



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

December 5, 1950

Cobb and Weissbrodt
1822 Jefferson Place, N.W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Gentlemen:

The changes suggested in your letter of
December 4 have been made in the transcript of the
hearing with respect to Miss Ruth Schmidt.

Very truly yours,

Mastin G. White

Mastin G. White, Chairman
Interior Department Loyalty Board

December 4, 1950

Mr. Mastin G. White, Chairman
Interior Department Loyalty Board
Department of the Interior
Office of the Secretary
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. White:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of November 21, 1950, addressed to Miss Ruth Schmidt at this address and forwarding a copy of the transcript of the hearing held on October 25, 1950, in Miss Schmidt's case.

On behalf of Miss Schmidt I wish to note the following suggested corrections for the transcript:

page 31, line 8: The record should show that Miss Schmidt did not have any list with her at the hearing.

page 31, line 12: "Blue Cross" should read "Group Health". At the time of the hearing Miss Schmidt was not a member of Blue Cross. She joined the Group Health Association, Inc., about 1948 and dropped her membership in Blue Cross at that time.

page 38, line 3: Add "for themselves" after "out".

page 39, line 20: Delete the period after "show", change initial capital i in "In" to a small letter; insert a period after "year" and capitalize the "s" in "she".

I thank you for your courtesy in this matter.

Sincerely,

COBB AND WEISSBRODT

BY:

DAVID COBB

c/d



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

NOV 21 1950

Registered Mail
Return Receipt Requested

Personal and Confidential

Miss Ruth Anna Marie Schmidt
C/o Cobb and Weissbrodt
1822 Jefferson Place, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

My dear Miss Schmidt:

In accordance with your request of October 25, there is transmitted herewith a copy of the transcript of a hearing held by the Interior Department Loyalty Board.

Sincerely yours,

Mastin G. White

Mastin G. White, Chairman
Interior Department
Loyalty Board

Enclosure

HEARING

held by the

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT LOYALTY BOARD

October 25, 1950 - 10:00 a.m., Room 6352

Present: Mastin G. White, Chairman
Dan H. Wheeler, Member
Mrs. J. Atwood Maulding, Member
E. L. Compton, Secretary
Ruth Anna Marie Schmidt
David Cobb (Counsel for Miss Schmidt)

Witnesses: Ruth Schmidt
Marie Siegrist
Jean Berdan
Alfred J. Bodenlos
Frank C. Whitmore, Jr.
Marjorie Hocker

Hearing, Wednesday, October 25, 1950

Present: Mastin G. White, Chairman
Dan H. Wheeler, Member
Mrs. J. Atwood Maulding, Member
E. L. Compton, Secretary

Ruth Anna Marie Schmidt
David Cobb, Counsel

CHAIRMAN: The Interior Department Loyalty Board has met this morning for the purpose of affording Miss Schmidt, in accordance with her request, an opportunity to be heard in connection with charges of possible disloyalty to the Government of the United States, which were dated August 15, 1950, and served on Miss Schmidt.

As Miss Schmidt has been previously informed, she has the privilege of testifying herself and of presenting the testimony of other witnesses either in affidavit form or by having them appear in person before the board. In that connection, it is my understanding that she has asked several persons to appear before the board, and the board will be glad to hear them at such time as Miss Schmidt or her counsel may wish to bring them before the board.

CHAIRMAN: For the benefit of all present, I shall now
read the charges:

"August 15, 1950

"Personal and Confidential

"Memorandum

"To: Ruth Anna Marie Schmidt
1817 North Rhodes St.
Arlington, Virginia

"From: Secretary, Interior Department Loyalty Board

"Subject: Charges involving possible disloyalty to the United
States

"1. This is a notice of a possible removal action.

"2. You are notified that the following charge
involving possible disloyalty to the United States has been
made against you:

"You have been a member of, affiliated with, and
sympathetically associated with the Washington Book Shop
Association, which has been designated by the Attorney General
as being within the purview of paragraph "f", section 2, part V,
of Executive Order 9835. In this connection, it is reported that:

"(a) You were Chairman of a meeting of the Washington
Book Shop Association on May 23, 1946, at which Edwin C. Randall
spoke on the 'Political Implications of Atomic Energy'.

"(b) You were in attendance at a forum sponsored by
the Washington Book Shop Association at the Phyllis Wheatley
Annex of the YWCA on October 24, 1947.

"(c) A copy of the Washington Book Shop Association's
publication 'The Book Shopper' for October 1947 under the caption
'Meet the Board' lists the name of Ruth Schmidt, Publicity
Director for the Forum Committee.

"(d) You were in attendance at a lecture of the Washington Book Shop Association on March 21, 1948, at the Washington Bookshop.

"(e) You attended meetings of the Washington Book Shop Association on January 2, 1949, January 30, 1949, March 27, 1949, and October 28, 1949.

"(f) You were active in the Washington Book Shop Association up until January, 1950, having been chairman of several committees of the Washington Book Shop Association and having introduced speakers at several important lecture meetings.

"3. You may answer this charge in writing, under oath or affirmation, within fourteen (14) calendar days from the date on which this notice is received by you.

"4. If, in addition, you desire that a hearing on the charge be held before a Loyalty Board of this Department, you may submit such a request in writing within fourteen (14) calendar days after this notice is received by you.

"5. In the event that a hearing is requested in accordance with paragraph 4 above, you may appear before the Loyalty Board personally, you may be accompanied by counsel or other representative of your own choosing, and you may present evidence on your own behalf through witnesses or by affidavits.

"6. You will be carried without a change in your duty and pay status pending a determination by the Loyalty Board.

"7. The possible removal action will not become effective in less than thirty (30) calendar days from the date of the receipt of this notice by you.

"8. This notice is sent you in accordance with Executive Order 9835 of March 21, 1947 (12 F. R. 1935); Order No. 2308, issued by the Secretary of the Interior on March 29, 1947; Order No. 2459, issued by the Secretary of the Interior on August 13, 1948; regulations issued by the Loyalty Review Board of the Civil Service Commission effective December 17, 1947, revised through December 17, 1948 (5 CFR 200.1--230.6; 13 F. R. 9361); Section 9A of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C., 1946 ed., Supp. II sec. 118j); and Section 14 of the Veterans Preference Act of 1944."

CHAIRMAN: I shall now read Miss Schmidt's answer to the charges.

MR. COBB: Mr. Chairman, I might point out that Miss Schmidt's answer is contained in two items: First, her letter of August 10 and, second, her formal answer to the charges.

CHAIRMAN: I shall read the answer to the interrogatories and also the answer to the charges. Miss Schmidt's answer to the interrogatories is dated August 10, 1950, and is as follows:

"Dear Mr. Compton:

"In reply to your registered letter of July 25, 1950, which I received on July 27, 1950.

"I offer herewith a statement of my membership and activities in the Washington Bookshop Association, as accurately as my recollections serve me at this time.

"I became a member of the Washington Cooperative Bookshop in August 1945, as you can see from the attached copy of a letter of complaint to the organization. Since my arrival in Washington during the war (I came in early 1943) I had been disturbed by the segregation of Negroes, and the unequal treatment they received in the capital of our country. I felt that such a situation was bad for this country, particularly when we were waging a war for equal rights, and against discrimination. In 1945, towards the end of the war, I happened to read Richard Wright's BLACK BOY -- and this incensed me to the point of wanting to do something besides talk about it. I had heard of the Bookshop, probably from a folder I may have picked up in the store, as I frequently browsed in the book stores along 17th Street on the way to the Virginia buses on K Street. As I have always approved of cooperatives (I am a member of Group Health, before that the Blue Cross, subscribe to Consumer Reports, and have some insurance with the Farm Bureau Mutual company.), I decided to join this cooperative bookshop that claimed to be interracial. I had more time, now

that the war had ended, and was interested in starting a record collection, possibly buying a few books -- and in finding out about the cultural activities in art and literature mentioned in the folder, particularly as they emphasized that the activities were on an interracial basis.

"The attached letter accounts for my activities after joining. After I wrote the letter in January 1946, I suppose I received notices of the forums. However, at this time, the winter and spring of 1946, along with most other scientists, I was very much interested in atomic energy problems. I had become a member of the Washington Association of Scientists, which had been spontaneously formed at this time, and was very much concerned with atomic energy. This group was vigorously supporting the McMahon bill which was then before Congress, and later became law. I was a member of the executive board of the Washington Association of Scientists at that time, and in that capacity was particularly interested in seeing that as many people as possible knew about this legislation. In the spring of 1946, therefore, my recollection is that I requested the Bookshop to hold a forum on atomic energy, and was chairman at that meeting.

"In the summer, when it was time to renew my membership, I purchased a 'life membership' for \$5.00, considering that it would be cheaper in the long run. I had started a record collection, and occasionally bought books.

