Guide to
the Microfilm Edition
of the

FBI File on
Joseph
McCarthy

A Microfilm Publication by

Scholarly Resources Inc.
Wilmington, Delaware
Publisher’s Notes

Scholarly Resources does not claim copyright to the materials comprising this collection or to the accompanying guide.

Acknowledgment

Scholarly Resources microfilm publications of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Files are produced with the cooperation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, DC.

ISBN 0-8420-4173-7

Manufactured in the United States of America
Published 1996

Scholarly Resources Inc.
104 Greenhill Avenue
Wilmington, DE 19805-1897

Telephone 302-654-7713 or 1-800-772-8937 (toll-free)

Also available from Scholarly Resources microfilm:

FBI File on Malcolm X (10 rolls)
FBI File on the Muslim Mosque Inc. (3 rolls)
FBI File on Organization of Afro-American Unity (1 roll)
FBI File on the NAACP (4 rolls)
FBI File on the Reverend Jesse Jackson (1 roll)
FBI File on W. E. B. Du Bois (1 roll)
FBI Assassination File: Martin Luther King, Jr. (25 rolls)
FBI File on the Moorish Science Temple of America (Noble Drew Ali) (3 rolls)
Introduction

Joseph Raymond McCarthy was born outside Appleton, Wisconsin, on December 12, 1908; he died in Bethesda, Maryland, on May 2, 1957. McCarthy's fame came from his role in the Red Scare of the 1950s, with which his name has since become synonymous. The extent of his political reputation prior to the infamous McCarthy hearings came from his 1946 Republican primary upset victory over the incumbent senator, Robert LaFollette, Jr., scion of the LaFollette political dynasty. McCarthy then went on to win the Senate seat.

McCarthy's Senate career was undistinguished until February 1950, when the Republican Party sent him to Wheeling, West Virginia, to deliver the Lincoln Day address to the Ohio County Republican Women's Club, where McCarthy made his first national headline since the upset primary victory. Announcing that the federal government was rife with Communists and spies, he held up a clutch of papers that he claimed listed the names of 205 traitors working in the State Department. The Associated Press picked up the story, which made headlines around the country. When McCarthy reached the next stop on his speaking tour, Salt Lake City, he could not supply the clamoring press with the list, which he claimed was temporarily misplaced. The number of Communists in the State Department also had dropped to fifty-seven. When he returned to the Senate floor, the number was refined again, and the list still remained unavailable. It has never surfaced.

McCarthy's repeated failure to produce the list of names and the continuing inconsistency of the numbers did not hinder the surge of Red hysteria that became a national witch-hunt of unfathomable proportions. The early 1950s were ripe with unsubstantiated accusations regarding Communists, and those who doubted the veracity of McCarthy's statements wilted in the face of being charged with Communist sympathies. Thus, McCarthy was hailed rather than questioned. The undistinguished freshman senator from
Wisconsin became a national star and a feared and powerful politician. Communist infiltration of the government provided him with not only the attention and power that he craved but also—most important—the issue that he needed for reelection.

So successful was McCarthy in connecting himself with the fight against Communists that his name came to represent the Communist hysteria of the early 1950s. Given a Senate committee to investigate his charges, McCarthy and his aids used smears, slanders, rumors, and innuendos to destroy hundreds of people’s careers and lives. Opposition to the senator’s actions was most often career ruining. McCarthy fed off and fueled the Red Scare; however, just as his fame was his own creation so, too, was his downfall. Filled with his own sense of power, McCarthy turned on the enormously popular U.S. Army.

The Senate hearings on Communist infiltration into the U.S. Army attracted live television coverage, where McCarthy did not appear as the anti-Communist crusader that the public believed him to be but rather as a bully and a slanderer. The public’s belief in a Red web of Communist conspiracy that supported McCarthy’s reputation and career quickly unraveled. In December 1954 the Senate censured McCarthy. His reputation and political career in shambles, much like some of his many victims, he increased his already heavy drinking and died two years later.

