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INVESTIGATION OF COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA
AMONG PRISONERS OF WAR IN KOREA
(Save Our Sons Committee)

HEARINGS
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
EIGHTY-FOURTH CONGRESS
SECOND SESSION

—————
JUNE 18 AND 19, 1956
—————

Printed for the use of the Committee on Un-American Activities

(INCLUDING INDEX)



UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1956

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COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES

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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 84TH CONGRESS

House Resolution 5, January 5, 1955

* * * * *

RULE X

STANDING COMMITTEES

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

* * * * *

(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.

(b) The Committee on Un-American Activities, as a whole or by subcommittee, is authorized to make, from time to time, investigations of (1) the extent, character, and objects of un-American propaganda activities in the United States, (2) 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 (3) all other questions in relation thereto that would aid Congress in any necessary remedial legislation.

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INVESTIGATION OF COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA AMONG PRISONERS OF WAR IN KOREA

(Save Our Sons Committee)

MONDAY, JUNE 18, 1956

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

A subcommittee of the Committee on Un-American Activities met, pursuant to call, at 2:07 p. m. in the caucus room, Old House Office Building, Hon. Francis E. Walter (chairman) presiding.

Committee members present: Representatives Walter, Doyle, Willis, and Kearney.

Staff members present: Frank S. Tavenner, Jr., counsel.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will come to order.

Let the record show that I have appointed a subcommittee consisting of Representatives Clyde Doyle, of California; Edwin E. Willis, of Louisiana; Bernard W. Kearney, of New York; and myself, Francis E. Walter, of Pennsylvania, as chairman.

The purpose of this hearing is to investigate the extent, character and objects of un-American propaganda activities which emanate from foreign countries or are of a domestic origin and which attack the principle of the form of government as guaranteed by our Constitution.

Call your first witness, Mr. Counsel.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Czarnowski, will you come forward, please, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Czarnowski, will you raise your right hand, please. Do you swear that the testimony you are about to give shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. I do.

TESTIMONY OF ANZELM A. CZARNOWSKI

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Czarnowski, will you spell your name please sir.

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. A-n-z-e-l-m.

Mr. TAVENNER. Your middle initial?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. A. for August.

Mr. TAVENNER. And your last name is Czarnowski. Will you spell that, please?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. C-z-a-r-n-o-w-s-k-i.

Mr. TAVENNER. When and where were you born, Mr. Czarnowski?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. In Poland, a former part of Germany.

Mr. TAVENNER. When?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. August 12, 1896.

Mr. TAVENNER. When did you come to the United States?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. In 1914.

Mr. TAVENNER. Are you a naturalized American citizen?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. I believe that you agreed to the request of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to perform a service for the United States Government by entering the Communist Party; is that true?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. When did you become a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. In 1944.

Mr. TAVENNER. I believe you remained in the Communist Party from 1944 until 1955?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. At the time of the Lightfoot trial?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. It was because you were used as a witness in that case that your identity as a person working for the Federal Bureau of Investigation became known?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. By reason of that you had to terminate your services?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you tell the committee very briefly the circumstances under which you became employed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. It was during the war. I have noticed Nazi propaganda, anti-American propaganda taking place which I reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I have done this from the time the war started until the war ended. Recognizing my interest in the service of my country, they asked me to help them out to counteract Communist subversion.

(Representative Doyle entered the hearing room.)

Mr. TAVENNER. What group or branch of the Communist Party did you become a member of?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. I attended meetings of the Communist Party in 1944 after I became acquainted with Communist leaders who worked in the same plant that I did, but I was assigned to the Argo branch after, I believe, they felt I was acceptable.

The CHAIRMAN. Argo?

Mr. TAVENNER. Is that Argo, Ill.?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was this a branch of the Communist Party in Argo, Ill., where you then resided?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you still reside in Argo?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. How long had you lived in Argo?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Since 1927.

Mr. TAVENNER. What was your employment at the time that you became a member of the Argo branch of the Communist Party?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. I was a sign painter at the Electromotive Division of the General Motors Corp. and, being a sign painter, I had the right-of-way in every department of that plant.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you tell us briefly about this branch of the Communist Party with which you were affiliated, that is, what type of people, were the people employed in industry, or what?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. The Argo branch was chiefly a community branch, but I also attended a Communist branch that had a nest in local 719, UAW-CIO. The Communists in the plant met separately. I attended both meetings for a while.

Mr. TAVENNER. So you attended meetings of a neighborhood branch and also of an industrial branch of the Communist Party?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. I was a member of the community branch of the Argo branch, but I also attended the meetings called by Communists in that industry.

Mr. TAVENNER. I see. During the period of time that you were in the Communist Party from 1944 to 1955, did you at any time become familiar with an organization known as Save Our Sons?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. I believe it was called Save Our Sons Committee.

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Who was the head of that organization?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Florence Gowgiel, of Argo, Ill.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you spell her last name?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. G-ow-g-i-e-l.

Mr. TAVENNER. How long had you known her before the formation of the Save Our Sons Committee?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. I knew her as a member of the Communist Party since 1946, and I had known her before she was a member of the Communist Party.

Mr. TAVENNER. What branch or organized group of the Communist Party was it that she belonged to?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. She belonged to the Argo branch of the Communist Party.

Mr. TAVENNER. Is that the same branch of which you were a member?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you tell the committee, please, what you can recall about Mrs. Gowgiel's activity in the Communist Party prior to the time of the formation of Save Our Sons Committee?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Prior to this she was active in the PTA. She was chief organizer of a conspiracy with a local school board member against the school board, district 104, and succeeded in stopping the school funds of that school board for 1 year. She solicited the support of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People because they charged the school board of segregation, but the NAACP lawyer, the lawyer of that organization, gave just one look at the situation and withdrew his organization, charging that this was a communistic conspiracy and this organization doesn't want to have anything to do with it.

Mr. TAVENNER. When was that?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. It was around 1949 or 1950, I believe. On this school board 104 won the case and the funds were restored.

Mr. TAVENNER. How do you know that Mrs. Gowgiel was engaged in Communist Party activities while she was doing this work with the PTA of which you have spoken?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. She reported these things at the Communist Party meetings. One meeting I recall in her house, she started the meeting with the playing of the Communist national anthem, the Communist Internationale. She reported that she had discussed the situation with a particular school board member and the top Communist leadership, and then she proposed a plan of action that was to be taken.

I had not taken part at those meetings at the school board. They attended school board meetings and heckled and disrupted, according to the people who attended. Because I didn't attend, I was bawled out by the section organizer of another section that had nothing to do with the section that she belonged to. What I mean is she belonged to one section and I belonged to the other section.

The CHAIRMAN. By section you mean section of the Communist Party?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Of the Communist Party.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do I understand, then, that she was not only a member of the Communist Party at that time, but that she was playing a leading role in this particular activity of the Communist Party?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, sir; she was.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were there any other organizations in which the Communist Party was active and in which Mrs. Florence Gowgiel took a leading part before the formation of the Save Our Sons Committee?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. She was active in the American Peace Crusade, and after she was busy with the Save Our Sons I have taken her place at the American Peace Crusade. I attended those meetings of the American Peace Crusade. I understand she still has some connection with it and works on it.

Mr. TAVENNER. You stated she was active with the American Peace Crusade. How do you know that?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. She made a point at the meeting about the activities of the American Peace Crusade and asked aid and help from the Communist Party to distribute such literature—engage in card-writing to the President, Senators, the Congressmen, and distribute peace petitions and many other activities.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you recall when it was that the organization known as Save Our Sons Committee was formed?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. At meetings of the Argo branch when her son-in-law returned, who was paralyzed during the Korean campaign, she had mentioned several times about this war. It was in August or September of 1952 that press releases were distributed announcing the establishment of an organization which was supposed to take place on October 25, 1952. She announced then that she was going to Springfield and help organize this organization.

Mr. TAVENNER. Just a minute. You say she announced.

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. She told that to the branch members; yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. That was at a meeting of the Communist Party, a branch meeting?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, sir. And that she needed the Communist Party to furnish or pay her expenses. The Argo branch of the Communist Party gave her \$20 to cover the expense to Springfield.

Mr. TAVENNER. For the trip to Springfield for the founding convention of Save Our Sons?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. You say that founding convention took place on October 25, 1952?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. That was during the period of the Korean war?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you tell the committee, please, if you know, what the Communist Party line was at that time, that is, in the fall of 1952, with regard to the Korean war?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. In that respect I would like to get back to the beginning when the Korean war started.

Mr. TAVENNER. Very well.

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. The Korean war started some time in June 1950, I believe. Soon after that there were meetings, emergency meetings.

Mr. TAVENNER. Of the Communist Party?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Of the Communist Party. I attended one of the Communist Party meetings in which Communist Party leaders said, admitted that the North Koreans have attacked South Korea for the purpose of liberating the South Koreans from the yoke of American imperialism. Of course, we couldn't tell that to the people. We must tell the people to leave discussion on that because some of them didn't agree to the approach and they came to the conclusion that party members should tell the workers and the people, leave Korea to the Koreans, and since the Soviet Union has no soldiers there, our boys have no business there and should not be sacrificed.

But, as Communist Party members, we knew that the North Koreans invaded South Korea or attacked South Korea for the purpose of liberating South Korea from the yoke of American imperialism.

Soon after that the American Peace Crusade was organized for the purpose—you see, they had never expected the United Nations to intervene. They had to do something. Since this failed, they organized the American Peace Crusade to sabotage the war effort here.

Mr. WILLIS. You mean the Communists did not expect the U. N. to intervene?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. That is right.

Mr. WILLIS. So they had to attack it via the American Peace Crusade.

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. That is correct. They organized American Peace Crusade to sabotage. To get public support of this organization they were seeking or offered top jobs, such as chairman or president or something on that order to non-Communists or, if possible, naive or famous or noted people. One of these victims—I call them victims—one of these men was Robert Morss Lovett, former Governor General of the Virgin Islands, who headed the American Peace Crusade in its early days. To this day I do not believe he was a Communist.

Then this boy came back maimed, paralyzed, from Korea—

Mr. TAVENNER. You are speaking now of the son-in-law of Mrs. Florence Gowgiel?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes. Soon after that the organization of the Save Our Sons was organized.

Mr. TAVENNER. Since you mentioned this son-in-law, do you have any information as to whether or not he was a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. No. According to Florence Gowgiel, who made some of the reports—and I know from other people—this is a wonderful couple. Her daughter is a wonderful girl, and his parents are nice people. They have nothing to do with communism. Florence Gowgiel admitted to us that her daughter telephoned to her pleading with her to leave her alone, not to connect her in any way with any Communist campaign.

Mr. TAVENNER. I will ask you to explain the Communist Party line as of the time of the fall of 1952, when Save Our Sons was organized. You have gone back to the beginning of the Korean war and you have told us about the formation of the American Peace Crusade for the purpose of sabotaging the war effort of the United States as a Communist Party objective.

Now will you tell the committee, please, in what way the Communist Party thought it could sabotage the war effort?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. According to Florence Gowgiel, first of all, she reported that she had been corresponding with mothers, with parents of boys in Korea. She received addresses from these parents of their boys in Korea. So she corresponded with the boys in Korea, also with some GI's who were prisoners of war in China. One of the boys that returned here was asked by her—

Mr. TAVENNER. Just a moment. If you don't know that yourself. I don't know whether you are speaking now from your own knowledge or not.

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. I was told about this boy returning. I know the name of the boy. She asked him to join the Communist Party, and he refused.

But then there were campaigns such as the distribution of petitions and the organizing of delegates to Senators and Congressmen. I was a member of one of these delegations to Senator Paul Douglas.

Mr. TAVENNER. Had the Save Our Sons Committee been established at the time you are now speaking of?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, sir. When we went to Senator Douglas' office in Chicago we were interviewed by a Mr. Anderson, the secretary of Mr. Douglas. Florence Gowgiel told Mr. Anderson that this committee, this delegation represents the fathers and mothers of boys in Korea. The fact is that as far as our community was concerned none of them knew they were going. In the second place, the majority of this delegation were all Communists.

Anderson said that he—pardon me. I am ahead of myself.

Florence Gowgiel said that she represents the mothers and fathers and that they want the war stopped, the firing stopped, right now and negotiate later, which was the Communist line of peace negotiations.

Mr. Anderson, tactfully, said that the United States is doing its best to quit the war, to stop the war, but that the Soviet Union has its hands in it.

A man by the name of Bernstein, who was a member of this delegation, said that that isn't true, that the fact is that the Soviet Union has not a soldier over there is proof enough for him or is enough proof that the Soviet Union hasn't anything to do with

this war and that our boys are being sacrificed in Korea to protect the interests of the American monopolists and imperialists.

Mr. TAVENNER. American monopolists and imperialists?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes; their interests.

To this Florence Gowgiel replied that the Soviet Union has no soldiers there, and that is about all I recall.

The CHAIRMAN. How many people were in this delegation?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. There were five.

The CHAIRMAN. How many were Communists?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. I would say 4, but I would swear to 3.

Mr. TAVENNER. Now let us go back a moment. Let me interrupt what was being done after the Save Our Sons Committee was formed. Let us go back to the time that Mrs. Florence Gowgiel appeared at your branch meeting and obtained the \$20 for expense money to the founding convention in October 1952. Do you recall what she said at that time as to the purpose of this organization, what it was to be formed for, what they sought to accomplish?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. She said that it was the intention to form the organization of sweethearts, mothers, and wives of servicemen who were in Korea and others who were about to be sent and any one who could support it.

Mr. TAVENNER. What did she say they proposed to do or to try to accomplish?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. They proposed to end the war immediately.

Mr. WILLIS. And negotiate later, you say?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, negotiate later.

Mr. WILLIS. That was the Communist Party line?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. That was the Communist Party line; yes. I mentioned that before.

Mr. KEARNEY. You mean the Save Our Sons organization proposed to end the war immediately, is that it?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes. That was the line proposed first by the American Peace Crusade and the Save Our Sons had the same program, to stop the war now and negotiate later.

Mr. KEARNEY. How did they intend to do that? How did they intend to stop the war? Did they want us to surrender?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Nothing else but. They wanted to have our troops withdrawn from Korea, leaving the South Koreans at the mercy of the Communists.

Mr. TAVENNER. How did they think they could help to bring that about?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. By influencing the people in the United States, by organizing. There is one thing I would like to explain. I was approached by two Communist members of the industrial branch where I was a member.

Mr. TAVENNER. Who were they?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Charlie Wilson and Ed Klinger.

Ed Klinger was a close associate and collaborator in Communist activities in Argo with Florence Gowgiel. He attended with her the school board meetings and so on.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were these two Communist Party members that you spoke of members of the union?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. They were members of Local 719, UAW-CIO.

Mr. TAVENNER. It is safe to say that the Secretary of Defense, Charles Wilson, has never been a member of that union?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes. These two men came over to my place and they ordered me—I mean ordered—to make a speech at the union, knowing that I had a boy in Korea. They came up to me and said, “Czar, you are going to make a speech at the next union meeting.” I would try to wiggle myself out, and I said “I never made a speech.” But knowing the Communist line that they don’t take “no” for an answer and don’t like anybody who would retreat, I suggested if you will write the speech for me, I will make it. I will study it and make it. So they wrote the speech for me, which I turned in to the Federal Bureau, and then I made the speech at the local union. Florence Gowgiel and Henry Noyes was at that meeting also.

Mr. TAVENNER. Wait a minute. She was a member of the union?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. No; that is what I meant to explain. I was a member of the union. They could not refuse the floor to me, so I spoke. But they did not permit Florence Gowgiel and Henry Noyes to speak because they knew that this was a communistic campaign.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did Florence Gowgiel and this man—

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Henry Noyes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Noyes? N-o-y-e-s?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Endeavor to get recognition to speak at that union meeting? Did they try to get it?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes. They talked to the union leadership, but they would not permit it.

Mr. TAVENNER. Why wouldn’t they permit it?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Because they knew it was Communist inspired, that there was something wrong. Even after I spoke they told the leader from the regional office of UAW-CIO, a man by the name of Bob Voss, said he sympathized with Czarnowski but he believes that this is Communist inspired and after all it is not union business, that this is business for somebody else.

Mr. TAVENNER. Why was it that these Communist leaders in this union directed you to make this speech after Mrs. Florence Gowgiel and Henry Noyes were unable to get recognized?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. No; I spoke first. I got recognition first.

Mr. TAVENNER. Yes.

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. But they never spoke. I asked why they didn’t speak. I asked the Communist leaders.