"From that time, or rather from about the time of the forum in the spring of 1946, to early 1947, I attended a few forums, and my recollection is that they were on literature. At this time I was pretty well occupied finishing my Ph.D. thesis, as well as working, and did not have much time for any other activities.

"In February of 1947, I finished the first draft of my thesis, and again had more time, and probably started going to forums again. In any event, when, in April 1947, I was asked if I would be willing to serve on the executive board of the Bookshop as a replacement until elections in the summer, I said I would. I was curious to see how a cooperative organization worked, it seemed like it would be an interesting experience, and I really would be doing something positive in an interracial group.

"It was customary, as I recall, for members of the board to act as chairmen of the different committees, and I inherited the forum committee. This committee worked with the Book committee in helping to select speakers and obtain places for forums, and conducted a poll of the membership to ascertain subjects in which they were interested to serve as a partial guide in arranging subsequent book reviews and forums. Often the chairman of the forum committee had to introduce the speakers at the forums. In all, I served on the board for four months. I was not nominated for election to the next board. And as I was not on the next board, I ceased to be chairman of the forum committee. After helping the new chairman for a few meetings, I ceased taking a part in the work of the committee. As a matter of fact, my only association with the organization from the fall of 1947 on was solely that of a buyer of books and records, and occasional spectator at the forums devoted to the arts, science and literature.

"In December of 1947 the Attorney General's list of subversive organizations was published, and I was dismayed to find that the Washington Cooperative Bookshop was listed. This was an organization that I belonged to, an organization that appeared to me was a worthwhile, democratic, interracial, cultural, non-political group. It seemed to me doing good in the Washington community by promoting interracial cultural gatherings, even though they were small. I felt the listing was unjust. I had not seen any evidence or even indication that the organization was communist-dominated, or in any way associated with communism or the Communist Party. Totalitarian methods are so repugnant to me, that had they been evident, I would have resigned from the organization as soon as I became aware of such tendencies. For a short time I had attended executive board meetings, where policy was determined, and at no time did I observe any improper, unAmerican, or subversive activity. On the contrary, at the board meetings I attended, I recall that the board was concerned with the operation of the store, and its related activities, such as selection of books, and how to get authors to speak, preferably for nothing; how to make money on forums; how to find meeting places at a nominal cost that both Negroes and whites could attend, and how to supply books for a lending library for colored cafeteria workers.

"Immediately following the listing of the Bookshop, I made a point of going to the store and asking one of the clerks

for a copy of the constitution. I carefully read it and saw nothing that accounted to me for the listing of what seemed to me to be a non-political, cultural cooperative, as subversive. I attended the next meeting. It was a membership meeting, and had as its main topic a talk on the races of mankind. Again, as in the past, there was nothing said or done at that meeting which I could possibly interpret as subversive and communistic.

"During the next year, as a spectator, I attended occasionally, not more than half a dozen times, other forums of a similar nature, and I found, as before, there was nothing subversive or communistic about them. However, they were not holding meetings on subjects in which I was particularly interested, and my attendance slackened, and about a year or so ago I stopped going altogether. Attendance at these public forums and a few purchases of books and records constituted my only relationship to the Bookshop following the publication of the list. (Prior to the listing, as I have heretofore explained, I had become inactive in the organization.) Several months ago I was notified by mail that the Bookshop was no longer in existence."

"Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Ruth A. M. Schmidt

Ruth A. M. Schmidt"

"Ruth A. M. Schmidt appeared before me on August 10, 1950 & swears on her oath to the above.

(Sgd.) Donald D. Voorhees [S E A L]
Notary Public
Comm. expires 10/14/50"

CHAIRMAN: The answer to the charges is as follows:

"I, Ruth Anna Marie Schmidt, of 1817 North Rhodes Street, Arlington, Virginia, being first duly sworn, do depose and say as follows:

"1. I have been a member of and sympathetically associated with the Washington Bookshop Association.

"2. I submitted to the Interior Department Loyalty Board, in a letter under date of August 10, 1950, a statement of my associations with the Washington Bookshop Association, which statement was accurate to the full extent of my recollection as of the date of its preparation.

"3. Since August 10, 1950, I have checked the information contained in my August 10 statement against all the records that I have been able to find bearing upon my association with the Washington Bookshop Association and have found that these records are consistent with my August 10 statement with one exception only. The first sentence in the last paragraph of my August 10 statement reads:

"During the next year, as a spectator, I attended occasionally, not more than half a dozen times, other forums of a similar nature, and, I found, as before, there was nothing subversive or communistic about them."

"My calendar records show that during the year 1948, I may have attended in total fifteen, or possibly sixteen, meetings sponsored by the Washington Bookshop Association. In 1949, I may have attended in total, seven, and possibly eight, such meetings. Most of these meetings, seventeen, were on Sunday evening. Of these Sunday meetings, probably almost all were a part of a regular biweekly news reporting series conducted by Alfred Henley. The regular Bookshop meetings were not held on Sundays. In making my original estimate of Washington Bookshop meetings attended in 1948, I had forgotten that I attended so many of the Henley news reports. With this correction, I am satisfied that my August 10 statement reflects fully and honestly the extent of my associations with the Washington Bookshop.

"With respect to my calendar records, it was and still is my practice to make notations on my calendar of coming events to which I intend to go. Often these notations are made long in advance. Sometimes they are made on the same day that I plan to go. Later, if I do not go to the event, I generally cross the event off my calendar. Naturally, there are occasions I know, when I fail to cross the event off my calendar even though I did not go. Also, there may be a few occasions when I have attended events not marked on my calendar. In my experience the latter occurrences are much rarer than the former, so that I am reasonably certain that there were few, if any, Bookshop

meetings that I attended that are not marked on my calendar, and there are probably marked on my calendar at least a few meetings that I did not attend.

"4. As stated in the last sentence of the first partial paragraph on page 2 of my August 10 statement, I was the Chairman of a Forum meeting on Atomic Energy held by the Washington Bookshop. This meeting was held at the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA on May 23, 1946, in the evening. I had earlier requested the Washington Bookshop Association to hold a Forum meeting on the subject of Atomic Energy. My suggestion was accepted by the Washington Bookshop Association. I recall that I made some of the arrangements for this Forum. I have kept among my files one page of notes which I made on May 7, 1946, which summarized the arrangements that I made for the May 23rd meeting. By May 7, the speaker, Edwin C. Randall, had already been selected. I do not recall how he was selected but believe that probably I requested the Speakers Bureau of the National Committee on Atomic Information to provide us with a speaker. I did not know Randall, and I knew nothing about him prior to his selection. When I was asked to be the Chairman of the May 23rd meeting, I had to obtain a brief sketch of his background so that I would be able to introduce him to the meeting. For this purpose I had one luncheon with Mr. Randall. My May 7 notes show that I learned that he was a graduate of Williams College, had taken graduate work at Chicago University, had been employed by the Labor Department and the OPA just prior to two years service in the Army, and had been stationed at Los Alamos for nine months beginning about April 1945. At the time of the May 23 Forum, Mr. Randall was employed in the State Department and about to leave the country to be Vice Consul at Strasbourg. I recall Mr. Randall at the May 23rd meeting, but have never seen or heard of him since that time. I have never had any reason to believe that he was in any sense sympathetic to Communism or in any way disloyal to our form of Government. If my recollection of the May 23rd meeting is accurate, nothing of any particular significance took place. I introduced Mr. Randall who spoke for some time and then the Forum was open to questions and general discussion. I recall that I was nervous on the occasion of this meeting, since I had not previously spoken before any Bookshop meeting. My notes of May 7, 1946, indicate that copies of an Acheson Report on Atomic Energy were distributed with admissions to the meeting.

"5. I have a copy of the October 1947 BOOKSHOPPER and accordingly am able to confirm that I am listed in that issue as Publicity Director of the Forum Committee. As I stated in my August 10 statement, after I ceased, in July 1947, to be chairman of the Forum Committee, I continued thereafter for a few meetings to assist my successor, the new Chairman of the Forum Committee. My calendar records show only two such later meetings with the new Chairman. Despite the report in the BOOKSHOPPER that I was Publicity Director, I do not believe that I was ever elected to any office on the new Forum Committee or that any formal action was ever taken in relation to the assistance that I gave the new Chairman of the Committee. The Forum Committee functioned very informally while I was the Chairman and I believe that the same practice probably continued under the chairmanship of my successor. It is my opinion, therefore, that the title of Publicity Director to the Forum Committee was given to me gratuitously for the purpose of acknowledging in the BOOKSHOPPER the assistance that I had given to the new Chairman of the Forum Committee. The assistance that I gave to the new Chairman after my period of chairmanship was not, as I recall it, concerned with publicity. The only assistance that I believe I gave the new Chairman was that I met with her and gave her advice and possibly suggestions as to topics or speakers for meetings.

