

EDWARD DMYTRYK HUAC TESTIMONY

Date: April 15, 1951

Role	Name	Description
Witness	Edward Dmytryk	Film director and editor; one of the “Hollywood Ten”
Committee	John S. Wood	Chairman of the Committee, Democratic Representative from Georgia
	Harold H. Velde	Republican Representative from Illinois (non-speaking role)
	Bernard W. Kearney	Republican Representative from New York (non-speaking role)
	James B. Frazier, Jr.	Democratic Representative from Tennessee (non-speaking role)
	Francis E. Walter	Democratic Representative from Pennsylvania (non-speaking role)
	Donald L. Jackson	Republican Representative from California
	Charles E. Potter	Republican Representative from Michigan (non-speaking role)
Staff	Frank S. Tavenner, Jr.	Counsel
	Louis J. Russell	Senior Investigator (non-speaking role)
	Thomas W. Beale, Sr.	Assistant Counsel (non-speaking role)
	William A. Wheeler	Investigator (non-speaking role)
	A.S. Poore	Editor (non-speaking role)

Mr. Tavenner: I call Mr. Edward Dmytryk.

Mr. Wood: Will you raise your right hand, please? You solemnly swear the evidence you give this committee shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. Dmytryk: I do.

Mr. Tavenner: What is your name, please?

Mr. Dmytryk: Edward Dmytryk.

Mr. Tavenner: Mr. Dmytryk, you were subpoenaed as a witness before this committee in 1947?

Mr. Dmytryk: I was.

Mr. Tavenner: And you are one of those commonly referred to as the "Hollywood Ten"?

Mr. Dmytryk: I was.

Mr. Tavenner: I notice you say you were, rather than are.

Mr. Dmytryk: I don't think I will be considered so much longer.

Mr. Tavenner: Your testimony today will throw considerable light on that subject?

Mr. Dmytryk: I imagine so, yes.

Mr. Tavenner: I believe [that] you were one of the group who was prosecuted for contempt of Congress, and that you received a sentence, and that you have served that sentence?

Mr. Dmytryk: I have, yes.

Mr. Tavenner: Were you a member of the Communist Party at the time you were subpoenaed before this committee in 1947?

Mr. Dmytryk: No; I was not.

Mr. Tavenner: Had you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. Dmytryk: Yes; I had been a member. I had been a member from sometime around the spring or early summer 1944 until about the fall of 1945. Most of this was during the period when the Communist Party as such was dissolved and the Communist Political Association had taken its place.

Mr. Tavenner: So you had been a member of the party for a comparatively short period of time?

Mr. Dmytryk: Yes.

Mr. Tavenner: While you were a member of the so-called "Hollywood Ten," did you have opportunity to further observe the workings of the Communist Party?

Mr. Dmytryk: I think I can truthfully say that I had much more opportunity to observe the workings of the Communist Party while I was a member of the "Hollywood Ten" than I did while I was a member of the Communist Party.

Mr. Tavenner: Were you in the Screen Directors' Guild?

Mr. Dmytryk: Yes, from 1939 on.

Mr. Tavenner: How many were there in the Screen Directors' Guild?

Mr. Dmytryk: The total membership, full directors, was 225 or 230.

Mr. Tavenner: And of that number there were seven known to you to be members of the Communist Party?

Mr. Dmytryk: As far as I know there were seven, and as far as I know that was just about all.

Mr. Tavenner: Will you give us the names of the seven?

Mr. Dmytryk: Yes. Frank Tuttle.

Mr. Tavenner: He was a director?

Mr. Dmytryk: Yes.

Mr. Tavenner: T-u-t-t-l-e?

Mr. Dmytryk: T-u-t-t-l-e. Herbert Biberman, B-i-b-e-r-m-a-n, I believe. Jack Berry. I don't know whether he spells it B-e-r-r-y or B-a-r-r-y.

Mr. Tavenner: Can you identify him further?

Mr. Dmytryk: I heard the chairman this morning give the address. He is the Berry who lives on Kings Road. The meeting was at his house. That is why I know. Bernard Vorhaus.

Mr. Tavenner: Will you spell that?

Mr. Dmytryk: I believe it is V-o-r-h-a-u-s.

Mr. Tavenner: I believe you have named four.

Mr. Dmytryk: Then Jules Dassin, D-a-s-s-i-n. And myself.

Mr. Tavenner: Do you have any definite knowledge of any of the others having left the Communist Party?

Mr. Dmytryk: No; I don't. I think it is quite possible that some of them have because that has happened to a large extent in Hollywood in the last few years.

Mr. Jackson: Thank you again for your testimony.

Mr. Wood: Further questions?

Mr. Tavenner: No questions.

Mr. Wood: Permit me, Mr. Dmytryk, to add my feeble expression of appreciation for your coming here and for the assistance you have given this committee. Not only that, but the information that you have given to the American people, millions of whom haven't the vaguest idea or conception of what the Communist movement in America stands for and its real aims and purposes. I feel your contribution is a great deal more valuable to the American people than it is even to this committee. And for all of it I express to you my very deep appreciation. If there is no further reason to detain this witness, Mr. Counsel, you may excuse him.

(Witness excused.)

United States Government Printing Office. (1951). Communist infiltration of Hollywood motion picture industry - Part 2. Internet Archive. https://archive.org/stream/communistinfiltr02unit/communistinfiltr02unit_djvu.txt