Mr. TAVENNER. Why was it you were called upon to make this speech? What was the purpose of it?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. I spoke asking them that I wanted to help my boy return from Korea and I want him to be returned in one piece. Before when they called on me they told me that after I make this speech they already have a resolution ready which they will introduce. In other words, this resolution that was drawn up was drawn up by Communists, which the union leadership didn’t know anything about.

Mr. TAVENNER. So they were going to try to get a resolution of that kind adopted by a labor union through you?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Then they knew the labor union wouldn’t recognize Mrs. Gowgiel?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. I wouldn't know that. All I know is that Mrs. Gowgiel and Henry Noyes did not get the floor.

Mr. TAVENNER. What connection did Mrs. Gowgiel have with working out this plan, if you know, of making this appeal to the union for a resolution to bring the boys back from Korea?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. What connection she had—she must have had some connection with the Communist Party members of my local because how would she get down there? I don't know the connections there. I was surprised to see Henry Noyes there. Henry Noyes to this day denies he is a Communist. Only through the Communist Party would he be identified to go down there and make that speech or make a speech, but he did not get the floor.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was the resolution offered?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. No.

Mr. TAVENNER. We have observed in connection with some of these peace movements, particularly the American Peace Crusade, that when resolutions were put through by certain labor unions—and I am referring particularly to one signed by John Gojack as one of the vice presidents of the United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers, and which was announced publicly over the air from Pravda to all the satellite countries—they were represented as expressing the thought of the people in the United States.

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Of the working class?

Mr. TAVENNER. Yes; of the working class in the United States.

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. So here was this effort to obtain Communist propaganda from your union in which these various persons participated or tried to participate.

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes. But they failed because our union was a rightwing union, and they were watching Communists pretty closely.

Mr. TAVENNER. But for that they would have succeeded.

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Without that they would have succeeded, yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. As time went on after the formation of Save Our Sons Committee, did Mrs. Florence Gowgiel appear at your Communist Party meetings and discuss the progress that was being made by Save Our Sons?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, sir. She made reports to the Argo branch of all the activities that were going on in the Save Our Sons, and if there was any work to be done that she wanted the Communist Party members to do, naturally she reported that and asked us to do that. The same thing was the organization of those delegates that was brought up at the Communist Party meeting. That is how she got us to attend the delegation and visit Senator Douglas.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did she also make any suggestions of things that Communist Party members were to do in order to help save our sons?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes. There are many suggestions, and I can't recall all of them. As I said, the signing of petitions and writing cards to Congressmen and Senators, to talk to the people about ending the Korean war. In our branch there were three different people, each one working in a different plant.

Mr. TAVENNER. What type of plants were these?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. I worked at Electromotive, which was then manufacturing locomotives. Another worked in American Can Co. An-

other worked in the Corn Products Refining Co., where they manufacture Argo starch.

Mr. TAVENNER. What kind of refining company?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Corn Products Refining Co. In each plant there were around 5,000 to 10,000 workers. If every Communist is real active and spreads around the workers about putting over a certain program, you realize that they can be quite successful. That is just what they had been doing.

Mr. TAVENNER. So those of you who represented those various industries were supposed to go back into those industries and see that the people there got the slant that the Communist Party was trying to give to the Korean war?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes. But they were not to tell the people that this was the Communist Party, but that the Save Our Sons organization was doing so-and-so.

Mr. KEARNEY. How many members belong to this Save Our Sons committee?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. I don't think they had any members. I am not sure.

Mr. KEARNEY. You don't think what?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. I don't know if they had any members. All the work, I believe, was mostly done by telephone and correspondence. There were some meetings or things like that. I don't know if any member belonged to that organization.

Mr. KEARNEY. You are trying to tell me, then, that any work that was done was done by the members of this Communist Party branch, the Argo branch?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. It is not only the Argo branch. It is the entire Communist Party system that supported the Save Our Sons.

Mr. KEARNEY. In other words, the Save Our Sons plan went through the entire Communist Party in this country?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. It went through the entire Chicago branch. Of course, according to the reports that Florence Gowgiel made, she corresponded with people from away down to the West Coast, even, and at one time she had an awfully big telephone bill. She corresponded with boys, with mothers, and wives of these boys. I can point out a couple of people who were in the Save Our Sons but I couldn't tell you anything about membership because the only thing I know about Save Our Sons is the connection between Save Our Sons Committee and the Communist Party.

Mr. KEARNEY. In other words, they were one and the same?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. No, it is not any more the same than American Peace Crusade is.

Mr. KEARNEY. What I am getting at is this: The Save Our Sons Committee were members of the Communist Party.

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Not all of them, no. You see, the Save Our Sons Committee is supposed to be organized by people, naive people, people who really have peace and everything at heart. Do you see what I mean? They don't know. I met a lady—

Mr. KEARNEY. In other words, the Communist Party members used those people?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. That is right.

Mr. KEARNEY. To further their own ends.

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, sir. I have talked to a lady. She did not believe me when I said that Save Our Sons had something to do with the Communist Party.

Mr. TAVENNER. You spoke of a large telephone bill. What did you have in mind about that?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. I don't exactly know how the telephone bill occurred, but they brought it up.

Mr. TAVENNER. Brought it up where?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. At the Communist Party meeting, at a branch meeting of the Agro branch, and asked that the Argo branch pay this bill for her because the Save Our Sons work is a part of the Communist Party work.

Mr. KEARNEY. How much was the telephone bill?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. \$40. These are her words.

Mr. TAVENNER. So she herself made the statement that the work of her committee was part of the Communist Party work?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, sir, and that the Communist Party should pay for it.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did they pay for it?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. At that time they had the defense committee. I think they paid part of it, I am not sure.

Mr. TAVENNER. As part of this program that you and other Communist Party members were to take back into your shops among the laborers who didn't know you were members of the Communist Party—

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Or anybody that I contacted.

Mr. TAVENNER. Or anybody that you would contact.

Were any representations made to your Communist Party group by Mrs. Florence Gowgiel regarding bacteria warfare?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes. She has accused the Americans of atrocities on Kojo Island, on the prisoners, of germ warfare, the massacre of women and children and so on.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was that in your Communist Party meetings?

Mr. KEARNEY. You heard her make those statements?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. That is exactly the same thing that Hugh Hardyman was broadcasting from Peiping, China, just a few weeks prior to that to the organization of this Save Our Sons Committee, which has been the subject of investigation by this committee. He was a delegate to a peace conference at Peiping from the Southern California Peace Crusade, which was an adjunct of the American Peace Crusade. It all fits in the same pattern.

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. To use her own words as I recall them, she said that the Americans behaved like beasts, murdering and massacring the women and children in Korea. About the atrocities on Kojo Island.

Mr. TAVENNER. You left the Communist Party at what time in 1955?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. In January 1955.

Incidentally, if I may, since you mention when I left, Claude Lightfoot, who was executive secretary of the Communist Party, used the same words at one of the meetings that Florence Gowgiel used about murderers and bandits, that the Americans are murderers and bandits

and massacrers of the people. The reason I mention Lightfoot here is that it is the same old Communist line from the top to the bottom, the same thing.

Mr. TAVENNER. About what time of the year 1955 was it that you withdrew from the Communist Party?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. In January 1955.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was Florence Gowgiel a member of the Communist Party in Argo, Ill., at the time that you withdrew from the Communist Party?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you know anything about contacts that she may have had with Communist Party members on a higher level than branch or section groups?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. The only thing I know of is that at one time she did not attend the Argo branch of the Communist Party. She mentioned to me that the members of the Argo branch are not on the same level with her, that she associates with such people or meets with such people as doctors, lawyers, and scientists.

Mr. KEARNEY. You mean they have class distinctions in the Communist Party?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. You may take it for what it is. That is what she said. She mentioned that to me also at a Communist Party meeting, and I then, being a good Communist, told him that she should be reported to a higher level. He then reported it to the section and after that she returned again to a branch meeting and continued the reports.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did the Communist Party pay her any particular homage or recognize any particular distinction on her part for the work that she had done in the Save Our Sons Committee?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. There was a party given in her honor by the section committee.

Mr. TAVENNER. Section committee? What do you mean by section committee?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. There are so many branches that belong to a section of the Communist Party. So many sections to—I don't know, the region or whatever.

Mr. TAVENNER. So it was the chairman of the section, the level just under the State or district organization?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes. She had a party there in her honor.

Mr. TAVENNER. Who was that section leader?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Wilma Gieben.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you spell the first name?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. W-i-l-m-a.

Mr. TAVENNER. And the last name?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. G-i-e-b-e-n.

Mr. TAVENNER. That was in her honor?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you attend it?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was Mrs. Gowgiel there?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, sir. She spoke about her boy, her son-in-law and her daughter, about the horrors of war, that it should be stopped. Then they went on to games, played games. And I went home.

Mr. TAVENNER. If a letter campaign of this type was to be effective, one requiring the distribution of printed material, it would cost

money. Do you know anything about the source of the money to defray the expenses of Save Our Sons?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. That was also part required by Communist Party members, to go out among the workers and collect money for any Communist activities, such as the American Peace Crusade, the Protection of Foreign Born, the Save Our Sons, and the Committee for Soviet-American Friendship, and so on.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you know of any single individual or any group of individuals who contributed substantially to that enterprise?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Florence Gowgiel succeeded in enlisting a person from—she was known for a while by the Argo branch as the Lady from Lemont. No names were given. Her identity was kept quite secret. I have this lady from Lemont at a reception of the Communist Polish consulate in Chicago. At that time Florence Gowgiel introduced her to me as Mary Phillips Buckner.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you spell the last name, please?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. B-u-c-k-n-e-r. She has contributed quite a bit of money to the Communist Party. I could never establish whether she was a member of the Communist Party until a transfer was asked by her from the Argo branch to the North Side branch, and during the period of time when funds were very badly needed for such things as the Communist Party fund drive, the Worker, or others, and money was hard to get, Mary Phillips Buckner was contacted; they said, "let's get it from her. She has the dough." So they went and got the money from her.

At this consulate where I was introduced to her she ordered a couple of signs for the Save Our Sons organization.

Mr. TAVENNER. Who ordered the signs?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Mary Phillips Buckner. And Florence Gowgiel was with her right there. They both talked to me about these signs.

Mr. WILLIS. What Embassy was that?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. The Communist Polish Embassy. You know, there is no Polish Embassy. I mean consulate.

Mr. TAVENNER. All right, Mrs. Buckner asked you about making signs?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. What did she ask you to do?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. To make a couple of signs saying "Save Our Sons," which were—

Mr. TAVENNER. You were a sign painter by trade?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. At that time, yes, sir. I made these signs and delivered them either to the branch where Florence Gowgiel attended or to her place of business. I don't remember which one.

Mr. TAVENNER. That was done at the instance of Mrs. Buckner?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes.

Mr. KEARNEY. What happened to these signs? Did you put them up?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. No. They used them and have never paid for them. They never paid for them.

Mr. KEARNEY. Do you know whether any letters were written to the troops in Korea by this Save Our Sons Committee?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, I can testify to that.

Mr. KEARNEY. To individual soldiers?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes; she wrote to individual soldiers and to prisoners of war in Chinese prisoner camps.

Mr. KEARNEY. Did she or the committee write to any Representatives or Senators?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes.

Mr. KEARNEY. Do you know who they wrote to?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. To Senator Douglas, Senator Dirksen, and the Congressmen in our vicinity.

Mr. KEARNEY. You refer to the State of Illinois?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, the State of Illinois.

Mr. KEARNEY. No outside State?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. They wrote letters to President Truman and I believe to the Attorney General.

Mr. KEARNEY. Did they have stationery printed with this "Save Our Sons" title on it?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. I believe so. Any leaflets that they printed up were Save Our Sons.

Mr. KEARNEY. How about the stationery on which they wrote to Senators and Representatives?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. I do not know, because you are supposed to write that yourself as a person individually.

Mr. KEARNEY. Did you put on the bottom of any letter that you were a member of the Save Our Sons Committee?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. If they wrote it. I don't know, I don't remember. I know they encouraged correspondence by individuals to their Congressmen.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you know whether Mrs. Buckner made any contribution of funds to Save Our Sons?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes. She was the chief contributor, as I understand, according to Florence Gowgiel.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you tell us whether Mrs. Gowgiel in her reports to the Communist Party meetings indicated that she was meeting with any success in attempting to influence public opinion to stop the war?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Every so often she mentioned that she has a wonderful letter from a mother downstate or from here or there, or from a boy, and so on. Every so often she mentioned that.

Mr. TAVENNER. I have no further questions, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Are there any questions?

Mr. WILLIS. How long did you say you remained in the party?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. About 11 years.

Mr. WILLIS. During that time were you making regular reports to the FBI?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, sir.

Mr. WILLIS. How often?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. After every meeting.

Mr. WILLIS. All or practically all that you have related to us today on the whole you have reported to the FBI during the course of these 11 years?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, sir. Pardon me, Mr. Willis. The reports were not made alone about the Communist Party. The reports that I have made were every report, whether it was the Communist Party or any subversive organization that I attended.

Mr. WILLIS. What I am driving at is that you were in contact with the FBI, and the FBI received your reports and studied them during the course of these 11 years.

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, sir.

Mr. WILLIS. I ask you that because I suspect that this lady will probably either deny everything or plead the fifth amendment, and I want to put your testimony in context with the fact that you were in contact with the FBI and the FBI received those reports from you of the things you related to us here today?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, sir.

Mr. WILLIS. Just one more thing: Did you say you had disassociated yourself from the Communist Party because you testified in a case, or something that exposed you as an undercover agent?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes; in Claude Lightfoot's case in Chicago, a Smith Act case.

Mr. WILLIS. After you were disclosed publicly as an undercover agent, then of course your usefulness was terminated as an FBI agent?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, sir. I would like to mention one more thing, since you mentioned about the fifth amendment. At the time when the congressional committee was in Chicago—I don't know for what purpose—I believe it was the UE or something—I put up the question at the branch meeting: In case they call one of us, what shall I do? He said it is the instruction of the Communist lawyers to plead the fifth amendment. I just wanted to bring that to your attention.

The CHAIRMAN. Did they tell you who those lawyers were?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. No; they have good lawyers. That is what they said.

Mr. WILLIS. That is our experience.

Mr. TAVENNER. That occurred just prior to one of our hearings, one of the hearings by this committee in Chicago?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. In Chicago, yes, sir.

Mr. DOYLE. May I inquire, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Doyle.

Mr. DOYLE. Did you ever learn the name of any person other than this one whom you identified as a member of the Save Our Sons Committee? I mean, how large a committee was it; do you know?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. I have never inquired. I couldn't answer that.

Mr. KEARNEY. Will the gentleman yield there?

Mr. DOYLE. Yes.

Mr. KEARNEY. I think you did say there were members of that committee outside the Communist Party?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. Yes, sir; but I don't know how many there were or who they were, except 1 or 2 that I have met and they denied that it was communistic.

Mr. DOYLE. May I inquire this: Was there any publicity in your town that you saw giving the names of people who claimed to be members of this Save Our Sons Committee?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. No.

Mr. DOYLE. Didn't the newspapers carry any stories about it to your recollection? You didn't see any that you now recall?

Mr. CZARNOWSKI. I don't recall. There were some articles written by Florence Gowgiel in our local paper, which is a small paper, about 10,000 or 12,000 circulation. She has made frequent visits to Mr. John

Knight, who is the chief editor of the Chicago Daily News, and at a Communist Party meeting she encouraged us to go and see him. He is a very nice man.

Mr. DOYLE. No other questions, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. You are discharged from further service with the thanks of this committee. You have made a very considerable contribution to the exposure of these groups who would destroy us, and I am sure that people who learn of your testimony, particularly those who made contributions, no matter how small, to this organization, Save Our Sons, will realize that in the future they ought to find out just exactly what they are helping before they engage in something which is not in the best interests of this great Republic.

You are excused.

The committee will stand in recess for 5 minutes.

(Brief recess.)

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will be in order.

(Members of the committee present: Representatives Walter, Doyle, Willis, and Kearney.)

Mr. TAVENNER. Mrs. Mitterer, will you come forward, please.

The CHAIRMAN. Will you raise your right hand, please. Do you swear the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mrs. MITTERER. I do.

TESTIMONY OF MRS. ELIZABETH MITTERER, ACCOMPANIED BY COUNSEL, JOSEPH FORER

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you state your name, please?

Mrs. MITTERER. Elizabeth Mitterer.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you spell your last name?

Mrs. MITTERER. M-i-t-t-e-r-e-r.

Mr. TAVENNER. It is noted that you are accompanied by counsel. Will counsel please identify himself for the record?

