong believer in communism?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Well, how strong I can't say.

Mr. KUNZIG. You paid dues to 1950?

Mr. BLAISDELL. That is quite correct. The way I felt about the Communist Party was that I didn't necessarily subscribe 100 percent to everything that it did. I believe that individuals and organizations make mistakes, and it is the general intent of individuals and organizations which has to be considered, and I believe the general intent of the Communist Party at that time to be useful and good for the people of the United States.

Mr. KUNZIG. Is this the period when you knew Margot Clark in the Progressive Book Shop in Cambridge?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I can't remember dates of that exactly. I would assume so.

Mr. KUNZIG. Did you know her as a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. BLAISDELL. No, but I would assume she would be because of the faces you saw around those bookshops were——

Mr. KUNZIG. Were always Communists?

Mr. BLAISDELL. And sympathizers of various degrees of sympathy.

Mr. KUNZIG. Mr. Blaisdell, in 1942 you moved to Buffalo; is that correct?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes.

Mr. KUNZIG. And you changed your job, as you have already told us?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes.

Mr. CLARDY. May I go back a minute? I want to get something I don't know about those bookshops. Did they handle anything other than literature designed to promote the cause?

Mr. BLAISDELL. That changed during the time I knew them. When I first went to this international bookshop it had practically nothing

but Communist literature in it. As you know, under the influence of Browder, who was leader of the party, there was a time when they tried to become more like other Americans and do things in a more open way, and at that time they introduced other books into their bookshops and particularly this one in Cambridge, being a college town, had a lot of classical literature books and collections of paintings and that sort of thing.

Mr. CLARDY. But the Communist-tainted product predominated?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I wouldn't even say that it predominated in Cambridge, but it was certainly very prominent.

Mr. CLARDY. That is all I have in mind.

Mr. KUNZIG. Yes, sir.

Mr. JACKSON. I have one question, if you are planning to leave the Boston area.

Mr. KUNZIG. I was about to take a trip to Buffalo.

Mr. JACKSON. Off the record.

(Discussion off the record.)

Mr. JACKSON. Back on the record. Go ahead.

Mr. KUNZIG. Mr. Blaisdell, when you went to Buffalo did you transfer your membership to that city?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes; I did.

Mr. KUNZIG. So you were still at that point interested enough in the Communist Party to be sure you joined the cell in your new home?

Mr. BLAISDELL. That is correct.

Mr. KUNZIG. Would you elaborate a bit on the cell to which you belonged in Buffalo?

Mr. BLAISDELL. The first part of my period there I am rather vague about. I rejoined a continued membership, whatever would be the proper description, by again looking up the Communist Party in the telephone book and going to their central office.

My wife was pregnant at the time. I didn't go out any evenings and didn't attend any meetings at this early period, but I did go out Sundays trying to sell the Sunday Worker, a newspaper whose title I guess suggests pretty clearly what it was. I did that during the summer and fall of 1942 and then our baby was born and the next year a baby was born, and for several years I hardly did anything active.

Mr. CLARDY. Where would you attempt to sell the Sunday Worker with prospective success?

Mr. BLAISDELL. This was a fairly well-established route which I took over, I think, every other Sunday. It was in a Negro district called the Cold Spring district of Buffalo, very poor; the houses were run down. There were a limited number of regular subscribers to whom you left it every time, and then you just knocked at doors at random trying to sell a few extra copies and get further people interested.

Mr. CLARDY. Did you have very much success? In other words, did you sell any quantity?

Mr. BLAISDELL. In a Sunday's time, which took 2 or 3 hours, maybe, Sunday morning, I disposed of 10 or 15 papers; maybe 7 or 8 of those would be more or less regular subscribers and the others would be people who would take it, I would say not because they were particularly interested but they were kindhearted people who don't refuse salesmen at the door.

Mr. JACKSON. How many such routes, if you have any idea, existed in the city?

Mr. BLAISDELL. To my knowledge, just the one that I myself worked on. I would certainly assume that there were others, probably one corresponding to each branch, but I don't know how many branches there were, either.

Mr. JACKSON. But this pattern of salesmanship was pretty general throughout the country as far as the Sunday Worker was concerned?

