

Philip Abbott Luce:

Before we open this up for questions, I have two things to say. One is that Albert Maher is now in the room, and secondly, since the television cameras didn't get my initial statement, I'd just like to somewhat repeat it; that Albert Maher has just been served with a subpoena from the House Un-American Activities Committee.

Speaker 18:

Can you give me the name of the person who served it?

Philip Abbott Luce:

Well, Mr. Maher will do that himself in a minute. I wanted to simply say again that the scum that holes up in Congress under the name of the House Un-American Activities Committee is a disgrace to the nation and that let them subpoena who they want to, but we'll go back to Washington and protest as we did last year. When I said that the bloody heads will not be ours this year, I wanted to again remind everyone that last year the goon squad of the House Un-American Activities Committee attacked the spectators who were sitting in the room and that the spectators only fought back when they were being beaten. But this year, if they attempt to start any kind of the same fracas whatsoever, any kind of it, the minute they hit one person, we're not going to be passive at all this year. And when I say that the bloody heads will not be ours, I mean it. (Students applaud) This is Albert Maher, and let him say anything he wants. (Students applaud)

Speaker 19:

[Inaud]...show your subpoena?

Albert Maher:

This is it. And with this kind of thing, they think they are going to intimidate us just a little bit.

Speaker 20:

When do you have to appear?

Albert Maher:

Huh?

Speaker 20:

When do you have to appear?

Albert Maher:

It says here the 3rd of September, I do believe, ten o'clock in the morning.

Speaker 21:

Where? Washington or New York?

Albert Maher:

In Washington; that's correct.

Eddie Lemansky:

Yeah. They wouldn't leave D.C.

Albert Maher:
They're afraid to leave Washington, I guess.

Speaker 22:
Where is this, in Washington?

Albert Maher:
Washington D.C.; that's right.

Speaker 23:
How do you spell your name, Mr. Maher.

Albert Maher:
M-a-h-e-r.

Speaker 24:
How old are you, sir?

Albert Maher:
Twenty-two. All I'd like to say before you is that this kind of intimidation and threat is going to continue I'm sure, but we're going to keep on having trips to Cuba and trips to other countries and keep on a very radical activity in this country no matter what they do. Adios. (Students cheer and applaud)

Speaker 25:
Mr. Maher, could you give us your address, please?

Albert Maher:
Uh, yeah. No! I don't want to give you my address. (Students laugh and applaud)

Philip Abbott Luce:
Now we'll open it up to general questions to these three gentlemen, and if they decide that there's a question that they don't specifically want to answer because they're dominating the time and so on and so forth, then they can pick out somebody else in the audience to answer a question; however, I have just been informed that one more person has something -- oh, another subpoena; is that right?

Student Speaker 1:
Hey, I'm going to go and get mine.

Eddie Lemansky:
Yeah, can you go get mine? Get mine.

Speaker 26:
Hold it up again. Hold it up again, Yvonne.

Speaker 27:
What's your name, Yvonne?

Speaker 28:
Yvonne. What else?

Speaker 29:
How do you spell last name?

Yvonne Bond:
Vond, B-o-n-d.

Speaker 30:
How old are you, Yvonne?

Yvonne Bond:
Twenty-three.

Speaker 31:
Twenty-three?

Speaker 32:
Where are you from, Yvonne?

Yvonne Bond:
Twenty-three. I'm from San Francisco.

Speaker 33:
What's your address?

Yvonne Bond:
I'd prefer not to say.

Speaker 34:
San Francisco.

Yvonne Bond:
San Francisco. That's my address.

Speaker 35:
You're a student where?

Yvonne Bond:
University of California.

Speaker 36:
Is that UCLA or Berkeley?

Yvonne Bond:
Berkeley.

Philip Abbott Luce:
All right. Then let's have --

Speaker 37:
Now you were picked for a subpoena?

Yvonne Bond:
Oh, sure.

Speaker 38:
Why?

Yvonne Bond:
Oh, because I took part in helping all these people get to Cuba and see the socialist revolution there.

Speaker 39:
I'll ask the same questions -- probably the same questions. You were gone approximately eight weeks; is that correct?

Eddie Lemansky:
Exactly two months in Cuba.

Speaker 40:
Roughly, including your transportation, how much did the trip cost you all together?

Speaker 41:
Wasn't the trip paid for by the Cuban university organization?

Eddie Lemansky:
The expenses were paid by the Federation of University Students, which is the university student organization in Cuba.

Speaker 42:
Is that in Cuba?

Speaker 43:
Now that's everything except travel in the United States, is that correct?

Eddie Lemansky:
Yeah.

Speaker 44:
Travel back to the United States?

Eddie Lemansky:
Yeah. No, except for travel in the United States.

Speaker 45:
Are you all convinced that what you saw in Cuba was the real Cuba?

All Students:
Yeah... yeah....yeah! Right! (students applaud – loud sound as microphone is knocked over.)

Eddie Lemansky:
I guess that's the answer – we don't need these mics you know?

Speaker 46:
Well we do....

Eddie Lemansky:
Yeah, well I didn't mean to kick them over – purely an accident.

Speaker 47:
Well we're giving you people some [inaud] so let's try to be careful, all right?

Speaker 48
I'd like to address a question to all of you up there.

Eddie Lemansky:
Yeah, go ahead.

Speaker 48:
Could each of you individually give some kind of statement as to whether you are or not or will admit to being a communist or members of the Communist Party? (Laughter from some students).

Eddie Lemansky:
I proudly proclaim that I'm a communist. (Cheers and applause from students.) I don't know why you people always put it on the basis as though somebody's supposed to be ashamed of it. You know I don't ask you, do you admit to being, uh... (Students laugh).

