

taking part in it and the Communist party in New Zealand had prevented New Zealand from taking any part in it, and the Communist party of the United States had prevented the United States from taking any part in it? Would not the way have been clear now for Germany to drive into Russia without any assistance whatever from the outside world? That is the consequences of your action. A. Are not there two questions involved there? The first question that is involved is why certain actions were taken then and how past policy appears at the present time in view of subsequent events. But there are two different questions involved there; one involves the evaluation of past policy and putting it in the setting as it existed then, and then another matter to consider -- all this is history, as I said before, in view of the developments that have taken place; and I say very frankly, for myself at any rate, that I was mistaken in many assumptions that I have made. I am not speaking here for the Communist party; I do not know what their opinion is in this regard, but I have made mistakes.

Q. You say you cannot speak for the Communist party. Would it not be much better for the Communist party to say, "We have made those mistakes; we admit our policy in the past was wrong, and now we want to atone for that by doubling and redoubling our energy towards the war effort." You cannot make mistakes of that kind and take the position you were always infallible on every incident in the relation between nations that takes place on this matter, the policy the Communist party has adopted through the years. A. Well, of course, I cannot speak to that. I recall, for example, that we were not the only ones that characterized the war as an imperialist war.

Q. I quite agree. A. In the beginning, if I am not mistaken, I think the C.C.F. did the same.