

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

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TRANSCRIPT OF EXCERPT

Senator McCarthy speaking:

I would like to just take one other witness, and I've often thought over the past number of years that while a spy handling secrets obviously is tremendously dangerous -- he can cause the deaths of a tremendous number of people -- a man ten times as bad is a communist in government, is a communist who is twisting and warping and controlling the minds of the youth of this nation. As Hitler once said, he said "Give me control of the educational institutions and within a decade or two I can control any nation on earth without firing a single shot." And the communists have learned that lesson so well also.

We had before us a Mr. Wendell Furry. What's he doing as of today? As of today, and as of tomorrow, teaching American youth at that once great educational institution -- Harvard. [Audience laughter] The first time -- he wasn't called because he was a professor -- he was called because he had been handling the secret radar material at Ft. Monmouth. The first time we called him, we asked him whether he was a communist at the time he was handling secret material.

Answer: "I refuse to answer on the grounds of the Fifth Amendment."

"Did you discuss your secret material with members of the Communist Party?"

"I refuse to answer."

"Have you been trying to indoctrinate your students in the communist philosophy?"

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“I refuse to answer on the grounds of self-incrimination.” On down the line.

Well, finally he was recalled about two weeks ago. By that time, Mr. Pusey, the president of Harvard, was beginning to smart under the realization that the nation knew that he had a privileged sanctuary for Fifth Amendment communists at Harvard. So the tune was changed – he forgot, however, that he could not control the questioning.

Question: “Were you a member of the Communist Party when you were handling secret radar material in the middle Forties, again in the early Fifties?”

Answer: “Yes, I was.”

Question: “Were there communists working with you on secret radar material?”

“I’d rather not answer that.”

“You are ordered to answer it.”

“Yes, there were.”

“How many, Mr. Furry?”

“Oh, five or six – six I guess.”

“What were their names, Mr. Furry?”

Answer: “I refuse to answer because I will not be a party to making their names public. Besides, I think this committee does not have jurisdiction.”

I said, “Alright Mr. Furry, you’re not the only one who dislikes this committee. Let me ask you this. Is there any agency of the government -- a grand jury, the FBI, any committee you can think of -- to which you will give the names and all of the information about those who are part and parcel of the communist conspiracy working on our secret radar?”

Answer: “Mr. Senator, I won’t answer that until the time comes.”

Well, I may say that Mr. Furry’s case will be submitted to the senate and then to a grand jury and, much as it breaks my heart, we may remove some of the Fifth Amendment communists from Harvard.