Student Speaker 2:
A liar.

Speaker 48:
Are you a Chinese communist or?

Eddie Lemansky:
I'm an American communist, man, a Brooklyn communist. (Students cheer and applaud) I'm a member of the Progressive Labor Movement which is a communist organization.

Luis Miguel Valdez:
I don't think I have the honor of being a communist yet.

Speaker 49:
Get on the microphone, Mr. Valdez, please.

Speaker 50:
Say it again, Luis.

Luis Miguel Valdez:
I don't think I have the honor of being a communist yet. I am a student of revolution, and something is going to happen in California when I cease being a student. (Students cheer and applaud).

Charles Berrard:

I'm a black man who lives in racist United States, and that's all I have to say. My political opinions are of no concern to you. (Students cheer and applaud).

Yvonne Bond:

I also am a member of the Progressive Labor Movement; and therefore --

Speaker 51:

Can't hear you, dear.

Yvonne Bond:

I am also a member of the Progressive Labor Movement, and I also proudly proclaim that I am a communist. (Students applaud).

Speaker 52:

I just want to ask you. Your passports have been tentatively withdrawn pending your appeal --

Eddie Lemansky:

And the letter has been finally ripped up.

Speaker 53:

You are not planning to appeal?

Eddie Lemansky:

No. They have no right to demand that I even appeal.

Speaker 54:

Is there any member of the group planning to appeal that you know of?

Eddie Lemansky:

You have to ask them. I don't know. We haven't discussed it.

Speaker 55:

You might try to travel on them again right away?

Eddie Lemansky:

I don't know.

Speaker 56:

Did you ever find anything in Cuba you didn't like?

Eddie Lemansky:

There was some reporters. (Students laugh and applaud). There were a number of American reporters in Cuba who came, in theory, to objectively cover the Cuba revolution, and they were -- you know, some of them were very anxious to meet with us and explain to us how stupid we were and how foolish we were and how we had been duped. And, of course, most of them rarely got out of the bars in Havana and Santiago. Some of them, you know, did a little bit better, but most of them didn't, so that's one thing I didn't like in Cuba.

Speaker 57:

So, in other words, Cuba is paradise on Earth?

Eddie Lemansky:

No, it's not paradise on Earth. Don't be silly.

Jerry Weinberg:

Better than this God-damned country, Charlie, better than this country, and you're a perfect example of it.

Speaker 58:

Say it again.

Jerry Weinberg:

I said it's a perfect example.

Eddie Lemansky:

Well, he's talking, man. He's talking. (Many people talking over one another).

Jerry Weinberg:

It's better than this God-damned country.

Speaker 59:

Get on the microphone!

Speaker 60:

We can't hear you.

Jerry Weinberg:

(to Eddie Lemansky as he walks to microphone) I'm sorry.

Student speaker 3:

Give him a hand. (one student applauds)

Student speaker 4:

You tell them Jerry!

Speaker 61:

Get on the mic, Jerry, stand in the middle, that's it.

Yvonne Bond:

Tell them like it is.

Jerry Weinberg:

I said Cuba is better than this country, and you're a perfect example of why, you and the government, yeah. When's the last time you printed something true, for that matter any of you?

Speaker 62:

May we have your name?

Speaker 63

May we have your name please?

Jerry Weinberg:

Jerry Weinberg. (Sporadic student applause)

Phil Clark:

We've got a report here that states that some of you played baseball against Fidel Castro.

Yvonne Bond:

With Fidel.

Phil Clark:

And they beat the Americans 24 to nothing. What do you think of that?

Eddie Lemansky:

I think it was 28 to nothing.

Phil Clark:

Can't you guys play baseball? (Lots of talking over one another).

Eddie Lemansky:

No. Listen. Listen. You know, if you want to ask serious questions.

Phil Clark:

That is a serious question. I mean, that score looks very bad.

Eddie Lemansky:

What? You know, you see, if that's -- if that is the level of your interest in what we've seen in Cuba, why we couldn't do better in a baseball game, then, you know, I really begin to understand why the Cuban revolution hasn't been better covered in the U.S. press.

Phil Clark:

The score sounded just about as phony as some of the things that you have said here tonight.

Student Speaker 5:

Oh, ha-ha.

Yvonne Bond:

Have you been there?

Phil Clark:

I lived there a year and a half.

Several Student Speakers:

When? When? Please!

Student Speaker 6:

Before 1950?

Student Speaker 7:
In Havana [inaud]?

Student Speaker 8:
Why didn't you report that 40,000 people under Batista got killed? Why didn't you report that? What did you say back then?

Phil Clark:
What's the number of how many Castro has [inaudible 9:14]?

Student Speaker 9:
Why don't you go find out?

Student Speaker 10:
You did? How many? [inaud – many people speaking over one another]

Speaker 64:
Mr. Lemansky, can I ask a serious question?

Eddie Lemansky:
I'd appreciate it.

Speaker 64:
All right. Your statement says that you are going to travel to other countries. Can either you or Mr. Luce state which other countries you are going to travel to?

Philip Abbott Luce:
Well, let me just say that the statement that was released earlier was the statement of the executive committee of the Student Committee for Travel to Cuba which, until these people arrived back here tonight, did not technically include them. A new executive committee will now have to be withdrawn up. When we say that we intend to travel to other countries, it means exactly that, that we are now preparing and making plans to send delegations to all of the so-called forbidden countries, Albania, North Korea, North Vietnam, and especially China, (students applaud) and that we very strongly hope to send a group next year, not only to Cuba but, certainly, hopefully, to China and North Vietnam, and, if possible, North Korea and Albania all in one year.
(Students cheer and applaud).

End Part Four - [00:11:28:51]