

San Francisco Chronicle

THE CITY'S ONLY HOME-OWNED NEWSPAPER

CCCCAA

SAN FRANCISCO, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1951

Red Hearings Open Here

Session Ends in Uproar As Crowd Cheers Witness

By CAROLYN ANSPACHER

A feminine volcano exploded late yesterday in the City Hall hearing chambers of the State Senate's Committee on Un-American Activities.

Senator Hugh M. Burns promptly ordered the chamber cleared of its overflow audience and then, in a

few moments, recessed the hearing until 10 o'clock this morning.

Disruption of the investigation into five Bay Area organizations described as "subversive" was caused by the appearance of Edith Jenkins, assertedly one of the key figures in the Committee for a Democratic Far Eastern Policy.

Mrs. Jenkins, wife of David Jenkins, onetime head of the California Labor School, furiously berated the committee as she delivered a long and occasionally incoherent harangue on her passionate devotion to peace.

VIOLENT OBJECTION

Her chignon fairly quivering with rage, Mrs. Jenkins announced immediately that she had "the honor" to be married to David Jenkins and said she objected violently to being called upon to testify against her husband.

Then, after declining to answer what she termed self-incriminatory questions regarding both the California Labor School and the Committee for a Democratic Far Eastern Policy, Mrs. Jenkins announced shrilly that she was "proud of all her activities centering around the matter of peace."

"I am a mother," she shouted. "I want a peaceful world for my children. This committee seeks to make it appear that the advocacy of peace means the advocacy of force and violence. This in an absurdity and fools no one."

COUNSEL'S INTERJECTION

Richard Combs, committee counsel, interrupted.

"I don't think the aims of any of these organizations listed as subversive are fooling anyone but the small group of radicals affiliated with them. They are not fooling the vast number of loyal Americans who really want peace," he said.

"I am proud—prouder than anything in my life—of the position I have taken for real peace," Mrs. Jenkins said. "And I object to having my motives questioned."

"The only reason I am here is because I have been vocal in my work for peace. I want to lodge a

Continued on Page 7, Col. 2

Applause Breaks Up Subversive Hearing

Session Resumes Today

Continued from Page 1

protest against the way my children have been intimidated on the streets of this city."

WAVE OF APPLAUSE

With that she flounced from the witness stand, to a wave of applause.

Senator Burns, committee chairman, rapped vainly for order and then ordered the chambers cleared. When the audience declined to budge, he threatened to call "people who will get you out."

He relented somewhat as the last straggler filed out of the room to announce that if the audience "behaved," it would be permitted to attend this morning's session, scheduled to be held in the Supervisors' Chambers.

SUBVERSIVE LIST

Cited as subversive by the committee yesterday were five Bay Area organizations: the East Bay branch of the Arts, Sciences and Professions Council, 3015 Shattuck avenue, Berkeley; the East Bay branch of the Civil Rights Congress, 700 23d street, Oakland; the American-Russian Institute, 101 Post street; the Committee for a Democratic Far Eastern Policy, 935 Market street, and the California Labor School, 321 Divisadero street—the latter three in San Francisco.

Subpoenaed to testify on activities, sources of income and propaganda techniques of the groups were 11 persons, seven of whom were called yesterday.

Six were women. Only one man, Forben Deirup of 1629 Josephine street, Berkeley, was included in the panel of reluctant witnesses.

COUNCIL SECRETARY

The parade of women began with Alice Hamburg, of 682 San Luis road, Berkeley, recording secretary of the East Bay Arts, Sciences and Professions Council.

The small and chic Mrs. Hamburg initiated the proceedings with the demand that she be permitted to read a statement.

In it she spoke of her keen interest in all affairs of community, State and Nation and then announced that the hearing "constitutes a flagrant violation of all democratic principles which are our great American heritage."

She insisted the council is an



ROSE ISAAK
The fifth witness



ALICE HAMBURG
Treasury was in arrears



DECCA TREUHAFT
International connections

innocuous organization devoted to such things as art exhibits. Its treasury, she said, is usually in arrears. And she said that as far as she could remember it has sponsored no benefit functions for the California Labor School or the Daily People's World.

But for details, she referred the committee to the council's executive director, Hank Rubin.