The FBI took a great interest in McCarthy’s charges and his committee’s investigations. Director Herbert Hoover, a personal friend of the senator’s, felt gratified that McCarthy had joined his lifelong battle against the Red menace. Hoover himself played a starring role in the nation’s previous outbreak of Communist hysteria, the Red Scare of 1920. The future FBI director led Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer’s crackdown on suspected Communists and anarchists that Palmer feared were plotting to overthrow the national government on May 1, 1920. The revolution did not materialize, but the nation was whipped into a frenzy, and 7,000 “suspect persons” were jailed or deported. The publicity and attention that McCarthy’s
charges generated rekindled the blaze that Hoover had long tended. His thousands of warnings and requests for additional funding that went unnoticed before now seemed far-sighted as the director became the senior sage of anticommunism. McCarthy’s hysteria bolstered Hoover and the bureau’s position as the bulwark against the Soviet threat.

Throughout the McCarthy era, charges repeatedly surfaced that Hoover and the FBI were supplying McCarthy with confidential information. Despite these denials, it appears that the senator was secretly receiving information from the FBI at Hoover’s behest. Clearly, Hoover personally and publicly supported McCarthy’s actions, but the director emphatically denied aiding the senator’s committee staff with any of its investigations. It is alleged that Hoover used McCarthy as a proxy, supplying him with information, speech writers, and training in the release of announcements just prior to the national press deadlines in order to avoid embarrassing and unanswerable questions until after the charges were already in print. It is also alleged that Hoover and the FBI debriefed witnesses and staffed McCarthy’s office with former G-men. Both men clearly had much to gain from a close relationship. The tide of fear that McCarthy stirred up easily carried him to a second term. Hoover gained both a seemingly credible mouthpiece and a Senate investigating committee guaranteed to see things the bureau’s way. McCarthy could generate the headlines that Hoover could not as a result of his years of crying wolf. The atmosphere that McCarthy created allowed the FBI to flourish, gaining the increased funding, power, and prestige desired by Hoover for years. McCarthy provided the catalyst for many of Hoover’s dreams to come true.

McCarthy, however, reportedly strained the relationship with his patron by quoting from confidential FBI reports and by bragging publicly about his close personal relationship with Hoover. McCarthy overstepped the bounds when he showed an FBI-produced flowchart detailing the Communist spy ring in the State Department.
Hoover ordered an immediate end to relations with McCarthy and declared him a "nonperson," thereby effectively severing even casual contact between G-men and McCarthy. Thus, the senator was cut off from one of his staunchest backers in the capital, and perhaps his best source of damaging material just prior to the fateful army hearings.

This file documents McCarthy's witch-hunt, from the initial 1950 allegations of Communist Party members in the State Department to the Senate's condemnation in 1954. It details the FBI's observations and involvement in McCarthy's accusations, and it includes much of the correspondence between Hoover and other senators, especially regarding Hoover's repeated denials that the FBI provided McCarthy with information. This file should be of particular interest to scholars of the twentieth century, especially of the Red Scare of the 1950s.

The documents reproduced here were drawn from the Washington files of the FBI and have been released under the Freedom of Information Act; certain documents or portions of documents have been deleted by the FBI pursuant to provisions of that legislation. The material has been filmed in the exact order and condition in which it was released, and every effort has been made to publish the most legible copies available.

This file is in approximate chronological order, and the FBI did not index documents. The Roll Notes section is not a complete inventory of the file; however, it gives an indication of the types of material or specific documents that may be particularly worthwhile for research.

*Paul R. Beezley*
Roll Notes

FBI File: 62-96332

SECTION 1

Jun. 1950–Mar. 1953

Joseph McCarthy Misc.

