

Wallace Stark Before The Special Committee on Un-American Activities

Wallace Stark was formerly employed by the Federal Theatre Project in New York. According to his testimony he was an "instructor in dramatics, public speaking, and screen techniques." In the following excerpt he is questioned by Chairman Martin Dies (Democrat, Texas) and Congressman J. Parnell Thomas (Republican, New Jersey).

Chairman Dies. While you were there working on that project, did you know personally of any communistic activity that took place there?

Mr. Stark. Yes. At the very beginning of Mrs. Flanagan's taking over the office, she put in a man by the name of Irving Mendell, a candymaker from Brooklyn

Chairman Dies. Was he a Communist?

Mr. Stark. Yes, an avowed Communist.

Chairman Dies. An admitted Communist?

Mr. Stark. Yes.

Chairman Dies. What position did he occupy?

Mr. Stark. She put him in at the head of the personnel department to induct people into the Federal Theater in the different units.

Chairman Dies. Did he bring other Communists into that project?

Mr. Stark. Yes; several from the unit of dance music and drama where I taught, even the students that I taught.

Chairman Dies. What took place with reference to communistic activities after he became head of the personnel division?

Mr. Stark. He was afterward transferred to the living newspaper, which was supposed to be the unit that advocated the overthrow of the Government type of plays on the Federal Theater.

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