

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

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TRANSCRIPT OF EXCERPT

Senator McCarthy speaking:

Well, first let me say, and I think that the American people are beginning to realize this more and more, this is no contest, as some of the leftwing papers would try to lead you to believe, between McCarthy and the Army. I think that I have more support -- and all of my mail's contacts with those in uniform indicate that -- more support in this attempt to expose the few rotten apples in the barrel in the Pentagon, much more support from men in uniform than those out of uniform. I'd like to make it very clear if I could, and I'm sure that it will be more and more clear as we go along, this is merely a contest -- we'll have to decide it -- whether or not a few civilians in the Pentagon can hold up the work of a congressional committee that tries to dig out the few rotten apples in the barrel. [Audience applause]

Now as I said, originally I thought this was a complete waste of time. I was afraid nothing would be gained by it. Uh, in the end if we decide who shines Schine's shoes, I don't think that a great national issue. [Audience laughter]

Even if in the end we get the secretary with a very bad memory [Audience laughter and applause] to tell us who exerted the great pressure to get a private promoted consistently until he was finally a private, [Audience laughter] I'm not sure if that will do too much good.

I'm not sure if you heard the testimony yesterday. I was asking the secretary what Mr. Schine's rating was before he was a private. And, uh, he had a long consultation with five or six of his aides [Audience laughter] -- some of you may have seen that. And he said, "Well, he was a



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recruit before he was a private." [Audience laughter] So I asked him whether or not he felt it took any pressure from a congressional committee to get a recruit promoted to be a private and he said, no he didn't hardly think so. [Audience laughter]