

most of his line of argument to-day was in connection with the people who were interned should be let out because they could help in the war effort. He said that nevertheless the legalization of the Communist Party would help national unity in this country, although he also said, I believe, that even although it was not made legal, that these people who were free and who were in the same category as himself, would work as hard as they could for the war effort? A. Yes.

Q. I wonder if you would mind elaborating on that question as to the legality of the Communist Party?

Mr. COHEN: He means lifting the ban on the Communist Party.

WITNESS: I think the lifting of the ban on the Communist Party would release the energies of, I would say some fifteen thousand members probably or thereabouts. I am just taking a guess at that. I do not know the exact situation at the present time. Many others who were not members are sympathizers, what you might call supporters. They are men who could, if they were free, if they did not belong or continue to belong to any organization that is still illegal, were wholly and fully for the war effort. You would have a very anomalous situation if all the men interned in Hull jail were released for example, and others were not arrested. You might say that this would constitute a sort of difficulty of legality, if not de jure. But nevertheless it would still be an offense for anyone legally that remained a member of the Communist Party. The Communist Party would then either have to dissolve itself or -- I do not know what it could be. I think that if the ban was lifted, it would make it possible for a considerable constituency of public opinion in this country, particularly