

Gilbert, Dudley Pierrepont, president, American Nationalists, Inc.;
Testimony May 18, 1939, morning session; Vol. 5, pp. 3180 ff.;
(Executive session, 532 Old House Office Building)

3180 Home, Mayfair House, Park Avenue and Sixty-fifth Street, New York City.

3181 In real estate business with aged father.

American Nationalists' charter issued in April 1935 in New York. Papers drawn up by Col. Edward C. O'Thomas, attorney and Reserve Artillery colonel, assisted by the late Paul Thomas Kammerer.

Other incorporators:

Lewis Gouverneur Morris

Pierson Scott, of Charlottesville, Va., and New York

Andrew Bibbey (also acted as treasurer)

Clarence Chauncey.

Herbert Bottman, (then president of New York Produce Exchange who later resigned)

Charter in possession of committee.

Copy of preamble of constitution offered for record numbered Exhibit 1 but not printed.

Gilbert president and "moving spirit" of the American Nationalists which was largely financed by him.

3182 Got office space from an old friend, Thomas Sperry, for \$75 month at 2 West 45 Street, the Putnam Building. Stayed there until February 1937 when the organization became inactive and gave up its offices.

Whitley refers to Volume 3, page 2354, where an unnamed witness mentioned the American Nationalists "in connection with anti-Semitic and anti-religious organizations or groups." Gilbert denies this and says some of his committee wanted him to be "a little more anti-Jewish."

3183 Says he had no contact with officials of fascist organizations such as the Silver Shirts or the Bund, but was approached by three persons:

Col. Sanctuary, anti-Semitic.

Hyatt Dane, who was pro-German.

John B. Snow, who Gilbert says publishes literature and who said that Gilbert "ought to tie up with some good people"; that all such organizations ought to be in one, as George Deatherage tried to do in Kansas City in 1937 (Anc.)

Gilbert says he is anti-Communist.

Never met Fritz Kuhn. Met George Deatherage and didn't like him.

3184 Met James E. Campbell in Newport, Rhode Island, in the summer of 1937 (sic) who was with George Deatherage. They were introduced by a "third party", a Newport summer resident whose name is not asked for. Gilbert never saw Deatherage again. Didn't see Campbell again until spring of 1937 (sic). Says Campbell is captain of Reserve Engineers who did a tour of duty at Fort Knox and saw service overseas. Campbell was born in California. He and Campbell had things in common.

3185 Objectives: "Exposing anti-American activities".

When he talks about being "kicked around" he says it was by "leftist opposition". He mentions no names, etc.

3186 He and Campbell worked together from February to June 1937 without his giving Campbell any money. Then he went to the Mahoning Valley "to study ~~radical~~ activities during the steel strike out there."

3187 Was informed by Campbell that he had headed a committee investigating subversive activities for the Reserve Officers until asked to stop by the Government because it was not proper Reserve officer activity.

Says Campbell claims to have in his possession a copy of this government order.

He knew his informant (about whom more later) under the name of George Rice. First contact in 1934. "Rice" always called Gilbert for contact. Speaking of Rice:

At that time I (Gilbert) had joined an outfit at the suggestion of Mr. Morris, whom I mentioned, run by Royal Scott Gulden. I resigned after 2 months, because I found it was anti-Semitic, and nothing but. I was led to join it and paid a dollar, on the ground that it was anticommunistic. I met this George Rice; he used to come to the office at different times, and I didn't see him again until after I set up my own outfit, and then he came into my office sometimes for information; said he was interested in radical activities, and then later, toward the latter part of the time that my office was open, before it closed up, he came in two or three times and insisted that he had some vital information that he would like me to give out, and insisted that it came from a certain place he was employed at as a waiter.

Reference to Harmonie Club and to Order of '76, although name not specified.

(Note: For the activities and Nazi influence on the Order of '76, see Secret Armies.)

3188 First sent information to Campbell and his friends to have them "check up on other angles".

3189 Says Rice's reports are in the possession of the committee.

3190- Re Rice and his reports:
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The Chairman. Is he of German descent?

Mr. Gilbert. I couldn't tell what descent he was. Mr. Whitley asked me if he could be partly Jewish, and I said that if he was it would be a very small amount.

Mr. Whitley. I show you for identification only, Mr. Gilbert, I don't want them put in the record, but I do want you to identify some of these reports.

The Chairman. Well, I wonder if it could be agreed that the reports--could be agreed generally for the record--that the reports contain information dealing with revolutionary statements made within a club, supposedly made within a club?

Mr. Gilbert. Yes, sir.

The Chairman. These statements deal with the overthrow of our present form of Government?

