

April 30, 1954

RESPONSE TO CHARGES

I, Ruth Anna Marie Schmidt, hereby affirm under oath as follows:

(a) In August 1945 I purchased what was called a "yearly membership" in the Washington Cooperative Bookshop. About a year later in the summer of 1946, when it was time to renew my membership, I purchased a "life membership". This "life membership", so far as I know, does not mean that I am still a member of the Washington Cooperative Bookshop. Under date of February 28, 1950, I received a letter from the Board of Trustees of the Washington Cooperative Bookshop advising me that the Bookshop membership at a meeting held on February 22, 1950, had voted to close the Bookshop. This is the last communication of any kind that I have received from the Washington Cooperative Bookshop. It was and is my understanding that the Washington Cooperative Bookshop ceased to exist after the Bookshop was closed and that my membership was ended by the closing of the Bookshop.

My present recollections of my reasons for joining the Washington Cooperative Bookshop and of my connections with the Bookshop are no longer distinct and are rested almost entirely upon the records that I have kept among my papers and upon my earlier answers to interrogatories and upon my testimony in the course of my earlier loyalty proceeding. In order to answer these charges, I have again re-examined all my records that have any bearing on my connections with the Washington Cooperative Bookshop. Everything that I have found confirms the accuracy of my earlier responses. This is to be expected since I gave my earlier answers only after a careful study of all my records and today I have for reference only the same records that I have used earlier.

Accordingly, the best explanation that I can possibly give today for my joining the Washington Cooperative Bookshop and for my connections with the Bookshop are contained in my earlier answers to the Government's interrogatories on this subject. To the best of my knowledge, these earlier statements

recount the full extent of my connections with the Washington Cooperative Bookshop and are in every respect so far as I am able to know true and accurate. Of course, as stated above, I have no present recollection of many of these contacts that I have earlier reported having had with the Washington Cooperative Bookshop. These earlier reports I made in a conscientious effort to reconstruct my full association with the Washington Cooperative Bookshop. They are today the most accurate and fullest explanation that I have to offer to the Government for my connections with the Washington Cooperative Bookshop.

For the convenience of the Secretary of the Interior, I am including in this statement at this point:

- (1) A copy of my letter of August 10, 1950, addressed to Mr. E. L. Compton, Secretary, Interior Department Loyalty Board;
- (2) Copy of my letter under date of January 23, 1946, addressed to the Membership Committee, Washington Cooperative Bookshop, which was attached to the letter to Mr. Compton and which represents the best evidence I have today of my reasons for joining the Washington Cooperative Bookshop in 1945.
- (3) My Answer to charges involving possible disloyalty to the United States executed by me on August 29, 1950;
- (4) A copy of a letter under date of April 13, 1948 written by me to the Board of Trustees of the Washington Cooperative Bookshop stating some criticisms I then had of the Bookshop and indicating some of the objectives which I then understood the Washington Cooperative Bookshop stood for.

----- (1) - Wm. N. Rhodes Street
Arlington, Virginia
August 10, 1950

Registered Mail

Mr. E. L. Compton, Secretary
Interior Department Loyalty Board
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

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 Fara 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 con-

cerned 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 active 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

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 be 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.

Executive Opinion Sheet
RECORDED

"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,

"Ruth A. M. Schmidt"

----- (2) -----

"23 January 1946

"Membership Committee
Washington Cooperative Bookshop
916 Seventeenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

"Gentlemen:

"On 21 August 1945, according to the card issued to me, I became a member of the Washington Cooperative Bookshop. Why? Well, I thought the forums and discussion programs might be interesting, -- but primarily because the organization seemed to have a positive attitude toward non-discrimination.

"However, in the five (5) months I have been a member, I have never received any notice of meetings or forums. Could it be that you suddenly adopted a policy of discrimination against using the mails? Or against those who joined in August? Or is it the fact that I have a Virginia address?

"My membership has seven months to go -- may I hope to receive some of the --shall I say 'benefits'?--mentioned in your folder,--or shall I consider my membership fee a donation to a 'worth cause'?