Mr. FORER. Joseph Forer, 711 14th Street NW., Washington, D. C.

Mr. TAVENNER. Where do you live, Miss Mitterer?

Mrs. MITTERER. 2741 North Leavitt Street, Chicago, Ill.

Mr. TAVENNER. Am I correct in referring to you as Miss?

Mrs. MITTERER. No.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mrs.?

Mrs. MITTERER. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Where were you born, Mrs. Mitterer?

Mrs. MITTERER. Chicago, Ill.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mrs. Mitterer, the committee has obtained a photostatic copy of a signature card of Save Our Sons Committee from the Argo State Bank, Summit, Ill. Will you examine it, please, and state whether or not your name appears there as secretary-treasurer of the organization?

(The witness examined the document.)

Mr. FORER. Did you ask if that is her name or her signature?

Mr. TAVENNER. I ask whether it is her name, first.

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. MITTERER. It is my name.

Mr. TAVENNER. It is your name. What is the name appearing just above yours?

Mrs. MITTERER. Florence Gowgiel.

Mr. TAVENNER. Florence L.—how do you pronounce it?

Mrs. MITTERER. Florence Gowgiel.

Mr. TAVENNER. Florence Gowgiel. Does the word "chairman" appear after her name?

Mrs. MITTERER. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you tell the committee, please, whether that is your signature appearing there as secretary-treasurer of the Save Our Sons Committee?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer on the basis of my privilege under the fifth amendment not to testify against myself.

Mr. TAVENNER. I desire to offer the document in evidence and ask that it be marked "Mitterer Exhibit No. 1" for identification purposes and filed in the records of the committee.

The CHAIRMAN. It is so received and marked. What does it purport to be? A deposit slip?

Mr. TAVENNER. No, sir; a signature card. It is a card required by the bank for identification of those entitled to draw on an account.

The CHAIRMAN. What is the name of this chairman?

Mr. TAVENNER. Florence Gowgiel.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you know Florence Gowgiel?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer on the basis of my privilege—for the same reason that I stated before.

Mr. TAVENNER. The document I introduced in evidence, Mr. Chairman, bears the date of October 30, 1952, and it shows that the account was closed October 30, 1953. It also shows an initial deposit of \$35.

Mrs. Mitterer, I hand you a Certificate of Authorized Signatures for Organization marked "Mitterer Exhibit No. 2" which purports to be an action taken by Save Our Sons Committee authorizing Florence Gowgiel as chairman and Elizabeth Mitterer as secretary-treasurer to sign checks and drafts for the withdrawal of funds. It is certified to by Elizabeth Mitterer, secretary-treasurer. Will you examine it, please, and state whether or not you executed that certificate in behalf of Save Our Sons Committee?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer on the basis of my privilege under the fifth amendment not to testify against myself.

Mr. KEARNEY. Would you answer this question? Is this Save Our Sons a phony organization?

Mrs. MITTERER. I don't know what you mean by a phony organization.

Mr. KEARNEY. You know what the word "phony" means, don't you? Was this organization Communist inspired?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer on the basis—on the same grounds as I said before.

Mr. TAVENNER. I desire to offer in evidence Mitterer Exhibit No. 2.

The CHAIRMAN. So ordered.

5102 COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA AMONG KOREAN WAR PRISONERS

MITTERER EXHIBIT No. 2

Certificate of Authorized Signatures
for Organization

TO: ARGO STATE BANK

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT, at a meeting of the members of the organization known

as SAVE OUR SONS COMMITTEE

duly held and convened on OCT. 8, 1952 at which meeting members constituting a quorum were personally present, the following whose names are set forth below, were duly elected to the offices respectively designated and have duly qualified as such officers Pursuant to authority contained in the By-Laws of said organization the said officers have duly designated the above named bank as a depository of the funds of said organization. By virtue of said election, said By-Laws, and the designation aforesaid each of said officers is authorized to deposit funds with said depository for the account of this organization and to endorse in the name of this organization, checks, drafts or orders "for deposit with the bank," and such endorsement may be written or stamped without designation of the officer making the endorsement; and the bank is authorized to pay out funds on deposit with it from time to time to the credit of this organization upon checks, drafts or orders drawn on said depository and signed in the name of this organization by the officers listed below including any checks, drafts or orders drawn to the individual order of any officer signing the same and/or tendered for deposit to the individual account of any such officer, until further notice is given to you in writing.

Name Office
(List below only names of those authorized to sign)

<u>FLORENCE GOWGIEL</u>	<u>CHAIRMAN</u>
<u>ELIZABETH MITTERER</u>	<u>SEC. TREAS.</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

Number of signatures required upon each check, draft or order for the withdrawal of funds 2

The undersigned hereby certifies that she is CHA. SEC. - TREAS. of the above named organization, and the keeper of its official records and seal, and is duly authorized to make this certification on its behalf.

Impression of Seal

Elizabeth Mitterer
Secretary - TREAS

DATE: OCTOBER 8, 1952

ATTEST: Florence Gowgiel
President - CHAIRMAN

FORM 731 WESTERN BANK & OFFICE SUPPLY, CHICAGO

Mr. TAVENNER. The documents that I have handed you relate to bank accounts at the Argo State Bank. Did Save Our Sons Committee carry an account at any other banking institution besides Argo State Bank?

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer on the same grounds as before.

Mr. TAVENNER. Weren't you elected treasurer of the organization at its first meeting in 1952?

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer on the same grounds.

Mr. TAVENNER. Aren't you treasurer of it now?

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer on the same grounds.

Mr. TAVENNER. I hand you a photostatic copy of the bank statement for the account from the time it was opened on October 30, 1952, until the time it was closed on October 30, 1953, at the Argo State Bank. Will you examine it, please, and state whether you can identify it as the bank account of Save Our Sons Committee?

(The witness examined the document.)

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. I desire to offer the document in evidence and ask that it be marked "Mitterer Exhibit No. 3" for identification purposes and filed in the records of the committee.

The CHAIRMAN. Let it be so received.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mrs. Mitterer, an examination of this bank account over the period of its year's duration shows total deposits of \$134. One hundred and thirty-four dollars wouldn't have covered the mailing expenses of your organization for a period of a week, would it, or a month?

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer, as I did before.

Mr. TAVENNER. How did you handle the other funds of the committee?

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer the same as before.

Mr. TAVENNER. Is there anything secret about the source of your funds and the amount of your funds available for the purposes of your committee?

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer the same as before.

Mr. TAVENNER. A subpoena duces tecum was served on you, Mrs. Mitterer, requiring you to produce before this committee all bank statements and vouchers showing receipts and disbursements of funds used in behalf of Save Our Sons Committee from October 1952 to the present date. Do you have those statements with you?

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer.

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mr. TAVENNER. You don't have them with you?

Mrs. MITTERER. I don't have any.

Mr. TAVENNER. Where are they?

Mrs. MITTERER. I just don't have any.

Mr. TAVENNER. Where are they?

Mrs. MITTERER. I don't know.

Mr. TAVENNER. When was the last time you saw them?

Mrs. MITTERER. I never saw them.

Mr. TAVENNER. You never saw any of the record, any bank records of Save Our Sons Committee?

Mrs. MITTERER. No.

Mr. TAVENNER. Didn't you sign the checks on the account at the bank?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer.

Mr. TAVENNER. If you refuse to answer the question as to whether or not you signed the checks, you certainly cannot conscientiously say that you have never seen any of the vouchers of this organization.

Mr. FORER. No, no. You were referring to the bank statements.

Mr. TAVENNER. Statements and vouchers.

Mr. FORER. What do you mean by vouchers?

Mr. TAVENNER. Checks.

Mr. KEARNEY. Counsel knows what vouchers are, doesn't he?

Mr. FORER. Voucher could mean a dozen different things.

Mr. TAVENNER. If there is any possibility of misunderstanding, where are the checks which were issued on the bank account of Save Our Sons Committee?

Mr. FORER. You mean canceled checks?

Mr. TAVENNER. Yes; canceled checks.

Mr. FORER. The fact that she signed checks, if she did before, doesn't mean she got them back from the bank.

Mr. TAVENNER. That isn't my question. Will you answer my question?

Mr. FORER. The question is where are they, the canceled checks? Is that the question?

Mr. TAVENNER. Yes.

Mr. FORER. Do you know where they are?

Mrs. MITTERER. No; I don't.

Mr. TAVENNER. When did you last see them?

Mrs. MITTERER. I never saw them.

The CHAIRMAN. How did your name get on them if you never saw them?

Mr. FORER. She never saw the canceled checks.

Mr. TAVENNER. Just let her answer the question. You do not have to help her on a factual situation.

Mr. FORER. You are claiming an inconsistency.

Mr. TAVENNER. I probably will, but let's develop it first.

You haven't seen the canceled checks? Is that it?

Mrs. MITTERER. No.

Mr. WILLIS. Did you sign the original checks before they went to the bank and were canceled?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer.

Mr. TAVENNER. To whom were the canceled checks delivered?

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer.

Mr. KEARNEY. Did anyone else sign the checks besides you, Mrs. Mitterer? Did anyone else sign these checks besides yourself?

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer on the same grounds.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mrs. Mitterer, you were directed by the subpoena duces tecum to produce copies of all correspondence of Save Our Sons Committee and officers and employees thereof with members of the Armed Forces of the United States who were prisoners of war in Korea. Do you have the records with you?

Mrs. MITTERER. No; I never had them.

Mr. TAVENNER. You never had them?

Mrs. MITTERER. No.

Mr. TAVENNER. Who does have them?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. MITTERER. I don't know who has them.

Mr. TAVENNER. When did you last see them?

Mrs. MITTERER. I never saw them.

Mr. TAVENNER. You never saw copies of any letters to men in the Armed Forces, prisoners of war?

Mrs. MITTERER. No; I never saw any.

The CHAIRMAN. Did you ever write any letters to any prisoners of war?

Mrs. MITTERER. No; never.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you have in your custody copies of petitions that you had signed in Korea, that Save Our Sons had signed in Korea?

Mrs. MITTERER. No.

Mr. TAVENNER. Who does have them?

Mrs. MITTERER. I don't know.

Mr. TAVENNER. When did you last see them?

Mrs. MITTERER. I never saw them.

Mr. TAVENNER. Let me hand you issue No. 2, page 1, of a bulletin entitled "Save Our Sons—While Row on Row the Crosses Grow," bearing date of February 1953. Will you examine it, please, and identify that as an issue of the official publication of your organization of Save Our Sons?

(The witness examined the document.)

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer on the basis of my privilege under the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Let me read this paragraph to you:

Thanks to our devoted SOSers, with special gratitude to Elizabeth Mitterer, our most overworked volunteer, we will present thousands of signatures on our cease-fire scrolls to add strength to our plea.

You were one of the overworked volunteers in the obtaining of thousands of signatures. Can you tell us that you have never seen any of those petitions?

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer on the same grounds.

Mr. TAVENNER. Actually you have seen the petitions and you helped in obtaining them, didn't you?

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer on the same grounds.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were you at the founding convention on October 25, 1952?

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. In other words, you have determined that you won't give this committee any information of any character that you have regarding Save Our Sons Committee? Isn't that in substance the position that you are taking?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. MITTERER. I just don't understand what you mean.

Mr. TAVENNER. You have so far refused to answer any question that I have asked you relating to Save Our Sons Committee. Had you determined before coming here that you would not answer any question relating to that organization?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. MITTERER. I still don't understand.

Mr. TAVENNER. Well, there is no need of my repeating it if you can't understand it.

The subpoena duces tecum required you to produce copies of all letters from Save Our Sons Committee and officers and employees with parents of members of the armed services of the United States who were prisoners of war in Korea. Do you have copies of such letters?

Mrs. MITTERER. No.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were such letters written?

Mrs. MITTERER. I don't know.

Mr. TAVENNER. You don't know whether letters were written to parents of prisoners of war in Korea?

Mrs. MITTERER. No.

Mr. TAVENNER. You do not know? Do you know whether letters were written to prisoners of war in Korea?

Mrs. MITTERER. No.

Mr. TAVENNER. You do not know that?

Mrs. MITTERER. No.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you know letters were received from prisoners of war in Korea by Save Our Sons Committee or Mrs. Florence Gowgiel acting as its chairman?

Mrs. MITTERER. No.

Mr. TAVENNER. You don't know that?

Mrs. MITTERER. No.

Mr. TAVENNER. Didn't Save Our Sons Committee through its publications and its bulletins quote letters received from veterans in Korea or prisoners of war?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mr. FORER. Would you repeat the question?

Mr. TAVENNER. Isn't it a fact that Save Our Sons Committee, by its official publication or bulletin, published letters received from prisoners of war in Korea?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. MITTERER. Not that I remember of.

Mr. TAVENNER. You don't remember. What did Save Our Sons Committee do, then?

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. KEARNEY. How do you pronounce G-o-w-g-i-e-l?

Mrs. MITTERER. Gowgiel.

Mr. KEARNEY. What is the first name?

Mrs. MITTERER. Florence.

Mr. KEARNEY. Was she cochairman of this committee?

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did the Save Our Sons Committee have in its possession a list of prisoners of war in Korea?

Mrs. MITTERER. I don't know.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you learn from Mrs. Gowgiel or any other person officially connected with Save Our Sons Committee where the names of prisoners of war in Korea were obtained?

Mrs. MITTERER. No.

Mr. TAVENNER. You never heard that?

Mrs. MITTERER. No.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you observe at any time letters being received from Shanghai?

Mrs. MITTERER. No.

Mr. TAVENNER. You did not?

Mrs. MITTERER. No.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was there any correspondence from Save Our Sons Committee and any Shanghai newspapers or publications or individuals engaged in such work in Shanghai?

Mrs. MITTERER. No; I don't know nothing about it.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was your organization in correspondence with the National Guardian?

Mr. FORER. You say "your organization"?

Mr. TAVENNER. I will change the question.

Was Save Our Sons Committee engaged at any time in correspondence with National Guardian or its editor, Cedric Belfrage?

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Were you in Washington on the 27th of February 1953?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. MITTERER. No.

Mr. KEARNEY. What was the total organization in the Save Our Sons organization?

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. KEARNEY. As a matter of fact, Mrs. Mitterer, this Save Our Sons organization was a Communist front organization, wasn't it?

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were you one of the original sponsors prior to the founding convention of this organization?

Mrs. MITTERER. Will you repeat that?

Mr. TAVENNER. Maybe I can help you to answer it by showing you an advertisement issued prior to the founding convention which called for the holding of the convention.

(The witness examined the document.)

Mr. TAVENNER. It solicits funds and it gives the names of the sponsors. If you will look at the third or fourth one there, I think you will see your name.

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer that under the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Just a moment. Will you look at it, please, and state whether or not you see your name as one of the sponsors?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. MITTERER. I see my name.

Mr. TAVENNER. Under the list of sponsors? Under the heading "Sponsors"?

Mrs. MITTERER. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Weren't you a sponsor?

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer that.

Mr. TAVENNER. I desire to offer the document in evidence and ask that it be marked "Mitterer Exhibit No. 4" for identification purposes and filed in the records of the committee.

The CHAIRMAN. The document will be so received.

Mr. TAVENNER. How were you employed in October 25, 1952?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. MITTERER. I wasn't employed at all.

Mr. TAVENNER. How were you employed during the next 6 months after that date?

Mrs. MITTERER. I wasn't employed.

Mr. TAVENNER. By that you mean you were not paid any salary?

Mrs. MITTERER. No.

Mr. TAVENNER. What work did you do, whether for compensation, reward, or otherwise? In other words, were you paid for it or not, the work that you did do?

Mrs. MITTERER. I didn't do any work.

Mr. TAVENNER. You did no work with Save Our Sons Committee?

Mr. FORER. Are you talking about holding a job?

Mr. TAVENNER. No; I am asking whether she did any work with Save Our Sons. Anybody knows what work is.

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer for the same reason.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were you a member of the Communist Party on October 25, 1952?

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Are you a member of the Communist Party now?

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer for the same reason.

Mr. TAVENNER. Have you been a member of the Communist Party at any time that I have not specifically asked you about?

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer for the same reason.

Mr. TAVENNER. I have no further questions?

The CHAIRMAN. Any questions?

Mr. DOYLE. Yes; 1 or 2.

May I ask you, please, madam—I take it from your answers that your relationship to this committee was merely one of a volunteer person; is that correct?

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer for the same reason.

Mr. DOYLE. You stated that you did not have the correspondence file or any correspondence of the committee in answer to this subpoena. Did you ever see that file?

Mrs. MITTERER. No, I never did.

Mr. DOYLE. Do you know who did have it?