Mr. Gilbert. Yes, sir.

The Chairman. And the establishment of the Communist state?

Mr. Gilbert. Yes, sir; or certainly a different form of government.

The Chairman. Let the record show in a general way that that is the content, in other words, that it comes under our jurisdiction because of that fact.

Mr. Gilbert. Yes, sir.

It would say that a broader word would be, broader than Communist, would be a leftist state, similar to the recent government in Spain.

Mr. Thomas. What are you going to do with these exhibits, Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman. I am going to keep them under lock and key.

While we are waiting on that, I think the committee will agree that we don't want to put in the record something that is wholly unsupported, nothing but a piece of paper. There is no evidence that there is any truth whatsoever to it, so I don't think we will want to put that in the record. All we are interested in is the dissemination of it.

The reports, inspite of serious allegations made because of them, do not appear in the record.

Gilbert identifies one. Then:

The Chairman. With reference to the reports, if the gentleman of the committee want to read these reports, so that we can agree that they are highly inflammatory as a matter of fact, here they are.

Mr. Gilbert. May I state for your information, if Mr. Whitley has not already told you, that I saw this George Rice in the May Day parade this year, in the International Workers' Order section. I saw him marching in it, and was very much amused to see him going in that. He had told me before that he would be in it because, he said, he had to cover himself up and appear strongly leftist in his ideas.

May I say also, if I am allowed to, that I have 700 feet of reel of that parade which I will be very glad to make a present of the committee if they want to use it.

The Chairman. We would like to get it. Of the last May Day parade?

Report made confidential exhibit no. 1 but neither it nor those which follow are printed as exhibits in the record.

3192 Gilbert is asked questions and allowed to make answers that make the reports seem valid. He emphasizes the "secret" military information they contain. Campbell's story of Rice and his alleged plans and activities while in CCNY are false, Gilbert says.

Gilbert says his motives were patriotic--to expose un-American activities.

3193 When Gilbert is about to give an example from the report of March 1 to show the kind of information, Whitley interrupts to have him discuss the report of January 25 re purchase of airplanes by French Government.

Gilbert says Rice knew of the ordering of the Pacific fleet back to the Pacific "before the Navy knew it".

(Note: No questions.)

3193-

3194 Names are left out of the quotations from the reports and from testimony. Gilbert reads a report to show that Jews purged officers of armed forces. Inflammatory stuff--but no questions asked.

3194 When asked what percentage of predictions came true, Gilbert first says the committee knows, having checked up, and then says "practically all". Asked question to show that club members had high governmental connections.

3195 Some of them hold government positions, Gilbert is forced to say, although he attempts to answer by saying that most do not. One of the men whose name is deleted is on the New York State Supreme Court and "formerly personal attorney for the president" of the United States when he was governor.

(Note: Probably Judge Rosenman.)

Gilbert is lead to say that "all instances . . . had to do with military affairs" and then to testify to "plans" of the "plotters" to overthrow government and set up a soviet.

Outlines three "plans".

Allowed to bring in name of Jerry O'Connell as connected.

3196 When asked by Voorhis what he means by "direct action as in Spain", Gilbert uninterruptedly describes a "left" revolution beginning with strikes to explain

that there is danger in the U. S. because of military training and strength of "reds", that "they would have the assistance of certain CIO outfits throughout the country," etc. Mentions the Maritime Union but is not asked a single question.

Here they go into the Cambell-Gilbert relationship.

3197-

3198

Re: Why wasn't information turned over to the government this:

"Mr. Gilbert. Some of the men we worked with, and I will not divulge their names--you can put me in jail if you want to--are men who worked for the G-2 section of the Army and Navy, and they were of the opinion that where operatives in the past had given information of a certain type, they had not received cooperation when it got to Washington, and in some cases the reports had been lost, and they advised us not to go through the ordinary channels as they figured it was either stopped or mislaid or somebody was in a position to put the information in what might be called the newspaper morgue; that it wouldn't do any good. And in fact some of them expressed the fear of being punished, that men who did it were thought too overzealous in that line and that other men had been punished, and people promoted over them.

(Note: Not asked a single question and allowed to emphasize on p.3198.)

3199 Also got reports from Rice and sent them to Campbell while out of town, Gilbert says.

3200 Doesn't know to whom Campbell sent reports.

Financing

By Gilbert, with his wife's inheritance.

3201-

3202

Gave Campbell \$1,000 in April 1939 to build a retreat in Kentucky in the event of a civil war. Identifies checks which are made an exhibit but not printed. Since the summer of 1937, he has given an average of \$500~~00~~ monthly to Campbell.