"With curiosity,

"(Sgnd) Ruth A. M. Schmidt

"1817 N. Rhodes St.
Arlington, Virginia"

----- (3) -----

"TO

"UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

"LOYALTY BOARD

"Answer to Charges Involving Possible Disloyalty
to the United States

"RUTH ANNA MARIE SCHMIDT

"Answer to Charges involving possible disloyalty
to the United States."

"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 commanistic 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 bi-weekly 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 6, 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 Buttery 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 13 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 known 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 known 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.

"RUTH A. M. SCHMIDT /s/
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.

(SEAL)

"ELEANOR DOWNING /s/
Notary Public
My Commission Expires Feb. 28, 1951"

----- (4) - "13 April 1948"

"Board of Trustees
Washington Cooperative Bookshop
916 Seventeenth St., N.W.
Washington, D. C.

"Gentlemen:

"Several recent trends have caused me great concern, and I wish to bring them to your attention.

"Saturday night there was an excellent talk by Mr. D. Bitterly on art. The attendance was microscopic. There was no prepared chairman to introduce the speaker. The date was Saturday night, of all nights. The only announcement was in the April Bookshopper, mailed 7-8 April -- an issue overwhelmingly devoted to one J. Steel. Prior to that issue, one was deluged with so-called literature on the same speaker.

"I object. What excuse can you possibly offer for such unequal treatment? Both gentlemen came from New York. The Bookshop needs to make money on all forums. And a speaker on art can promote the work (and sale) of many artists -- an author just his own publications. The attendance at the meeting was glaring evidence of the

slipshod preparations made. Why was there no poster in the shop announcing the talk, and tying it in with the showing of the Berlin paintings? Why were the art departments and art groups at Howard, Interracial school, museums, and others not notified? If one-half the effort had been made for this meeting that was made for the preceding one, how much better for the Bookshop -- there might have even been some favorable publicity in the local press.

"And can you excuse the attendance at the membership meeting where Dr. Williston gave so generously of his time? What publicity, if any, did his talk receive?"

"In the November 1947 Bookshopper results of a membership poll were announced. ...Classical music and American History received top billing. Close runners-up were Trade Unionism, Races of Mankind, United Nations Organization, Philosophy and Political Science.'... The Races of Mankind lecture, a membership meeting, well announced, well prepared, and very well attended. Philosophy, - consider the Dunham lecture. Trade unionism, in a way, the Foner lecture. We still wait for the two highest preferences. The February Bookshopper had a printed calendar of events. The November issue, the same. Other than the excellent news analyses by Kenley, what is there to look forward to at the Bookshop?"

"An increase in membership dues -- a cut in the discount (the main reason many originally joined) -- no announcement of monthly dividends.

"Is it asking too much to have you reconsider the discount? For example, it was stated that only 30% of the sales are from members. Let me point out that by offering a discount to what is less than one-third of your customers, you do not suffer a great loss. And you do gain a great deal in good will. For myself, without the discount, I prefer to buy my records where I can listen to them in a private booth, and where, if one album is faulty, another is immediately available that

is perfect; and where there is a wide selection. For books, I can still get a 10% discount at the local lending library. Inflation may have avoided your pocketbook, but I must take advantage of all possible savings.

"As election day nears, there seems to be a tendency to present political propoganda at Bookshop meetings. It is definitely partisan, and no attempt is made to present equal propoganda of all political parties. I am interested in many activities of the Bookshop, as an inter-racial, cultural, non-political cooperative. As a voting citizen, I am interested in political information, but prefer to get my political propoganda at stated political rallies, to which I may go or not, as I choose.

"You may be a progressave organization. You are not a political one. How much better if you made vigorous attempts to further the education of the members in the fine arts and to offer forums of interest to all members, so that the membership meetings would be more widely attended, and a fairer cross-section of opinion obtained. Let me refer you to the second section of the first article of the Constitution for guidance.