Mrs. MITTERER. No.

Mr. DOYLE. Was it ever in your possession?

Mrs. MITTERER. No.

Mr. DOYLE. Do you know to whom the bank which issued this photostatic card delivered the canceled checks after the bank honored them?

Mrs. MITTERER. No.

Mr. DOYLE. Were the committee funds to your knowledge ever audited by any bookkeeper or accountant, do you know?

Mrs. MITTERER. I don't know. I know nothing about it.

Mr. DOYLE. Did the committee have a bookkeeper so far as you know?

Mrs. MITTERER. No.

Mr. DOYLE. You understand the question. Did the committee have a person who kept a record of the incoming money and outgoing money?

Mrs. MITTERER. I don't know.

Mr. DOYLE. Your answer is that you don't know?

Mrs. MITTERER. No, I don't know.

Mr. DOYLE. Who in the committee, so far as you know, did have possession of those committee records of moneys received and expended, if you didn't have?

Mrs. MITTERER. No, I don't know.

Mr. DOYLE. Did any member of the committee ever tell you that they had those books and records?

Mrs. MITTERER. No.

Mr. DOYLE. What person of the committee, if any one, asked you to sign any committee reports or records as secretary-treasurer?

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer that on the basis that I did before.

Mr. DOYLE. You remember signing some documents for the committee, do you?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer for the same reason.

Mr. DOYLE. Who presented any committee papers or documents for you to sign and which you did sign as secretary-treasurer? Who presented those papers to you to sign?

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer for the same reason.

Mr. DOYLE. Did you ever attend a meeting of the committee?

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer for the same reason.

Mr. DOYLE. Did the committee have an office at which you were ever present?

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer for the same reason.

Mr. DOYLE. Did you yourself ever solicit any funds for the committee?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer for the same reason.

The CHAIRMAN. Is that all, Mr. Doyle?

Mr. DOYLE. I think one more question.

I take it, then, that your relationship with the committee was about this: That, while your name was used as secretary-treasurer, you were not a business person employed in any occupation during that period of time, but were a housewife; is that correct?

Mrs. MITTERER. I am a housewife.

Mr. DOYLE. You are and you were during this period of time; is that correct?

Mrs. MITTERER. That is correct.

Mr. DOYLE. So your relationship was that you allowed your name to be used but did not actively take part in the committee's affairs; is that correct?

Mrs. MITTERER. I refuse to answer that for the same reason as before.

Mr. DOYLE. I thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Any questions?

The witness is excused from further attendance under the subpoena, and the committee will stand in recess until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

(Whereupon, at 3:50 p. m. Monday, June 18, the committee was recessed to reconvene at 10 a. m. Tuesday, June 19, 1956.)



INVESTIGATION OF COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA AMONG PRISONERS OF WAR IN KOREA

TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 1956

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

A subcommittee of the Committee on Un-American Activities met, pursuant to recess, at 10 a. m. in the caucus room, Old House Office Building, Hon. Clyde Doyle (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Committee members present: Representatives Francis E. Walter, Clyde Doyle, and Bernard W. Kearney.

Staff members present: Frank S. Tavenner, Jr., counsel, and George C. Williams, investigator.

(Committee members present at the time of convening: Representatives Doyle and Kearney.)

Mr. DOYLE. The subcommittee will please come to order.

By reason of appointment of the subcommittee by the chairman of the full committee, the subcommittee consisting of Mr. Kearney of New York, Mr. Willis of Louisiana, and Mr. Doyle of California, acting as chairman, and a quorum of the subcommittee being present, we will proceed.

I am informed Mr. Willis will be here shortly.

Who is your first witness, Mr. Tavenner?

Mr. TAVENNER. Mrs. Gowgiel.

Mr. DOYLE. Would you please raise your right hand and be sworn? Please rise.

Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I do.

TESTIMONY OF FLORENCE GOWGIEL, ACCOMPANIED BY COUNSEL, JOSEPH FORER

Mr. TAVENNER. What is your name, please?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. Florence Gowgiel.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you spell your last name?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. G-o-w-g-i-e-l.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will counsel accompanying the witness please identify himself for the record?

Mr. FORER. Joseph Forer, 711 14th Street NW., Washington, D. C.

Mr. TAVENNER. Where do you live, Mrs. Gowgiel?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. In Argo.

Mr. TAVENNER. Argo, Ill.?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. That is right.

Mr. TAVENNER. How long have you lived there?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. All my life.

Mr. TAVENNER. What was your name prior to marriage?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. This is my single name, my father's name.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you use any other name at this time?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I certainly don't.

Mr. TAVENNER. Are you the chairman at this time of an organization known as Save Our Sons Committee?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer on the basis of my privilege under the fifth amendment, not to be a witness against myself.

Mr. TAVENNER. Notwithstanding you take that position before this committee, you have this morning circulated among the press statements indicating that you are the present chairman of Save Our Sons Committee. Isn't that true?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer.

Mr. KEARNEY. In other words, Mrs. Gowgiel—

Mrs. GOWGIEL. On the same grounds.

Mr. KEARNEY. In other words, it is easy enough to make a statement to the press when you are not under oath. When you come here it is a different story. Is that it?

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Counsel, here is a letter I received in the mail signed by a Mrs. Florence Gowgiel, chairman, Save Our Sons Committee. This is dated June 15, 1956. I present that to you, Counsel. Maybe that will help refresh the witness' memory.

Mr. TAVENNER. What is your address, Mrs. Gowgiel?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. 6159 Archer Road, Argo.

Mr. TAVENNER. I hand you an envelope addressed to Mr. Clyde Doyle, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C. and a typewritten letter, presumably mailed in that envelope, signed Mrs. Florence Gowgiel, chairman, Save Our Sons Committee, and showing the address of 6159 Archer Road, Argo, Ill.

Will you examine it, please, and state whether or not you mailed that letter?

(Document handed to the witness.)

Mr. TAVENNER. To Congressman Doyle?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you examine the letter again, please, and state whether or not there is an ink signature at the bottom of the letter?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer—

Mr. FORER. He just asked you if there is something in ink written there.

Mrs. GOWGIEL. Yes, there is something written in ink.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you examine it, please, and state what name appears there?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. Florence Gowgiel.

Mr. TAVENNER. Below that signature, is there typewritten this language: "Chairman, Save Our Sons Committee"?

"Chairman, Save Our Sons Committee"?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you type it there?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer.

Mr. TAVENNER. Is that your signature, the name Florence Gowgiel?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer.

Mr. KEARNEY. Mr. Chairman, I ask that you direct the witness to answer.

Mrs. GOWGIEL. For the same reason, under the fifth amendment.

Mr. DOYLE. I instruct the witness to answer. We cannot accept your answer.

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I still refuse to answer on the basis of my privilege under the fifth amendment, not to be a witness against myself.

Mr. DOYLE. I might state, Counsel, at this point, that I received those two sheets of typewritten material yesterday in the envelope which I handed you, on which the postage was paid and received here at Washington in my office.

Mr. KEARNEY. Yes; and I think every other member of the committee received one.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mrs. Gowgiel, I hand you a photostatic copy of a call to an emergency Midwest assembly. Will you examine it, please, and state whether that was a call which you issued for the founding convention of Save Our Sons Committee?

(Document handed to the witness.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Chairman, I desire to introduce the document in evidence and ask that it be marked "Gowgiel Exhibit No. 1," for identification purposes and filed in the records of the committee.

Mr. DOYLE. It will be received and so marked.

(The document referred to was marked "Gowgiel Exhibit No. 1" and filed for the information of the committee.)

Mr. TAVENNER. And I will read parts of it.

A call to all patriotic Americans who have loved ones in Korea, in uniform, or about to be drafted:

Mothers, fathers of Americans in Korea, in the frontlines, in prison camps, and in hospitals. * * * All organizations whose members have sons in the armed services or in Korea come to an emergency Midwest assembly Saturday, October 25, 11 a. m., in Springfield, Ill., to save the lives of our sons and loved ones; to stir the conscience of America; to tell all public officials and all candidates for office that we want an immediate end of the senseless slaughter.

1. For a cease-fire in Korea on both sides NOW!
2. Continue negotiations to settle remaining question of repatriation of prisoners.

Was the founding convention held pursuant to this call on October 25, 1952, in Springfield, Ill.?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Czarnowski, in his testimony before the committee yesterday, advised the committee that you reported to the Argo branch of the Communist Party in August or September of that year the proposal to form this organization of Save Our Sons Committee, and after discussing its purposes with the Communist Party branch you asked for financial assistance from that branch of the Communist Party to pay your expenses to this founding convention in Springfield.

Was any part of his testimony insofar as it related to you in connection with your appearance before that group true?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Actually, didn't you make the keynote address at the founding convention of Save Our Sons assembly in Springfield, on October 25?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I abide by my refusal to answer.

Mr. DOYLE. I instruct you to answer. We cannot accept that as a satisfactory answer.

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mr. DOYLE. Do you still refuse to answer?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. Yes; under the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Didn't you, just a few moments ago, hand to the press in this room the program of that founding convention which shows keynote address, Mrs. Florence Gowgiel, Argo, Ill., for sponsoring committee?

And I hand you the printed program to refresh your recollection.

(Document handed to the witness.)

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. No; not a few minutes ago, I didn't.

Mr. TAVENNER. When did you hand it to them?

Mr. FORER. You are assuming she did.

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mr. KEARNEY. I suggest that counsel let the witness testify.

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you deliver it to the press for publication?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Is the document which I hand you a program of the founding convention?

(Document handed to the witness.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. I desire to introduce the document in evidence and ask that it be marked "Gowgiel Exhibit No. 2," for identification purposes and filed in the records of the committee.

Mr. DOYLE. It is so received and so marked.

(The document referred to was marked "Gowgiel Exhibit No. 2" and filed for the information of the committee.)

Mr. TAVENNER. Mrs. Gowgiel, I have before me a photostatic copy of an article appearing in the Illinois State Journal and Register, Springfield, Ill., published Sunday morning, October 26, 1952.

The heading is:

"Plead for Cease Fire. 'Save Our Sons' Group Meets Here."

In the course of this article it stated:

A plea for an immediate cease fire in Korea was drafted yesterday by about 170 midwestern men and women gathered in the Theater Guild Building, 107 East Lawrence Avenue in a "Save Our Sons" assembly.

Is that a correct statement as to the representation of midwestern men and women at the founding convention?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. KEARNEY. Mr. Chairman, may I ask a couple of questions concerning this letter?

Mr. DOYLE. Yes, Mr. Kearney.

Mr. KEARNEY. This letter that was produced a moment ago, addressed to Mr. Clyde Doyle, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C., I received exactly the same letter.

Did you receive my answer?

There is no need of signaling, Mr. Counsel.

Mr. FORER. I am not signaling. If I want to talk to the witness I will talk to her.

Mr. KEARNEY. I can see the motion on the arm. I am not blind.

Mr. FORER. Are you checking on my consulting with the witness?

Mr. KEARNEY. Not at all.

Mr. FORER. Then what is the problem?

Mr. KEARNEY. You are signaling.

Mr. FORER. I don't understand you.

Mr. KEARNEY. Would the witness answer the question?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. KEARNEY. You refuse to answer as to whether you got an answer from me or not?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse under the fifth amendment.

Mr. KEARNEY. You are taking the fifth amendment on receiving an answer from me to this letter allegedly written by you. How could you incriminate yourself?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse on the same grounds.

Mr. KEARNEY. All right.

You say in this letter, or state in this letter:

Save Our Sons Committee was as American as the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.

Is that correct?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. KEARNEY. Do you mean to say that by making a statement "Save Our Sons Committee was as American as the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States," by your answering you may incriminate yourself in a criminal action?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. KEARNEY. Is it true, as far as the statement in this letter is concerned. [Reading:]

We issued a call to an assembly in Springfield on October 25, 1952.

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. KEARNEY (reading):

We asked the radio stations to announce the meeting.

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. KEARNEY (reading):

We got from the newspapers lists of the prisoners of war from Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Iowa, and Missouri with their home addresses.

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. KEARNEY (reading):

We sent to the mothers and fathers of these prisoners announcements of the meeting, about 3,000 of them.

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. KEARNEY. In other words, were you chairman of this so-called Save Our Sons Committee?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. KEARNEY. Do you know anything about Save Our Sons Committee?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. KEARNEY. In other words, I take it from your answers that this committee is just as phony as your testimony here this morning.

Mr. FORER. Is that a question or an accusation?

Mr. KEARNEY. That is an accusation, if you want to make it that way.

Mr. FORER. Then the witness doesn't have to answer.

Mr. KEARNEY. Then I will ask her that question.

Mr. FORER. I don't see how you can expect a witness to answer a question as vague and loaded as that.

Mr. KEARNEY. She can answer all these questions if she feels like it.

Mr. FORER. Sure, if she feels like it she will claim the constitutional privilege. I don't see how you can answer a question that has just a suggestive meaning.

Mr. KEARNEY. Were you active at all in this Save Our Sons organization?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. KEARNEY. Did you hear the testimony of Mrs. Mitterer yesterday?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. Yes; I was here.

Mr. KEARNEY. Do you know Mrs. Mitterer?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. KEARNEY. As a matter of fact, Mrs. Mitterer was secretary-treasurer of this organization; was she not?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. KEARNEY. You were the cochairman, or chairman of the committee. Is that not a fact?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. KEARNEY. Is it true that you made known to everybody your activities for peace and your views on it?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. KEARNEY. Are you an advocate of peace regardless of your activities with the Save Our Sons Committee?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I would like to hear the question again.

Mr. KEARNEY. Will the reporter repeat it, please?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. If you ask whether I believe in peace, my answer is "Yes."

Mr. KEARNEY. Do you know of anybody that does not in this country of ours?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. That does what?

Mr. KEARNEY. You understand English; do you not?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. Repeat the question.

Mr. KEARNEY. Do you know of anybody who does not believe in peace in this country of ours?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mr. KEARNEY. Surely that does not take active consultation with your attorney to answer that question.

Mr. FORER. I think it is a hard question to answer.

Mr. KEARNEY. A hard question to answer?

Mr. FORER. Yes, because it is an ambiguous, vague question. What do you mean, do you know—everybody says they are in favor of peace. But then what is peace?

Mr. KEARNEY. Let us put it this way: Does the witness know of anybody in this country that is in favor of a war?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. No; I don't know.

Mr. KEARNEY. Now we are getting somewhere.

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Kearney, and Counsel, it will be necessary for the committee to recess for about 15 minutes. There is another major committee that has a matter before it which I have to participate in for about 15 minutes. I am sorry to cause this inconvenience.

The committee will stand in recess for about 15 minutes.

(Whereupon, a brief recess was taken, there being present at the time of taking the recess Representatives Doyle and Kearney.)

(The subcommittee was reconvened at the expiration of the recess, there being present Representatives Walter and Kearney.)

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will be in order.

The subcommittee will be reconstituted, consisting of Messrs. Kearney, Doyle, and myself.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mrs. Gowgiel, will you return to the witness stand, please?

Mrs. Gowgiel, were you acquainted with an organization in St. Louis by the name of St. Louis Emergency Defense Committee?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. Not that I know of.

Mr. TAVENNER. Well, were you acquainted with an individual in St. Louis by the name of Brockman Schumacher, S-c-h-u-m-a-c-h-e-r?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. The name is not familiar to me.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Schumacher, according to testimony we received in St. Louis on June 5 of this year, was chairman of the St. Louis Emergency Defense Committee, a committee formed in St. Louis for the defense of certain persons being prosecuted under the Smith Act in St. Louis.

Does that refresh your recollection?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. No; it doesn't.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you recall whether there were present at the founding convention on October 25, 1952, a representation from St. Louis?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mr. FORER. You mean the founding convention of the Save Our Sons?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. According to the testimony received by this committee in St. Louis it was the purpose of this defense committee to raise funds for the defense of defendants in the Smith Act case there, and for propaganda purposes.

Do you know, can you tell us whether or not the Save Our Sons Committee was requested to make any contribution of funds or services to the defense of the Smith Act defendants in St. Louis?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I have no knowledge.

Mr. TAVENNER. You have no knowledge.

Mr. Schumacher was a witness before the committee and he was asked this question:

Were you interested, Mr. Schumacher, in the forming of an organization designed to circulate propaganda regarding the return of our soldiers in Korea in 1952 when this country was in the middle of its fight in Korea?

Mr. Schumacher refused to answer the question, asserting as the reason for it the fifth amendment.

And then this question was asked him:

Did you suggest to Mr. Cortor that he attend a founding meeting of the Save Our Sons Committee in Springfield, Ill., in 1952?