"The report, under the caption, 'Meet the Board', in the October 1947, BOOKSHOPPER confirms the fact that I was not elected to the new Board in July of 1947.

"6. My calendar records confirm that I probably did attend a Sunday evening Washington Bookshop meeting on March 21, 1948. I have no particular recollection of this meeting. However, I believe that it was one of a series of Sunday night talks by Alfred Henley entitled, 'Between the Lines'. Alfred Henley used to give a news commentary on every other Sunday evening at the Washington Bookshop. I believe these meetings commenced about February 8, 1948, and continued throughout most of that year and into the early part of 1949. Alfred Henley, in my opinion, gave a very good account of the news and I enjoyed his 'Between the Lines' talks. Mr. Henley undoubtedly interspersed his opinions in his account of the news. I was never aware that he favored either Communism or the Communist Party and am confident that my interest in his talks arose out of the manner of his presentation of the news and the items of news which he selected to talk about.

"Of the total of approximately twenty-five Bookshop meetings that I may have attended according to my calendar records, in 1948 and 1949, my calendar records show that seventeen were Sunday meetings. It is probable that most of these Sunday meetings were Alfred Henley news reports. Unfortunately, my records, which are merely brief notes made upon my calendar, show only a notation of a Bookshop meeting and do not indicate the subject of the meeting. I am unable to know precisely how many of the Sunday meetings that I attended were Alfred Henley news reports, but believe that almost all were his talks.

"7. My calendar records confirm that I probably attended Sunday evening Washington Bookshop meetings on January 2, January 30, and March 27, 1949. I have no specific recollections of any of these meetings and no way of knowing whether or not these were Alfred Henley 'Between the Lines' lectures. I believe that they probably were.

"My records also confirm that I attended a Washington Bookshop meeting on Friday evening, October 28, on the subject of Atomic Energy. I recall that I attended because I was curious to learn what would be said on that subject and also because I knew that Alfred Henley was to be the speaker and expected he would give a good talk. It is my recollection that his talk was not informative and was confined for the most part to an elementary discussion of atomic physics. I came away with the impression that it was a poor meeting. However, I observed nothing that occurred at that meeting which could be considered to reflect any disloyalty to our Government.

"8. I was not active in the Washington Bookshop 'up until January 1950', though I did hold a 'life membership' in the Bookshop which I have never resigned. Under date of February 28, 1950, I received a letter from the Board of Trustees of the Bookshop advising me that the Bookshop membership at a meeting held on February 22, had voted to close the Bookshop. I did not attend the February 22, 1950, membership meeting.

"I have no present recollection of the last membership meeting that I attended of the Washington Bookshop. I recall that shortly after the publication of the Attorney General's list in December, 1947, I attended a regular Bookshop membership meeting to learn what if anything, the Bookshop proposed to do with respect to its being listed. My calendar records place this meeting on Friday, January 9, 1948. My calendar shows that I may

have attended another membership meeting on Friday, April 2, 1948, and another on Friday, October 8, 1948. If my calendar record is correct, the October 8, 1948, meeting was the last Bookshop meeting at which any Bookshop business was conducted that I attended.

"The general membership meetings of the Washington Bookshop always, so far as I recollect, featured a guest speaker on some subject entirely removed from Bookshop business as the attraction of the evening, and were open to any member of the public who chose to attend. After July 1947, I attended membership meetings only when I was interested in the subject of the feature talk and not for reasons of Bookshop business, with the one exception that I attended the January 9 meeting in part out of curiosity to learn what action the Board was taking on the matter of the Attorney General's listing. I undertook no activity for the Washington Bookshop Association after I ceased to advise the Forum Committee or its Chairman, which I judge must have been about October of 1947.

"By the time that the Attorney General's list was published in December 1947, I had ceased entirely all my participation in Bookshop business and was continuing my association purely for the benefits I derived from going to a few of its cultural or social events and possibly making a few purchases in the shop. I was not 'active in the Bookshop' at any time after about October 1947.

"9. I was the Chairman of only one Washington Bookshop Association Committee that had any continuing function, the Forum Committee, for about four months (April - July, 1947). On one occasion, I took charge of entertainment for a Washington Bookshop picnic (July 13, 1947). A committee may have worked with me on this assignment, but I have no recollection of any such committee.

"As stated in my August 10 statement, I was invited to become a member of the Board of Trustees of the Bookshop in April 1947, and shortly thereafter was given the position of Chairman of the Forum Committee. I was never elected to either the Board or the chairmanship of the Forum Committee. Mine was an interim appointment to the Board, made, I presume, because some former Board member had dropped out. The only explanation that I can give for my appointment is that some persons on the

Board were pleased by the way I conducted the Forum on Atomic Energy and had for that reason suggested that I would make a suitable replacement on the Board pending a new election to be held in July. In July, I declined to be nominated for election to the Board of Trustees because I felt that I did not want to devote any more of my time to that task.

"10. I introduced speakers at Washington Bookshop Association meetings on the following occasions:

"May 23, 1946: Atomic Energy Forum. I was Chairman and introduced Mr. Randall.

"April 1947 to about mid-July 1947: I presume I introduced speakers or chairmen at Forum meetings in my capacity as Chairman of the Forum Committee. I have no present recollection of any of these occasions, but my files indicate that there may have been three meetings during this period at which I may have introduced a speaker.

"April 17, 1948: I attended a talk on art given by Mr. D. Butterly. I went merely because I was interested in the subject, and had read of the meeting in the BOOKSHOPPER. The attendance was poor and there was no Chairman present prepared to introduce Mr. Butterly. Accordingly, feeling embarrassed for Mr. Butterly, I introduced him to the group with a very few and inadequate remarks which I drew from information given on the fly cover of his book.

"Henley Sunday Evening: I recall that on one of Alfred Henley's Sunday evening news talks no Chairman was present to introduce Mr. Henley as was customary. I opened that meeting with a short introduction. This occasion, like the Butterly occasion, was the consequence of my volunteering at the last moment to avoid embarrassment to the speaker. I am unable to place the date of the particular Henley Sunday evening.

"11. My August 10 statement sets forth my reason for interest and sympathy for the Washington Bookshop Association. I approved of a program of inter-racial social and cultural activity in Washington and believed this to be the major contribution of the Bookshop, not offered by any other group of which I was aware. Prior to the listing by the Attorney General, I had never thought that the Bookshop might be controlled by Communists, or Communist

sympathizers, or be advocating Communist programs. After the Bookshop listing was published, I naturally re-examined in my mind my brief experience on the Board of Trustees of the Bookshop. I was unable to recall any incidents of undemocratic procedures. I also was not aware of any effort to impose a Communist line upon Bookshop members. I had not know any person on the Board, or otherwise active in the Bookshop, whom I had any reason to know or believe was a Communist. I had only one friend active in the Bookshop whom I knew reasonably well, Marie Siegrist. I was and am fully confident that she was neither a Communist nor sympathetic to the Communist Party. Marie was a member of the Bookshop Board at the time I was invited to join. She became the Chairman of the Board after the July 1947 elections. I had know Marie since 1943. I had discussed many topics with her and had good reason to be fully confident that she would not be Chairman of the Bookshop Board if she believed the Bookshop was controlled or dominated by Communists. I decided that I would not resign my 'life membership' on account of the Attorney General's listing and that I would continue to take advantage of what I deemed to be the benefits of my membership. On the other hand, I did not actively participate in Bookshop business after publication of the listing, though this was actually merely a continuation of the resolve that I had earlier made in July 1947, when I decided not to devote any more of my time to Bookshop business and declined to be nominated for election to the Board of Trustees."

"(Sgd.) Ruth A. M. Schmidt
Ruth A. M. Schmidt"

"Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public in and for the District of Columbia, on this 29th, August, 1950."

S E A L

"(Sgd.) Eleanor Downing
Notary Public
"My Commission Expires Feb. 28, 1951."

CHAIRMAN: The board will now be glad to hear testimony from Miss Schmidt or from such witnesses as she may care to bring before the board. Since the charges relate only to membership in the Washington Book Shop Association and activities connected with the Association, it seems appropriate to limit the testimony to those subjects, plus any testimony from character witnesses that Miss Schmidt may wish to introduce to the board. Whom do you wish to call as your first witness?

MR. COBB: Miss Schmidt.

TESTIMONY OF RUTH SCHMIDT (Miss Schmidt was sworn as a witness by the Chairman.)

CHAIRMAN: Will you question the witness, Mr. Cobb?

MR. COBB: Mr. White, let me first explain that we set forth in our answer a very complete, as complete as we could, statement of the facts, and we stated in submitting that answer that if the answer in itself were satisfactory to the board, we would waive any request for a hearing.

My principal purpose, and I suppose the board's interest in this hearing, would be to question Miss Schmidt on her answer, rather than for her to go through the direct testimony again as has been read by the Chairman. Personally, I would like to ask you two questions:

First, Miss Schmidt, are there any modifications, corrections or additions to these statements as they have been read?