Mr. BLAISDELL. As far as I know, that was one of the typical and principal activities of Communist Party branches of the neighborhood type.

Mr. JACKSON. What was the circulation of the Sunday Worker supposed to be at that time?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Gee, I don't know. I think they used to claim a figure of around a hundred thousand, but that is a pretty vague memory.

Mr. JACKSON. Those were not accurate circulation figures, I gather?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I guess not.

Mr. KUNZIG. Did your wife attend meetings with you at your cell in Buffalo?

Mr. BLAISDELL. No; she didn't.

Mr. KUNZIG. Did she attend any Communist meetings there?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes; I served as babysitter while she attended sometimes.

Mr. KUNZIG. What type of meetings did she attend if they weren't those of your cell?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Well, those were the kind she attended. You asked if she attended with me, and she never did attend with me because I was the babysitter.

Mr. KUNZIG. Was that the North Park branch of the Communist Labor Party?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes, sir.

Mr. KUNZIG. Would you elaborate on that a little for the committee?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Well, when I describe these things I consider myself as going fairly regularly, but due to the fact that I can remember practically nothing about it in trying to remember back I realize that at this time I was losing interest and actually attended hardly ever. My wife, in fact, claims I didn't attend at all, but I just can't remember that.

Mr. KUNZIG. How many members were there?

Mr. BLAISDELL. We did—I don't know that.

Mr. KUNZIG. Can you name any other people?

Mr. BLAISDELL. There was one couple with whom we became close friends and whose name I can remember, and in my opinion they are thoroughly interested people and goodhearted and I wouldn't like to give their names.

Mr. KUNZIG. "Goodhearted," but were they members of the Communist Party?

Mr. BLAISDELL. They certainly talked as though they were and I assume they were.

Mr. KUNZIG. "Goodhearted, thoroughly innocent" Communist Party members?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes.

Mr. KUNZIG. What were their names?

Mr. CLARDY. That is a slight contradiction.

Mr. KUNZIG. Put that in quotation marks when you type that up.

Mr. CLARDY. I understand; but it seemed to be a contradiction in the language employed.

Mr. BLAISDELL. That is the way I feel about them.

Mr. KUNZIG. What are their names?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Mr. and Mrs. Rogovin.

Mr. KUNZIG. R-o-g-o-v-i-n?

Mr. BLAISDELL. That is right.

Mr. KUNZIG. What was the first name of Mr. Rogovin?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Talking it over with Mr. Cooper has refreshed me that his name was Milton.

Mr. KUNZIG. When you say Mr. Cooper you mean the investigator of this committee?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes, sir.

Mr. KUNZIG. Milton Rogovin. What was the address in Buffalo of Milton Rogovin?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I don't know. We went to his house for social evenings together several times, but I don't remember the address. It was in the North Park area.

Mr. KUNZIG. Let the record show that there is a Milton Rogovin in the phone book in Buffalo, 86 West Chippewa, C-h-i-p-p-e-w-a, Street, Buffalo, N. Y.

Could that have been the street?

Mr. BLAISDELL. That is in downtown Buffalo, I believe, and that would be his office.

Mr. KUNZIG. That would be his office?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I don't know about that.

Mr. CLARDY. What was his business?

Mr. BLAISDELL. He was an optometrist.

Mr. KUNZIG. Did your wife ever peddle the Worker, too?

Mr. BLAISDELL. No, sir.

Mr. KUNZIG. Just you?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Not as far as I know. The period I peddled it was when she was pregnant when we first moved there.

Mr. KUNZIG. Did you get any money from peddling or was it just interest—

Mr. BLAISDELL. No; it was volunteer work.

Mr. KUNZIG. Volunteer work.

Mr. CLARDY. Pretty hard work, too, wasn't it?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Well, it was outdoors and I didn't mind it too much.

Mr. JACKSON. Well, everybody has had a paper route at one time or another.

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes, but that is in the American tradition, too.