Mr. Schumacher again refused to answer.

Do you recall whether Mr. Cortor did attend the founding convention?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. The name Cortor is not familiar to me.

Mr. TAVENNER. Are you acquainted with Mr. Lou Kimmel, K-i-m-m-e-l, of St. Louis or near St. Louis?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. You refuse to answer.

Was Mr. Lou Kimmel known to you as a member of the Communist Party?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was Mr. Kimmel elected or appointed at the founding convention as one of the continuation committee of the Save Our Sons Committee?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was he requested to go back to Missouri to form chapters or groups of your organization?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Cortor was also a witness at St. Louis—Mr. William W. Cortor. Unlike Mr. Schumacher, Mr. Cortor testified that he had been a member of the Communist Party, that he was under employment by the Federal Bureau of Investigation during a part of his Communist Party membership and that he had been assigned by the Communist Party to work with the St. Louis Emergency Defense, and he worked right under Mr. Schumacher.

Mr. Cortor advised the committee that Mr. Schumacher directed that he go to St. Louis to attend the founding convention of the Save Our Sons Committee.

Mr. FORER. You mean Springfield.

Mr. TAVENNER. I mean at Springfield, Ill.

He further testified that Mr. Lou Kimmel, also a Communist Party member in St. Louis, also attended that convention. There were other members of the Communist Party who, he said, did attend but he could not recall their names.

Do you know whether any organizational work was done by Save Our Sons Committee in St. Louis after the organization was founded on October 25, 1952?

(Representative Clyde Doyle returned to the hearing room at this point.)

(Members of the committee present: Representatives Walter, Doyle, and Kearney.)

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mrs. Gowgiel, I have before me a photostatic copy of the national codirectors' report of the American Peace Crusade, national policy meeting at Chicago in March 1953. I want to read to you as a basis for questioning one paragraph of this report.

According to this report of the American Peace Crusade we find this paragraph:

The activities for which we do not claim credit, but which we helped to stimulate, include the three great inter-faith meetings for peace in Korea held in New York in the fall of 1951, the statement of the 52 prominent Americans, including our Honorary co-Chairman, Professor Anton Carlson, calling for negotiations between the major powers for world peace, the statement of the 465 Americans, which included Dr. Emily Balch Greene, Nobel Prize Winner, calling for a cease-fire in Korea, the Easter-Passover prayer, issued by a group of leading clergymen and rabbis from the various denominations. One of the most significant developments, which APC forces have supported, has been the formation of the Save Our Sons Committee. The Save Our Sons Committee organized in Illinois during the election campaign by parents of men now serving in Korea or in prisoner of war camps, has today developed a movement which reaches into seventeen other States.

Now, that date is March 1953, just about 6 months after the formation of Save Our Sons Committee. Will you tell the committee, please, what 17 States by that time had been organized by Save Our Sons Committee?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. You refuse to answer?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer.

Mr. TAVENNER. On the grounds that to do so might tend to incriminate you. Is that what you mean?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. Yes; based on my privilege under the fifth amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Were you a member of the American Peace Crusade?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. In other words, I understand you to take the position that if you admitted you were a member of the American Peace Crusade you might be prosecuted criminally. Is that it?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. That is a possibility.

The CHAIRMAN. That is because the American Peace Crusade is a Communist organization; is it not?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. No; I just wish to claim my constitutional rights.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Czarnowski testified here yesterday that you were an active participant in the work of the American Peace Crusade and made regular reports to the Argo branch of the Communist Party regarding the activities of the American Peace Crusade. And when you became active in Save Our Sons Committee he relieved you from that responsibility in the American Peace Crusade and took over your duties.

Is that correct? I mean by that, was Mr. Czarnowski testifying truthfully insofar as it affects you?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you tell the committee, please, in how many States of the Union the organization did finally become active?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

(Members of the committee present: Representatives Walter, Doyle, and Kearney.)

Mr. TAVENNER. Has the work of your organization been nationwide or has it been confined merely to the 17 States that exist according to the American Peace Crusade report of March 1953?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. KEARNEY. Could the witness speak up? I cannot hear you. I cannot hear your answer. Would you speak a little louder?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. Do you want me to repeat the statement?

Mr. KEARNEY. No, I would like to have you speak a little louder. I cannot hear you.

Mr. TAVENNER. The committee has procured a photostatic copy of an application for a post office box at Argo, Ill. I hand you a photostatic copy of such an application marked "Gowgiel Exhibit No. 3". On it appears signature of applicant, and the name in handwriting, in ink handwriting is "Florence Gowgiel."

Before I hand it to you, let me ask you, what was your occupation, your business in August of 1952?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. A beautician, at that time.

Mr. TAVENNER. You operated a beauty shop?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. What was your residence in August of 1952?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. 6159 Archer Road, Argo.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you live at 5554 Archer Road?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. For a little while.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you live there at any time in August of 1952?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I don't know, exactly. I probably did.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was that a residence address or was it a business address?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. Residence.

Mr. TAVENNER. I hand you this application and ask you to examine it, please, and state whether or not the name of the applicant appearing there is Florence Gowgiel.

(Document handed to the witness.)

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. It is?

Mr. FORER. That is what it says.

Mrs. GOWGIEL. That is what it says.

Mr. TAVENNER. Is the business of the applicant designated as a beauty shop?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. No.

Mr. FORER. Yes.

Mrs. GOWGIEL. Where?

Mr. FORER. Here.

Mrs. GOWGIEL. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. What address is given?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. 5554 Archer Road, Summit.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you sign the name Florence Gowgiel on the application?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you look at the foot of the application and see whether or not box 95 was assigned to the applicant?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. 95 was your post office box, was it not?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. I desire to offer in evidence "Gowgiel Exhibit No. 3."

The CHAIRMAN. So ordered.

GOWGIEL EXHIBIT No. 3

APPLICATION FOR POST-OFFICE BOX

Form 1092a
(Rev. 9-42)

Aug 4, 1952
(Date)

The undersigned hereby applies for the use of a box in the post office at *Archer Rd* and agrees to comply with the postal regulations and rules relative to the renting and use of post-office boxes.

If the box is rented for a corporation, the applicant should write on the lines below the name of the corporation; if for a firm, the name of the firm and the full name of each of its members whose mail is to be placed in the box.

(FLORENCE GOWGIEL)

Signature of applicant *Florence Gowgiel*
 Character of business *Beauty shop*
 Business address _____
 Residence address *5554 Archer Road, Summit, N.J.*
 References: *Mrs. Osman, Mrs. Ross*

Assigned Box No. *95* _____
epo 15-47429-1 *John Ferris* Postmaster.

gc

Mr. TAVENNER. Mrs. Gowgiel, in what banks were the funds of the Save Our Sons Committee deposited?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were funds always deposited in the name of the committee or were they deposited in your personal name?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. It has been noted from material that we have examined, and some of which will be introduced in evidence before we complete this hearing, that many solicitations were made for funds. Did you put those funds in your personal account?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. No.

Mr. TAVENNER. You did not.

Where did you put them?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. In whose account did you put them?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Our investigation has been successful in showing, or in finding only one account, that is at the Argo State Bank, and it was infinitesimal in amount. It was opened on October 30, 1952, by a \$35 deposit. It was closed on October 30, 1953, and only \$134 was deposited to that account.

Does that represent, that \$134 represent, all the money that you received as a result of the solicitations made for Save Our Sons Committee?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Our investigation discloses that there were hundreds of letters mailed by Save Our Sons Committee from Argo per week from 1952 up until a recent date. Where did you obtain the funds for the mailing of that material?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Where did you receive the funds for the stationery used?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. We have one statement here which you made to a committee member in a letter just a few days ago in which you said that you had gotten in contact with 3,000 parents of men serving in Korea. Who financed the project?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mr. KEARNEY. I think, Mr. Counsel, I would like to call attention to counsel of the committee that the witness refused to acknowledge writing that letter.

Mr. TAVENNER. Yes, she did. She would not answer a question as to whether she had written the letter previously mentioned by Mr. Doyle as having been received by him, which letter bears the name of Save Our Sons Committee, bears her name as its chairman, and bears her address as the address from which the letter was sent.

So I am asking now, who defrayed the expenses for the purchase of the stationery and the mailing of all these letters?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. KEARNEY. Mr. Chairman, I would like to make an observation at this point. From the testimony of the witness, I think the answers she has given the committee are as phony as a three-dollar bill.

Mr. TAVENNER. The committee staff has been successful in obtaining from various sources, in some instances, parents of persons serving overseas in Korea, copies of various issues of a bulletin entitled "Save Our Sons," which has at the top of it the picture of an Army cemetery with crosses, and it has the statement "While row on row the crosses grow."

(Representative Francis E. Walter left the hearing room at this point. Members of the committee present: Representatives Doyle and Kearney.)

Mr. TAVENNER. I hand you a photostatic copy of issue 1, pages 1 and 2, issue 3, issue 4, and issue 8. Will you examine them, please, and state whether or not they were prepared and published by you?

(Documents handed to the witness.)

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer under the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Chairman, I desire to offer for identification purposes only the several issues of Save Our Sons as one document, marked "Gowgiel Exhibit No. 4."

Mr. DOYLE. They are so received and so marked.

(The documents referred to were marked "Gowgiel Exhibit No. 4" for identification.)

Mr. TAVENNER. I call your attention to issue No. 4 to which is attached an envelope and I advise you that we procured this issue from the person to whom this envelope is addressed, Mr. and Mrs. V. R. Slater, 1030 Harris, Huntington, Ind. It appears from our investigation that Mr. and Mrs. Slater are the parents of a colonel who served in Korea and was a prisoner of war.

Did you address that particular envelope to the parents of Colonel Slater?

(Document handed to the witness.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. It is noted in issue 4 you quoted from letters allegedly received from various prisoners of war in Korea. One I see is from Pvt. Bobby R. Degrew, D-e-g-r-e-w.

Will you tell the committee, please, how you obtained this letter from Private Degrew?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were you in correspondence with him while he was a prisoner of war?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. It is noted that you give the information that he was a POW, Camp DPRK, whatever that means. When the staff obtained from Mr. and Mrs. Slater the document which I have shown you, there was also included a letter under date of February 17, 1953, allegedly written by Dale E. Jones, prisoner-of-war camp, North Korea, and at the bottom of the letter you have "circulated by SOS, Box 95, Argo, Ill."

Will you examine that letter, please, and state how you procured that letter from a prisoner of war in Korea?

(Document handed to the witness.)

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. You did disseminate; you sent that letter every place that you thought you could serve any purpose by sending it, did you not? Is that not right?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse on the fifth amendment.

Mr. KEARNEY. I move that we adjourn until 2 o'clock.

Mr. DOYLE. Then the committee will stand in recess until 2 as the House is just convening at 12. It is just a minute or two before 12 now.

The witness will please return. All witnesses that are subpoenaed today will please return.

(Whereupon, at 11:55 a. m., the subcommittee was recessed to be reconvened at 2 p. m., this same day, there being present at the time of taking the recess Representatives Doyle and Kearney.)

AFTERNOON SESSION, TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 1956

(The subcommittee was reconvened at 2 p. m. at the expiration of the recess, there being present Representatives Francis E. Walter (chairman), Clyde Doyle, and Bernard W. Kearney.)

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will be in order.

Call your witness, Mr. Tavenner.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mrs. Gowgiel.

TESTIMONY OF FLORENCE GOWGIEL, ACCOMPANIED BY COUNSEL,
JOSEPH FORER—Resumed

Mrs. Gowgiel, you stated in one of the letters to the Congressmen, that you obtained a list of prisoners of war, and their addresses, from newspapers. From what newspapers did you obtain them?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you subscribe to the China Monthly Review, of which John Powell was editor?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. No.

Mr. TAVENNER. What publications did you receive from Red China?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I never received any.

Mr. TAVENNER. Our previous investigations disclosed that the National Guardian seemed to have access to the list of prisoners of war before they were made public by the War Department, or any official group. Did you obtain a list of the prisoners of war from the National Guardian, or from its editor, Cedric Belfrage?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. No.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you correspond with Mr. Cedric Belfrage or the National Guardian regarding prisoners of war in Korea?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I don't think so.

Mr. TAVENNER. Well, by that, you are uncertain? You mean you are uncertain whether you corresponded with them in regard to prisoners of war?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I don't remember doing anything like that.

Mr. TAVENNER. Well, did you receive information relating to prisoners of war from the Continent of Europe?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I don't remember ever receiving any information.

Mr. TAVENNER. From what source did you receive information relating to prisoners of war in Korea?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer on the fifth amendment.

Mr. KEARNEY. Did you receive it from the Communist Party in this country?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. No.

Mr. TAVENNER. Well, did you receive information from the daily press, relating to the prisoners of war to whom you wrote, or their families?

Mr. FORER. Does that include reading about it? Did you say from prisoners to whom she wrote?

Mr. TAVENNER. Yes.

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Chairman, at this point I would like to call 2 other witnesses, and I would like for this witness to step down until I finish with those 2, and we will then recall her.

The CHAIRMAN. All right. You may call those witnesses.

Mr. TAVENNER. If you will step aside, please?

(Witness temporarily excused.)

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Jones?

Mr. Jones, will you come forward, please, sir?

The CHAIRMAN. Will you raise your right hand, please, Mr. Jones?

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

Mr. JONES. I do.

TESTIMONY OF DALE E. JONES

Mr. TAVENNER. What is your name, please?

Mr. JONES. Dale E. Jones.

Mr. TAVENNER. Dale E. Jones?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. When and where were you born, Mr. Jones?

Mr. JONES. On February 5, 1932, in Iuka, Ill.

Mr. TAVENNER. How far is Iuka, Ill., from Argo, Ill.?

Mr. JONES. I would say approximately 300 miles.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you serve in the Armed Forces of the United States?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. When did you enter the service?

Mr. JONES. May 9, 1949.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you tell the committee, please, when you went to Korea, if you did?

Mr. JONES. September 1950.

Mr. TAVENNER. What outfit were you in?

Mr. JONES. 7th Infantry Division.

Mr. TAVENNER. 7th Infantry?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Can you tell the committee where you landed in Korea for the first time?

Mr. JONES. Inchon.

Mr. TAVENNER. You were in the Inchon landing?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you then engage in military operations north of the 38th parallel?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. During the period of your service were you captured?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir; I was.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were you captured by the North Koreans or the Chinese?

Mr. JONES. Chinese.

Mr. TAVENNER. Chinese. What was the place of your capture?

Mr. JONES. It was Changsong Reservoir in North Korea.

Mr. TAVENNER. You were in the fighting for that reservoir?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. What was the approximate date of your capture?

Mr. JONES. November 29, 1950.

Mr. TAVENNER. That was the first appearance of the Chinese Communists in the war, I believe, was it not?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir; about that.

Mr. TAVENNER. Where were you taken, and just what happened after you were taken prisoner?

Mr. JONES. Well, I was taken from the reservoir up to Camp 1, into North Korea by the Yalu River.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you march up?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. How long did it take?

Mr. JONES. I would say it took about better than a month. Well, we got in that camp about in March of 1951; so it took longer than a month to get up to that camp.

Mr. TAVENNER. That was Camp No. 1?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you know where that was located?

Mr. JONES. I can't remember the name of the town, the village that it was in. It was something like Changsong, or something like that.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was it south of the Yalu River?

Mr. JONES. Yes; south of it.

Mr. TAVENNER. Southeast, I believe, of the Yalu River?

Mr. JONES. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. How long did you remain a prisoner there?

Mr. JONES. Two years and eight months.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you tell the committee, please, just how the Chinese Communists endeavored to indoctrinate you and other members of the Armed Forces of the United States who were prisoners of war?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Just begin at the beginning and tell us as much as you can recall about it.

Mr. JONES. Well, the first thing they done, they started to bring these articles on papers that were wrote on it, and they would bring them to us, and have us to read them, and make us discuss them among ourselves, and ask each other questions, and like that, on papers, the Shanghai News.

Mr. TAVENNER. Shanghai News. Do you recall a paper known as China Monthly Review?

Mr. JONES. Yes; I believe I do.

Mr. TAVENNER. You were given these things to read and study?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Well, then, was any other form of instruction given you in Communist principles?

Mr. JONES. Yes. Well, they gave us lectures on them, too. They would get us all in a group and give us lectures on them. Then, after

they would give us the lectures, they would send us back to our rooms, and there they would make us discuss them.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did they send Communist Party leaders or officers there to conduct these courses and direct you in the study?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. About how many hours a day were you required to engage in study of that type?

Mr. JONES. I would say from 2 to 4 hours a day they would give us that.

