



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

Excerpt Title: Names on Wheeling List, 1951

Date of recording: 1951

Audience: Panel discussion with journalists

Location: Unknown

Excerpt Identifier: JRM_1951_Panel discussion_excpt2.wav

TRANSCRIPT OF EXCERPT

Senator McCarthy: Say Alex, can I do something?

Moderator: Yes

Senator McCarthy: Can I answer one question that wasn't asked, one that I was sure would be asked? I was sure somebody would ask why the figure was changed from 205 to 57. Isn't that a question a lot of you wanted to ask?

Moderator: Perhaps that's what he had in his mind over here, whoever this is.

Senator McCarthy: I know that some of these young men were threatening me they were going to ask that before they came in. I want to give them a chance to have an answer. I think they're entitled to have that answer. The first public statement on the communists in the State Department was made at Wheeling, West Virginia. At that time we gave the audience, read to them, the excerpts from Secretary of State Byrnes's letter --Secretary of State Byrnes, the one I

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mentioned a short time ago -- in which he said that the president's own loyalty board found 284 unfit for service. He said we only discharged 79. That letter was put in the *Congressional Record* by Congressman Sabath. And we, at that time, called upon the president and secretary of state to tell us who the 205 were and why they were kept on. At that time we said we can give you the names of 57, Mr. President. We can't give you the 205; we can give you 57, and we'll give you those. That was done over the radio that night, by wire to the president the next morning.

Then Millard Tydings subsequently, and this will just take a minute [Audience commotion] -- if you young men in the back of the room will bear with me this will just take a minute -- Millard Tydings subsequently, subsequently -- some people here want to hear -- Millard Tydings subsequently went on the senate floor and he said I can prove that McCarthy is a liar on this question of whether it's 205 or 57. He said, "I have a recording here which I will play." Well, it wasn't played -- he said, "I'll play it in my office for the newsmen." Well that then became a pretty important subject. It was a question of whether McCarthy was a liar or Tydings was a liar. And one of us, of course, was a very degenerate type of liar -- no question about it. One of us deliberately lied to the senate. So a week later I got on the senate floor and I said now here's one way to prove to the country whose worthy of belief. I said we can't force, we can't force Millard to play that recording which shows that McCarthy lied and changed his story, but I'm sure the newspapers can force him to play it if they call at his office everyday and say Millard we want to find out what a liar this man McCarthy is. And a number of the press called upon him every day for about ten days until they got sick of it. But strangely enough, that recording was never played -- all during the campaign it was referred to -- but up to this time it hasn't been played. That will give you some picture of this numbers game they've been playing about 205 and 57.

Moderator: Well thank you very much Senator.

[Audience applause]