

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

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TRANSCRIPT OF EXCERPT

Senator McCarthy speaking:

Now one of the things that I would like to help lay to rest today, if I could, for the benefit especially of the American Public, is the old cry, "Don't have congressional committees investigate communists. Let's let the FBI do it." You've heard that used over and over and over. Even senators on the floor of the United States Senate get up and either have the lack of knowledge or the dishonesty of saying, "Let the communists alone. Let's leave it up to the FBI."

Well, I think I'd to call upon a great witness, if I may, to help lay to rest that false claim -- one of the greatest Americans that's been my good fortune to have ever known J. Edgar Hoover. Hoover was testifying before a congressional committee -- and for any of you who care for a copy of the hearings: March 27, '47, Un-American Activities Committee. He was asked the question, "Why so many communists in government when you have such an efficient FBI?"

On page 41 of the hearings, he said, after first explaining, explaining that the FBI had no power to hire or fire anyone -- Incidentally, can you hear me back there alright? Am I speaking too loud or too softly? Louder? Okay, good. I've got a good hog-calling voice, and I can -- J. Edgar Hoover, in testifying before the committee, had this to say. He said, "Here's an example of why the FBI cannot get communists out of government." He said, "Take the case of Doxey Wilkerson." For the benefit of the press, D-o-x-e-y W-i-l-k-e-r-s-o-n, page 41 of the hearings. He says, "Our investigations and recorded interviews," and he goes on to show that their reports showed this man was a communist. He said, "We gave that complete report to the Federal Security Agency." And he said, "What did they do?" He said they said, "Oh, but we

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don't believe it. Wilkerson says he's not a communist." And he goes on to say this: He says, "Finally Wilkerson resigned. Within less than 24 hours," -- I'm quoting Hoover -- "within less than 24 hours, he announced his new job as a Communist Party organizer. He was subsequently appointed a member of the National Committee of the Communist Party. To be eligible for service on the National Committee, he must have been a member of the Communist Party, in good standing, for at least four years."

And I suggest that when -- thank you very much -- I suggest that when you hear, when you hear the bleeding hearts cry, "Congressional committees should not do this! Let the FBI do it," you remember this testimony of J. Edgar Hoover.