Mr. TAVENNER. How many days a week?

Mr. JONES. Five days a week, or six days a week, pardon me.

Mr. TAVENNER. You mean all but 1 day?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was that 1 day, a Sunday when you were not required to do that work?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir; it was.

Mr. TAVENNER. Over how long a period did that type of instruction continue?

Mr. JONES. Well, it went on all the time I was there, for 2 years and 8 months, from 1951 until 1953.

Mr. TAVENNER. As near as you can tell, what were they endeavoring to teach you.

Mr. JONES. Well, they wanted us to believe in their ways, communism and Marxism, and wanted us to go against our Government and to sign treaties and all that, to enable the war to come to an end, and so we could get home sooner.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you tell the committee, please, what your educational training has been? How much schooling have you had?

Mr. JONES. I have 8 years of grade school.

Mr. TAVENNER. Eight years of grade school?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Well, during the period of your captivity, did you at any time hear of an organization known as Save Our Sons Committee?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir; I did.

Mr. TAVENNER. Tell the committee how you first learned of that organization?

Mr. JONES. Well, me and another boy in the camp, we got into a little scrap. So the Chinese caught us and took us down to their headquarters and there they criticized us and they told us that we would be punished for fighting amongst the other POW's. So they sent us back to our rooms, then, and I was called back down and the Chinese had a petition there that was to do with the Save Our Sons Committee, and they asked me if I would sign it, and if I did, well, they would go a little easier on their punishment.

So I signed my name to it, and they sent me back to my room and then I got to thinking it over, and I was kind of worried about it. So I told some of the guys about me signing it, and how I come to sign it. So I got worried about it and so I went back down there and told them to take my name off. So they scratched through it.

Mr. TAVENNER. They scratched through it. But did they remove your name from the petition?

Mr. JONES. No, sir; I couldn't say that they removed it.

Mr. TAVENNER. They scratched through it?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir; I saw them do that.

Mr. TAVENNER. Can you recall what was on this petition?

Mr. JONES. No, sir; I can't. All I know it was just a petition to do with the Save Our Sons Committee. That is all I know.

Mr. TAVENNER. Now, you went back to your squad room and talked to some others about what you had done, and that you were dissatisfied about it?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were you reported to your Communist captors about that?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir; I was.

Mr. TAVENNER. What happened as a result of it?

Mr. JONES. Well, they came and got me, the Chinese did, and took me up to their regimental headquarters, and there they put me in a room by myself. It was a room with no heat. And they kept me in there practically all night long and made me write a self-criticism saying that they didn't tell me to sign that and that they wouldn't go easier on my punishment if I did sign it, and so I wrote the self-criticism and then they told me that they were going to make me read it before the whole group of POW's. But somehow they never did do that.

Mr. TAVENNER. You say they put you in a room by yourself? Was that a form of punishment that was given to you and other prisoners of war who refused to do what you were told.

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir; that was one way.

Mr. TAVENNER. What was the punishment about being put in a room by yourself?

Mr. JONES. Well, they just put you in there, with no heat and left you in there by yourself. And you get kind of cold staying in a room.

Mr. TAVENNER. How cold was it at the time that you were put in there for punishment?

Mr. JONES. Well, it was in the wintertime, and it gets about 30 below there, sometimes. It was pretty darned cold.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you think it was about that cold when you were put there?

Mr. JONES. I would say it was close to it.

Mr. TAVENNER. How long were you kept there?

Mr. JONES. About all night long—all one night.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was that the first time you ever heard of Save Our Sons Committee?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was anything else said about Save Our Sons by the Chinese at any later time?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir. They would mention it every so often in their lectures that they gave us. They would mention the Save Our Sons Committee. They would mention Mrs. Florence Gowgiel, they would mention her name. And they would tell us that her—Mrs. Gowgiel—and many others in the United States were fighting to get world peace in the Korean war, to get the American troops home quicker. And they would suggest that we follow their steps and do our part, too, by signing petitions.

Mr. TAVENNER. To sign petitions, as prisoners of war, to be sent back to the United States?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Now, did they explain to you how signing these petitions would help end the war and get you boys home?

Mr. JONES. Well, they told us if there was enough people got together and would go against the President or the Government and put pressure on them, why they would have to stop the war in Korea, and that way it would make us return home quicker.

Mr. TAVENNER. And that is the reason they wanted you to sign this petition?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Of the Save Our Sons group?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you recall how many names were on this petition when you signed it?

Mr. JONES. No; I can't say that I do know how many there was. There were a few on there, but I can't recall just how many there were.

Mr. TAVENNER. You have given to me the names of some prisoners of war that you know signed such petitions, haven't you?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. But I do not want to ask you in public session anything about that until the staff has had some opportunity to make an investigation.

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Can you tell us what means were used by the Communists to get prisoners of war to unite in this program to try to influence people back home to bring an end to the war? I mean would boys just go up voluntarily and sign these petitions, or was any pressure brought to bear on them? Just how did they maneuver it?

Mr. JONES. Well, they used to ask us to do things like that. They told us that we weren't forced to do nothing like that, but we were in no position to refuse.

Mr. TAVENNER. You mean they told you that you were in no position to refuse?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. What do you mean by that?

Mr. JONES. Well, it meant just that—if you did go against them and refused them a lot of times, be reactionary toward them, you might just some night disappear out of the camp, like a lot of boys did.

Mr. TAVENNER. You say boys just disappeared?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. From the camp?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. The result was that many of you young men really felt that you were not in a position to refuse them?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir; we did.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you ever learn what happened to any of those who disappeared?

Mr. JONES. No, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was any explanation ever made to you as to what happened to them?

Mr. JONES. Well, sometimes they would tell us that they was took to a reactionary camp, and sometimes they wouldn't tell us nothing about none of them.

Mr. TAVENNER. What do you mean by a reactionary camp?

Mr. JONES. They called it a place where the POW's that was really hard toward the Chinese Communists would be taken to a certain camp, a reactionary camp, they called it, and put on hard labor, they called it. There they would try to reform them from being reactionaries. But nobody knowed where that camp was at or never had saw it.

Mr. KEARNEY. You knew some of these boys personally that disappeared?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Mr. KEARNEY. Since your return from prison camp have you ever heard of any of these boys being alive?

Mr. JONES. No, sir; I haven't.

Mr. TAVENNER. I might say, Mr. Chairman, the witness has given me the names of several people, but that has just been within the past 24 or 48 hours, and we have not had an opportunity to make any investigation.

Now, were those who conducted this camp No. 1 where you were Chinese or Koreans?

Mr. JONES. Chinese.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did they tell you anything about, or try to get you to believe that the American troops or the American forces were using germ warfare against them?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir; they did.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did they ever ask you to write anything back to the United States about that?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. You say the Save Our Sons Committee and Mrs. Florence Gowgiel were mentioned in the course of these lectures given to your group by Chinese officers?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Can you tell us how these Communist officers learned of the existence of Save Our Sons Committee?

Mr. JONES. Well, I don't know exactly how—well, I did know that she wrote to a number of POW's that were in the camp.

Mr. TAVENNER. How do you know that?

Mr. JONES. Well, when they would get the letters from Mrs. Gowgiel the Chinese would have them to read the letters over a loudspeaker so all the rest of the POW's could hear it.

Mr. TAVENNER. So this was a campaign then among your group based upon the letters from Mrs. Gowgiel?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir; I guess so.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you ever hear from Mrs. Gowgiel?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir; I received one letter from her.

Mr. TAVENNER. Tell us, please, the circumstances under which you received it?

Mr. JONES. Well, the Chinese called me to their headquarters one day and told me I had a letter. I thought maybe I had got a letter from home. Occasionally there were just maybe 1 or 2 letters come in, and they would call the individual to headquarters and give it to him. But when they handed the letter to me it was from Mrs. Gowgiel, the Save Our Sons Committee.

Mr. TAVENNER. Well, when they handed you the letter, what did you do?

Mr. JONES. Well, I started to walk out with it, but they wanted me to read it right there in their headquarters. So I did.

Mr. TAVENNER. Then what happened?

Mr. JONES. Well, then they asked me to read it over the loudspeaker so the rest of the POW's could hear it. And I refused and wouldn't do it, told them I didn't want to. So they never asked me to no more.

Mr. TAVENNER. But you say there were a number of instances in which those letters were read?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Can you recall now anything that was in the letter?

Mr. JONES. Well, it said—Mrs. Gowgiel put it to me that she and many others like her were fighting for the end of the Korean war, and they wanted to bring us home, back to our home, back to our families quicker, and wanted me and others to do our part in ending the Korean war.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did they say how you should do your part in ending the Korean war, when you were prisoners of war in Korea?

Mr. JONES. Well, by speaking out, and writing petitions, and getting petitions signed, you know, drawing up petitions our own self and getting other POW's to sign them and send them in to Washington, or the Government.

Mr. TAVENNER. Well, did you at any time write a letter to Mrs. Gowgiel?

Mr. JONES. No, sir; I never did.

Mr. TAVENNER. You never wrote a letter?

Mr. JONES. No, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Now, the committee, in the course of its investigation has secured an envelope from Mr. and Mrs. V. R. Slater, at Huntington, Ind., which contained issue No. 4 of Save Our Sons and a letter bearing date of February 17, 1953, at the end of which is typed "Dale E. Jones, POW Camp, North Korea, circulated by SOS Box 95, Argo, Ill."

Our investigation shows that Mr. and Mrs. Slater's son was a colonel and had been captured and was a prisoner of war at that time.

Now, I am going to hand you this letter and ask you to read it into the record.

(Document handed to the witness.)

Mr. JONES (reading):

DEAR MRS. GOWGIEL: I am taking the great pleasure to write you that even we, who are over 5,000 miles away from home, know about the great work you have started in the United States. It is my belief that the Save Our Sons Committee will be a great help to us POW's, and to the front-line troops who are fighting over here in Korea. It will also help bring about an early conclusion to the Korean question. I, for one, and I know the other POW's here with me, wholeheartedly support and encourage you to carry on your great work in the future.

You see, Mrs. Gowgiel, I am also from the State of Illinois and it makes me feel 100 percent better to know people like you are working for peace in my State, as well as in the rest of the States and countries over the world. I am also doing what I can, along with the other POW's, to bring about an early conclusion to this Korean war. Although I know it is such a small amount right at the present time, but we all know the peace movements in the States are growing stronger every day. So, therefore, we are hoping for the same thing over here in the POW camps. Once that all the people united together, then we can have everlasting world peace.

I have read in the papers many times about the Save Our Sons Committee and also about your son-in-law's terrible incident. I deeply sympathize with him, for I know the horrible experience he must have gone through.

It is up to you, Mrs. Gowgiel, to me and the other peace-loving people of the world to put a stop to this awful bloodshed over here in Korea. I am certain

that the majority of the American people know that this war over here in Korea is useless and inhuman. Thousands of people are dying just because there are a few individuals who want a little more for themselves. They even kill their own people in order to make it that way. That is why the American people must urge President Eisenhower to keep his promise and put an end to the Korean war, peacefully. If the people of America don't join together and force him to do so, it might be extended into a third world war. You and I and millions of other people of the world must prevent this.

The war over here in Korea could have been settled long ago if the American side would show some sincerity in the peace talks. But they always put in some unreasonable proposals, such as voluntary repatriation. You know, Mrs. Gowgiel, no one wants to stay away from his own home and loved ones and not never return to be with them again. That is what the American side keep saying about the Korean and Chinese POW's. They are always talking about them instead of about the American POW's and front-line troops. We want to return to our loved ones very bad, even though we have always been treated with the best of care. We never have a dull minute here in this camp, but we want to come home.

The Chinese volunteers are ready to have a cease fire right now and then talk about repatriation of all POW's in order to save lives, but the other side says "no"—the fighting must go on. That can plainly show who wants peace and who doesn't. The Chinese people don't want to kill and cripple the American boys, but they have no other choice. They are here to protect their own country from being invaded.

So, Mrs. Gowgiel, it is up to all the peace-loving people of the world to make more and more people see how they are being fooled by these handful of * * * until the great day comes when war will be done away with and everlasting peace the world over—

Mr. TAVENNER. Just a moment. The word that is not plainly written there is "profiteers." May I see your copy a moment?

No, it is "profit makers"—profit makers. The stencil was not very clear.

Mr. JONES (continuing reading) :

are being fooled by these handful of profit makers until the great day comes when war will be done away with and everlasting peace the world over.

So, once again we encourage you to carry on your great work in the future. It will be a hard, bitter struggle, but peace will be ours in the end.

I would be more than glad to receive a letter from you letting me know how you are coming along with your work. In the meantime I always will look for the news about the SOS Committee in the papers. I also would appreciate very much if you would contact my mother and tell her to join in with us. I am sure she would be glad to help us.

I wish you all the best luck and wishes in your great work. Remember, peace will be our victory.

Sincerely yours,

Pfc. DALE E. JONES,
POW Camp, North Korea.

Mr. TAVENNER. You tell this committee you never wrote such a letter?

Mr. JONES. No, sir; I never.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you write to Mrs. Gowgiel at all?

Mr. JONES. No.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you write that letter to anyone?

Mr. JONES. No, sir; I never.

Mr. WALTER. What address is on that letter of Mrs. Gowgiel?

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Chairman, this letter was enclosed in an envelope sent to Mr. and Mrs. V. R. Slater, and at the top of the envelope in the lefthand margin is "Save Our Sons Committee, Box 95, Argo, Ill." and the staff has presented testimony that box 95 was applied for by Mrs. Gowgiel.

Mr. DOYLE. May I ask, is that the envelope in which it was received by those people in Illinois?

Mr. TAVENNER. Yes, sir.

Mr. DOYLE. That appears to be on a nameplate, an addressograph machine of some kind, does it not?

Mr. TAVENNER. Yes, sir.

Mr. DOYLE. Under what date is that envelope postmarked?

Mr. TAVENNER. June 26, 1953.

You say you have had eight grades in school?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. That is a well-written letter, and I doubt that it could be composed in as good English as it is by a person who had received no greater educational training than that.

Did you ever get anyone to write a letter for you to Mrs. Gowgiel?

Mr. JONES. No, sir. If I ever wrote, I would write it myself.

Mr. TAVENNER. You didn't participate in any way in writing a letter to Mrs. Gowgiel, or for her?

Mr. JONES. No, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. After your return to your home, did you meet Mrs. Gowgiel?

Mr. JONES. No, sir; I didn't.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you know whether members of your family received letters from her during the period you were a prisoner of war?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir; my mother did. She told me. I don't know about while I was in service, but I know she did after I came home, because I saw them myself. They was from Mrs. Gowgiel, the Save Our Sons Committee.

Mr. TAVENNER. That is after you returned from Korea?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. What did you do with those letters?

Mr. JONES. Destroyed them. We never—wouldn't even open them up. I told my mother not to ever open them and read them, so she didn't.

Mr. TAVENNER. Why did you tell your mother not to open them and read them?

Mr. JONES. Well, I knew it was no good, and I didn't want her to read anything like that. I didn't want nothing to do with it.

I received some after I got home, too—1 or 2, I don't remember which, and I destroyed them also.

Mr. TAVENNER. Now, did you receive any communication from Mrs. Gowgiel after you were subpoenaed to come here as a witness—you or your mother?

Mr. JONES. My mother did.

Mr. TAVENNER. Is that what she received?

(Document handed to the witness.)

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir; it is.

Mr. TAVENNER. I desire to offer this document for identification purposes only, and have it marked "Jones Exhibit No. 1."

(The document referred to was marked "Jones Exhibit No. 1" for identification.)

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Chairman, I will read the first paragraph.

This bears date, or rather, has the heading, "Save Our Sons." It has the date April-May 1956.

The heading:

Can Talking Help Prevent War?

Recently, because of your, and my, work in SOS, I received an invitation to attend the Conference of the International Committee of Mothers. This confer-

ence, in Lausanne, Switzerland, was attended by 62 delegates representing organizations in 36 nations.

And then it continues to describe that meeting. And on the second page of the document considerable space is given to her being called, to Mrs. Gowgiel being called as a witness before this committee. And at the bottom of it is a solicitation for funds for her defense and to carry on the work of SOS.

Did your mother also receive this envelope and the document attached to it?

(Document handed to the witness.)

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. May I have it, please?

This envelope is addressed to Mrs. Jones, Iuka, Ill. It was postmarked in Berlin, West Germany. It is from the Permanent International Committee of Mothers, and there is attached to it a letter bearing date of March 27, 1956, which I desire to offer for identification purposes only, and ask it be marked "Jones Exhibit No. 2."

