

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

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TRANSCRIPT OF EXCERPT

Senator McCarthy speaking:

One of the individuals whose case I gave to the unlamented Tydings Committee – and little Millard is with us no longer [Audience laughter and applause] – was the case of Lawrence K. Rosinger. Now I said, “Gentlemen, give this case priority because here’s a man, here’s a man who was doing the advising, the planning for the roving Ambassador Philip Jessup before he started to rove.” [Audience laughter] I said, “Give him some attention.”

Well, the State Department issued a press release, and they said, “Oh isn’t this McCarthyism a nasty thing.” [Audience laughter] They said, “Look at this great, great scholar, this great advisor of ours being smeared by McCarthy.” And they said, “His smearing of Rosinger makes it difficult for us to get other great Americans,” -- like Rosinger I assume – “to get other great Americans to serve in the State Department.” To that I said, “Amen, gentlemen, amen.” [Audience laughter]

And Rosinger issued a statement saying, “McCarthy, of course, is one of the most degenerate liars I’ve ever heard of.” He said, “I was never a communist. I was never sympathetic to the communist cause.” And he said, “McCarthy of course is helping communism by disrupting this nation.”

Well I begged, I begged the Tydings Committee at that time -- I said, “Gentlemen, call this man before you. Put him under oath.” And I said, “Let me cross-examine him.” I said, “No one need fear McCarthy’s cross-examination or anyone else’s cross-examination, if he’s telling the truth.”

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And I said, "Put him under oath, let me cross-examine him. He will either indict himself or perjure himself." And they said, "Oh no, no, he's been cleared by the State Department loyalty board, [Audience laughter] and we're not going to indulge in McCarthyism."

And I suggest that those of you in this audience -- especially those of you who have sons, husbands, or brothers in Korea -- that you attend to this well and remember it long. Here is the picture, here is the picture leading up to Korea.

Well, finally Pat McCarran, a Democrat -- but one of the grand old men of the Senate -- took over a committee, and it wasn't the Tydings Committee. He took over a committee, and he called Rosinger, and for the benefit of the press -- the date January 29 of this year, page 2975 of the testimony. Listen to this: here's the planner, here's one of the planners on your payroll.

Question: "Mr. Rosinger, were you a member of the Communist Party?"

Answer: "I respectfully decline to answer, relying on the Constitutional privilege of the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States."

And Senator Ferguson said to him, he said, "But Mr. Rosinger, in view of the fact that you were the State Department expert" -- and you've also got one here in Montana [Audience laughter and applause] -- he said, "In view of the fact that you are the State Department expert," he said, "don't you think, don't you think the American people are entitled to know whether you admit or deny that you are a member of the Communist Party?"

Answer: "Mr. Senator, I can only stand on the position that I have taken. I refuse to answer."

Ferguson: "And you refuse to answer that question, Mr. Rosinger, on the ground that, if you did, it would incriminate you?"

Answer: "Yes, Mr. Senator."

Then he was asked, he was asked about his association with Julian Wadleigh -- the confessed spy -- Alger Hiss, Frederick Field -- the self-proclaimed communist -- Owen Lattimore, and with Barnett, who is in the State Department as of tonight. Answer always the same: "I refuse to answer because if I told the truth, it might incriminate me."

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Will you get that off the stand? [Audience laughter] I like them but not when I'm speaking. It puts me too much in mind of striped animal we have in Washington [Audience laughter and applause]

So then the committee put into the record the wire, the wire from the Great Red Dean of Fashion, Acheson, to Rosinger, page 2979. He said, "Mr. Rosinger, I am inviting a few persons interested in American foreign policy, American foreign policy toward China, to attend a highly confidential meeting in the State Department. Our purpose is to develop an American foreign policy in this area. Your participation, Mr. Rosinger, would make a real contribution. The State Department will pay your travel and per diem. Please write or telegraph." Signed Dean Acheson, Secretary of State.

Well, the committee was rather curious to know what happened before some of those State Department sponsored conferences. So they asked this man Rosinger, page 3029. "Mr. Rosinger, was there a communist caucus preceding the conference?" In other words, did the communists get together? Did they decide what they wanted to get from this State Department sponsored meeting? Was there a communist caucus preceding the conference?

Mr Rosinger says, "I respectfully decline to answer on the ground that my answer might incriminate me." And they say, "Oh McCarthy you're too rough with them." [Audience laughter]

Well, question – was this man, was this man important in the State Department or not? Now when they have one of these conferences they -- and they always try to invite some good Americans as window-dressing, they always invite a few good Americans. At one of these conferences, the one preceding Jessup's disastrous trip to Asia, they invited Professor Colgrove of Northwestern University -- an outstanding American, a great authority on China. They invited Harold Stassen also -- another great American. And they asked Colgrove, they said "Mr. Colgrove, who was the leader at the conference insofar as determining American foreign policy?

The answer: "Mr. Owen Lattimore and Mr. Lawrence K. Rosinger."