3203

His attorney is Smith, Chamber & Clare, 60 Broadway, New York City.

3203-

3204 Dies interrupts for this:

The Chairman. Mr. Gilbert, don't you feel that you have been taken in by this fellow Campbell; or do you feel so?

Mr. Gilbert. No; I don't feel I have been taken in by Campbell. I think he is an honest man, and I think you will be sold on him. I may be mistaken and he may be, but at least the man is honest.

The Chairman. All the names mentioned in these reports which I saw happen to be Jews.

Mr. Gilbert. Well, I believe some of them are not; you will find a number that are not.

The Chairman. You say some of them mentioned in the reports are not Jews?

Mr. Gilbert. Yes, sir.

The Chairman. Do you think that a group of prominent people would talk in the manner in which these reports indicate they do in a public meeting?

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Mr. Gilbert. I believe those meetings were not public; even that the majority of the members of the club knew nothing ~~about~~ of them; that they would call meetings of 20 or 30 men. It is the hardest place in the world to hold a meeting, in a club, gentlemen. If I hold it in my apartment, somebody is going to notice it. If I hold it in a large club, nobody makes any comment whether they are members or guests running in or out.

The Chairman. Do you think these men, occupying the important positions as they all appear to do, would make such statements as are contained in these reports in the presence of a waiter?

Mr. Gilbert. The waiter was not in the room, sir; he was on guard duty outside; but I believe several other men who could be trusted--

The Chairman (interposing). You mean that Rice reported to you that these men met behind closed doors?

Mr. Gilbert. Yes; and he and two or three other men, who, he said, were out-and-out leftists, were used to keep other people away from annoying them and were covered up by acting as waiters to serve them when they needed it; they were waiters if anybody wanted anything, and, if not, they were guards.

The Chairman. And they stood outside the door?

Mr. Gilbert. At the door or close to it.

The Chairman. And overheard the conversations?

Mr. Gilbert. Yes, sir.

The Chairman. Do you know where we can locate Mr. Rice?

Mr. Gilbert. I don't sir.

3204-

3205 Gilbert describes Rice.

Dies wants to know:

The Chairman. To be perfectly frank with you, you seem to have been very frank with the committee here; of course I am personally very much concerned with so many business people, and people who have money, being taken in by racketeers. Don't you feel that there are a lot of racketeers in this business?

He gets this answer:

that

Mr. Gilbert. I feel, gentlemen, there are two sources. One of them are the out-and-out racket propositions, and I think others of them are subsidized by the German Government.

Gilbert says he believes the American Nationalists party (Stanley Smith and George Andrews Moriarity) have German connections and have been "mixed up in riots in North Jersey".

Dies asks if Jews are behind the Communist movement

3206 and Gilbert answers, "A certain element." then:

The Chairman. Do you think men as prominent as the Jews mentioned in these reports would want to overthrow this form of Government?

Mr. Gilbert. I believe so. I believe men as prominent as that have shown themselves to be mixed up in international things for years back. I think if you get Father Coughlin down here, who I am in no way connected with, he will prove to you that some of the same members of the banking outfits these men are connected with, were involved with the Russian Soviet.

The Chairman. Did you ever meet Father Coughlin?

Mr. Gilbert. No; I never did. I wrote one letter to him.

The Chairman. Do you know Bob Harris, from New York?

Mr. Gilbert. No, sir; I don't.

(Note: No questions.)

3206-
3207 Gilbert says Campbell set up "Business Engineering Associates" to do legitimate work.

Mr. Whitley. Did you turn over any of these files or records to Mr. Campbell at any time?

Mr. Gilbert. No, sir; I destroyed most of them when we closed shop. I have a few left that I told you about when you and your assistant were in New York, that we would hunt for and get out.

3208 Life member of Sons of American Revolution, of New York.

3209 Gilbert says, "I fear a revolution in this country before snow flies."

3210 "Wealthy people" not anti-Jewish but "masses" are. Reason: "The Jews are taking the lead in these radical demonstrations."

3210-

3211 Thomas defends Brooklyn Tablet, unencumbered by evidence or testimony.

Excerpts:

Mr. Thomas. Isn't it your belief that the Brooklyn Tablet is doing a very good job in suppressing or bringing to the attention of the people these subversive activities?

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Mr. Thomas. The reason I brought that up is that I was afraid, from the earlier testimony, that someone might get the impression that it was associated or in any way connected with Father Coughlin. It is absolutely on its own.

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Mr. Thomas. It is my belief that the Tablet does a very good job.

3212 Noon recess.

Cooke, Brodie and Cambell follow.

Gilbert resumes on 5/22/39, p. 3285.