MISS SCHMIDT: No, sir.

MR. COBB: Second, are you clear in your mind, as near as you can be, about the last meeting you attended as sponsored by the Washington Book Shop?

MISS SCHMIDT: As far as I recall and as far as going through my records, that October meeting mentioned here in 1949 on atomic energy was the last one I went to. It was the October 28th meeting on the subject of atomic energy, on page 7 of the statement, which was the last meeting that I have any recollection of attending.

MR. COBB: Miss Schmidt, the only other thing I think you might enlarge on was your attitude towards the Bookshop after it was listed, and your reason for continuing membership.

MISS SCHMIDT: I imagine I was quite disturbed at the time and I went over in my mind the reasons why I was disturbed for the Bookshop being listed--I felt that it had been offering a program of interracial, cultural activity of which I approved and I had seen that it was a good educational program. I hadn't seen any attempt in it to educate people toward one line of thinking, politically, or anything like that. I had been on the board for a while and I hadn't seen any evidence there of people I would call Communists. I knew what their programs were and I knew that financially they were not very well off. At the time I was on the board they had to lessen employees' working time because they didn't have adequate income. I knew that Miss Siegriat wasn't a Communist, and she was chairman

of the board at this time. I had gone to the store and read the constitution and had not seen in the constitution anything I would construe as subversive, and the store had placed an ad in the Washington Post denying that they were subversive and requesting a hearing. Then I went to the next meeting and decided that perhaps some mistake had been made in the listing and I'd find out whatever the decision of the hearing was, and if they found it was subversive, then I would feel that I was justified in my conclusions. Therefore, I did not resign. It wasn't a matter of renewing my membership. I had already paid the life membership--so it was not that. Also, I didn't think that I was disloyal. A lifetime membership in itself was not an evidence of disloyalty to the Government.

CHAIRMAN: It was not conclusive evidence.

MISS SCHMIDT: Then I was notified in January 1949 that I had been cleared. I felt I hadn't made any grave mistake in retaining the membership. I was cleared and that supported my feeling.

In January of this year the issue came up again when I had to fill out clearance papers for possible work with the Atomic Energy Commission. I filled out the papers, indicating that I was a member of the Bookshop. For that reason, the security officer of the organization thought I would probably not be cleared by the Atomic Energy Commission. At that time I discussed this thing with people because it bothered me. I didn't like this thought that I was a security risk,

but I could see that the organization had nothing else to do because that was the practice. Resigning at this time would have been silly. Everyone knew I was in the Bookshop. Resigning would not have done the Government any good and wouldn't have done me any good. There was no charge against me. There was nothing I could argue about. There was no sense--I am still a member, but I received notice it isn't in existence any more.

MR. COBB: Miss Schmidt has with her records which she used in developing the statements which she filed in the answer. She is here to be fully examined on the answer. I would suggest the board address such questions or examination as may be.

CHAIRMAN: Very well. There are a few questions that I would like to ask Miss Schmidt, and the first is this:

At the time when you joined the Washington Book Shop Association in 1945, had you heard of a difficulty that the Book Shop had experienced in 1941, I believe it was, with the Cooperative League of Washington, at which time charges were made that the Book Shop was Communist dominated and, as a result of the controversy, the Book Shop either withdrew from the League or was dismissed from it?

MISS SCHMIDT: This is the first time I have heard it.

CHAIRMAN: At the time when you joined in 1945, had you heard of a listing of the Book Shop by Attorney General Biddle in 1943 as subversive for the purposes of Executive Order No. 9300?

MISS SCHMIDT: No, sir; I had not. This is the first time I have heard of this.

CHAIRMAN: The first listing of the Book Shop as a Communist front or a subversive organization or anything of that sort of which you were aware was the Attorney General's listing in 1947?

MISS SCHMIDT: Yes, sir; I didn't know there had been a listing in 1943.

CHAIRMAN: And you had never heard about a listing in 1943?

MISS SCHMIDT: I don't recall, no, sir.

CHAIRMAN: While you were active in the Bookshop, I assume that you were at the Bookshop with considerable frequency.

MISS SCHMIDT: I would just attend a moderate amount. I wouldn't say with considerable frequency.

CHAIRMAN: Did you observe the display of literature which they had?

MISS SCHMIDT: Naturally.

CHAIRMAN: Did you observe the display regularly and notice the publication The New Masses?

MISS SCHMIDT: I presume it may have been there.

CHAIRMAN: Did you observe The New Masses on sale?

MISS SCHMIDT: I didn't notice any particular magazine displayed for sale at the Bookshop. They had a magazine rack at the front of the store, and they had several monthly or maybe weekly periodicals for sale, and there were several kinds of public affairs pamphlets.

CHAIRMAN: I am asking about The New Masses.

MISS SCHMIDT: I would only notice in passing.

CHAIRMAN: Did you notice it in passing?

MISS SCHMIDT: I assume that I must have. It wouldn't mean anything particularly to me that there would be The New Masses there.

MR. WHEELER: I'd like a categorical answer to that.

CHAIRMAN: Did you ever observe The New Masses displayed for sale at the Washington Book Shop?

MISS SCHMIDT: Yes, I-- Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN: Did you also observe reports or publications relating to the American Youth Congress displayed for sale or distribution?

MISS SCHMIDT: I wouldn't know.

CHAIRMAN: You don't remember that?

MISS SCHMIDT: I don't know what the publications of the American Congress are.

CHAIRMAN: Did you observe publications or literature of the American Peace Mobilization displayed for sale or distribution there?

MISS SCHMIDT: I would have to answer that the same way as the other. I don't know what their particular publications would be.

CHAIRMAN: Did you ever observe any Communist literature other than The New Masses displayed for sale or distribution there?

MISS SCHMIDT: They had all kinds of literature on labor, on science, on socialism all on one shelf. Any particular magazine I couldn't cite, but I know there were all different types of "ism" books on sale there.

CHAIRMAN: Did you observe any literature or publications of the Democratic Party, such as the Democratic Digest, or any publications or literature of the Republican Party at the Book Shop?

MISS SCHMIDT: I wouldn't know.

CHAIRMAN: It didn't seem significant to you that they had Communist Party publications but didn't have publications of other political parties? You attached no significance to that?

MISS SCHMIDT: I never regarded any of these publications as Communist Party publications.

CHAIRMAN: How about The New Masses?

MISS SCHMIDT: Well, I found out. As far as I was concerned, it was a magazine.

CHAIRMAN: When did you find out about it being a Communist publication?

MISS SCHMIDT: I presume all during this recent furor, during this past five years or so.

CHAIRMAN: You didn't know it was a Communist publication in 1945?

MISS SCHMIDT: I can't say--during the past five years, I perhaps picked it up. As to the significance of Communist Party literature there, I attached no significance to it. It was all on the same shelf with Socialist, labor union, and trade union reports and booklets.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wheeler, are there any questions?

MR. WHEELER: Your answer of August 10, as well as what you say on August 29, do you adopt both of these answers under your oath, as was administered to you here, as your statement in answer to these charges?

MISS SCHMIDT: I think I said so.

MR. WHEELER: What I want to know is--my copy of one of these doesn't carry an oath. I want to know if these are offered under your present oath.

CHAIRMAN: Both were actually sworn to. That is shown on the originals of the two documents.

MR. COBB: We will submit them this morning under oath.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, I understand that.

MR. WHEELER: In answer to the questions, Miss Schmidt adopts her present--

MR. COBB: Just as though she read both the August 10 statement and the other answer--and she is here to be examined, and they are as under oath.

MR. WHEELER: You say, Miss Schmidt, at one place here that you attended a meeting on January 9, 1948, I believe, and you went apparently with the purpose of seeing what discussion there would be about the listing by the Attorney General, but you don't elucidate on that at all. You don't say there was a discussion at that time and if so-- I'd like to know if there was such a discussion.

MISS SCHMIDT: I didn't elaborate on that because I didn't remember too clearly the discussion which took place. I worked the lantern slides. I was satisfied they had answered any questions I had in my mind. I don't remember well enough to give any details of the discussion.

MR. WHEELER: On page 11 of your statement, you say that:

"After the Bookshop listing was published, I naturally re-examined in my mind my brief experience on the Board of Trustees of the Bookshop. I was unable to recall any incidents of undemocratic procedures."

Does that mean you were unable to recall any incidents of anything undemocratic--not only procedures, but anything? Will you elaborate?

MISS SCHMIDT: I am not sure that I understand what you mean by "anything".

MR. WHEELER: Procedure--a circumstance--is anything.

MISS SCHMIDT: I am unable to recall any instance of an undemocratic nature, or any effort to impose a Communist line upon Bookshop members.

