



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

Excerpt Title: Definition of "McCarthyism", 1951

Date of recording: 1951

Audience: Panel discussion with journalists

Location: Unknown

Excerpt Identifier: JRM_1951_Panel discussion_excpt1.wav

TRANSCRIPT OF EXCERPT

Bill Henry: I'd like to have you tell me what McCarthyism is? [Audience laughter and applause]

Senator McCarthy: Well, I tell you, I didn't originate the phrase. The phrase was first used in the Communist *Daily Worker*. [Audience laughter] The *New York Post* used it next I believe. Owen Lattimore used it about the time the *Daily Worker* used it. They originated it – I'm afraid they'll have to define it for you. To them it's something vile and foul – it's digging out their good pals out of government.

Bill Henry: Do you feel any embarrassment that people are using your name as an epithet?

Senator McCarthy: Well, they aren't all using it as an epithet, Bill. I often think of what I heard one of my friends say when this campaign started. He said "By their yelps, ye shall know them." [Audience laughter]