Mr. CLARDY. But you don't sell them. I carried a lot of them. I remember the days when I sold Fuller brushes and rang door bells and I don't care to go back to it, and I can't imagine you wanting to sell as unpalatable a product as the Sunday Worker. I should think you would have to kick yourself quite frequently in order to get up nerve to go to the next door.

Mr. BLAISDELL. I can't remember anybody who slammed the door in my face and turned me away.

Mr. CLARDY. Did you relish doing it or did you have to practically compel yourself to go up the steps each time?

Mr. BLAISDELL. At this time I believed in the objectives of the Communist Party and thought I was doing a good thing in the sense that I felt I had a moral responsibility to help with these ideas I believed in, and I was doing it for that reason.

Mr. CLARDY. Your enthusiasm just kept your pep right up, then?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes, sir. Actually, I always felt sort of despondent for this reason. It was an awfully poor neighborhood and the conditions which these people were living under made me feel sad and uncomfortable that I was living under comparatively comfortable conditions at the same time.

Mr. KUNZIG. Off the record.

(Discussion off the record.)

Mr. KUNZIG. On the record again.

When did you leave Buffalo to move to Wilmington to go to work for Du Pont?

Mr. BLAISDELL. The summer of 1950.

Mr. JACKSON. Off the record.

(Discussion off the record.)

Mr. JACKSON. Back on the record.

Mr. KUNZIG. Is it true that in 1949 you and your wife attended a Christmas party in a hall hired by Mr. and Mrs. Rogovin, attended also by quite a few Communist Party members?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I remember attending a Christmas party. Whether it was under the active sponsorship of the Communist Party I can't remember. Certainly that kind of people constituted a large fraction of those who attended. I don't know who sponsored it. I mean I don't know if the Rogovins led in the organization of it.

Mr. KUNZIG. Did they hire the hall?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I don't know that.

Mr. KUNZIG. Did you state to the investigator of this committee that the hall was hired by Mr. and Mrs. Rogovin?

Mr. BLAISDELL. No, sir. I mean I am a guy who tries to tell the truth all the time, and from what I know of Mr. Cooper he is, too. I am willing to admit some sort of misunderstanding may have arisen whether this impression had been given, but certainly I wouldn't have said that because it is not so, except by accident or something.

Mr. KUNZIG. Now, in 1950, you say that you stopped paying dues to the party?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes, sir.

Mr. KUNZIG. What caused you to stop paying dues in 1950 when you had been paying since 1936?

Mr. BLAISDELL. As with most other people who leave the party, the reasons are complicated, I guess, and in many cases accumulate over a period of years.

As I have already said, from about 1942 on, when we had our first children, I did practically nothing, although I continued to believe in its objectives more or less and continued to pay dues. Several events occurred, however, which shook me very severely. The one that had the most meaning to me was this business of the Russian Government taking an official position on the scientific question of what is the

mechanism of heredity and whether genes are the essential part of it or not. As a scientist this seemed to me an intrusion of government into a place where it had no business being, and the fact that conditions were such that the Russian Government could intrude into this area and that most of their scientists, biological scientists toed the line, spoke very poorly for the level of free speech and individual liberty existing in Russia.

Mr. KUNZIG. Didn't Russia's intrusion into an area known as South Korea mean anything at all?

Mr. BLAISDELL. This came at a later period after I had severed connections with the party.

Mr. KUNZIG. That was also 1950.

Mr. JACKSON. June 26, 1950.

Mr. BLAISDELL. Well, this was at the time I was leaving them.

Mr. KUNZIG. Did you ever work on a classified project in your scientific work?

Mr. BLAISDELL. No, sir. I didn't answer the question about Korea.

Mr. KUNZIG. Korea—I thought you had stopped.

Mr. BLAISDELL. I had stopped; I was trying to gather thoughts. Would you like me to continue?

Mr. KUNZIG. Yes, please continue.

Mr. BLAISDELL. Well, I believed that each country has a right to settle its own internal affairs any way that it sees fit. Appeal to arms is not a good thing. I am a very specifically minded person myself and do not approve of fighting to get your ends.

Korea is a very special case where it is hard to unravel what the situation is. It had been divided by a stripe across the middle—

Mr. KUNZIG. Are you trying to say that it was difficult to see there which side started the fighting?