MR. WHEELER: There was nothing in the Bookshop membership, as you recall it, that had any communistic tinge to it? It is one thing to impose a line-- Do you mean that as narrowly as stated, or do you want to elaborate on it?

MISS SCHMIDT: I was not aware of any effort of anybody to impose their line or any particular way of thinking or doing things on the board. Everything was always discussed at great lengths. People were given an opportunity to express their opinions, to agree or disagree, and matters were always discussed openly. Does that answer your question?

MR. WHEELER: Well, in part.

MISS SCHMIDT: There was no person on the board I had any reason to believe was a Communist.

MR. WHEELER: This thing goes further than that-- One may believe in Communism, I suppose, without being a Communist or a member of the Communist Party--but in your discussions, were they discussions of a communistic character?

MISS SCHMIDT: What do you mean by communistic character?

MR. WHEELER: I believe you know, Miss Schmidt, what I mean by that. The Bookshop was charged with being subversive in a communistic way.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, the determination by the Attorney General in 1947 listed the Bookshop as a Communist organization.

MR. WHEELER: What I'd like to know, were these meetings-- regardless of how democratic the procedures, regardless of anybody trying to impose a line on anybody else or that you didn't know anybody was a Communist or a Communist Party member--regardless of all this, were there discussions of a communistic character or were they discussions of a cultural nature as the statement seems to indicate? Your interpretation is not broad enough. Does your statement that you didn't know of anybody who was a Communist also mean that you didn't know of anybody who seemed to believe in Communism? Then this statement to the effect that there were no discussions on the board while you were there to get people believe in the Communist Party--

MISS SCHMIDT: The board was concerned with the operation of the store--with books to be bought, and could we get people to read books. The Bookshop was running at a deficit, so they discussed the problem of whether to have a party or a forum; where to hold meetings; or, for interracial meetings, where to hire a place where Negroes and whites could meet. I remember at one of our meetings, I have stated this, we wanted to help get books for the cafeteria workers. It impressed me because it was quite interesting. That was the only kind of thing discussed.

MR. WHEELER: You were concerned with the financial ends of profit and loss; you discussed what books to get, what not to get as a matter of possible profit to the bookshop or some cultural advantage.

You wanted to improve the Bookshop. Did you ever discuss whether or not you should continue to have The New Masses as one of the items?

MISS SCHMIDT: I don't recall that. We were concerned more with best sellers--because people coming in didn't have enough--

MR. WHEELER: There was never a discussion of Communist literature as an item which would be of profit to the Bookshop?

MISS SCHMIDT: I don't recall such discussions while I was on the board.

MR. WHEELER: As a member of the board, did you think you were in the inner circle of the Bookshop Association, or was there some overriding group that you didn't have access to? After all, this group has been listed as subversive. We have to assume there was some reason. You were one of the officers. Do you consider that there was some circle of officers in the back to which you had no access?

MISS SCHMIDT: I was not an officer. I was only an interim member of the board.

MR. WHEELER: I am using officer in the sense. Was there an inner circle or clique?

MISS SCHMIDT: From the manner in which the discussions took place there, I wouldn't assume there was any inner circle at the time I was on the board. I had no indication that there was any such clique.

MR. WHEELER: You saw nothing subversive, or nothing that, in your view, would cause the question of subversiveness to arise? It didn't arise in your view?

MISS SCHMIDT: I didn't see anything like that. I didn't see anything.

MR. WHEELER: It didn't occur to you that there might be an inner circle?

MISS SCHMIDT: I guess it didn't.

MR. WHEELER: I think that some of your answers, taking them sentence by sentence, some of your answers are narrow. I think that a little elucidation of them might give a better picture of what you seem to be trying to say. For example, you say that you didn't see any undemocratic procedures, etc. Your answer is full of narrow statements. I do not know whether it was your intention that they be that narrow, or that you are actually saying that you did not see anything subversive in the Bookshop.

MISS SCHMIDT: At the time I was on it, I don't know of anything subversive in the Bookshop.

MR. WHEELER: There was nothing in the activities of the Bookshop that you construed to be of a communistic nature?

MISS SCHMIDT: I thought I had been quite clear about that in my first statement. I thought I was very broad in my first statement.

MR. WHEELER: I read these statements very carefully. I thought they were couched in narrow sentences. The answer isn't as

broad as the question. I have been trying to have you clarify, elucidate, or explain what I consider to be narrow statements. You now say you saw nothing of a communistic character. There was a forum on atomic energy and various other forums. Were there periods during these forums when there were questions and answers?

MISS SCHMIDT: Oh, yes, sir.

MR. WHEELER: Were these questions and answers mostly to the point of the subject of the discussions? Was there any discussion of a subversive nature, if not the address itself?

MISS SCHMIDT: Are you speaking specifically of the atomic energy forum?

MR. WHEELER: I am speaking of all.

MISS SCHMIDT: It would be very difficult for me to recall.

MR. WHEELER: On atomic energy?

MISS SCHMIDT: No, I felt—

MR. WHEELER: Are you saying that there may have been something of a subversive or communistic character in the question and answer period that you don't remember?

MISS SCHMIDT: No, I don't remember any questions. If there had been any questions at the time that I had been suspicious about, I probably wouldn't have made a blanket statement.

MR. WHEELER: I want to know whether or not it was in fact subversive or communistic, not what you may have been suspicious of. I don't know what the background of your suspicions would be. Do you understand what I am asking?

MISS SCHMIDT: No, I am really not clear.

MR. WHEELER: I took the atomic energy forum for an example. As to the matter of conducting a forum, there was an address by some speaker on some subject?

MISS SCHMIDT: That is right.

MR. WHEELER: Were these addresses of a communistic or subversive nature or character? Were any of the questions and answers in these forums following the address of a communistic or subversive character?

MISS SCHMIDT: I don't recall any such.

MR. WHEELER: Would you recall them if they had occurred?

MISS SCHMIDT: I think I would have. May I state that at question and answer periods people ask anything.

MR. WHEELER: I am interested in--did there ever occur questions and answers which would add a communistic tinge to them?

MISS SCHMIDT: Not to my knowledge.

MR. WHEELER: That is a categorical answer.

After the listing of the organization as subversive by the Attorney General under the Executive order, you examined in your mind

that fact and you decided that you would continue to be active in the Bookshop or at least continue your connection with the Bookshop. Is that right?

MISS SCHMIDT: I decided I would not resign, yes, sir.

MR. WHEELER: Now you say your reason for doing that was that the Bookshop had asked for a hearing and you thought the facts would come out at the hearing. The hearing never occurred. Was there anything of defiance in that? Did you have any feeling of defiance against the best interests of the United States?

MISS SCHMIDT: Certainly not.

MR. WHEELER: I guess that is all.

CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Maulding?

MRS. MAULDING: I have two or three items. On page 9 in your answer you state:

"In July, I declined to be nominated for election to the Board of Trustees because I felt that I did not want to devote any more of my time to that task."

And on page 11 you state:

"On the other hand, I did not actively participate in Bookshop business after publication of the listing, though this was actually merely a continuation of the resolve that I had earlier made in July 1947, when I decided not to devote any more of my time to Bookshop business and declined to be nominated for election to the Board of Trustees."

MISS SCHMIDT: Well, as I remember, I had served on the board, and I had been moderately interested in what had been going on, but I had no particular friend on the board. I just--

MRS. MAULDING: Was it lack of interest that caused you to decide that you didn't want to spend any more time on the board?

MISS SCHMIDT: I just didn't want to spend any more time.

MRS. MAULDING: Not because of any incident or happening?

MISS SCHMIDT: Oh, no-- No.

MRS. MAULDING: Would you tell us to what other organizations you belong?

MISS SCHMIDT: I have a list-- the Washington Association of Scientists, Geological Society of Washington, Paleontological Society of Washington, Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists (SEPM), American Registry of X-Ray Technicians, Red Cross, Community Chest, Blue Cross, and Sigma Xi.

MRS. MAULDING: That is a complete list?

MISS SCHMIDT: That is all that comes to my mind now.

MRS. MAULDING: Were you a frequent reader of The New Masses yourself?

MISS SCHMIDT: I don't remember ever buying it. I may have glanced at it.

MRS. MAULDING: I have no more questions.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Cobb, do you wish to question the witness further?

MR. COBB: Did it ever occur to you that The New Masses might be sold in Washington only at the Washington Bookshop?

MISS SCHMIDT: Oh, no.

MR. COBB: Did it ever occur to you that it was peculiar that The New Masses appeared on the shelves of the Bookshop?

MISS SCHMIDT: No.

MR. COBB: Would you say that the Bookshop was distinct from Brentano's or other bookstores, and that it carried more literature of political and social types than other bookshops did?

MISS SCHMIDT: I had never so observed that it did.

MR. COBB: Was there anything characteristic about the display of books as between the Bookshop and Brentano's?