Deirup, who followed her to the witness stand, declined to answer most questions put to him by Combs, on grounds of possible self-incrimination.

A television and radio repairman, Deirup refused to tell whether he belonged to the Communist party, the Young Communist League, the Communist Policy Association or American Youth for Democracy.

CITATION THREAT

His refusal to answer questions on grounds of self incrimination led Senator Burns to warn that each refusal to reply constituted a separate count of contempt. At conclusion of the morning session, the Senator said citations probably will be issued at the close of the hearing.

First witness of the afternoon was a handsome young woman with international connections. She was Decca Treuhaft of 730 59th street, Oakland, born Jessica Freeman-Mitford of England.

It was her late sister Unity who was Adolf Hitler's "Nordic Goddess." Another sister, Diana, is the wife of Sir Oswald Mosley, British Fascist leader.

Mrs. Treuhaft, according to Combs, is, and has been for more than a year, director of the East

Bay Civil Rights Congress.

OPA WORKER

Politely and quite elegantly, Mrs. Treuhaft declined to answer most of the question put to her, including whether she belonged to the Berkeley Tennis Club. She admitted having worked for the Office of Price Administration in 1942 and 1943 and belonging to the United Federal Workers of America during that period.

She also acknowledged with dignity that her first husband was Esmond Romilly, a nephew of Winston Churchill who at 17 fought with the International Brigade in Spain, and then was killed on an RCAF mission over Germany early in 1942.

In common with those before her and the witnesses who followed her, Mrs. Treuhaft declined to say whether she read the Daily People's World or subscribed to it, or whether she had sponsored parties to support the paper or the California Labor School.

Nor would she say whether she had withdrawn Civil Rights Congress funds from a Berkeley bank last January 1, leaving only a balance of 42 cents.

Similarly she refused to say whether she had attended a closed meeting of the Communist Party in El Cerrito last January, or in April had attended a meeting where the speaker was the registered Communist Party lobbyist in Sacramento.

A pretty young blonde, obviously frightened, followed Mrs. Treu-

haft. Eloise Brown, of 1020 59th street, Oakland, a social worker, admitted she had "heard" of the Daily People's World, the California Labor School, the Civil Rights Congress and the ASP Council.

PARTY MEETINGS

But she declined to answer questions about attending closed meetings of the Communist Party in Oakland, or of possible affiliation with any of the questioned organizations.

She was asked to identify handwriting of her husband, Edwin, from whom she is "temporarily separated," but refused.

The photostatic copy of a letter shown Mrs. Brown, Combs said, was a "highly incriminating document" written by her husband while he was fighting in Korea. The letter, Combs said, was "intercepted" and will be entered into the record of the hearing. The text was not made public.

Rose Isaak, a bird-like woman, was the next witness. She said she is not gainfully employed, but does a "little work." She refused on constitutional grounds to say whether she is executive director of the American-Russian Institute, or as such had dispatched checks to the American Council for Soviet Friendship in New York. She also refused to answer questions about her attendance at various pro-Soviet rallies and celebrations, or about whether she read or subscribed to the People's World.

FINAL WITNESS

Final witness was Ernestine Gateway of 2211 Geary street, who refused to say whether she had ever been registrar at the California Labor School. With considerable indignation she declined to produce enrollment lists of students and faculty at the school and demanded that the committee "concentrate its efforts on making

Audience Ousted After Outburst

peace instead of badgering helpless women."

Appearing as counsel for the various witnesses were Richard Gladstein, Francis J. McTernan Jr. and Joseph Landisman. The latter two retired when Burns called for "only one quarterback" instead of a "whole regiment."

TWO-DAY HEARING

In the opening the two-day hearing Senator Burns said it is the "prime duty" of the committee to "expose Communist Front organizations now operating actively in the Bay Area" and he emphasized the committee's right to compel answers of those subpoenaed.

Some 40 pickets parading in front of the City Hall disagreed. They carried placards bearing such messages as "Let's end police brutality, Jim Crow, thought control, senseless wars and the Burns committee."

First witness this morning will be Dr. Holland Roberts, head of the American Russian Institute.