Mr. BLAISDELL. No; I think it is quite clear that North Korea invaded South Korea, but these are the two halves of what was once the same country, and it constitutes a form of civil war, perhaps much like our own Civil War where there was a more or less geographic separation, and any intervention of an outside power to help either side or to get either side started I consider wrong.

Mr. SCHERER. Don't you think that Russia had something to do with North Korea's starting the invasion of South Korea?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I think it is pretty obvious that they supplied the arms to the northern side and must certainly be continuing to do so.

Mr. SCHERER. Don't you think it was the Communist influence in Korea that started the aggression by the North Koreans against South Korea?

Mr. BLAISDELL. There is no question but that is so.

Mr. SCHERER. It might not have happened, though, if United States policy had been a little different in the Far East?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Well, I am no expert on foreign affairs.

Mr. SCHERER. All right.

Mr. BLAISDELL. And like most scientists, I can see 27 sides to every question, but—

Mr. SCHERER. I would not have asked except you raised the issue.

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes.

Mr. SCHERER. I was interested in how you felt about it.

Mr. BLAISDELL. I don't—actually I am sort of confused on the situation in Korea. We don't have all the facts.

Mr. SCHIERER. You have plenty of company.

Mr. CLARDY. Let me ask you, you are not confused about the fact that the Chinese Communists are blown-in-the-bottle Communists, are you?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Not the Chinese Communists.

Mr. CLARDY. That is what I am talking about.

Mr. BLAISDELL. But I would also think it is pretty obvious that the great bulk of the Chinese Army were drafted and don't have a conviction one way or the other.

Mr. CLARDY. But in those agencies it is the war lords and leaders that determine the policy, of course, but there isn't any doubt that what government there may be in China today is Communist to the core?

Mr. BLAISDELL. No, sir; and obviously it is the Chinese Government that sponsored troops into Korea.

Mr. CLARDY. And behind the Chinese Government we can discern, can we not, quite plainly the Russian Communist Government?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Very probably so.

Mr. CLARDY. Isn't it stronger than probably? Isn't it now obvious and so apparent that no one can misunderstand? I am seeking to get your mental processes.

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes, right. The facts speak highly yes, but, of course, there is no evidence of the kind of published treaties and so forth that really nail it down in one degree of certainty.

Mr. CLARDY. Are you sure of that? Isn't there a treaty between China and Russia dealing with the very thing I am talking about, or had you forgotten that?

Mr. BLAISDELL. No; there was one entered into at Cairo, wasn't there, between Russia—

Mr. CLARDY. No; these were not in Cairo.

Mr. BLAISDELL. That is true, but with the Chinese Government—and again I don't know law—

Mr. CLARDY. No; you are confused on those facts, but at any rate, is there any doubt about the fact that today what is happening in Korea is merely one of these 27 sides of Communist aggression? You said there are 27 sides to every problem. Well, now, I think that is one of the 27 here; and do you agree?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes, sir.

Mr. CLARDY. So that you in your awakening have come to realize that there is a world-wide Communist conspiracy and that the Communist movement within our own borders is merely one of those 27 sides?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes, sir.

Mr. KUNZIG. I believe you stated in prior testimony that you never had worked on any classified project for the Government, is that correct?

Mr. BLAISDELL. That is correct; yes, sir.

Mr. KUNZIG. Did you ever draw pay from the Government in any way?

Mr. BLAISDELL. No, sir.

Mr. KUNZIG. Were you ever in the Armed Forces of the United States?

Mr. BLAISDELL. No, sir.

Mr. KUNZIG. I have no further questions, sir.

Mr. JACKSON. Mr. Clardy?

Mr. CLARDY. You were apparently quite active for a long time and apparently that activity stemmed from an inner conviction that the Communist approach to the workaday problems that beset all of us was the proper one?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes, sir.

Mr. CLARDY. I am wondering if you, in view of some of the things you have said today, have completely divested yourself of all of those convictions or whether some of them kind of hang on and haunt you and make you wonder about whether your change of heart was really justified?

Mr. BLAISDELL. This will take a fairly lengthy answer.

