

LUCILLE BALL HUAC TESTIMONY

Date: September 4, 1953

Role	Name	Description
Witness	Lucille Ball	Actress, comedian, and producer
Committee	Harold H. Velde	Republican Representative from Illinois
	Bernard W. Kearney	Republican Representative from New York
	Francis E. Walter	Democratic Representative from Pennsylvania
	Donald L. Jackson	Republican Representative from California
	Morgan M. Moulder	Democratic Representative from Missouri
	Kit Clardy	Republican Representative from Michigan
	Clyde Doyle	Democratic Representative from California
	Gordon H. Scherer	Republican Representative from Ohio
	James B. Frazier, Jr.	Democratic Representative from Tennessee
Staff	William A. Wheeler	Investigator
	Frank S. Tavenner, Jr.	Counsel
	Robert L. Kunzig	Counsel
	Louis J. Russell	Chief Investigator
	Thomas W. Beale, Sr.	Chief Clerk
	Raphael I. Nixon	Director of Research

Mr. Wheeler: State your full name, please.

Miss Ball: Lucille Desiree Ball Arnaz.

Mr. Wheeler: Where were you born?

Miss Ball: Jamestown, N. Y.

Mr. Wheeler: You are presently a resident of Los Angeles County?

Miss Ball: Yes.

Mr. Wheeler: And your profession?

Miss Ball: Actress; television actress now.

Mr. Wheeler: I would like to hand you a photostatic copy of a voter's registration and ask you if that is your signature.

Miss Ball: That looks like my handwriting.

Mr. Wheeler: You will note that the party that you intended to affiliate with at that time was the Communist Party.

Miss Ball: In 1936?

Mr. Wheeler: Yes.

Miss Ball: I guess so.

Mr. Wheeler: You did register to vote then as a Communist or intending to vote the Communist Party ticket?

Miss Ball: Yes.

Mr. Wheeler: Would you go into detail and explain the background, the reason you voted or registered to vote as a Communist or person who intended to affiliate with the Communist Party?

Miss Ball: It was our grandfather, Fred Hunt. He just wanted us to, and we just did something to please him. I didn't intend to vote that way. As I recall, I didn't.

Mr. Wheeler: Have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

Miss Ball: No; not to my knowledge.

Mr. Wheeler: Are you familiar with the words or the phrase "criminal syndicalism"?

Miss Ball: No, but it is pretty. What does it mean?

Mr. Wheeler: Criminal syndicalism?

Miss Ball: What does it mean?

Mr. Wheeler: According to the voter's registration for the year 1936, the reverse part of it, you signed a petition 164-F. This particular petition was for the repeal of the Criminal Syndicalism Act in California.

Miss Ball: What does it mean?

Mr. Wheeler: The Communists were taken to court and tried for criminal syndicalism, and...

Miss Ball: And I signed something else?

Mr. Wheeler: You signed this petition to take the Criminal Syndicalism Act off the statutes of the State of California.

Miss Ball: I did; that is, without my knowledge. May I see the signature?

Mr. Wheeler: Unfortunately, they have been destroyed, those particular petitions.

Miss Ball: By whom?

Mr. Wheeler: They are retained a few years, under law, and they can be destroyed.

Miss Ball: Was this the same time we were "Being Nice to Daddy Week"?

Mr. Wheeler: It was in the year 1936. However, I do have a photostat of a sample copy of the petition which was dated July 10, 1936, and this particular petition was circulated by the California Conference for Repeal of the Criminal Syndicalism Act at 68 Haight Street, San Francisco, Calif. Have you ever heard of that organization?

Miss Ball: No.

Mr. Wheeler: It was also circulated by the Southern California Councils for Constitutional Rights, 129 West Second Street, room 326, Los Angeles, Calif. Have you ever heard of this second organization?

Miss Ball: No. I have since then, probably. I imagine that ties up with the un-American business activities; constitutional rights they are all standing up for now. Is that what it means?

Mr. Wheeler: Well, it means more or less like this: An act defining criminal syndicalism and sabotage, proscribing certain acts and methods in connection therewith and in pursuance thereof and providing penalties and punishments therefor.

Miss Ball: If I had ever seen that, I would have never signed it. Did I sign it?

Mr. Wheeler: Well, the voter's registration indicates that you did sign it. In other words, when a petition is signed they check each signature to ascertain if the individual is a registered voter. When it is ascertained the individual is a registered voter they mark on his voter's registration, this particular number, 164-F, which indicates the person who registered did sign that petition. However, I have been unable to locate the actual petition.

Miss Ball: Because you register you are in sympathy with all this [indicating]?

Mr. Wheeler: It would indicate as such. I mean, if a person signs a particular document requesting that the Criminal Syndicalism Act be removed from the statutes, it would seem to indicate to me that you would be against the Criminal Syndicalism Act.

Miss Ball: Well, anyway, I don't know what it means.

Mr. Wheeler: I have nothing further.

United States Government Printing Office. (1953). Investigation of Communist activities in the Los Angeles area - Part 7. Internet Archive. https://archive.org/stream/investigationofc07unit/investigationofc07unit_djvu.txt