

BY MR. SLAGHT:

Q. Was your desire to get before this committee, which you started some weeks ago, part of the more favourable opportunity -- you may be entitled to that view because you are in trouble -- and if you got before this committee first and made your plea here you would be in better shape when you went before the tribunal? Was that the view? A. Well, no, because that would be imputing that I asked to come here solely for my own purpose, and I am not.

Q. I am not blaming you for it. A. There is an element of that there, it is true. I could not detach myself from that situation.

Q. What important element? It is interesting to us if the tribunal for $3\frac{1}{2}$ months had pushed you around as you first indicated. If that is the case we want to know it. Now I understand you to say that that is not true. A. Well, I have never been called by this tribunal to come before them and have never turned it down. All I know is that I have not been called to come before the tribunal since I was told that I was to come before it. Secondly, I was not anxious, frankly, to come until I felt, as many other men in the camp feel too, that had hearings pending, that maybe it was better to wait a little longer; but we had no control over the situation whatsoever to determine whether we will go or we will not go. We cannot decide that. It is up to the Department of Justice.

Q. Don't say it quite that way. You have a lawyer who has been in negotiation with this advisory committee. You told us a few moments ago that you decided that it was more advantageous for you to defer coming before the committee. That is correct, is it not? A. Yes, I decided that in my own mind.

Q. I do not think I care to probe into the strategy or otherwise of you and your lawyer. That is perfectly proper