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THIS last phrase very aptly describes the Communist Party  
Dissolution Act, which attacks the fundamental principles  
of democracy and paves the way to a fascist, police state  
regime in Australia.

The Democratic Rights Council seeks co-operation and  
unity with individuals and organisations who are prepared to  
fight for the repeal of the Act.

We believe that the Menzies Government is endeavouring  
to silence all the voices raised in opposition to its policy of  
preparing to involve our country in another world war.

We believe also that the powerful opposition of an en-  
lightened and organised people is sufficient to frustrate these  
plans. Our energies are directed to this end — your parti-  
cipation is invited...

To repeal this infamous Act.

To safeguard peace and progress.

To extend democratic liberty.

Authorised by R. Clarke, 4 Dougherty Street, Mascot for Democratic  
Rights Council, 1st Floor, 188 George Street, Sydney.

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**You Can Be Shot  
On Suspicion**

**If High Court Upholds  
Anti-Communist Act**

**Demand the repeal of the Anti-Democratic  
Communist Party Dissolution Act**

**If the High Court of Australia upholds Menzies' Communist Party Dissolution Act it means that Parliament has full power to pass drastic laws under which Australian citizens may:—**

- Be shot down in the street by any policeman who merely suspects that they are spies.
- Have their tongues torn out to prevent them from criticising the Government.
- Be branded on the hand in a similar manner to concentration camp victims in Nazi Germany.

This is no exaggeration, as the following extracts from the official record of proceedings in the High Court proves:

MR. BARWICK, K.C. (appearing for the Menzies Government):

"... in the case of conduct prejudicial to defence it is not the fact that the man is actually a spy that allows you to make a law about him: the topic is spying. You want to make a law about spying so you say, 'Such persons as the Governor-General is satisfied are engaged in espionage will be dealt with'."

MR. JUSTICE WILLIAMS:

"... Your argument is that a person is suspected of being a spy in Australia, he can be shot on sight by a policeman?"

MR. BARWICK, K.C.:

"If there is a law about spying the consequences which Parliament provides will make no difference. I should think there would be nothing to cavil about if Parliament passed such a law. The Court is not to decide whether it is too much or too little."

MR. JUSTICE WILLIAMS:

"The Court has to decide whether there is a reasonable connection with defence."

MR. BARWICK, K.C.:

"Parliament says the war is in Europe and that the law is that persons suspected of spying in Australia will be shot by the first police officer who catches them spying."

MR. JUSTICE DIXON:

**"Or their wives or their children."**

CHIEF JUSTICE LATHAM:

"I presume you would say that under Section 70 (Crimes Act) if the Governor-General was of the opinion that a Commonwealth officer had wrongly disclosed official secrets he might dismiss him on his opinion."

MR. BARWICK, K.C.:

"Quite, Your Honour."

MR. JUSTICE DIXON:

"You cannot have punishment but you can have anything which is preventive?"

MR. BARWICK, K.C.:

"Yes."

MR. JUSTICE WILLIAMS:

"You can remove his tongue to stop him speaking against you?"

MR. BARWICK, K.C.:

"I have not considered what sort of things you could do but Your Honour puts the extreme case — our standards are a little different. If, say, in Tudor days Parliament had passed a law to remove a man's tongue as a preventive measure, it would have been very difficult for a High Court in Tudor days to say that that was wrong. It is only because our general standards have passed away from these things, but if Parliament were to revert it would not be a function of the Court to take over Parliamentary duty."

CHIEF JUSTICE LATHAM:

"It would still be in the power of a Legislature which was a Legislature to provide a punishment of branding on hands?"

MR. BARWICK, K.C.:

"Yes, Your Honour."

MR. JUSTICE KITTO:

"Then the next logical step is to go to Section 9 (2) of the present Act and alter that to read that where the Governor-General is satisfied that a person is likely to engage in activities prejudicial to the execution and maintenance of the Constitution the Governor-General may place him in detention and keep him there so long as that propensity remains. THAT IS WIDE OPEN TO THE TOTALITARIAN STATE."