

document or false report to influence public opinion in a manner likely to be prejudicial to the defence of the realm or the efficient prosecution of the war, -- So that deals with rumours quite apart from intent.

MR. CLAXTON: Perhaps I ought to refer to the section in the English Act to which Mr. Brewin would like to refer. It is 39 BA, on page 86, and reads as follows:

Subject as hereinafter provided, any person who publishes any report or statement relating to matters connected with the war which is likely to cause alarm or despondency shall be liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one month or to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds or to both such imprisonment and such fine:

Provided that a person shall not be convicted of an offence against this Regulation if he proves

- (a) that he had reasonable cause to believe that the report or statement was true; and
- (b) that the publication thereof was not malicious and ought fairly to be excused.

WITNESS: That is the proviso. We think the English one makes it intentional or likely, and this gives the proviso that cuts very much into that. We think in some way or other the same results would be achieved here so that you do not have so many barroom prosecutions. There is only one other point with regard to declaring a party illegal or an organization illegal that we should like to touch on. Whatever may have been done in the past we do not criticize that at all. We feel that there again the alternative procedure should be carried out but that executive action should be provided, enabling application to the court in cases the minister feels that that could be done, but