Mr. CLARDY. I expected it, but I asked for it.

Mr. BLAISDELL. I still believe that people have a right through their government to take such action as they think best to keep themselves happy, to put it shortly.

Mr. SCHERER. Nobody will deny that.

Mr. BLAISDELL. Well, no, there is a school of thought that believes that the best function for government is hands off, just prevent——

Mr. SCHERER. That is the Communist theory, isn't it?

Mr. BLAISDELL. No, sir; I don't think so.

Mr. CLARDY. No, he said——

Mr. SCHERER. Hands off of government?

Mr. BLAISDELL. That the government keep its hands off of the running of economic affairs and social affairs.

Mr. JACKSON. Including conspiracy?

Mr. BLAISDELL. No, sir.

Mr. JACKSON. Well, that is what we are talking about here. Let's not get away from the basic point. We are talking about what has been found to be in the highest court of the land an international conspiracy directed at the destruction of the constitutional forms which we have traditionally practiced in this country. Now, let's make a distinction between opinions and heresy on one hand and this matter of conspiracy on the other. I don't think that you propose that government should not defend itself?

Mr. BLAISDELL. No, sir, I think every government has the right to defend itself.

Mr. JACKSON. It not only has the right but has the duty. That is the work of this committee and other committees of like kind, not to brain wash, not to inquire into opinions, not to restrict legitimate freedom of speech, but to meet threats of internal aggression, and I make that statement because I feel it should be in the record. Disagreement is one thing; conspiracy to destroy is another.

Go ahead. I didn't mean to break your chain of thought.

Mr. CLARDY. That is all right. I think it is helpful.

Mr. BLAISDELL. I would like to answer one part of Mr. Jackson's statement first, if I may.

I never believed in a conspiracy to overthrow the Government of the United States, and I believe that none of the actions I have ever taken were ever addressed to such an end.

Mr. CLARDY. Except that, would you not admit that, what you did in helping the Communist Party was, nevertheless, despite any intentions, good or otherwise you may have had, actually contributing to

the end the Communists are seeking, and that is the overthrow of the Government?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Anybody who supports the Communist Party, no matter what his personal thought about what he himself is doing, is obviously supporting its overall ends, just as you have phrased it.

Mr. CLARDY. Now, we are getting to the crux of the question which I asked you and want you to continue answering, and it is this: Are you now genuinely convinced that the Communist approach is just 180 degrees off of the direction that we should be pursuing?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I will try to answer that as best I can.

Mr. CLARDY. That is merely a restatement, more or less, of what I had said to start with.

Mr. BLAISDELL. Up until I started to review my thoughts within the last couple of weeks and when I severed all connections with the Communist Party in the spring of 1950, I became a nonpolitical man for a while. I just didn't read anything except the daily newspapers and I guess that part of it was the funny page and the sports page. I just wasn't interested. However, I still continued to believe that socialism, that is, an active intervention of the Government in the economy of the country for the purpose of assuring a well-being to all its citizens was the proper way to do things.

Mr. CLARDY. You say you do now?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I say I did up until a couple of weeks ago.

Mr. JACKSON. Well, if the witness did today it would be all right, and quite within his legal and moral rights. This committee, for instance, would not consider bringing Norman Thomas in, or any one of a great number of known Socialists who have a perfect right to put forward that theory as long as they operate within constitutional bounds and seek redress for real or imagined ails of the ballot box. That is the fundamental difference, in my mind, between communism and socialism.

Mr. CLARDY. Of course, as an individual every one of us has a right, which I exercise vociferously, to try to point out to the American people that socialism is the camel's nose and that we had better beware, but we concede, too, every one of us, the right of others, misguided as we may think they are, to adhere to those views.

I think socialism is probably more dangerous than outright communism because of the fact that it has an innocent face and front and misleads a lot of people like yourself and others, and I wholly differ with it but I don't differ with your right to think that it is right and to openly do what you can, but if you engage in a hidden and secret conspiracy that is another story.

We will go on with what you were saying there.

