

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

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TRANSCRIPT OF EXCERPT

Senator McCarthy speaking:

For a number of years, for a number of years now, I have been looking into communist infiltration into hydrogen and atomic bomb installations. It's too late, it's too late to be concerned with the past gifts of atomic and hydrogen bomb secrets to our enemy. As of today there is no such thing, my good friends, there is no such thing as a hydrogen or atomic bomb secret from the communists. But I am concerned about the future. As you know, we are actually in the Model T -- the "Model T" era -- in the development of nuclear weapons, and one of the most important fights now is to close the gate, close the gate not because of past treason, but to guard against future treason.

As you know we've been digging out Fifth Amendment communists who were handling secret defense work, top secret radar material, practically from within the walls of the Pentagon itself. We got some degree of cooperation. We got some degree of cooperation while we were digging out individual communists. It was only, it was only when we wanted to get the names and have the American people see the faces of those, who over the last five, ten, twenty years, invited communists into government and protected and promoted them. It was only then that all-out attacks upon the staff of the committee were made. In other words, do you follow that my good friends? As we dug out the individual communists -- not too much concern, considerable cooperation. But when we started to look for the key -- to let the American people see the names, see the faces of those who countenance that over the past five, ten, twenty years -- that's, that's when everything broke loose.