

Telegram from Senator Joseph McCarthy to President Truman  
February 11, 1950

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The White House  
Washington

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THE PRESIDENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

IN A LINCOLN DAY SPEECH AT WHEELING THURSDAY NIGHT

I STATED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HARBORS A NEST OF  
COMMUNISTS AND COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZERS WHO ARE HELPING TO  
SHAPE OUR FOREIGN POLICY. I FURTHER STATED THAT I HAVE IN  
MY POSSESSION THE NAMES OF 57 COMMUNISTS WHO ARE IN THE  
STATE DEPARTMENT AT PRESENT. A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN

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FLY DENIED THIS AND CLAIMED THAT THERE IS NOT A SINGLE  
COMMUNIST IN THE DEPARTMENT. YOU CAN CONVINCE YOURSELF OF  
THE FALSITY OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT CLAIM VERY EASILY.  
YOU WILL RECALL THAT YOU PERSONALLY APPOINTED A BOARD TO  
SCREEN STATE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
WEEDING OUT FELLOW TRAVELERS. YOUR BOARD DID A PAINS-TAKING  
JOB. AND NAMED HUNDREDS WHICH IT LISTED AS "DANGEROUS TO  
THE SECURITY OF THE NATION", BECAUSE OF COMMUNISTIC  
CONNECTIONS.

WHILE THE RECORDS ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO ME, I KNOW

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ALLEGEDLY THAT OF ONE GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY 300 CERTIFIED  
TO THE SECRETARY FOR DISCHARGE, HE ACTUALLY DISCHARGED ONLY  
APPROXIMATELY 80. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS WAS DONE AFTER  
LENGTHY CONSULTATION WITH ALGER HISS. I WOULD SUGGEST  
THEREFORE, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT YOU SIMPLY PICK UP YOUR  
PHONE AND ASK MR. ACHESON HOW MANY OF THOSE WHOM YOUR  
BOARD HAD LABELED AS DANGEROUS, HE FAILED TO DISCHARGE.  
THE DAY THE HOUSE UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE EXPOSED  
ALGER HISS AS AN IMPORTANT LINK IN AN INTER-NATIONAL  
COMMUNIST SPY RING, YOU SIGNED AN ORDER FORBIDDING THE



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STATE DEPARTMENTS GIVING TO THE CONGRESS ANY INFORMATION  
IN REGARD TO THE DISLOYALTY OR THE COMMUNISTIC CONNECTIONS  
OF ANYONE IN THAT DEPARTMENT, DISPIE THIS STATE DEPARTMENT  
BLACKOUT, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO COMPILE A LIST OF 57  
COMMUNISTS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT. THIS LIST IS AVAILABLE  
TO YOU, BUT YOU CAN GET A MUCH LONGER LIST BY ORDERING THE  
SECRETARY ACHESON TO GIVE YOU A LIST OF THESE WHOM YOUR OWN  
BOARD LISTED AS BEING DISLOYAL, AND WHO ARE STILL WORKING  
IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT. I BELIEVE THE FOLLOWING IS THE  
MINIMUM WHICH CAN BE EXPECTED OF YOU IN THIS CASE





(1) THAT YOU DEMAND THAT ACHESON GIVE YOU AND THE PROPER CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE THE NAMES AND A COMPLETE REPORT ON ALL OF THOSE WHO WERE PLACED IN THE DEPARTMENT BY ALGER HISS, AND ALL OF THOSE STILL WORKING IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT WHO WERE LISTED BY YOUR BOARD AS BAD SECURITY RISKS BECAUSE OF THE COMMUNISTIC CONNECTIONS.

(2) THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES COULD A CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE OBTAIN ANY INFORMATION OR HELP FROM THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT IN EXPOSING COMMUNISTS.

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FAILURE ON YOUR PART WILL LABEL THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF BEING THE BED-FELLOW OF INTER-NATIONAL COMMUNISM. CERTAINLY THIS LABEL IS NOT DESERVED BY THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF LOYAL AMERICAN DEMOCRATS THROUGHOUT THE NATION, AND BY THE SIZABLE NUMBER OF ABLE LOYAL DEMOCRATS IN BOTH THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE

JOE MC CARTHY U.S.S. WIS..