

Hallie Flanagan Before Hearings. Special Committee on Un-American Activities #2

Chairman Dies. I understand. Do you not also think that since the Federal Theatre Project is an agency of the Government and that all of our people support it through their tax money, people of different classes, different races, different religions, some who are workers, some who are businessmen, don't you think that that being true that no play should ever be produced which undertakes to portray the interests of one class to the disadvantage of another class, even though that might be accurate, even though factually there may be justification normally for that, yet because of the very fact that we are using taxpayer's money to produce plays, do you not think it is questionable whether it is right to produce plays that are biased in favor of one class against another?

Mrs. Flanagan. We are not doing plays to stir up class hatred.

Chairman Dies. Then this Federal Theater is a very powerful vehicle of expression isn't it, and of propaganda, because as you say, it reaches 25,000,000 people. It therefore can be used or abused.

Mrs. Flanagan. Yes.

Chairman Dies. With serious consequences, can it not?

Mrs. Flanagan. Yes, sir.

Chairman Dies. And do you know of any way in which it could be more seriously abused than it would be to portray, as I said a few moments ago, one class, putting them at an advantage over another class?

Mrs. Flanagan. I have been giving a long list of illustrations of the fact that we do not so do.

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