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TRANSCRIPT OF EXCERPT

Senator McCarthy speaking:

Let's first compare the testimony of two witnesses who appeared before our committee. As far apart as the poles insofar as loyalty is concerned. As far apart as the poles insofar as devotion to duty is concerned.

We had before us a Sergeant Weinell. Sergeant Weinell -- with sixty of his friends -- battled their way into Taejon in Korea. They were overrun because of shortage of ammunition, lack of equipment. After 14 days, the number was not sixty. At the end of 14 days, the number was forty-two. The other eighteen were dead. As of the day this Sergeant testified before our committee, a few short weeks ago, the number was not forty-two, the number was one.

Well what happened to the other forty-one? He describes it very well. He says, "On the 14th night the communists came in. First they took out the South Koreans." He said, "They wired their hands behind their backs. And a few minutes after each group left the prison barricade, we would hear a volley of shooting. They would come back and take out a new group." He said, "Finally, it became the turn of the Americans." He said, "Those of us who could walk had our hands wired behind our backs," and he said, "Here, Senators, are the scars on my wrists. Those who could not walk were carried out and thrown in the ditch and machine gunned." He said, "Those who could walk were forced to go out and kneel in the ditch. We were machine-gunned from behind." He said, "I was shot in the neck, in the shoulder, in the hand and the foot." He said, "I was dragged face downward into the mud of that communist slaughterhouse by a murdered GI friend of mine who was wired to my left wrist." He said, "Another murdered

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American fell across my legs and pinned me down.” He said, “Still I knew what was going on.” He said, “Then graders shoved the muck over us.” He said, “I became frantic, realizing I was being buried alive,” but he said, “Luckily, only about a foot of mud and muck was over my head, and I could breathe through it by moving.” He said, “Finally, after some fifty-two hours,” he said, “the Americans overran the position.” He said, “I was rescued -- one of the other forty-one was still living, but he died two hours later.”

Now listen to this. He said, “Senators, the thing that made me proud to be an American, the thing that convinced me that my nation would live for all time to come was the fact that, of my forty-one friends, not a single one cracked, not a single one begged for mercy, not a single one offered to throw their lot in with the communist conspiracy. [Audience applause]

So that’s one end of the spectrum. A few weeks later, a week ago last Saturday -- keep in mind this was not 10 years ago or 5 years ago or 1 year ago. This was about 10 days ago. A Major Irving Peress -- for the benefit of the press that’s spelled P-e-r-e-s-s -- the date January 30, 1954. He was called before the committee. Now there is nothing secret about his case you understand. All of the information which we have had been gathered by the FBI, had been turned over to the Army. I think this is an excellent answer to those who will say, “Oh let the FBI do it.” Here you have a picture where Hoover’s organization, the greatest in Washington, turned over all the information to the military.

So last year August – remember that date if you will – August of 1953, this man Peress was given a questionnaire. The questionnaire asked him substantially the same questions that we asked him under oath a week ago Saturday -- all having to do with his communist activities. The answer: I refuse to answer, dash Fifth Amendment. That was August. In November he was promoted from captain to major.

Well, he was before our committee, as I say, a week ago Saturday. We asked him a number of questions. Let me just give them to you. Incidentally, he had been ordered to duty at Yokohama and, as many other men, didn’t want to leave the States. So when he got to the port of debarkation he asked to have his orders changed on the ground that his wife and daughter had been visiting a psychiatrist -- whose name he couldn’t even remember.

And I said to him – page 104 – “Did any communists help get your orders changed so you would not have to leave the country?”

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Answer: "I refuse to answer on the grounds of self-incrimination."

Question: "Now, Major, you are a graduate of the Leadership Training course of the Inward Victory Club of the Communist Party. Is not that correct?"

Answer: "I decline to answer that question on the grounds the answer might tend to incriminate me."

Question: "Did you attend courses where there was talked the overthrow of this government by force and violence?"

Answer: "I claim the Fifth Amendment."

And I said to him, I said, "Major, you are claiming the Fifth Amendment before this committee. As you know, the communist conspiracy advocates the destruction of our Constitution, including the Fifth Amendment, upon which you rely. Do you go along with the Communist Party in that program or would you like to retain the Fifth Amendment if they are successful?"

Answer: "I refuse to answer, Mr. Senator, on the grounds of self-incrimination." [Audience laughter]

And I said to him, I said, "Now, Major, you understand that you are here in executive session today. You've been accused of the most serious wrongdoing. You've been accused of having had communist classes, communist meetings in your home, that you recruited and actually formed a communist cell at Camp Kilmer in New Jersey, that you are a graduate of a communist leadership school, that communists were active in getting your promotion." I said, "The reason you're called in executive session, Major, is so that you will know what the charges are and so that, if they are wrong, you may deny them -- if the witnesses against you have been lying, that you may ask us to call other witnesses in your behalf, before you are called in public session." I said, "Major, now tell us, were you guilty of all the wrongdoing that I have just recited?" And I said, "May I advise you, of course, that if you are a part of the communist conspiracy, then obviously you will have to take advantage of the Fifth Amendment. But if you were not, then tell us all."

Answer: "I still stand on my previous answers, Mr. Senator."