

Mr. CHAMBERS. I was born April 1, 1901, in Philadelphia.

Mr. STRIPLING. How long have you been associated with Time magazine?

Mr. CHAMBERS. Nine years.

Mr. STRIPLING. Prior to that time what was your occupation?

Mr. CHAMBERS. I was a member of the Communist Party and a paid functionary of the party.

Mr. STRIPLING. When did you first join the Communist Party?

Mr. CHAMBERS. 1924.

Mr. MUNDT. Mr. Chambers, people at the press table still feel they can't hear you. Will you please speak louder?

Mr. CHAMBERS. I will speak as loud as I can.

Mr. STRIPLING. Will you repeat when you joined the Communist Party?

Mr. CHAMBERS. I joined the Communist Party in 1924.

Mr. STRIPLING. How long did you remain a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. CHAMBERS. Until 1937.

Mr. STRIPLING. Where did you join the Communist Party?

Mr. CHAMBERS. In New York City.

Mr. STRIPLING. When did you disassociate yourself with the Communist Party?

Mr. CHAMBERS. I should like to read a statement if I may.

Mr. STRIPLING. A statement you have prepared yourself?

Mr. CHAMBERS. That I have myself prepared.

Mr. STRIPLING. I suggest the witness be permitted to read this. He has shown it to me.

Mr. MUNDT. I take it the statement you are about to read will indicate why you did disassociate yourself from the party?

Mr. CHAMBERS. I will try to do so.

Mr. RANKIN. And we will be permitted to question him after this statement?

Mr. MUNDT. Yes, sir.

You will be permitted to read it.

Mr. CHAMBERS. Almost exactly 9 years ago—that is, 2 days after Hitler and Stalin signed their pact—I went to Washington and reported to the authorities what I knew about the infiltration of the United States Government by Communists. For years international communism, of which the United States Communist Party is an integral part, had been in a state of undeclared war with this Republic. With the Hitler-Stalin pact, that war reached a new stage. I regarded my action in going to the Government as a simple act of war, like the shooting of an armed enemy in combat.

At that moment in history, I was one of the few men on this side of the battle who could perform this service.

I had joined the Communist Party in 1924. No one recruited me. I had become convinced that the society in which we live, western civilization, had reached a crisis, of which the First World War was the military expression, and that it was doomed to collapse or revert to barbarism. I did not understand the causes of the crisis or know what to do about it. But I felt that, as an intelligent man, I must do something. In the writings of Karl Marx I thought that I had found the explanation of the historical and economic causes. In the writ-