MISS SCHMIDT: The display at the Bookshop was much less pretentious.

MR. COBB: Was there any other distinction in your mind?

MISS SCHMIDT: I don't know whether Brentano has magazines on display.

MR. COBB: Would you say that the Bookshop showed any emphasis in terms of its display of books which were not displayed in Brentano's or in other book stores?

MISS SCHMIDT: (Long pause) I am afraid my main impression is that the Bookshop did not display them very well. I don't think it had as good a selling display. I think you are trying to ask me if there were any types of books displayed at the Bookshop more than at the others. There were more liberal books at the Bookshop than

there were at Brentano's. I can best illustrate: there might be two histories or two biographies of two different people, a liberal person and a person not a liberal. Well, the Bookshop would feature the liberal history or the biography of the liberal person. That would be the best I could do in answer to your question.

MR. COBB: So you would say that the Bookshop did indicate some emphasis in its choice of books?

MISS SCHMIDT: It had more interracial books than I would notice in other stores--books devoted to the history of the Negro.

MR. COBB: So that there was some distinction in the display of books at the Bookshop and at Brentano's. What that distinction was, what the Bookshop was trying to do that Brentano was not doing--

CHAIRMAN: I think that would not be pertinent. We are not reviewing the correctness of the Attorney General's action in listing the Book Shop as a Communist organization.

MISS SCHMIDT: I would say they slanted their selections toward the liberal side, toward the interracial side. I think that pretty much answers your question.

MR. WHEELER: They didn't slant toward the Communist side in your opinion?

MISS SCHMIDT: No.

MR. COBB: I'd like to put into the record the fact that you wrote in April 1948 a letter of criticism to the Bookshop.

MISS SCHMIDT: Yes, sir.

MR. COBB: I think you might indicate why you wrote this letter, which I will read.

MISS SCHMIDT: I think the letter itself states why I wrote it. I think it was because I went to this talk by Mr. Butterly and was quite bothered because there was not even a chairman there. It bothered me, because I approved of the program of the Bookshop to offer interracial meetings so Negroes could hear speakers on all topics. That was the inspiration for the letter.

CHAIRMAN: The board will receive the copy of the letter dated 13 April 1948, and it will be attached to the transcript of the hearing as exhibit A. You may now read it to the board.

(Mr. Cobb reads.)

(Recess for 10 minutes)

TESTIMONY OF MARIE SIEGRIST

(Miss Siegrist was sworn as a witness by the Chairman.)

CHAIRMAN: Will you be seated? Please give your name, address, and occupation to the reporter.

MISS SIEGRIST: My name is Marie Siegrist. My address is 1431 Iris Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. I am a geologist bibliographer, employed by the Geological Society of America.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Cobb, you may question the witness.

MR. COBB: Miss Siegrist, will you first tell the board what your association with Miss Schmidt is.

MISS SIEGRIST: I met Ruth Schmidt early in 1943 when she first came to the Military Geology Unit in the Geological Survey, and the custom was to introduce any newcomer. So I presume I have known her from that moment. During the course of our work, I had dinner a great many times with her and came to know her. Because of her interest in literature and music, mainly music, because here was someone who had not been exposed to chamber music and that was my hobby. It was on that basis that I had social contacts with her. We went together to the Library of Congress concerts. Also, she read a great deal. We had many talks in the course of the work. We were in the same unit.

MR. COBB: Has that association continued to the present time?

MISS SIEGRIST: I left Military Geology and went back to my peacetime job. But the social aspects have continued to the present, because I see Ruth at concerts, and we still have supper or lunch together.

MR. COBB: Did you at one time hold a position in the Washington Book Shop?

MISS SIEGRIST: Yes, I was on the board for several years.

MR. COBB: Were you on the board or connected with the board at the time when Ruth Schmidt was selected as a board member?

MISS SIEGRIST: Yes.

MR. COBB: What was your position at that time?

MISS SIEGRIST: When was this?

MR. COBB: This was in April 1947.

MISS SIEGRIST: I was secretary that year.

MR. COBB: You recall Ruth Schmidt being a member of the board?

MISS SIEGRIST: Yes, I remember she was there a short while. She filled a vacancy on the board and attended two or three meetings.

MR. COBB: Do you have any recollection of the occasion when she was invited to fill that vacancy?

MISS SIEGRIST: Well, yes, I recall in a vague sort of way. Miss Schmidt had taken charge and had conducted one of the forums, and had done a very competent piece of work, so when a vacancy developed, someone suggested that she might be a good person for the board. I don't remember who suggested her for the board, but I thought it was a good suggestion and apparently the board did, too, and she was asked to fill this vacancy. But as I recall it, that was towards the end of the period and annual elections came up in July. She stated she didn't wish to run as a candidate for the board.

MR. COBB: Do you recall any of the activities Miss Schmidt undertook for the Bookshop?

MISS SIEGRIST: It was in connection with forums that she participated to some extent, but actually I just recall that one

meeting when she attended to all the details, and then she introduced the speaker once. He was an architect, and spoke on architectural designing--a Mr. Butterly. She introduced the speaker, but that is all I recall. I had very little to do with the specific details of this meeting.

MR. COBB: Did you attend Bookshop meetings with Miss Schmidt? Were you her nearest friend and associate in the bookstore?

MISS SIEGRIST: Yes, sir, I would say so, because the other members of the board were people whom she would have met subsequently, and we had been friends of several years' standing at that point.

MR. COBB: Do you recall when Miss Schmidt ceased her activities?

MISS SIEGRIST: I think it was at the end of two or three meetings in which she acted as board member.

MR. COBB: Could you recall whether she had already ceased activity prior to the time when the Bookshop was listed in December 1947?

MISS SIEGRIST: Oh, yes, that would have been in June or July that she was no longer on the board, and after that I don't remember any activity.

MR. COBB: Do you recollect any discussions with Miss Schmidt on the problem of the listing of the Bookshop?

MISS SIEGRIST: No, I don't recall specifically.

MR. COBB: Some people, of course, would discuss it. You didn't discuss that with her?

MISS SIEGRIST: I think each person had to figure that out. *correction*

CHAIRMAN: In other words, the answer is "no".

MR. COBB: Miss Siegrist, do you believe that Miss Schmidt could have attended the meetings which she did and undertake forums, etc., without gaining any impression that the Bookshop was Communist in character?

MISS SIEGRIST: Oh, certainly, because I don't think it was. The Bookshop was conducted along democratic principles--anybody could come to any meeting of the board, and there was never anything there that would indicate that there was subversive activity or that there was any political control by a group.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wheeler?

MR. WHEELER: I have nothing.

CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Maulding?

MRS. MAULDING: I have none.

CHAIRMAN: You are excused. Thank you very much.

TESTIMONY OF JEAN BERDAN

(Miss Berdan was sworn as a witness by the Chairman.)

CHAIRMAN: Give the reporter your name, address, and occupation.

MISS BERDAN: My name is Jean M. Berdan, 2020 G Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. I am a geologist, employed by the U. S. Geological Survey.

MR. COBB: First state your association with Miss Schmidt: when you first met her and what associations you have had with her since that time.

MISS BERDAN: I have made a few notes on dates. I first met Miss Schmidt in 1943, around March, and I would say I knew her pretty well until I left Washington to go back to New Haven in 1946-- June 1946. Since that time I have seen a good deal of her, even when I wasn't in town. She came up and spent one week with me when I was doing field work in Schoharie County, New York State. She spent a week with me in July 1946, and in 1947 she spent two weeks with me-- doing field work. She was on her vacation. I was working, but she took her vacation helping me in Greene County.

MR. WHEELER: Also New York, 1947?

MISS BERDAN: Also New York. And I visited her down here in October 1947 for about two days, when I came down to the Pick and Hammer show they had here. In 1948 I came down again for the Pick and Hammer show. *Correction* In March of that year, she visited me on Cape Cod for about five days and on Labor Day over the week end. In 1949 I came back down to Washington. I had been on W.A.E., finishing my dissertation for the doctor's degree at Yale, but I came back to work here and we resumed our friendship down here.

MR. COBB: What would you say of Miss Schmidt's loyalty to our form of Government?

MISS BERDAN: In the course of our friendship we have had a good many discussions about one thing and another and she has always had a tendency to champion the underdog. She is particularly strong on the subject of the race question and, oh, things like little business versus big business. She has always been very ardent in her championship of these various causes, but at no time have I ever heard her say anything that could be interpreted as following the Communist Party line in any way. I think I would have noticed it because I had known a number of parlor pinks during the 1930's and I would have spotted it, I think. She has always been very interested in certain liberal causes, but she has always been willing to listen to the other person's point of view. We usually had fairly lively discussions, but they were discussions. I usually vote Republican, and I think we might not have continued our friendship under the circumstances if she had displayed any communistic leanings. I have no question in my mind at all that she had any connection with the Communist Party. To me it is out of the question.