Mr. BLAISDELL. Well, a couple of weeks ago, under the influence of Mr. Cooper and this subpoena, I started to think politically again and to examine these holdover opinions that I had had from previous time and, naturally, I am in a state of flux at the present time and it is hard to say exactly what I do believe right now.

Mr. CLARDY. Are you quite sure you believe anything or are you in a state of flux that you can't come to any solid conclusion?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Well, I would say it is probably difficult for me to come to a solid conclusion of the kind that a guy like myself wants to

come to, but I can give you the drift of my thoughts at the present time.

Mr. JACKSON. May I say that we are not probing for your opinions.

Mr. BLAISDELL. But I am talking about them, of course.

Mr. JACKSON. If you voluntarily want to enter that realm and tell us about them that is all right, but we are accused sometimes of attempted brain wash, and so forth, so the realm of your opinions to the extent that you want to voluntarily give them to the committee with relation to this particular question, we should be glad to hear them but only on the understanding that you are voluntarily telling us and are not under any duress to do so.

Mr. CLARDY. I merely asked for a general statement, but I do think if you give us your mental processes it might be helpful to the committee to understand what happens to people like you.

Mr. BLAISDELL. Well, I don't want to bore the committee.

Mr. CLARDY. You are not.

Mr. BLAISDELL. This sort of gets philosophical, I guess, and I could easily bore people, but, on the other hand, this is one of the kind of questions I think that it is difficult to answer yes or no until you have come to this final opinion which was mentioned previously.

Well, recently I have been having some misgivings about socialism because it seems to me that the great majority of people are simple-minded and good in the sense that they don't want to do harm to anybody else. These people in general don't have a great deal of ambition—I count myself one of them—don't have any drive to rise to positions of power where they can influence what other people do, either for good or bad. The bad things that get done in the world are mostly done by these ambitious people, many of whom start with good principles but wind up making a succession of practical sacrifices of principle to meet the specific problem as posed. I mean this is very characteristic of revolutionary leaders. For example, in the history of Mexico there have been great revolutionary leaders who have turned out to be tyrants.

Mr. CLARDY. You are talking of Lenin, Stalin, and all the rest, aren't you?

Mr. BLAISDELL. That is right. I am starting to fear that under socialism, just as under any other form of government—let me put it this way. Under socialism more than under other forms of government there will be a tendency for these ambitious people who want power to find a place in government to fall prey to temptations of power and turn out to be evil men, with evil consequences of the kind I fear we see in Russia at the present time. I would like to distinguish—

Mr. SCHERER. Isn't it a fact that under our constitutional system of government those evil men that you speak of have less chance of coming to the foreground or being in a position of power than under any other system?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes, sir, I think the—

Mr. SCHERER. Doesn't our system hold those things, those ambitions in check more than any system that has ever been developed?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes, sir. The opportunity for free speech, and so forth, which are guaranteed by our Constitution it seems to me are one of the best insurances against this sort of thing happening, and—

Mr. SCHERER. I am glad to hear you say that because—

Mr. BLAISDELL. And it seems to me that—I haven't been to Russia since 1935, 18 years—a lot can happen in 18 years. I would say it is pretty obvious on the face of it that in Russia the desire to hold on to power and the necessity of making a lot of practical compromises, and so forth, has resulted in a gradual degeneration of the government they have, so that now personal liberty is a thing of the past, and this I am very much opposed to.

Mr. SCHERER. Under the Russian system there is no bill of rights.

Mr. BLAISDELL. Well, there is, but I am afraid it is not being observed.

Mr. SCHERER. Where?

Mr. BLAISDELL. They passed a constitution which, as I remember it, contained many of the same clauses ours does.

Mr. SCHERER. But it can't be enforced by anybody?

Mr. BLAISDELL. It is the spirit of the country and not words written on paper which determine whether these guaranties really work or not, and it seems to me that they work pretty well in this country. We are going through a period of stress now when they don't work as well as they might, but in general we do feel that way, that we do have personal freedom. I have always felt that way.

I have always been very open about my opinions, and although I didn't go around propagandizing people and grabbing them by the necktie, if anybody wished to discuss with me what I felt, I always did it.

Mr. CLARDY. That is all I have.

