

**COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF HOLLYWOOD
MOTION-PICTURE INDUSTRY - PART 10:
HEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON UN-
AMERICAN ACTIVITIES, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, EIGHTY-SECOND
CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION. NOVEMBER 12
AND 13, 1952, PP. 4471-4517**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649553396

Communist Infiltration of Hollywood Motion-Picture Industry - Part 10: Hearing Before the Committee on Un-American Activities, House of Representatives, Eighty-Second Congress, Second Session. November 12 and 13, 1952, pp. 4471-4517 by Committee on Un-American Activities

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES

**COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF HOLLYWOOD
MOTION-PICTURE INDUSTRY - PART 10:
HEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON UN-
AMERICAN ACTIVITIES, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, EIGHTY-SECOND
CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION. NOVEMBER 12
AND 13, 1952, PP. 4471-4517**

COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF THE HOLLYWOOD
MOTION-PICTURE INDUSTRY—PART 10

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

NOVEMBER 12 AND 13, 1952

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



UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1952

COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JOHN S. WOOD, *Georgia, Chairman*

FRANCIS E. WALTER, *Pennsylvania*
MORGAN M. MOULDER, *Missouri*
CLYDE DOYLE, *California*
JAMES B. FRAZIER, Jr., *Tennessee*

HAROLD H. VELDE, *Illinois*
BERNARD W. KEARNEY, *New York*
DONALD L. JACKSON, *California*
CHARLES E. LOTTER, *Michigan*

FRANK S. TAVENNER, Jr., *Counsel*
LOUIS J. RUSSELL, *Senior Investigator*
JOHN W. CARRINGTON, *Clerk of Committee*
RAPHAEL I. NIXON, *Director of Research*

C O N T E N T S

November 12, 1952, testimony of Abram S. Burrows.....	Page 4471
November 13, 1952, testimony of Karan Morley.....	4503

COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF THE HOLLYWOOD MOTION-PICTURE INDUSTRY—PART 10

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1952

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

PUBLIC HEARING

A subcommittee of the Committee on Un-American Activities met pursuant to call at 11:20 a. m., in room 226, Old House Office Building, Hon. John S. Wood (chairman) presiding.

Committee members present: Representatives John S. Wood, Morgan M. Moulder, James B. Frazier, Jr., and Harold H. Velde.

Staff members present: Frank S. Tavenner, Jr., counsel; Thomas W. Beale, Sr., assistant counsel; John W. Carrington, clerk; and A. S. Poore, editor.

Mr. Wood. Come to order, please.

Mr. Reporter. Will you let the record show that, acting under the authority vested in me by the resolution establishing this committee, I have set up a subcommittee for the purpose of this hearing today composed of Messrs. Moulder, Frazier, Velde, and myself, and we are all here.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Abram S. Burrows?

Mr. Wood. Will you be sworn, please?

Raise your right hand, please, sir. You do solemnly swear that the evidence you shall give before this committee will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. BURROWS. I do, sir.

TESTIMONY OF ABRAM S. BURROWS, ACCOMPANIED BY COUNSEL MARTIN GANG

Mr. Wood. Have a seat, please.

Mr. TAVENNER. What is your name, please, sir?

Mr. BURROWS. Abram S. Burrows.

Mr. TAVENNER. Are you represented by counsel?

Mr. BURROWS. I am. Mr. Martin Gang.

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

Mr. BURROWS. I was born in New York City, December 18, 1910.

Mr. TAVENNER. What is your present address?

Mr. BURROWS. 1161 York Avenue, New York City.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you tell the committee briefly what your educational training has been?

Mr. BURROWS. I went to elementary school, high school, in New York City and in Manhattan and in Brooklyn; went to College of the City of New York and NYU School of Finance, Pace Institute of Accounting.

Mr. TAVENNER. What is your present occupation?

Mr. BURROWS. I am a writer and director in the theater, and I also appear periodically as a performer on television.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you tell the committee what the record of your employment has been since, say, 1936?

Mr. BURROWS. Well, in 1936 I gave up accounting and was in a business called the woven-label business, in which I didn't do very well. Then I worked as a salesman in this woven-label company for a while, and finally in 1938 I went into show business. I wrote gags for a great many comedians around town, and then finally started on a regular radio program for the Columbia Broadcasting System. Do you want me to go on from there, sir?

