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TRANSCRIPT OF EXCERPT

Senator McCarthy speaking:

I'd like to give some picture of how difficult it is to dig out traitors, communists, and their dupes, even under a friendly administration. I'm not going to read to you testimony that's ten or fifteen years old, although some of that testimony is very pertinent today.

But first I'd like to read to you a few lines from the testimony of a man we had before our committee on August 9th, 1953. He's an individual called Rothschild who is in the Government Printing Office. Well, many of you will think that the Government Printing Office is not important -- they merely print the dull speeches of senators and congressmen. That, of course, is not true. The Government Printing Office prints all of the secret -- I shouldn't say all of it, but a vast amount -- of the secret, top secret, confidential material of the Air Corps, the Navy, the Army, Secret Service, the White House, the State Department, all up and down the line. So that if you have, if you have a communist spy in that Printing Office with access to that material, he can do as much damage as though you had one spy in each department of the federal government. Well we had this man Rothschild before us, and for the benefit of the press, in case you're interested in the page, page 369 of the testimony.

Question: "Mr. Rothschild, is it true that you have access to secret and confidential material?"

Answer: "Yes."

Question: "Up until today?"

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Answer: "Up until this moment."

I wonder if any of you have a picture in your mind of what we're talking about when we talk about top secret and secret material. There is no one in this room, there is no one in this room -- including a United States senator -- who has access to top secret material. To give a man access to top secret material is entrusting him with the life and death of this nation.

Let me give you the definition of that if I may -- the military definition. Top secret information is "information and material, the security aspect of which is paramount, and the unauthorized disclosure of which would cause exceptionally grave damage to the nation." And it goes on to say the top secret category is reserved for "information which in and of itself, if disclosed, would reasonably be expected to lead ultimately to one or more of the following results, including the loss of a war."

Well, we had this man with access to top secret material, and of course we didn't pick his name out of a hat you understand. [Audience laughter]

We asked him the question, "Mr. Rothschild, have you been engaged in espionage?" He's a man with -- handling your secrets, my good friends, "Have you been engaged in espionage?" "I refuse to answer on the ground my answer might tend to incriminate me."

Question: "Mr. Rothschild, a week ago Sunday at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, were you in a meeting with individuals known to you to be espionage agents, and did you turn government secrets over to them?"

Answer: "I refuse to answer on the ground my answer might tend to incriminate me."

Question: "We have testimony, Mr. Rothschild, to the effect that you stole secret documents from the Government Printing Office, that among other things you stole a secret code book and took it away from the GPO. What is your answer to that?"

Answer: "Under the Fifth Amendment I still refuse to answer that question."

Question: "Mr. Rothschild, you've been accused of the most serious crimes of which a man could be accused, crimes involving espionage. You are here today under oath. If you have not been guilty of espionage, you can merely say no. If you have of course, obviously you should

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refuse to answer for your own protection. Do you want to now deny that you've been stealing the secrets with which you were entrusted?"

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

Well now, it's important, my good friends, to dig out these individuals, but infinitely more important is to find out how they got in there. Just to have a counting machine to count them as they go out doesn't mean much. We've got to try and figure out how to keep them from coming in the other door. Well, we were curious about this, so we called before us the loyalty board – if you can call it that – of the old administration. And this loyalty board was still operating as of August 9, 1953, the day we called them. Mr. Blattenberger, however, the new head of the Printing Office promptly kicked them off that loyalty board after they testified and established a new board, of which he should get credit.

Oh, incidentally, we asked Mr. – I didn't have this party of the testimony here – we asked Rothschild, "Are you going back to work at 4 o'clock this afternoon? Will you be handling secret material at 4 o'clock this afternoon, on August 9, 1953?"

He said, "Yes Mr. Senator, that's when my shift starts."

Well it didn't start that time.