

some of these committees are pretty well loaded up.

MR. SLAGHT: Do you think the witness may proceed now, sir?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

BY MR. MCKINNON:

Q. Before he does may I ask this question? You were a communist when you were picked up? A. That is right.

BY MR. BENCE:

Q. How long had you been a member of the Communist party? A. Since 1929.

BY MR. MCKINNON:

Q. You came to Canada in 1920? A. That is right.

Q. In 1929 you became a communist? A. That is right.

Q. You went to school in Canada, of course? A. That is correct, sir.

BY THE CHAIRMAN:

Q. Did you join the Communist party in Toronto or Montreal? A. The city of Montreal.

BY MR. MARTIN:

Q. Do you still regard yourself as a member of the Communist party, Mr. Freed? A. Well, that is very hard to say.

MR. SLAGHT: I do not think we should ask him that.

MR. MARTIN: Why? I asked the question.

WITNESS: I do not mind answering that question. I feel this way about it, all things stand quite differently at the present time and I might answer it this way: if I was released I would not be a member of the Communist party so long as it remained an illegal organization because I do not want to be identified with any illegal activity whatsoever.

MR. MacINNIS: I think we should try to refrain from asking the witness questions that are personal. That is