Mr. TAVENNER. Yes. Please tell the committee where you engaged in these various lines of activity and as near as you can when you changed the location of your work, give us the dates.

Mr. BURROWS. Right. Well, in New York City I worked on this radio program in 1938. Then in 1939 I was hired to do a program called the Texaco Star Theater in California. I went to California and wrote this Texaco Star Theater for Ken Murray and Frances Langford and Kenny Baker, and then in 1940 I was employed to write the Rudy Vallee-John Barrymore radio program.

I started that in New York, went back to California with it. While in California, we got an idea for a program called Duffy's Tavern. The idea was picked up and sponsored and I went back to New York to write Duffy's Tavern. I was head writer of Duffy's Tavern for about 5 years, after which I left the field of radio and went to Paramount Pictures as a writer and producer. I didn't write or produce anything there.

Mr. TAVENNER. What was that date?

Mr. BURROWS. That was about in the middle of 1945. After that I wrote a program of my own, that is, one I owned myself and wrote, called Holiday and Company. I did that in New York from about the end of 1945 until about June of 1946. I came back to California and didn't do anything for a couple of months. Then I wrote the Dinah Shore program and the Joan Davis program. Then I took on my own program called the Abe Burrows Show at the beginning of 1947; did that for a while. Then I went out in night clubs for about a year and a half and went back into television. Then I wrote a Broadway show. I was coauthor of Guys and Dolls. Since then I have done several other things in the theater. I did Guys and Dolls. I did a play called Three Wishes for Jamie, which I was coauthor of and I directed, and it is a play that won the Christopher award.

I am presently engaged in writing a new play for the spring, a musical, and I am employed on a weekly television show called the Name Is the Same.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. BURROWS, you stated that you went to California in 1945 and returned for periods to New York in 1946 and then returned again to California, if I understood it.

Mr. BURROWS. Yes; I did, sir. I returned to California in the middle of 1946.

Mr. TAVENNER. Now, when did you go to California in 1945?

Mr. BURROWS. I was in California in 1945, sir. I was doing Duffy's Tavern there, right up until the spring of 1945. Then I went with Paramount and that was in California.

Mr. TAVENNER. All right.

Now, when did you go to California prior to your working on Duffy's Tavern?

Mr. BURROWS. Well, as I say, my first trip to California was in 1939. Then my next trip to stay for any length of time was in 1943. I went to California in 1943 in the middle of the year sometime, and I stayed from then until the time I left for New York to do Holiday and Company in 1946.

Mr. TAVENNER. Have you stated how you were employed or in what work you were engaged in California from 1943 up until 1945?

Mr. BURROWS. Yes; I was writing Duffy's Tavern. You see, I did that for 5 years. I was completely identified with that show. I didn't do anything else.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Burrows, you appeared in executive session of this committee on March 20, 1951, at which time you were interrogated about your activities in California and New York, and at that time your testimony was very vague with regard to your knowledge of individuals who have been shown to be members of the Communist Party in Hollywood and your contacts with those individuals. The investigation by the committee has continued, and during the course of our hearings in California there was a witness who appeared on October 2, 1952, before the committee while sitting in California. His name was Mr. Owen Vinson. Now, Mr. Vinson testified as to his own Communist Party membership, first in Chicago and then his transfer to the Communist Party in California. He testified that he was a member of the unit of the Communist Party established within radio, within a group of radio writers. He further testified that he was treasurer of that group for a period of time, possibly as much as 10 or 12 months. He fixed the time at which he was a member of that group in Hollywood, that is, the Communist Party group within radio writers, as being from October 1945 or the middle of 1946—his recollection was not clear as to the exact date—for a period of approximately 2 years.

During the course of his testimony he identified a number of persons as having been members of that group. And among them was yourself. I will refresh your recollection of what his testimony was, with regard to you. The following questions were asked and answers given:

QUESTION. Were you acquainted with Abe Burrows?

ANSWER. Yes, sir.

QUESTION. Was Abe Burrows a member of the Communist Party to your knowledge?

ANSWER. Abe Burrows attended meetings of the Communist Party which I attended; yes, sir.

QUESTION. Have you collected dues from him?

ANSWER. I believe I have. I recall many instances of trying to, or at least a few instances.

QUESTION. What do you mean by that?

ANSWER. Well, Burrows was a little hard to pin down when it came to collecting dues.

QUESTION. You say hard to pin down in the collection of dues?

ANSWER. Yes, sir.