The CHAIRMAN. It will be so marked.

(The document referred to was marked "Jones Exhibit No. 2" for identification.)

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you know how your mother's name was given to that organization?

Mr. JONES. Well, the only way I know that Mrs. Gowgiel could have got it was after I was captured I wrote and asked my mother to put my name and address of the POW camp in the newspapers, so that I could receive letters from people here in the United States. And I guess, no doubt she put her name and address in the paper, too.

Mr. TAVENNER. How long ago was it that you received that last document?

Just a moment. The postmark from Berlin is April 24, 1956—or April 16, 1956, I believe.

I believe that is all, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Any questions, Mr. Doyle?

Mr. DOYLE. No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Kearney?

Mr. KEARNEY. I haven't any questions, Mr. Chairman, but I think it should be on the record that there is no stigma attached whatsoever to this young man's testifying here today.

The CHAIRMAN. Indeed not. He is continuing to do a very fine, patriotic service to his country.

Thank you.

Mr. TAVENNER. That is all.

(Witness excused.)

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Spencer.

The CHAIRMAN. Will you raise your right hand, please?

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

Mr. SPENCER. I do.

TESTIMONY OF ERDIS SPENCER

Mr. TAVENNER. What is your name, please, sir?

Mr. SPENCER. Erdis Spencer.

Mr. TAVENNER. When and where were you born, Mr. Spencer?

Mr. SPENCER. Bryan, Ky., November 13, 1928, I was born.

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

Mr. TAVENNER. And where?

Mr. SPENCER. Bryan, Ky.

Mr. TAVENNER. Where do you now reside?

Mr. SPENCER. Summit, Ill.

Mr. TAVENNER. How far is Summit, Ill., from Argo, Ill.?

Mr. SPENCER. Just a matter of a few blocks. They adjoin each other.

Mr. TAVENNER. How long have you lived at Summit?

Mr. SPENCER. Well, I have lived in and around Argo and Summit since 1937.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were you a member of the Armed Forces?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. When were you inducted?

Mr. SPENCER. I enlisted in August 1950.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you serve in Korea?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. With what division?

Mr. SPENCER. 24th Infantry Division.

Mr. TAVENNER. 24th Infantry Division. When did you join the 24th Infantry Division?

Mr. SPENCER. I believe it was in January of 1951.

Mr. TAVENNER. Of 1951. Can you give us the name of the place where you joined it?

Mr. SPENCER. No, sir—it was just south of the parallel in the central part of South Korea. That is about all I know.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you take part in the advance to the 38th parallel and beyond?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were you captured?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were you captured by the North Koreans or the Chinese?

Mr. SPENCER. Chinese.

(Committee members present: Representatives Doyle and Kearney.)

Mr. TAVENNER. What was the place of your capture, or the front, as nearly as you can describe it?

Mr. SPENCER. I think it was near a small place called Chingree. It was approximately 20 miles north of the 38th parallel, the central part of Korea.

Mr. TAVENNER. When were you captured?

Mr. SPENCER. April 22, 1951.

Mr. TAVENNER. After you were captured, where were you taken?

Mr. SPENCER. Well, we were taken a few miles behind the lines for a few days. I was wounded. I couldn't walk so I stayed there a few days, and we went on farther. And we kept joining larger groups of GI's until we came to this place they called Death Valley. We stayed there for a week or so, maybe 2 weeks, something like that, and started to the PW camp farther north.

Mr. TAVENNER. What PW camp were you in?

Mr. SPENCER. Camp 1.

Mr. TAVENNER. That is the same camp that Mr. Jones was in; is it?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you become acquainted with him while you were in camp?

Mr. SPENCER. No.

Mr. TAVENNER. About how many prisoners of war do you think were in that camp?

Mr. SPENCER. Well, it varied. At one time I believe we had over 2,000, and at the end, I think there was around 1,200, maybe 1,600.

Mr. TAVENNER. When were you released as a prisoner of war?

Mr. SPENCER. In August of 1953.

Mr. TAVENNER. During the period of time that you were a prisoner of war, did you hear anything about an organization known as the Save Our Sons Committee?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Just tell the committee how you first learned about it, and all you know about it.

Mr. SPENCER. Well, I first learned about it—the Chinese instructor called me into his headquarters one day and asked me if I knew a Mrs. Florence Gowgiel. And, you know, the name didn't mean anything to me at the time. So I said—well, you know, when he give me the address and everything, then I remembered I had saw her before—several years, in fact, I had seen her around before I went in the Army. By the address, I knew where it was at, because I only lived a block or so from there myself. So that was the first I had heard about it. And he asked me if I would like to write a letter to her, and I said, "No, why should I write her a letter and what for?"

He didn't say much about it then, at that time. Then the following day I saw in these newspapers, Shanghai News, I saw an article in that about the Save Our Sons Committee being formed in Argo, Ill., and then it was several articles in the Shanghai News periodically, about the Save Our Sons Committee, what it was doing, and stuff like that.

Mr. TAVENNER. And were you called back again by the Chinese officers?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes, sir. I was called the following day.

Mr. TAVENNER. And what did they tell you?

Mr. SPENCER. They wanted me to write her a letter, write to her.

Mr. TAVENNER. Why did they say they wanted you to write to her?

Mr. SPENCER. They didn't say why. They just wanted me to write her a letter.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did they show you any documents, or anything from the Save Our Sons Committee?

Mr. SPENCER. No.

Mr. TAVENNER. That you can recall?

Mr. SPENCER. No, not that I know of.

Mr. TAVENNER. Of course, by that time you knew what type of work was being done by Save Our Sons Committee?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes, I had a pretty good idea. I mean, it was the fact that the Chinese were interested in it, and they were trying to get us interested in it, why, it was only logical what type of organization it was.

Mr. TAVENNER. Now, you refused for 2 or 3 days to sign it?

Mr. SPENCER. To write her a letter; yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. I mean, to write her a letter?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. What induced you, or what led you to write the letter?

Mr. SPENCER. Well, I had one personal reason, and then I wanted the Chinks, the Chinese, to leave me alone, quit bothering me, quit pestering me.

Mr. TAVENNER. We have found a letter which was reproduced in issue No. 4, June 1953, of *Save Our Sons*, and was attributed to you.

By the way, how much schooling have you had?

Mr. SPENCER. Grammar school, 8 years.

Mr. TAVENNER. Grammar school?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. I hand you issue No. 4 of *Save Our Sons* and I will ask you to read the letter appearing there into the record, please.

And then my next question will be: What part or parts of that letter you really wrote and what parts you didn't write.

Mr. SPENCER (reading):

I want to thank you for your good work. Myself and other POW's are most grateful to you for trying to end this war here in Korea. If everyone at home would speak out their desire for peace, I'm sure it would be attained at an early date. I have been a POW for almost 2 years and sure would like to go home.

If you should wish to have this letter or any part of it published, go ahead; maybe it would help your campaign.

ERDIS SPENCER, *POW Camp*.

Mr. TAVENNER. The last paragraph refers to publishing the letter, doesn't it?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. You did actually write that in the letter, did you not?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes—part of it. The last, from where it says "Go ahead, maybe it would help your campaign"—that I didn't write.

Mr. TAVENNER. You did not write that?

Mr. SPENCER. No. But I wrote the first part—"if you should wish to have this letter or any part of it published" but not—I don't remember how I finished the original letter, but this isn't the way I finished it, I know.

Mr. TAVENNER. Now, were you told by the Communists to add anything to the letter when you first completed it?

Mr. SPENCER. Oh, yes. I wrote 3 or 4 letters before one was final—the one that was sent.

Mr. TAVENNER. You mean the type letter that you wrote wasn't satisfactory to the Communist officers, and you had to keep writing it until you got one that was?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes. The first couple—well, hardly any of it was acceptable, so I wrote another one, and that was a little better, and I finally wrote the last one, and that one was all right.

Mr. TAVENNER. Then after you finished the last one did they tell you what to add to it? Did they tell you to add to the part about publishing it?

Mr. SPENCER. I don't know. I don't believe so.

I believe I put that in there—well, the letter was written a sentence at a time, more or less, with the instructor right at hand. So I don't remember just exactly how it was, you know. I believe probably that it was dictated to me, more or less, but I won't say for sure, because I don't remember.

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

Mr. TAVENNER. We heard here a little while ago about men being sent to the reactionary camp if they were too much opposed to what the Communists were trying to get you to do. Were the prisoners of war known by the name of "reactionaries" at times?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were there others who had a different name at times?

Mr. SPENCER. Oh, yes. There was—the Pros, I guess—wait a minute.

Mr. TAVENNER. Progressives?

Mr. SPENCER. Progressives, that is it—Progressives. And reactionaries, and there was, I guess you could say about four groups altogether.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you know whether other persons wrote similar letters to Mrs. Gowgiel, or letters of any kind to her?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes; there was other letters written.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did others receive letters from her?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you ever receive a letter from her?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Can you recall now anything about it?

Mr. SPENCER. No, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Why did the Communist officers want you to sign these letters? Did they ever say?

Mr. SPENCER. You mean to write them?

Mr. TAVENNER. To write them.

Mr. SPENCER. Well, to help the peace campaign, I guess, or help Mrs. Gowgiel's campaign.

Mr. DOYLE. May I ask a question, Mr. Tavenner?

Mr. TAVENNER. Yes.

Mr. DOYLE. Did you write these letters with pen and ink or pencil or what? Did you write it in longhand or was it a printed form or mimeographed form, or what?

Mr. SPENCER. In longhand.

Mr. DOYLE. Longhand?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes, sir. With pen when available, and if not, if pens wasn't available, we used pencil.

Mr. DOYLE. I beg your pardon?

Mr. SPENCER. They were written in longhand with a pen—if you could get hold of a fountain pen. Otherwise we wrote in pencil.

Mr. DOYLE. Did they give you any sample to follow, any copy to follow?

Mr. SPENCER. No, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. After your return to your home, did you hear anything further from Mrs. Gowgiel?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes, sir; I received one post card saying to the effect that she would like to get in touch with me, and it was a post-office box number on it, on the post card.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you remember what post box number?

Mr. SPENCER. No, sir; I don't.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you get in touch with her?

Mr. SPENCER. No, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. You have not had any connection with Save Our Sons since you returned, have you?

Mr. SPENCER. No, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. I have no further questions, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Any questions, Mr. Doyle?

Mr. DOYLE. No questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Any questions, Mr. Kearney?

Mr. KEARNEY. No questions.

The CHAIRMAN. I want to thank you for your contribution here.

If there would be more people like you come forward, perhaps the American people would not be so naive as to permit these parasites to play on the perfectly normal and natural feelings of the decent people of America.

You are excused with our thanks.

(Witness excused.)

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will recess for 5 minutes.

(Whereupon, a brief recess was taken, there being present at the time of the recess Representatives Walter, Doyle, and Kearney.)

(The subcommittee was reconvened at the expiration of the recess, there being present Representatives Walter, Doyle, and Kearney.)

The CHAIRMAN. Are you ready?

Mr. TAVENNER. Yes, sir.

Mrs. Gowgiel, will you come forward, please?

TESTIMONY OF FLORENCE GOWGIEL, ACCOMPANIED BY COUNSEL, JOSEPH FORER—Resumed

Mr. TAVENNER. Mrs. Gowgiel, I hand you issue No. 4 of Save Our Sons publication, and point out to you a letter appearing there over the name of Erdis Spencer, POW camp. Will you examine that, please, and state whether or not that is a correct copy of a letter received from him or whether the letter which was received from him was changed?

(Document handed to the witness.)

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer, on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. I hand you a letter received by Mr. and Mrs. Slater, in an envelope on the outside of which is a return address of Save Our Sons, bearing date of February 17, 1953, at the end of which is the name Dale E. Jones, and I will ask you whether or not that entire letter is fictitious, and if you wrote it?

(Document handed to the witness.)

Mr. FORER. Is the question whether Mrs. Gowgiel wrote that letter?

Mr. TAVENNER. Yes.

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. No; I didn't write the letter.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you receive that letter?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Who did write it?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. In other words, you know who wrote it, but you won't tell the committee, because to do so might tend to incriminate you? Is that your answer?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mr. FORER. That is a different question.

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I don't understand the question.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you read her the question?

(The record was read by the reporter.)

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. No; that isn't my answer.

Mr. TAVENNER. What is that?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. No; that is not the answer.

Mr. TAVENNER. Well, isn't that true?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. No; that wasn't the answer.

Mr. TAVENNER. Your answer was you would not tell the committee who wrote this letter because you relied on the fifth amendment. That is correct, isn't it?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. That is right.

Mr. TAVENNER. And you relied on the fifth amendment because to tell the truth about it might tend to incriminate you?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. Well, I think that is possible.

Mr. TAVENNER. And that means that you know who did write it, doesn't it?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer, for the same reason.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Czarnowski testified before the committee that you made many statements before the Argo branch of the Communist Party indicating that bacterial warfare had been used by the American troops in Korea and that the American troops were guilty of various types of atrocities. Is that true or false that you did do those things?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. It is false.

Mr. TAVENNER. That is false?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. That is right.

Mr. TAVENNER. Well, you did actually circulate propaganda for the purpose of getting people to believe that the United States did engage in germ warfare, didn't you?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I am very sure I never did, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Didn't you send to Congressman McVey from Illinois this document, Bacteria Warfare, Threat to World Peace?

(Document handed to the witness.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I don't remember.

Mr. TAVENNER. You don't remember.

Mrs. GOWGIEL. No, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Have you ever seen that document before or one like it?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I don't remember.

Mr. TAVENNER. You don't remember. Did you send to Congressman McVey the April 23, 1952, issue of the National Guardian, at which appears on page 3 an article entitled "Are We Dropping Disease on China and Korea. Germ warfare: the facts and the evidence."?

(Document handed to the witness.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I don't remember.

Mr. TAVENNER. You don't remember?

Mr. KEARNEY. Will you say you didn't send it?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I don't remember, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. What did you send to Congressman McVey?

Mr. FORER. She didn't say she sent anything.

Mr. TAVENNER. I am asking her. What did you send to Congressman McVey?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I don't remember.

Mr. TAVENNER. Congressman McVey is your Congressman; isn't he?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you send him anything?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I don't remember.

Mr. TAVENNER. You don't remember.

Mr. KEARNEY. When was this material supposed to be sent Mr. Tavenner?

Mr. TAVENNER. I hand you a publication entitled "United Nations POW's in Korea." Will you examine it, please, and state whether or not you circulated that document?

(Document handed to the witness.)

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I remember getting two copies of that, but I don't know or remember sending it to anyone.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you advise the readers of your publication to procure it?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mr. FORER. You said "your publication"?

Mr. TAVENNER. Yes. Save Our Sons. I think it would be fair to call it hers.

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Would you change your answer if, instead of saying "your publication," to state whether or not the publication Save Our Sons advised its readers to procure that document?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. No; that wouldn't change my answer.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you examine it and see how many pages it contains.

Mrs. GOWGIEL. Ninety-two.

Mr. TAVENNER. Let me read to you from issue No. 4 of Save Our Sons, as follows:

REPORT ON CARE OF U. N. POW'S

An SOS member sent us this news item from the Chicago Tribune:

"GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, May 23 (AP).—Mrs. Lu Teh Chun, health minister, delegate to League of Red Cross Societies, astonished delegates with a glossy 92-page brochure on life of United States Eighth Army prisoners in Communist hands, published by Chinese People's Committee for World Peace, Peiping, China."

We wrote for a copy of the brochure and suggest that any person who is anxious to know how POW's are being treated in North Korea write to the Chinese People's Committee, China, for this reassuring brochure. Your own POW's photograph may be there.

Didn't you write that in the fourth issue of Save Our Sons?

(Document handed to the witness.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer on the fifth amendment.

(The committee and Mr. Tavenner confer.)

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Chairman, during the course of testimony before this committee in October 1953, the committee heard a former prisoner of war by the name Lieutenant Ray M. Dowe, Jr. Lieutenant Dowe was handed this very document, this 92-page document, published by Chinese People's Committee for World Peace, Peking, China, and was asked this question:

Does that document, without going into great detail here, and without taking it up point by point, give an accurate picture of prisoner-of-war life in Korea, as you knew it, or is it entirely false and fictitious and misleading?

Lieutenant Dowe. Many instances in this book portray an artificial situation which was created by the Chinese right at the end, and the purpose of that was twofold: One, to attempt to make the prisoners forget what had happened in their early days, and, two, to create a propaganda situation which they could utilize in this world propaganda.