"Sincerely,

"Ruth Schmidt"

(b) I was not at all times after August 1945 and until the time that the Washington Cooperative Bookshop "voted to dissolve in the month of February 1950" actively engaged in working with and sympathetically associated with the Washington Cooperative Bookshop. My activities and associations with the Washington Cooperative Bookshop have been reported by me to the Department of the Interior as fully and accurately as I am able to do. I have incorporated those reports above in this statement. I hereby affirm again that those reports are to the best of my recollection accurate and complete and that they are confirmed by such records as I have.

With respect to my attitude toward my membership in the Washington Cooperative Bookshop after I first learned in December 1947 that the Attorney General had listed it as subversive, I cannot add anything to what I have earlier stated and today have no present recollection of the details of these incidents that would cause me to change what I have said. I did not believe from my own experience and contact with the Bookshop that it was subversive. I knew the Bookshop denied the charge⁴ and had called upon the Attorney General to remove its name from the list. I believe I expected a hearing would be granted. In the meantime, by submitting a routine loyalty questionnaire, I had already reported my membership to the Interior Department in September, 1947. Thereafter I was cleared on grounds of loyalty.

I know very well that there was nothing verging upon either disloyalty or lack of discretion security wise in what I had done in the Washington Cooperative Bookshop. I decided, therefore, to await the outcome of further investigations of the Bookshop. Presumably, since the Washington Cooperative Bookshop has now dissolved, no further investigations are necessary and none will be made. For like reasons, I see no cause for my taking any new action with respect to, or attempting, on my limited knowledge, any new appraisal of, what I saw of the activities of the Washington Cooperative Bookshop. As I have already testified, I noticed nothing subversive or Communistic in the Washington Cooperative Bookshop activities in which I had any part.

(c) During the course of my activities in connection with the Washington Cooperative Bookshop, I worked with a few persons and met quite a number of persons. With the single exception of Marie Siegrist, I never came to know well or to count among my personal friends any one of these persons. Marie Siegrist is the only person with whom I worked in the Washington Cooperative Bookshop who is also a personal friend of mine. She was a friend of mine before I ever heard of the Washington Cooperative

¹/ My records show that the Bookshop ran an advertisement in the Washington Post of December 15, 1947, denying the Attorney General's designation.

Bookshop and still is a friend. All the other persons whom I met or worked with in the Washington Cooperative Bookshop, I knew only briefly in the course of my Bookshop activity. These brief associations in no single instance extended beyond Bookshop activity so far as I am able to recall and in no instance developed into a personal friendship or "sympathetic" association.

Marie Siegrist testified on my behalf in the matter of my loyalty. Our associations together are described in the record of that proceeding. She is still a geologist bibliographer employed by the Geological Society of America. I still see her occasionally for lunch, occasionally in connection with geological problems and from time to time at concerts. I have good reason to believe that she is a loyal citizen, certainly not a communist or in any sense subversive. I expect to continue my associations with Marie Siegrist.

Marcus Goldman is a geologist whom I have known since 1943. I recall that he attended some Washington Cooperative Bookshop meetings, but I do not recall that I ever associated with him in connection with any of the things I did for the Bookshop. He is my senior by many years. I first recall meeting him when we both worked in the United States Geological Survey Military Geology Unit. I worked for this Unit throughout and after World War II, with only temporary details to other branches of the Geological Survey. During the War, the Unit consisted of about one hundred professional persons, mostly geologists. We worked in small teams with assignments rotating frequently. I do not recall any work on the same team with Mr. Goldman, but the entire Unit was a fairly close-knit group and I believe that I had some work associations with almost all its members at one time or another and know most, if not all, the professional members of the Unit.

I do not recall how long Mr. Goldman worked in the Military Geology Unit. But in August and September of 1944, I was given a temporary detail as field assistant to another geologist, Miss Julia Gardner, on a Geological

Survey project in Arkansas. Mr. Goldman was one of quite a number of geologists already working on this project when I arrived in Arkansas. During the approximate six weeks that I was in Arkansas, I occasionally dined with Mr. Goldman together with other geologists engaged in this project. My only contact with Mr. Goldman during this period was at these dinners. I did no work with him.