Sitting with Burns, a Fresno Democrat, on the committee are Senators Nelson A. Dillworth (Rep-Hemet), Clyde A. Watson (Rep-Orange), Nathan F. Coombs (Rep-Napa) and Earl D. Desmond (Dem-Carmichael).



EDITH JENKINS
She drew applause



ELOISE BROWN
No affiliations

San Francisco Chronicle
Wednesday, September 12, 1951

Red Hearings Open Here
Session Ends in Uproar
As Crowd Cheers Witness
CAROLYN ANSPACHER

A feminine volcano exploded late yesterday in the City Hall hearing chambers of the State Senate's Committee on Un-American Activities.

Senator Hugh M. Burns promptly ordered the chamber cleared of its overflow audience and then, in a few moments, recessed the hearing until 10 o'clock this morning.

Disruption of the investigation into five Bay Area organizations described as "subversive" was caused by the appearance of Edith Jenkins, assertedly one of the key figures in the Committee for Democratic Far Eastern Policy.

Mrs. Jenkins, wife of David Jenkins, onetime head of the California Labor School, furiously berated the committee as she delivered a long and occasionally incoherent harangue on her passionate devotion to peace.

VIOLENT OBJECTION

Her chignon fairly quivering with rage, Mrs. Jenkins announced immediately that she had "the honor" to be married to David Jenkins and said she objected violently to being called upon to testify against her husband.

Then, after declining to answer what she termed self-incriminatory questions regarding both the California Labor School and the Committee for a Democratic Far Eastern Policy, Mrs. Jenkins announced shrilly that she was "proud of all her activities centering around the matter of peace."

"I am a mother," she shouted. "I want a peaceful world for my children. This committee seeks to make it appear that the advocacy of peace means the advocacy of force and violence. This is an absurdity and fools no one."

COUNSEL'S INTERJECTION

Richard Combs, committee counsel, interrupted.

"I don't think the aims of any of these organizations listed as subversive are fooling anyone but the small group of radicals affiliated with them. They are not fooling the vast number of loyal Americans who really want peace," he said.

“I am proud—prouder than anything in my life—of the position I have taken for real peace,” Mrs. Jenkins said. “And I object to having my motives questioned.”

“The only reason I am here is because I have been vocal in my work for peace. I want to lodge a

Continued on Page 7, Col. 2

Applause Breaks Up Subversive Hearing
Session Resumes Today
Continued from Page 1

protest against the way my children have been intimidated on the streets of this city.”

WAVE OF APPLAUSE

With that she flounced from the witness stand to a wave of applause.

Senator Burns, committee chairman, rapped vainly for order and then ordered the chambers cleared. When the audience declined to budge, he threatened to call “people who will get you out.”

He relented somewhat as the last straggler filed out of the room to announce that if the audience “behaved,” it would be permitted to attend this morning’s session, scheduled to be held in the Supervisors’ Chambers.

SUBVERSIVE LIST

Cited as subversive by the committee yesterday were five Bay Area organizations: the East Bay branch of the Arts, Sciences and Professions Council, 3015 Shattuck avenue, Berkeley; the East Bay branch of the Civil Rights Congress; 700 23d street, Oakland; the American-Russian Institute, 101 Post street; the Committee for a Democratic Far Eastern Policy, 935 Market street, and the California Labor School, 321 Divisadero street—the latter three in San Francisco.

Subpoenaed to testify on activities, sources of income and: propaganda techniques of the groups were 11 persons, seven of whom were called yesterday.

Six were women. Only one man, Torben Deirup of 1629 Josephine street, Berkeley, was included in the panel of reluctant witnesses.

COUNCIL SECRETARY

The parade of women began with Alice Hamburg, of 682 San Luis road, Berkeley, recording secretary of the East Bay Arts, Sciences and Professions Council.

The small and chic Mrs. Hamburg initiated the proceedings with the demand that she be permitted to read a statement.

In it she spoke of her keen interest in all affairs of community, State and Nation and then announced that the hearing "constitutes a flagrant violation of all democratic principles which are our great American heritage."

She insisted the council is an innocuous organization devoted to such things as art exhibits. Its treasury, she said, is usually in arrears. And she said that as far as she could remember it has sponsored no benefit functions for the California Labor School or the Daily People's World.