Mr. KUNZIG. I think at this point, sir, if I may, I would like to ask, if you were always so open about your opinions, why did you live under an alias in a secret party?

Mr. BLAISDELL. My opinions which I felt free to discuss might have been and I realize were unpopular to a certain extent, but specific membership in the Communist Party even in 1936 was a fact which, if known, could have been sufficient to cost you your job, and I was very much attached—

Mr. CLARDY. It would today, wouldn't it?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes, sir, today more so than ever, and—

Mr. CLARDY. And, if I may say, deservedly so. If anybody today is dumb enough not to understand that membership in the Communist Party is a conspiracy to destroy us then I don't think he has any proper place anywhere.

Mr. JACKSON. Do you have anything further?

Mr. CLARDY. Nothing.

Mr. JACKSON. I have several questions I would like to ask.

First of all, to summarize your testimony as I understand it: One, upon joining the Communist Party, accepts the discipline of the party; he accepts discipline in the first place when he is told to assume a given name.

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes, sir, and that is—

Mr. JACKSON. He is expected to follow in general the directions and the policy decisions of the Communist Party; is that not true?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes, sir.

Mr. JACKSON. And he becomes in fact, if not directly at least indirectly, a proponent or an agent of Soviet foreign policy.

Mr. BLAISDELL. I suppose it amounts to that in fact, though I feel myself, and the other people I have known in the party whom you can see were all just common Joe's, did not conceive of themselves in such a light.

Mr. SCHERER. Some of them were common Joe's.

Mr. JACKSON. But you are an intelligent man. You supported Soviet foreign policy in such instances as the Soviet-German non-aggression pact; is that not the case?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I have a doubt about the meaning of the word here. I wouldn't say that I supported it. I would say I accepted it as a bitter pill and one of these practical compromises to which I have referred in my long-winded discussion.

Mr. JACKSON. But you accepted it?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes, sir; I accepted it.

Mr. JACKSON. You accepted it. Is a Communist Party member in general expected to follow the decisions and the policies and the directives of the Communist Party—that is a generalization; we don't have to be more specific—but is he as a Communist Party member in good standing expected to accept those policy decisions and directives?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes, sir.

Mr. JACKSON. Now, in the light of your answer to those 3 or 4 questions, is it possible for a Communist Party member to be honest and objective in his approach to foreign and domestic issues which involve the United States on the one hand and the Soviet Union on the other?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I would say he would be honest, but he would have a dual allegiance because a person who is a member of the Communist Party, up until the time he leaves, regards Russia as a country where his ideas of the way things should be done are being carried out, and he would like to see such a country continue to exist. On the other side, he wants to see those ideas tried out in his own country, and—

Mr. JACKSON. In light of this colloquy and out of your experience as one who has been associated with the classroom and with teaching, do you feel that a member of the Communist Party today has any place in an American classroom?

Mr. BLAISDELL. No, sir, I don't.

Mr. JACKSON. Where are you presently employed?

Mr. BLAISDELL. I am with the Du Pont Co. in Wilmington, Del.

Mr. JACKSON. Have you discussed your appearance here today with your employers?

Mr. BLAISDELL. Yes, sir. Last Monday morning I went to the assistant head of our laboratory and told him I was going to appear here Friday and the reason for it.

Mr. JACKSON. Have you anything further?

Mr. CLARDY. No.

Mr. JACKSON. Have you anything further?

Mr. SCHERER. No.

Mr. JACKSON. Do you have any further questions?

Mr. KUNZIG. No, sir.

Mr. JACKSON. Is there any reason why we should not have the subpoena extended?

Mr. KUNZIG. I think we should, since this was an executive hearing today, keep the witness under subpoena until a future date when we notify him.

Mr. JACKSON. Very well. The subpoena will be extended. Do you want to make this a date certain?

Mr. KUNZIG. I think we had better make it a definite date and we will notify the witness by telegram.

Mr. JACKSON. Very well. The subpoena of the witness will be continued and he will be notified by the committee as to what future action, if any, is intended in his case.

Thank you for your testimony.

The committee will stand in adjournment.

(Whereupon, at 12 noon the hearing was adjourned.)

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