I do not recall when I next saw Mr. Goldman. But since that time, I have known Mr. Goldman as a friend and fellow worker in the Geological Survey of the Interior Department. We have shared an interest in music as well as our work. He has occasionally given me tickets to concerts at the Library of Congress and on rare occasions I have gone with him to these concerts. Mr. Goldman was retired more than a year ago and since his retirement, I see him only very occasionally in the Geological Survey Library and at concerts. Also during the winter months I from time to time attend the meetings of the Geological Society of Washington, where I usually see Mr. Goldman. I consider him a friend, though I see very little of him. I would be shocked to find that Mr. Goldman was anything other than a loyal citizen.

Edwin C. Randall I have spoken of in my loyalty proceeding. I have told there everything that I know of him and have reported there all that I recall of any contacts I ever had with him. This is also set forth above. I have not had any contact with him since the forum speaking engagement in 1946.

Gertrude Burney I do not recall. In my records, I have kept a few copies of the "Bookshopper". The issue of October, 1947 announces Gertrude Burney as Secretary of the new Forum Committee following my period as Chairman. I have no recollection of this nor any recollection of a Gertrude Burney.

Tom Burney I recall as the person who gave a business or financial report at one of the meetings of the Board of Trustees of the Washington Cooperative Bookshop. I was an interim member of the Board for four months

ending in July 1947. I attended three or four Board meetings. I have only a very slight recollection of Tom Hursey. I recall no contact with him since my attendance at the Board meetings of the Washington Cooperative Bookshop.

Joe Pierce I recall as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Washington Cooperative Bookshop. I have had no association with Joe Pierce except in connection with the Washington Cooperative Bookshop. In my Bookshop activities, I saw Joe Pierce at the Board meetings and at Bookshop meetings, where he presided occasionally. I do not recall that Joe Pierce ever assisted me in my Forum Committee work. I may have consulted with him, though my only recollection of Joe Pierce is acting as Chairman at the Board meetings and occasional Bookshop meetings. I have had no contact with Joe Pierce since these Bookshop meetings.

Sarah Rosenbaum I recall as the clerk in the Bookshop store. I recall the clerk in the store as Sarah. I am not sure that I knew, or had occasion to know, her last name, but believe that her last name was Rosenbaum or something similar. Sarah was a person whom I knew as a clerk in the store. I never associated with her in any other capacity. To the best of my recollection, she took no part in Forum Committee work. I have no recollection of any contact with her since my visits to the Bookshop ended.

Ester Faskoff I do not recall. I do recall that the name of the other clerk at the Washington Cooperative Bookshop store was Ester Taback. I never met or associated with Ester Taback except on Bookshop business. She helped me, as I recall, with some of the details involved in arranging the Forum Committee meetings, advising me on matters of routine such as getting publicity and similar matters. I have never had any contact with her since my contacts with the Bookshop ceased.

Al Faskoff I do not recall. Nor do I recall meeting or knowing the husband of Ester Taback.

Evelyn Lynous I do not recall. I do recall an Evelyn Lynous on the Washington Cooperative Bookshop Board of Trustees. I do not recall that I

Evelyn Lynous

ever had any associations with Evelyn Tycus other than at Board meetings. She presumably attended other Bookshop meetings where I may have seen her also. I recollect her face, but do not recollect any meeting with her. I have not had any contact with her since my contacts with the Bookshop ceased.

Rosa Nassig I do not recall.

Dr. Mercer Cook I recall for a talk he gave at a Washington Cooperative Bookshop meeting. He was a professor at Howard University. I do not recall that I ever met Dr. Mercer Cook.

