

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

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TRANSCRIPT OF EXCERPT

Senator McCarthy speaking:

As I, as I see this picture develop over the past six years, I often think of another experience I had out in the islands, one which I've recited to some of my friends before, one which I will recite many times in the future, because I think just a few words a chaplain out there, who was about to die, perhaps put his finger on the answer to the problem. We had been leap frogging northward through the islands in an attempt to bring the strong Jap bases at Rabaul and New Ireland within dive and torpedo bombing range. That was our main objective. Well, we finally got air bases on Bougainville. The Army had bases over in New Guinea. The Marine fighters had some up on Rendova Island. So we were all set to move in together.

I recall this particular morning, before daylight, we were gathered in the ready tent -- oh, about half as large as this room -- all the pilots and gunners of the dive and torpedo bombers. And after the briefing had been completed -- after each section, each division, each squadron knew where they were to go, what they were to do -- my commanding officer, Major Munn, stood up, and he said to the chaplain, he said, "Chaplain, we know that a lot of these young men are going to die today." He said, "I thought you might have a few words to say to them." The chaplain said, "Yes Major I have a very few words." And that chaplain was killed that day also. He was pinch hitting for a rear seat gunner and killed off Buka Passage, and I assume his body is on the floor of the Pacific out there now. And I think every, every pilot, every gunner who was in that ready tent will remember -- as all those who still live will remember -- the words of that chaplain verbatim as long as they live. Here's what he said: he said, "If you young men,

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regardless of whether you're killed in the next six or seven hours or whether you live for another forty or fifty years," -- he said, "if you will remember two fundamental truths -- two fundamental truths taught by every religious group, by every religious sect, since the beginning of time." He said, "If you will remember, number one, that there is a God who is eternal and, number two, that each of you has a soul that is immortal." He said, "Then you'll do an outstanding job, not only for your self, but also for your country, regardless of whether it's for six hours or sixty years."

And ladies and gentlemen, I've often thought, that if only, if only those of us whom you send to Washington -- Democrats and Republicans alike -- if only we could keep in mind the words spoken by that chaplain who was about to die, to those young men who were about to die, then instead of the double-crossing, the double-dealing, the attempted sellout to gain some temporary, imaginary political advantage -- instead of that -- you the American people could hope, could hope that both of America's two great political parties would realize, even at this late date, how rapidly the sands in the hourglass of time are running out -- realize that, as of tonight, we are winning a war, winning it -- I beg your pardon -- losing a war, losing it deliberately and disgracefully, losing it at the tune of American blood which will continue over the weeks and months ahead -- you could hope, you could hope, if we could keep in mind the words of that chaplain, that maybe, that maybe then both parties would join hands and do what is still possible my good friends -- what is still possible but will not be possible for too long. And that is set about the task of creating a decent, peaceful world in which the rights of all men could be respected.