

Halle Flanagan Before The Special Committee on Un-American Activities

THE CHAIRMAN: I merely want to know the places where you have played, but if you want to discuss audiences, it is all right.

MRS. FLANAGAN: I do want to discuss them, because that allegation was made here by one of your witnesses, which I would not like to remain in the minds of any of you around this table. My impression is that you are trying to get at all the facts.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is correct. And if this statement is untrue, we want you to refute it.

MRS. FLANAGAN: I want to quote from her allegation. Miss Huffman says, "They couldn't get any audiences for anything except Communistic plays." Now, gentlemen, I have here the proof that that is an absolutely false statement. We have, as sponsoring bodies for the Federal Theater, lists of organizations covering twenty pages of this brief, which I intend to write into the record; and I will summarize them for you. Two hundred and sixty-three social clubs and organizations, two hundred and sixty-four welfare and civic organizations, two hundred and seventy-one educational organizations, ninety-five religious organizations, ninety-one organizations from business industries, sixteen mass organizations, sixty-six trade-unions, sixty-two professional unions, seventeen consumers' unions, twenty-five fraternal unions, and fifteen political organizations. Note, gentlemen, that every religious shade is covered and every political affiliation and every type of educational and civic body in the support of our theater. It is the widest and most American base that any theater has ever built upon, and I request you not only to write that into the record but to read the list of public schools and universities and churches and the civic and social groups that are supporting this Federal Theater.

United States Congress. *Hearings. Special Committee on Un-American Activities.* Washington: Government Printing Office, 1938.