Dr. Eugene Holmes I recall as a Professor of Philosophy at Howard University who quite frequently attended Washington Cooperative Bookshop meetings. I never saw him outside these meetings. Some of these meetings, he attended with his wife Margaret Holmes. I believe that Margaret Holmes may have also attended some Bookshop meetings when her husband was not present. Both I recall as persons who quite frequently were present at Bookshop meetings. I recall that I met both but had no association with either except at Bookshop meetings.

Marguerite Henderson I do not recall. As previously reported, I have found in my calendar records confirmation of the report that I attended a Bookshop meeting on October 28, 1949. I have no recollections of this meeting that I have not already described. My calendar notation, however, reads "Bookshop Hanley @ M. Henderson's Apt." I presume, therefore, that this meeting was held at the apartment of Marguerite Henderson, though I have no present recollection of meeting her or knowing who she was.

Bill Henderson I do recall as a person who used to talk from the floor at the Washington Cooperative Bookshop meetings. I probably met Bill Henderson, though I have no specific recollection of any meeting with him. He was a person whom I came to know at the Bookshop meetings. I had no associations with him except at these meetings and have never had any contact with him since my attendance at Bookshop meetings.

Dr. Alfred Henley I recall for his Sunday evening talks at the Washington Cooperative Bookshop. I attended his talks as stated above. At the close of the meetings after Dr. Henley had concluded his formal talk, I occasionally discussed briefly with him what he had said. I had no other association with Dr. Henley. I have had no contacts with him since these talks.

Helen Garner I do not recall. In the Bookshopper for October 1947, I find that Helen Garner is reported to be the Secretary of the new Board of Directors of the Washington Cooperative Bookshop. However, I am unable to recall her.

Lillian Britt Clott succeeded me as Chairman of the Forum Committee of the Washington Cooperative Bookshop. The name Britt is new to me. She was previously a member of the Board of Trustees, and I first met her at the Bookshop meetings. When I declined to continue as Forum Committee Chairman or to run for a place on the Board of Trustees, Lillian Clott became Forum Committee Chairman. I met with her once or twice to help her on Forum Committee work. I never had any association with Lillian Clott other than in connection with this Bookshop activity and have had no contact with her since.

Raymond Israel Pinkson I recall as a person who spoke from the floor at meetings of the Washington Cooperative Bookshop. The Bookshopper for October 1947 reports that Ray Pinkson was a member of the new Board of Directors of the Bookshop and chairman of the Publicity Committee. I may have had contact with him in connection with my Forum Committee work but have no recollection of any such association with him. The name Israel is new to me. I recall that I met him at these meetings, but I have never seen him since on any other occasion and I have had no other contacts with him.

Gertrude Evans I have heard of by name and believe that I have seen her at one or more Washington Cooperative Bookshop meetings. I do not recall ever speaking to her and have only a vague recollection that I have seen her.

I do not know that any of the above-named persons were or are

members of the Communist Party. If they were or are, no one of them has ever given me any reason to know or suspect this.

(d) Prior to the listing of the Bookshop in December, 1947 I was not aware that the Washington Cooperative Bookshop had ever been cited as subversive by the Attorney General or any other authority. Since that time, I have heard that there were earlier citations. I have no first hand knowledge of these earlier citations. The information stated in the second paragraph under (2)(d) in your memorandum dated April 7, 1954 is substantially correct, and I have explained my actions as fully as I am able to above.

(e) I do not know, and from what knowledge I do have, I do not have reason to believe that the Washington Cooperative Bookshop was or is a totalitarian or subversive organization or that it ever adopted, maintained, or showed a policy of advocating or approving the commission of acts by force or violence to deny persons their rights under the Constitution of the United States or that it ever sought to alter the form of Government of the United States by unconstitutional means.

(f) I deny that my behavior, activities, or associations show, or tend to show, that I am not reliable or trustworthy, or that I may be subjected to coercion, influence, or pressure to cause me to act contrary to the best interests of national security.

15/

RUTH ANNA MARIE SCHMIDT

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public in and for the District of Columbia, on this 4th day of May, 1954.

2

Notary Public

My Commission Expires _____

(SEAL)

Executive Union - 1000

RESISTANCE