



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

Excerpt Title: Relationship with Eisenhower and GOP, 1954

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### TRANSCRIPT OF EXCERPT

Senator McCarthy speaking:

I know, I know that there are those who will say, "Oh McCarthy you are attacking Eisenhower when you attack our policies." I know we've got many Democrats, many good Republicans in this audience. May I say that I, I uh feel that Eisenhower has done a good job. [Audience laughter]

But, but I have the same oath, I must take the same, I must take the same oath as a senator as the president takes. Must take the oath to defend this country against all enemies foreign and domestic, and I campaigned -- may I say to my Democrat friends in this audience -- I campaigned to the Democrats from coast to coast in the last election. I asked them to elect us, put us in power. I said if you do that, we will not cover up, we will not place party above country.

Unfortunately I find that some of my good friends in my own party have forgotten that promise that we made, and that we're going back to the old days of the Tydings and the Bentons. May I say to you, ladies and gentlemen, I am not attacking President Eisenhower. But when we make a mistake, when the Republican Party makes a mistake -- and we are making a serious mistake, giving money to our allies who in turn are giving aid to the enemy, who in turn is holding American boys in blood-stained dungeons -- when my party makes a mistake, then I have no choice but to either resign from the senate or tell the American people what I think that mistake is. And I want to assure you that -- while it may be painful [Audience applause], I want to tell you that it is rather painful at times, it's painful at times to discuss the details of where



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we have failed to fulfill our promises to you, the American people -- my oath of office gives me no choice but to discuss them, regardless of whether it may hurt my party and may hurt me personally.

I subscribe to the theory, I subscribe to the theory that the best politics is no politics, and that once you, the American people, in this audience -- I don't know how many Democrats, how many Republicans you have here, I assume it's about fifty-fifty -- I am on your payroll. The people of Pennsylvania pay me the same as the people of Wisconsin. Every one of the ninety-six senators is on your payroll. And we must represent you regardless of whether that representation may hurt the Democrat or the Republican Party.