

BY MR. SLAGHT:

Q. May I put this comment to you, Mr. Freed? A. Yes.

Q. In the May Day Manifesto of the Communist party, May Day, 1941, this appeared:

"If it is a lie that this is a war against communism, it is a lie the defeat of Germany by Britain and the Democracies will benefit the people; it is a cheap lie that we are fighting for democracy."

Then it continues this way:

"It is our duty as Canadian democrats to fight against our own ruling classes, to remove them from power, to take our destiny as free peoples into our own hands, to defeat big business and the grafters and the corrupt war politicians and to win an independent people's government. The fight lies in Canada against our own reactionaries who have gagged workers organizations, crushed their free press, interned and jailed their courageous leaders, against the corrupt financiers and industrialists who are using the opportunity the war affords them to fasten a Canadian fascist regime on the necks of the masses."

Now, when we tried to get recruits in May 1941, as late as that, long after Dunkirk, long after the European aspect of the war was gone and we knew that our backs were to the wall, Britain's and Canada's backs to the wall, that literature tells the young men of Canada the fight lies in Canada against our own reactionaries and it is a lie to say that the defeat of Germany by Canada and Britain will benefit the people. Can you justify that? A. Well, the only way I can justify it is that it grows out of the assumption of the character of the war. For example, Mr. Crerar makes a speech in the House of Commons and he says that some people say that this is an imperialist war. I am not quoting him exactly, but you