

Statements I read to  
judge before sentencing  
Walter T. Rumble

610 F

Your honor:

For the past 13 years I have been a writer of motion pictures. Nine months ago the House Committee on Un-American Activities called for the termination of my career. Seven months ago I was summoned to Washington to give testimony before this committee. I was commanded by the committee to answer two principal questions, and the chairman ruled that I need <sup>not</sup> answer either of them by 'yes' or 'no'.

¶ The first question had to do with my trade union affiliation. I answered it as I did because from 1925 to 1934, as an employee of a large, open-shop, industrial plant, I learned by experience the deep necessity for workers to organize themselves into unions without the knowledge or interference of their employers.

¶ The second question had to do with my political affiliation. I answered this question as I did because I felt — and feel still — that it was ~~was~~ a direct attack upon the secrecy of the ballot, and hence upon the constitution itself.

¶ Since answering these questions I have ~~traveled~~ ~~three times across the continent to appear~~ ~~at this~~ ~~district court~~ ~~before the~~. I have been, at the demand of <sup>prohibiting</sup> this committee permanently banned from <sup>writing</sup> my profession as a screen writer <sup>anywhere</sup> in the United States of America. ~~and~~ I have now been summoned before this honorable court to hear sentence pronounced <sup>upon me</sup>.



P. ~~And~~ At this time, your honor, I find that I must declare to the court that I have searched my conscience deeply — and that I discover there no word or act or thought which departs in any degree from those obligations which citizenship imposes equally upon us all