

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL - 2.



to foster friendship with the Soviets. So the individual of whom I am speaking (who must have depended on people high in government for information and judgment) could very easily and very honestly have said many things that today would indicate or imply an unjustified support of Communism.

I assume, then, that any American could have been excused for statements or actions favorable to the Soviets during the war and even as late as 1948.

But I also believe that anyone who, after the blockade of Berlin began, (or some other equally revealing incident), continued to speak in support of the Soviets or in terms of sympathy for them, is either very stupid or very dangerous.

All this points up to this one thing -- the finding of some formula that could be applied to cases of individuals who have never been Communists, but who did in earlier years speak favorably of the Soviets, and who now, as teachers, preachers, professional people of all sorts, or workers in non-sensitive positions of government, may feel themselves under suspicion and are consequently living in doubt and fear.

So the original question to which I sought an answer was, "Could we not choose some specific act of the Soviets that left no doubt as to their intentions with respect to the free world, and let that moment of time normally be decisive in forming current judgments as to the real leanings, sympathies, and thinking of an American who has during his lifetime shown some sympathy for these leftist or Communist causes?"

I realize that a thing like this is very difficult to answer in specific fashion and with a categorical "Yes" or "No". I also know that no "formula" could be considered infallible. But I am sending you here-with my little file on this subject, with the request that you and Mr. Hoover look it over once more, with the thought that some day soon the three of us might have lunch together and chat over the whole thing.