

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

Excerpt Title: Denunciation of Stevenson campaign slogan, 1952

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Audience: Young Republicans

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TRANSCRIPT OF EXCERPT

Senator McCarthy speaking:

I would like to, if I may, discuss one of the campaign slogans which you'll hear over and over and over, like a broken record between now and November 4th. You'll hear the party in power, and I don't call them the Democrat Party, my friends --I think it's an insult to any loyal American who has long voted the Democrat ticket to call that motley crowd in Washington the Democrat Party. [Audience applause] It is not the Democrat Party. It should be properly labeled as the Commiecrat Party. [Audience applause and laughter].

Well I read in the paper the other day that Alger Steve- -- uh, Adlai Stevenson [Audience laughter], Adlai Stevenson and Truman's two puppeteers were out here the other day, and they were echoing the old slogan: you must vote for this corrupt power because "You Ain't Ever Had It So Good." Rather effective too -- rather clever. You'll hear that over and over and over: you must vote and keep this present corrupt party in power because "You Ain't Ever Had It So Good." Let's examine that if we may. And Adlai made the statement -- he said this, of course, isn't wartime prosperity. Well let's examine that.

In April of 1950, the CIO -- and that isn't exactly a Republican organization you understand [Audience laughter] -- the CIO issued an estimate on the number of unemployed at that time. Keep in mind the date -- April of 1950. They estimated four million Americans unemployed and six million partially unemployed. Do you get the picture? Ten million men, either completely or partially unemployed. Of course, that affects more than those men who are out of a job. It affects more than them and their wives. It affects the farmers. It affects the businessman, the

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white collar worker. And if there are ten million people in this country who are entirely or partially unemployed, that means we're heading into a Depression my good friends.

Well what happened? What happened? Shortly before that time, the Great Red Dean of Fashion – Acheson – had said that we would not defend Formosa if it were attacked: an engraved invitation, of course, to the communists to move in. They moved in. So two months after that CIO report of ten million unemployed, two months after that, the Korean War started, and of course the ten million were then employed. And they say oh, but "You Ain't Ever Had It So Good."

Now I was in Bethesda Naval Hospital during the Democrat convention in Chicago. And I watched part of it on the television show, although I was having trouble with my stomach and I couldn't watch all of it. [Audience laughter and applause]

I watched part of it and I heard them singing two songs, one by the officeholders -- a great number of them of course -- their song was "Don't Let Them Take It Away." And the other song, "Happy Days are Here Again – the sky is bright again," while they were echoing "You Ain't Ever Had It So Good." You know, my good friends, that made me sick. It made me sick way down deep inside, because the day they were singing that song, "Happy Days Are Here Again,"-- when they were giving speeches saying "You Ain't Ever Had It So Good" -- 208 American boys were killed in Korea. And since that war -- which is not a war -- since that war started in Korea, we've consecrated the hills and valleys of Korea with approximately the blood of 120,000 American boys.

Well, I haven't -- I'm not too old a man myself yet, not in years anyway, and I've lived through three wars. I've lived through three Democrat administrations, too. [Audience laughter] Each one has had their war. You had World War One, World War Two, and World War Two-and-a-Half. This World War Two-and-a-Half -- a war which is not a war -- a war which we can't afford to win, because we might make Communist Russia mad. And that was the sworn testimony before the Russell Committee. As one of the young Marines over in Korea wrote me, he said "We can't afford to win, we can't afford to lose. All we can do is die." Well my good friends, when you hear those cheap, petty politicians out urging that you keep them at the political trough because "You Ain't Ever Had It So Good," I suggest you ask them the question, ask them how can you, how can you separate the jobs from the bodies?