MR. COBB: Are you aware that you ever discussed Communism or the Communist Party with Miss Schmidt?

MISS BERDAN: Yes, I believe we did. And definitely she said nothing in favor of it. I mean we were agreed on that. I can't pin down any dates on such discussions, because they continued over a period of years.

MR. COBB: Did these discussions antedate the Government loyalty program?

MISS BERDAN: When did the loyalty program start?

CHAIRMAN: There were two Executive orders; one was issued in 1943, and then the present loyalty program began in 1947.

MR. COBB: These discussions of Communism antedated the fall of 1947?

MISS BERDAN: Maybe there had been discussions prior to 1947. I knew her pretty well during the war. My sister was with me, and we had three-cornered discussions.

MR. COBB: These causes that Miss Schmidt would champion-- did you ever notice that she advocated any labor cause, or interracial causes--did she carry with that an advocacy for labor causes?

MISS BERDAN: I cannot say particularly. I wouldn't be sure about that point. As far as I know now--

MR. COBB: Economic causes? Socialism?

MISS BERDAN: No, I would say that there was a tendency against control by any large group. We were against too much Government control, as in Socialism.

MR. COBB: Are there any other causes that you can specifically identify?

MISS BERDAN: Well, she was interested in this poll tax business, but that would be part of the same thing, in a way. I don't think of any at the moment.

MR. COBB: Are you confident that she has been completely frank with you and open in her discussions?

MISS BERDAN: I would say so. Of course, I can't be sure of that.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wheeler?

MR. WHEELER: Miss Berdan, you said that you couldn't recall any interest on the part of Miss Schmidt in the Communist Party. Do you likewise answer the same in regard to Communism?

MISS BERDAN: Yes, sir. I thought I had more or less covered that in relation to the socialism or economic angle.

CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Maulding?

MRS. MAULDING: I have no questions.

CHAIRMAN: I have no questions. Thank you very much.

TESTIMONY OF ALFRED J. BODENLOS

(Mr. Bodenlos sworn as a witness by the Chairman.)

CHAIRMAN: Please be seated, and give your name, address, and occupation to the reporter.

MR. BODENLOS: Alfred J. Bodenlos, 1812 K Street, N.W., Washington, D. C., geologist.

CHAIRMAN: Who is your employer?

MR. BODENLOS: U. S. Geological Survey.

MR. COBB: First state what your association has been with Miss Schmidt.

MR. BODENLOS: I met Miss Schmidt in Graduate School, Columbia University, January 1940--January 1940 to June 1942. I got to know her moderately well, inasmuch as we were taking the same courses, several field trips, writing reports on comparable subjects, and in the spring of 1942 we both studied for our Ph.D. orals. I joined the Geological Survey in June 1942. I was assigned first to Massachusetts, then to Nevada and California, and returned to Washington in June 1944. In the meantime, Miss Schmidt has obtained employment in the Geological Survey. When I returned to Washington in 1944, I saw her in the evening socially and in connection with the work. I was in Washington until June 1945, then went to South America, returning in 1946. From 1946 to 1947 I saw her around this part of Washington. I returned to South America in 1947 for seven months and was there until about April 1948. In the course of this time, I have known Miss Schmidt professionally and socially, and as far as I know Miss Schmidt has never shown any signs of disloyalty to the Government.

MR. COBB: Is it your opinion that Miss Schmidt is completely loyal to our capitalist, democratic form of Government?

MR. BODENLOS: I would say, yes.

MR. COBB: Would you state your reasons for that conviction?

MR. BODENLOS: Well, during this time, I think I recall having discussed political issues with Miss Schmidt on a number of occasions. I think both of us are more or less interested in public affairs. All through this 10-year period, I can't recall the slightest intimation of anything she said in any of these discussions, which covered many issues, that there was the slightest indication that she had any feeling that our system was not the best. The last discussion we had on politics--as I recall, my wife and I invited her over, I believe in July of this year, for dinner and again we discussed politics and other issues briefly. I think her views were absolutely no different than those you would find expressed in any newspaper on one side or another.

MR. COBB: How would you characterize her views? I recognize some distinctions among our newspapers.

MR. BODENLOS: I feel that her views did not differ from any of those that I had seen in the press of this country.

MR. COBB: Have you ever had occasion to discuss any problem that directly related to Communism or the Communist Party line? Did you have any direct evidence of her attitude towards either Communism or the Communist Party line?

MR. BODENLOS: I vaguely recall that we may have touched on the subject in July. If we did, I don't recall her having said anything that would indicate that she had any tendency or leaning toward Communism. Probably it was more or less theoretical ideas on Communism and, as I recall, we both agreed it was completely unworkable.

MR. COBB: Are you confident that Miss Schmidt is a thoroughly honest and open person—a frank person?

MR. BODENLOS: In all ways. As far as I know, she has always been completely frank and honest. She has been part of the group with which I associate, and because of that we, groups of us, would spend evenings together doing various things around Washington. We'd arrange parties, and as far as I know, at least as far as the general social life goes, I have never found the slightest cause for suspicion in any way in Miss Schmidt.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wheeler, do you have any questions?

MR. WHEELER: Did Miss Schmidt ever talk to you about the Washington Book Shop Association?

MR. BODENLOS: No. I vaguely remember—I do remember that a book came out several years ago of some interest to employees of the Geological Survey by a Professor at Yale, "Meeting of East and West." I believe the thesis of that book is that there has to be a synthesis of the civilizations of east and west in order to build a stable world

in the future. At that time, quite a group of geologists were reading the book and Miss Schmidt, I recall, said if I wanted a copy she could get it for me at a reduction. I didn't know how she would get a copy. I didn't know she belonged to the Bookshop.

CHAIRMAN: Any questions, Mrs. Maulding?

MRS. MAULDING: I have no questions.

CHAIRMAN: I have no questions. Thank you.

TESTIMONY OF FRANK C. WHITMORE, JR.

(Mr. Whitmore sworn as a witness by the Chairman.)

CHAIRMAN: Please sit down and give the reporter your name, address, and occupation.

MR. WHITMORE: Frank C. Whitmore, Jr., 2020 Peabody Street, West Hyattsville, Maryland, geologist.

CHAIRMAN: Who is your employer?

MR. WHITMORE: U. S. Geological Survey.

MR. COBB: Will you first tell the board how long you have known Miss Schmidt?

MR. WHITMORE: I have know Miss Schmidt since March 1944, when I came to work for the Geological Survey. We were associated from that time until the summer of 1945 as members of the Military Geology Unit, in which we worked together. Then there was a gap in our acquaintance when I was overseas. When I came back in the fall

of 1946, I was here only occasionally until May 1948 or the summer of 1948. She was assigned during that time to another branch of the Survey. Then in 1948 she came back to the Military Geology Branch, of which I was then in charge, as I still am, and therefore I was her supervisor, though not her immediate supervisor, until she left the Military Geology Branch in 1950. Since that time, I have seen her only occasionally in a social way and occasional professional contacts.

MR. COBB: Do you feel you could fully judge her loyalty, honesty and integrity? Will you state your opinion of her loyalty, her attitude toward our form of government?

MR. WHITMORE: I have no doubt whatsoever as to Miss Schmidt's loyalty to the United States.

MR. COBB: And her attitude toward the Communist form of government?

MR. WHITMORE: I feel that she is loyal to our form of government. She has evinced that in her attitude ever since I have known her. I have never detected in any way the sort of political attitude or political statements or utterances of what I take to be the Communist Party line or any other party line. That leads me to this conclusion that she is a loyal person.

MR. COBB: Do you recall any discussion of any political issues with Miss Schmidt?

MR. WHITMORE: No, I don't recall that I have. We have discussed various issues of the day at various times. I would say we have never had political discussions--perhaps a few passing words. My discussions with Miss Schmidt were largely discussions of matters professional or matters hinging on the professional, such as personalities in the field of geology, and discussions as to various matters that were going on in that field; or, to some extent, literature, plays, or something of that sort.

MR. COBB: Would you classify Miss Schmidt as a conservative, liberal, or any such?

MR. WHITMORE: I would classify Miss Schmidt as a liberal. I think she has strong feelings about certain sociological questions of the day. I would say that I see eye to eye with Miss Schmidt on her views, for instance, on racial equality. It is my feeling that she is such a person who would perhaps be more active in stating her opinions on such things than many of us who take a more passive attitude, which I think is more common in this country. Many of us are in favor of racial equality but perhaps never do anything about it except say we are. I would say Miss Schmidt is liberal and more active than many other liberals, though I don't know that she has been a crusader in any particular cause.

MR. COBB: Do you recall any causes in which she has displayed particular interest?