But for details, she referred the committee to the council's executive director, Hank Rubin.

Deirup, who followed her to the witness stand, declined to answer most questions put to him by Combs, on grounds of possible self-incrimination.

A television and radio repairman, Deirup refused to tell whether he belonged to the Communist party, the Young Communist League, the Communist Policy Association or American Youth for Democracy.

CITATION THREAT

His refusal to answer questions on grounds of self incrimination led Senator Burns to warn that each refusal to reply constituted a separate count of contempt. At conclusion of the morning session, the Senator said citations probably will be issued at the close of the hearing.

First witness of the afternoon was a handsome young woman with international connections. She was Decca Treuhaft of 730 59th street, Oakland, born Jessica Freeman-Mitford of England.

Mrs. Treuhaft, according to Combs, is, and has been for more than a year, director of the East Bay Civil Rights Congress.

OPA WORKER

Politely and quite elegantly, Mrs. Treuhaft declined to answer most of the questions put to her, including whether she belonged to the Berkeley Tennis Club. She admitted having worked for the Office of Price Administration in 1942 and 1943 and belonging to the United Federal Workers of America during that period.

She also acknowledged with dignity that her first husband was Esmond Romilly, a nephew of Winston Churchill who at 17 fought with the International Brigade in Spain, and then was killed on an RCAF mission over Germany early in 1942.

In common with those before her and the witnesses who followed her, Mrs. Treuhaft declined to say whether she read the Daily People's World or subscribed to it, or whether she had sponsored parties to support the paper or the California Labor School.

Nor would she say whether she had withdrawn Civil Rights Congress funds from a Berkeley bank last January 1, leaving only a balance of 42 cents.

Similarly she refused to say whether she had attended a closed meeting of the Communist Party in El Cerrito last January, or in April had attended a meeting where the speaker was the registered Communist Party lobbyist in Sacramento.

A pretty young blond, obviously frightened, followed Mrs. Treuhaft. Eloise Brown of 1020 59th street, Oakland, a social worker, admitted she had "heard" of the Daily People's World, the California Labor School, the Civil Rights Congress and the ASP Council.

PARTY MEETINGS

But she declined to answer questions about attending closed meetings of the Communist Party in Oakland, or of possible affiliation with any of the questioned organizations.

She was asked to identify handwriting of her husband, Edwin, from whom she is "temporarily separated," but refused.

The photostatic copy of a letter shown Mrs. Brown, Combs said, was a "highly incriminating document" written by her husband while he was fighting in Korea. The letter, Combs said, was "intercepted" and will be entered into the record of the hearing. The text was not made public.

Rose Isaak, a bird-like woman, was the next witness. She said she is not gainfully employed, but does a "little work." She refused on constitutional grounds to say whether she is executive director of the American-Russian Institute, or as such had dispatched checks to the American Council for Soviet Friendship in New York. She also refused to answer questions about her attendance at various pro-Soviet rallies and celebrations, or about whether she read or subscribed to the People's World.

FINAL WITNESS

Final witness was Ernestine Gateway of 2211 Geary street, who refused to say whether she had ever been registrar at the California Labor School. With considerable indignation she declined to produce enrollment lists of students and faculty at the school and demanded that the committee "concentrate its efforts on making peace instead of badgering helpless women."

Appearig as counsel for the various witnesses were Richard Gladstein, Francis J. McTernan Jr. and Joseph Landisman. The latter two retired when Burns called for "only one quarterback" instead of a "whole regiment."

TWO-DAY HEARING

In the opening the two-day hearing Senator Burns said it is the “prime duty” of the committee to “expose Communist Front organizations now operating actively in the Bay Area” and he emphasized the committee’s right to compel answers of those subpoenaed.

Some 40 pickets parading in front of the City Hall disagreed. They carried placards bearing such messages as “Let’s end police brutality, Jim Crow, thought control, senseless wars and the Bums committee.”

First witness this morning will be Dr. Holland Roberts, head of the American Russian Institute.

Sitting with Burn, a Fresno Democrat, on the committee are Senators Nelson A. Dillworth (Rep-Hemet), Clyde A. Watson (Rep-Orange), Nathan F. Coombs (Rep-Napa) and Earl D. Desmond (Dem-Carmichael).