

[Senator Joe McCarthy: Audio Excerpts, 1950-1954](#)

Excerpt Title: Denunciation of *Capital Times* newspaper, 1950

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Audience: Wisconsin Federation of Young Republicans

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TRANSCRIPT OF EXCERPT

Senator McCarthy speaking:

Just one other thing before I close. One of the newsmen asked me whether or not I would -- and I'll make this brief because we've taken up a lot of your time -- whether I wouldn't discuss a matter which I consider of tremendous concern to the people of Wisconsin. That is, the extent to which one of your papers in Madison, the *Capital Times*, has been following the communist party line. Keep in mind that the number one aim, the number one aim, of the communists -- the official aim -- is to try and either directly or indirectly gain control of the lines of communication. Incidentally, Mr. Budenz is now preparing for the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Justice Department a list of those in Hollywood, in radio work, and in newspapers, who have been used to the greatest extent by the communist party. That's being prepared for the Justice Department and the FBI. The heads of, I believe, every intelligence agency we have, have stated repeatedly that the number one aim is to get control of a paper, a paper which has had a reputation of being just a good liberal newspaper. Especially so in college towns.

Now I have pointed out on the senate floor, I pointed out in Madison, both on and of the floor - - and this is off the floor -- that the city editor of the *Capital Times*, according to the sworn testimony of two former communists, the city editor Mr. Parker joined the party in 1945 and was an active member thereof. I pointed out that Mr. Parker was a, he wasn't a sponsor or promoter -- I forget which their word was -- of a meeting promoted in Wisconsin by a Mr. Dennis. Mr. Dennis you'll recall was one of the eleven communists who was recently convicted.

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I pointed out that Mr. Evjue himself in 1941, on his own paper, said Mr. Parker is Madison's leading communist. That's what Mr. Evjue said. Now I don't think we should convict anyone of course on Evjue's testimony. [Audience laughter and applause] Mr. Parker subsequently, in 1947, and in the *Capital Times*, made answer -- that was seven years later -- made answer, said now my answer to that is that I am filing the noncommunist affidavits. He pointed out that if he filed a false affidavit he would be guilty of perjury, of course, and would be subject to I think its 10,000 dollars and up to I don't know how many years. And he said therefore this proves I am not a communist. This is the answer to it. And Mr. Evjue ran that in the front of this paper. However, I checked with the National Labor Relations Board to find out whether this was true or not, and they said, "No this isn't true." Mr. Parker never filed that affidavit. Now so that Mr. Evjue has been suggesting that if I would properly describe his paper in public that immediately a libel action would be commenced.

Now I want to try and properly describe it now. [Audience applause] And I might say, if he does start -- if Evjue and Parker start that libel action -- I want to invite you all to be present for the adverse examination which I myself will conduct of them. [Audience applause] Incidentally, when the newsmen asked Mr. Parker whether or not he had been a communist at the time of the testimony that I pointed out, his answer was, "On the advice of my lawyer, I refuse to answer that question." If they start a lawsuit, however, I've got the right to put them under oath, and there won't be that type of refusal.

The *Capital Times* in my opinion -- this isn't made lightly -- I hadn't planned on going into this at this time, but Mr. Evjue has been called down to Washington to act as Mr. Truman's advisor. He's been down there twice in the last couple of weeks. In view of that, I believe that people are entitled to know just something about this paper the *Capital Times*. The *Capital Times*, from a close comparison with that and the *Daily Worker*, in my opinion, does a more effective job of spewing forth -- into the homes of the subscribers -- the communist party line sewage, a better job than any other paper I know outside of the *New Masses* and the *Daily Worker*. And if anybody on that paper cares to sue on that statement, I'll be glad to accept the subpoena.