MR. WHITMORE: No, I would say I don't. My impression is that she is of a liberal turn of mind and one who is--well, to use a hackneyed phrase, in favor of anybody who is downtrodden. She is likely to be indignant when she sees anybody who seems to be getting less than his due in a country where everyone is supposed to get equal treatment like anyone else.

MR. COBB: What do you think is her interest in socialism or changing our economic system?

MR. WHITMORE: No--No, I have had no evidence on her part of dissatisfaction with our economic system. I don't believe she has any such dissatisfaction, or advocates any radical change in the government of the United States.

MR. COBB: You recall the occasion of the matter of the Atomic Energy Commission? Will you give the background of that story?

MR. WHITMORE: Miss Schmidt had been engaged in a classified project in the Military Geology Branch of the Survey throughout most of the war and was cleared by the U. S. Army for access to material up to and including top secret. She was, after the war, assigned to the Paleontological and Stratigraphy Branch of the Geological Survey for research in that field, which is not subject to any classification. And then we asked that she return to the Military Geology Branch as chief of our editorial group.

During late 1949, we were asked to handle a classified project which required that those people engaged in it be cleared by the Atomic Energy Commission. Therefore, the employees concerned were asked to submit clearance papers. The papers were sent through the Security Officer of the Geological Survey, who always screens them before they go to the Atomic Energy Commission, and the Security Officer informed me that the record of Miss Schmidt's membership in the Washington Book Shop and of her participation in meetings of the Washington Book Shop led him to decline to request her clearance from the Atomic Energy Commission because this organization, the Washington Book Shop, was on the Attorney General's list. I wished to proceed with such clearance request but was told it was the practice of the Geological Survey not to request such clearance in cases like this. While this was not regarded as a reflection upon anyone, they felt that only in the case of extremely key persons would the Geological Survey insist upon the full investigation necessary for AEC clearance. I was told that Miss Schmidt's was not an isolated case. There were several cases in the Geological Survey where, because of association or memberships such as this, a question would be raised by the Atomic Energy Commission, and the Geological Survey didn't feel justified in insisting on clearance or investigation but rather preferred to transfer such a person to other work. I regard that as a matter of security practice and not as any reflection on Miss Schmidt's loyalty.

MR. COBB: You discussed this matter with Miss Schmidt?

MR. WHITMORE: I discussed the matter with Miss Schmidt at the time.

MR. COBB: Did she indicate any sort of resistance to this change?

MR. WHITMORE: Miss Schmidt's attitude was that she felt that because of the principle involved perhaps she should insist on an investigation so that her name could be cleared. She thought it might reflect on her. I advised her not to do that. Miss Schmidt is a professional geologist. I felt that such an action on her part would make of herself a cause célèbre in a small way. But it was my opinion that if she threw herself into such an action and was subject to whatever investigations and other questioning would go on, she might perhaps hurt herself professionally by gaining for herself a reputation as one who would raise a fuss and carry a banner as a crusader. In this case, I felt that such activity wouldn't do any good in the light of current practice, and might do her harm.

MR. COBB: I am trying to get her attitude, not your attitude.

CHAIRMAN: Any questions, Mr. Wheeler?

MR. WHEELER: Did Miss Schmidt ever talk to you about the Washington Book Shop?

MR. WHITMORE: No, not until--not until our discussions after the request for AEC clearance.

CHAIRMAN: Any questions, Mrs. Maulding?

MRS. MAULDING: No, I have none.

CHAIRMAN: I have none. Thank you.

TESTIMONY OF MARJORIE HOOKER

(Miss Hooker was sworn as a witness by the Chairman.)

CHAIRMAN: Please be seated. Will you give the reporter your name, address, and occupation?

MISS HOOKER: My name is Marjorie Hooker. My address is McLean, Virginia. I am a geologist with the U. S. Geological Survey.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Cobb, you may proceed.

MR. COBB: Miss Hooker, will you first tell the board when you first came to know Miss Schmidt and what your associations have been?

MISS HOOKER: I first knew Ruth Schmidt in the fall of 1938, when she came to Columbia to start her graduate work in geology. I was at that time an assistant to Paul Kerr, professor of mineralogy at Columbia. I had finished my course work at the time and was not taking any course with her. Not many girls take geology, so I was with her quite a bit and we became close friends. In fact, I have visited with her parents at their home in Brooklyn, and she has visited

with my parents in Flushing. In June 1939 she visited me in northern Vermont, where I am a summer resident. After ending her work at Columbia, she came to Washington in February 1943. I came here in June 1943, and we have continued our friendship from that time up to the present.

MR. COBB: Do you feel that you have become fairly well acquainted with her over these periods?

MISS HOOKER: Yes, I think I can say that I have been friends with her 12 years and have come to know her very well in that time.

MR. COBB: Miss Hooker, what do you think of Miss Schmidt's attitude toward our Government?

MISS HOOKER: I think she is a perfectly loyal, upstanding American citizen who would never tolerate anything contrary to the aims, purposes and workings of our American form of Government.

MR. COBB: What, specifically, do you base that judgment on?

MISS HOOKER: I have, to the best of my knowledge--I cannot recall at any time when she has said anything or done anything that I would consider disloyal to our Government, contrary to its aims and purposes. I think she has always shown in her work, thought and deed that she is ready to uphold the Government at any time. She is fully agreeable to the type of government that we have and she is certainly not agreeable to any form of Communism or communistic government.

MR. COBB: What do you know of the type of causes she is interested in?

MISS HOOKER: I think she has the normal interest of the average American citizen who is interested in their community and our elections and conditions as they arise. I know that she has been living in Virginia since she came to Washington but she has maintained a voting residence in New York. I know too that she has shown an interest in Virginia politics, just a normal interest anybody living in Arlington would have. For instance, we have a poll tax in Virginia. Some of us believe in it and some don't. A poll tax is requisite for voting in Virginia. Miss Schmidt decided that the payment of the poll tax would not be required of her because she was not voting in Virginia.

MR. COBB: I am trying to get, Miss Hooker, the basis for your judgment. Was Miss Schmidt fighting the poll tax?

CHAIRMAN: Let's not get too far afield. I don't imagine Miss Hooker would know the details of Miss Schmidt's controversy with the State of Virginia over the poll tax, except by hearsay.

MR. COBB: There is a great deal of hearsay already before the board.

MISS HOOKER: Although she opposed the principle, when the situation was explained to her, what the poll tax was used for and how distributed, used for schools, etc., she has paid the poll tax regularly since. This shows, I think, that she is certainly in line with the aims of the Government and is not a radical.

MR. COBB: Are you aware of Miss Schmidt's attitude toward the interracial question?

MISS HOOKER: I know she is opposed to discrimination in any form; that she believes in equal consideration for all races.

MR. COBB: Did this bear any relation to Communist ideologies-- has she ever discussed Communism with you?

MISS HOOKER: I can remember no time.

MR. COBB: Was there anything about changing our economic system to the socialist system or Communist system?

MISS HOOKER: No, I don't think our discussions ever touched on that at all.

MR. COBB: Would you gather from that that she is not interested in that subject?

MISS HOOKER: Yes, I think I know her well enough to say that she is not interested in changing the economic system and supplanting it with another system.

CHAIRMAN: Any questions, Mr. Wheeler?

MR. WHEELER: Has Miss Schmidt discussed with you the matter of the Washington Book Shop?

MISS HOOKER: At one time I think she mentioned her membership in it, but she has never discussed the operations or anything like that.

MR. WHEELER: Did she ever ask you to join it?

MISS HOOKER: No, I have never been asked to join.

CHAIRMAN: Any questions, Mrs. Maulding?

MRS. MAULDING: No.

CHAIRMAN: I have none. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN: (Turning to Mr. Cobb) Are there any further witnesses?

MR. COBB: No.

CHAIRMAN: Do you wish to sum up for the board?

(Mr. Cobb sums up briefly.)

CHAIRMAN: The transcript of the hearing will be prepared in due time and a copy will be furnished to Miss Schmidt. The board will carefully consider the entire record in this proceeding and will then make its determination. If the determination is favorable to Miss Schmidt, the case, in accordance with the customary procedure, will be referred to the Loyalty Review Board for post-audit and, if approved by that board, Miss Schmidt will then be notified of the favorable conclusion of the case. If the determination is unfavorable, then this board will immediately notify Miss Schmidt, and she will have the privilege of taking an appeal to the Loyalty Review Board. You may submit suggestions for any corrections that seem appropriate to you at the time when you receive a copy of the transcript.

The hearing will now be closed.

(Chairman reopens hearing so that Miss Schmidt may make a request stating where her copy of the transcript will be sent.)

MISS SCHMIDT: I request that the proceedings be sent directly to me: Miss Ruth Anna Marie Schmidt, C/o Cobb and Weissbrodt, 1822 Jefferson Place, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

(The hearing was closed at 12:50 p.m.)

(Sgd.) Grace L. Dent

Reporter.