As far as its relation to the situation in 1953 in the prison camps and the situation prior to that time, as you look back it grows steadily worse, and to take a book which is a compilation of posed photographs, for the most part, which is exactly what this is, at a stage when things had been changed entirely from the situation which had existed the majority of the time we were PW's, you can't in any way state that that is a picture of conditions in PW camps run by the Communists.

Did you know that this was a propaganda product of the Communist Party in China at the time you recommended it to readers?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I haven't testified that I recommended it.

Mr. TAVENNER. Well, it is in the publication, the fourth issue of Save Our Sons, which bears the Post Office Box 95, Argo, Ill., which was your post office box. You were chairman of Save Our Sons. Do you mean that you deny responsibility for the appearance of that article in your paper?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mr. TAVENNER. In the paper, Save Our Sons?

Mr. FORER. Is that the question?

Mr. TAVENNER. Yes.

Do you deny responsibility for it?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. I also, Mr. Chairman, would like for the record here to include a reference by Sgt. John Spivey, another witness who appeared before this committee.

The testimony was given on October 23, 1953, in which he was asked this question:

I have in my hand a booklet entitled "The United Nations POW's in Korea," which has already been introduced in evidence in previous hearings in connection with the subject that is before us today. I hand you this document, and ask if you have seen it before?

Mr. Spivey replied that he had.

He was asked if it was an accurate picture of the life that the prisoners of war led in Korea. The reply was:

Sergeant SRIVEY. No, it doesn't. It shows a picture of the fellows before and after. That is a lot of malarkey, because they can rig up those pictures the way they want to rig them up.

Mr. KUNZIG. Do you know as a fact that they did rig up the pictures?

Sergeant SRIVEY. Yes.

I hand you a document entitled "Out of Their Own Mouths, Revelations and Confessions written by American soldiers of torture, rape, arson, looting and coldblooded murder of defenseless civilians and prisoners of war in Korea," put out by the Red Cross Society of China, Peking, 1952. I will ask you to examine it and state whether or not you urged the reading of that document. [Hands document to witness.]

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I don't remember seeing this.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you recommend the reading of any documents published by the Red Cross of China?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I don't remember.

Mr. TAVENNER. You don't remember.

I read into evidence here a few moments ago a statement in your April-May issue of 1956 of Save Our Sons, regarding an invitation that had been extended to you to go to Switzerland as a delegate from the United States to a convention of the International Committee of Mothers. Did you attend such a convention?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mr. TAVENNER. At Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1956?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer, on the fifth amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. What is the name of the organization?

Mr. TAVENNER. International Committee of Mothers.

The CHAIRMAN. You refuse to answer a question as to whether or not you were invited to attend that meeting on the grounds that to do so might incriminate you? Is that it?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mr. FORER. She was asked whether she attended that meeting and she refused to answer under the fifth amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Did you receive an invitation to attend this meeting?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse, on the fifth amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. You refuse, because the International Committee of Mothers is a Communist organization, is it not?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. No.

The CHAIRMAN. It is not?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I didn't say that.

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer on the basis of my privilege of the fifth amendment.

Mr. KEARNEY. Then your answer is changed from "No" to you refuse to answer on the basis of the fifth amendment; is that so?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I haven't changed my answer.

Mr. KEARNEY. Didn't you say "No" a minute ago?

Mr. FORER. She said "No" in answer to a question of: Did she refuse for this reason; and she said "No," she refused for another reason.

Mr. KEARNEY. She is saying "No" for a lot of reasons, all right. There is no question about that.

Mr. TAVENNER. I hand you a photostatic copy of an application for a passport, which purports to be an application signed by Florence Gowgiel, bearing date of August 10, 1955. Will you examine it, please, and state whether or not it is your application. [Hands document to witness.]

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer, on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Is the signature appearing at the bottom of the application your signature?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer, on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you examine it again, please, and state whether or not the photograph appearing on the second page is your photograph?

Mr. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer on the grounds of the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. I desire to offer the document in evidence and ask that it be marked "Gowgiel Exhibit No. 5," for identification purposes only.

(The document referred to was marked "Gowgiel Exhibit No. 5" for identification in the files of the committee.)

The CHAIRMAN. Has the passport been issued?

Mr. TAVENNER. Yes, sir; it is our information.

The CHAIRMAN. In view of that, did you have that passport issued to you?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer, on the fifth amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. I direct you to answer that question, because it is inconceivable that anybody could be prosecuted for admitting that the United States Government issued a passport. You are directed to answer that question. Have you had a passport issued to you?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. You have?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. That is a valid passport at this time; is it?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. That is right.

Mr. TAVENNER. You could travel to any country in the world, unless there is some prohibition in the passport itself, right at this time, under that passport, could you not?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I think so.

Mr. TAVENNER. Have you traveled under that passport to any foreign country?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer, under the fifth amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. I direct you to answer the question, as to whether you have used the passport.

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I will abide by my refusal.

Mr. TAVENNER. It is noted from the application for passport that it is stated that the countries to be visited are Paris, France—did you go to Paris?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer, under the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you go to any other place in France?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer, under the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Actually, you never intended to go to France at all. You wanted to go to Switzerland for an entirely different purpose than that named in your application; isn't that true?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer, under the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Your application says that the purpose of the trip is visiting and touring. That was false, too; was it not?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer, under the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. The document which I read in evidence shows that you did actually attend a convention of the International Committee of Mothers, in Switzerland. Why did you not state on your application that you proposed to go to Switzerland to attend this particular meeting?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I haven't identified that application.

Mr. TAVENNER. I say: Why did you not advise the State Department when you obtained your passport that the real purpose of your desiring a passport was to go to Switzerland instead of going to France?

Mr. FORER. Your question is assuming a fact that is not in evidence.

Mr. TAVENNER. I think the question is perfectly plain.

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer, under the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Wasn't there a reason for your concealing the real purpose of your trip?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you answer the question?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. Will you repeat it?

Mr. TAVENNER. Wasn't there a reason for your failure to give the State Department correct information as to the purpose of your trip?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. It is noted that the affidavit of the identifying witness on your application was signed by Elizabeth Mitterer, M-i-t-t-e-r-e-r. Was Elizabeth Mitterer the same person who appeared as a witness here yesterday?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer, under the fifth amendment.

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mr. TAVENNER. Was Elizabeth Mitterer the secretary-treasurer of Save Our Sons Committee?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer, on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you tell the committee, please, how the International Committee of Mothers possessed in Germany a list of the names of persons in this country to be circularized by that organization?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you give the name of Mrs. Jones, of Iuka, Ill., to the International Committee of Mothers, for the purpose of having her circularized with literature?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer, under the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were you a member of the Communist Party on the 25th day of October 1952, which was the date of the founding convention of Save Our Sons Committee?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer, under the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were you a member of the Communist Party at any time in February or March 1956?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Are you now a member of the Communist Party?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer on the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Have you been a member of the Communist Party at any time that I have not specifically inquired about?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer, under the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. I have no further questions.

Mr. KEARNEY. On this organization, known as the Save Our Sons, did you have a son in the service?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. Will you repeat that?

Mr. KEARNEY. Did you have a son in the service?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. A son?

Mr. KEARNEY. Yes. This organization is Save Our Sons.

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I had a son-in-law.

Mr. KEARNEY. You had a son-in-law in the service?

The CHAIRMAN. When were you born, Mrs. Gowgiel.

Mrs. GOWGIEL. November 14, 1914.

The CHAIRMAN. In Chicago?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. No, in Argo.

The CHAIRMAN. Not in Chicago?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Is your first name "Florence"?

Mrs. GOWGIEL. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. This application for a passport certainly demonstrates the need for this legislation. You are excused.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Chairman, I have another question or two.

The CHAIRMAN. Proceed.

Mr. TAVENNER. First of all I would like to have introduced for identification a document entitled "Bacteriological Warfare," obtained from the office of Congressman McVey, and ask that it be marked "Gowgiel Exhibit No. 6"; and also the April 23, 1952, issue of the National Guardian, and ask that it be marked for identification purposes as "Gowgiel Exhibit No. 7."

(The documents referred to were marked "Gowgiel Exhibits, Nos. 6 and 7," for identification in the files of the committee.)

Mr. TAVENNER. I have called your attention, prior to this, Mrs. Gowgiel, to the fact that each of the issues of Save Our Sons concludes with a request to send in contributions to Save Our Sons. Did Save Our Sons organization or you comply with any law of the State of Illinois with regard to solicitation of funds?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I refuse to answer, under the fifth amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you know whether the State of Illinois has a statute requiring the licensing of organizations seeking, or soliciting funds?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. GOWGIEL. I don't know.

Mr. TAVENNER. Some States have such laws. The State of New York does, for instance. The State of California does. If the State of Illinois had such a law, you would have had to qualify the Save Our Sons organization under such a law before you were licensed to solicit funds.

The CHAIRMAN. That would not necessarily follow as to her organization. I do not suppose it would bother registering, for obvious reasons.

Mr. TAVENNER. There is one reason, Mr. Chairman, that some thought might well be given to restrictions of some type for organizations of this kind, in soliciting funds, such as through licensing, or maybe by congressional action.

The CHAIRMAN. There is a Federal statute, if you attempt to solicit through the mails.

Mr. TAVENNER. On the grounds of fraudulent use of the mails.

The CHAIRMAN. Any further questions?

Mr. TAVENNER. No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. The witness is excused.

Call your next witness.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mrs. Buckner.

The CHAIRMAN. Will you raise your right hand, please?

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

Mrs. BUCKNER. I do.

TESTIMONY OF MRS. MARY PHILLIPS BUCKNER, ACCOMPANIED BY COUNSEL, JOSEPH FORER

Mr. TAVENNER. What is your name, please?

Mrs. BUCKNER. Mary Phillips Buckner.

Mr. TAVENNER. B-u-c-k-n-e-r?

Mrs. BUCKNER. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. It is noted that the witness is accompanied by counsel, who accompanied the preceding witness.

Where do you live, Mrs. Buckner?

Mrs. BUCKNER. Lemont, Cook County, Ill.

Mr. TAVENNER. At Lemont, Cook County, Ill. Please speak a little louder as I do not believe the committee members can hear you.

Mrs. BUCKNER. I will try.

Mr. TAVENNER. How long have you lived at Lemont?

Mrs. BUCKNER. Seventeen or eighteen years.

Mr. TAVENNER. What was your maiden name?

Mrs. BUCKNER. Phillips.

Mr. TAVENNER. Phillips. Mrs. Buckner, were you present in the hearing room when Mrs. Mitterer testified.

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. BUCKNER. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. A subpoena duces tecum was served on her as the secretary-treasurer of Save Our Sons Committee, requiring her to produce certain records. Among them were the canceled checks and bank statements. Do you know where the canceled checks and bank statements of Save Our Sons Committee are?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. BUCKNER. I don't know.

Mr. TAVENNER. Have you ever known?

Mrs. BUCKNER. No, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. You do not know in whose custody they are?

Mrs. BUCKNER. No, sir; I don't know a thing about them.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you know where any of the records of Save Our Sons Committee are, at this time?

Mrs. BUCKNER. I know nothing about any records.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mrs. Buckner, were you at one time a member of the Argo Branch of the Communist Party in Argo, Ill.?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. BUCKNER. I refuse to answer that question under the privilege of the fifth amendment, not to testify against myself, and on the right of the first amendment of free press and free speech and free exercise of my religion.

Mr. TAVENNER. It has been testified here that, when the Argo branch of the Communist Party became hard up for money, that they called on the lady from Lemont to contribute financially to the cause of the party.

Mr. FORER. You mean there were times when they weren't hard up.

Mr. TAVENNER. Do you know of occasions when that occurred? When the lady from Lemont was called upon for financial aid?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. BUCKNER. I decline to answer on the privilege of the fifth amendment.

Mr. KEARNEY. I would like to ask the witness if this hearing is a joke to her?

Mrs. BUCKNER. It certainly is not. It has caused me too much grief to call it a joke.

Mr. KEARNEY. I am glad to hear you say that because, by your attitude, I thought maybe it was.

Mrs. BUCKNER. No, sir; it isn't.

Mr. KEARNEY. Proceed.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were you active in the work of the American Peace Crusade prior to the formation of Save Our Sons Committee?

Mrs. BUCKNER. I decline to answer that question on the grounds above stated.

Mr. TAVENNER. I have before me a copy of the minutes of sponsors' meeting of the American Peace Crusade, held March 15, 1951, in Washington, D. C. Did you attend that meeting of sponsors?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. BUCKNER. I decline to answer, on the grounds above stated.

Mr. TAVENNER. From the minutes, it appears that proposals were made for a slate for the planning committee of the American Peace Crusade, and the names of those persons who were proposed appear there.

Your name is not among those slated for the planning committee, but in a paragraph below appears this:

Other suggestions included—

then a number of names—it looks like 15 or 20, and among them—

Miss Mary Phillips.

Will you explain to the committee how it was that the minutes of that meeting show that your name was being suggested for the planning committee?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mr. FORER. Would you mind explaining that question?

Mr. TAVENNER. Yes. If it will help her, I will show her a copy of the minutes.

Mr. FORER. What is the question? We understood what you said was in the minutes.

Mr. TAVENNER. The question was: Can you explain to the committee how it is that your name appears as one of those suggested for the planning committee?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. BUCKNER. I decline to answer on the grounds above stated.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were you ever selected for the planning committee?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. BUCKNER. I decline to answer on the same grounds.

Mr. TAVENNER. Had you been active with Mrs. Florence Gowgiel in the work of the American Peace Crusade prior to the formation of the Save Our Sons Committee?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. BUCKNER. I decline to answer on the grounds above stated.

Mr. TAVENNER. I believe you were in the hearing room at the time Mr. Czarnowski testified that you gave him an order for the painting of two signs of Save Our Sons, to be used in some advertising work in which that committee engaged. Now, you expressed considerable surprise at that. Was it because you did not hear that testimony or because there is no truth in it?

Mr. FORER. Wait a minute. You say she expressed surprise.

Mr. TAVENNER. Yes; considerable surprise when I asked the question.

Mr. FORER. You mean just now?

Mr. TAVENNER. I am addressing the witness.

Mr. FORER. I am sorry.

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mr. TAVENNER. You say you are having difficulty understanding me. I think I heard that. I will repeat it.

Mrs. BUCKNER. I had difficulty understanding that man yesterday. I don't know half of what he said. I couldn't understand him.

Mr. TAVENNER. Let me explain what he said.

Mr. FORER. I don't think it is fair for you to say that she showed surprise. I don't know how you could read her mind.

Mr. TAVENNER. There was no trouble in the world of seeing that.

It was testified by Mr. Czarnowski that on one occasion you gave him an order for the painting of two signs of Save Our Sons. I do not recall what those signs were used for. I am reminded that it was for the State fair in Illinois. Do you recall that?

Mrs. BUCKNER. I decline to answer on the grounds above stated.

The CHAIRMAN. Did you ever give him an order to prepare any signs?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. BUCKNER. I decline to answer on the grounds above stated.

Mr. TAVENNER. We have shown here that a very small sum of money went through the bank account of Save Our Sons organization, notwithstanding considerable work was done by that organization. Do you know anything about that, as to how the funds were handled?

Mrs. BUCKNER. I decline to answer on the grounds above stated.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you help finance the operation of Save Our Sons?

Mrs. BUCKNER. I decline to answer that question also, on the grounds above stated.

The CHAIRMAN. Did you ever make any financial contributions to any so-called peace organizations?

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. BUCKNER. I decline to answer on the grounds above stated.

The CHAIRMAN. What criminal prosecution do you fear for admitting that you are supporting peace movements? Everybody is for peace.

(The witness confers with her counsel.)

Mrs. BUCKNER. I decline to answer on the same grounds.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were you transferred from the Argo branch of the Communist Party to the Northside branch of the Communist Party?

Mrs. BUCKNER. I decline to answer such a question on the grounds above stated.

Mr. TAVENNER. Are you now a member of the Communist Party?

Mrs. BUCKNER. I decline to answer that question on the grounds above stated.

Mr. TAVENNER. Have you at any time been a member of the Communist Party?

Mrs. BUCKNER. I decline to answer the question.

Mr. TAVENNER. In the past?

Mrs. BUCKNER. On the grounds stated.

Mr. TAVENNER. I have no further questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you any questions?

Mr. DOYLE. No.

Mr. KEARNEY. No.

The CHAIRMAN. There are no further questions. The witness is excused.

The committee will recess, to meet at 10 tomorrow morning.

(Whereupon, at 3:55 p. m., June 19, the committee recessed until 10 o'clock a. m., Wednesday, June 20, 1956, there being present Representatives Walter, Doyle, and Kearney.)

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