Proposed McCarthy speech against Secretary of Defense Marshall

Excerpt from the Congressional Record, Senate

(Aug. 1951)

Drew Pearson news article “McCarthy Ouster Move Detailed” (Aug. 1951)

Internal memoranda signed: J. Edgar Hoover

Investigation of sodomy charge alleged against Sen. Joseph McCarthy

News article:

Seattle Post Intelligencer (Oct. 1952)

“McCarthy TV Talk Cancelled Over Deletions”

Transcript of McCarthy speech given at the Palmer House, Chicago (Oct. 1952) critical of presidential candidate Adlai Stevenson

News article:

Las Vegas Sun (Oct. 1952)

“Where I Stand”

Sen. Joseph McCarthy: Alleged Sex Deviate

Transcript of McCarthy radio address (Nov. 3, 1952)

SECTION 2

Feb. 1953–

Law Suit: Joseph R. McCarthy vs. Post-Standard

Internal Security: Joseph R. McCarthy

News article:

NY Post (Jul. 1953)

“Joe is Doing the Job, Says Texas ‘Angel’ ”

McCarthy and alleged conspiracy to undermine the Eisenhower administration
News article:
*Tribune*, Great Falls, MT (Aug. 1953)
"FBI Head Lauds McCarthy as 'Honest, Controversial'"

Excerpt from Washington newsletter:
*I. F. Stone Weekly* (Sep. 1953)
"White Washing McCarthy"

Defense of Sen. McCarthy in Parliament by John Blackmore (Canada)

**FBI File: 121-23278**

Enclosure behind file 1942-1950
The real facts about the Tydings Subcommittee Investigation of the State Department
Investigation into the loyalty of employees with the Office of War information
Data on Communist groups with which Ambassador Philip Jessup was affiliated

**Section 1**

*Feb.-Mar. 1950*
Investigation involving alleged Communists working for the State Department

News article:
*Salt Lake Tribune* (Feb. 1950)
"Visiting Solon Cites Red Infiltration"
*Reno Evening Gazette* (Feb. 1950)
"McCarthy Prepares to List Communists at GOP Session"

Allegations by Sen. Joseph McCarthy: Communists in the State Department
Loyalty investigation of government employees
FBI File: 121-23278
Roll 1, 0681-0855

SECTION 2
Mar.–Apr. 1950
Communists in the State Department
Loyalty investigation of government employees
Excerpts from testimony before the Senate Foreign
Relations Subcommittee (Mar. 1950)

News article:
Washington Post (Mar. 1950)
"Undermining Foreign Policy"
"State Dept. to Open Files in Loyalty Quiz"
"Opening the Files"

SECTION 3
Roll 1, 0856-0971
Mar.–Apr. 1950
Loyalty investigation of government employees
The 81 cases furnished by Sen. McCarthy to the Tydings
Subcommittee

SECTION 4
Roll 1, 0973-1144
Apr.–May 1950
Loyalty investigation of government employees
Communist infiltration of the State Department
Newspaper: The Machinist (Apr. 6, 1950)
Excerpts from testimony before the Subcommittee of
Senate Foreign Relations Committee

SECTION 5
Roll 1, 1145-END
May-Jun. 1950
Loyalty investigation of government employees
Charges against the State Department by Sen. McCarthy
Remarks made on Senate Floor by Sen. Joseph
McCarthy (Jun. 6, 1950)
Statements by McCarthy refuted

News article:
The Washington Post (Jun. 1950)
"New Charges by McCarthy Called 'False' "

Roll 2, 0001-0032
SECTION 6
Apr.-Jul. 1950
Loyalty investigation of government employees
Survey of Departmental Personnel, Security Investigations

SECTION 7
Jul. 1950
The 81 cases furnished by Sen. McCarthy to the Tydings Subcommittee
Review of State Department Files in connection with allegations made by Sen. McCarthy
Loyalty investigation of government employees
Transcripts of speeches delivered by Sen. William E. Jenner
Transcript of speech delivered by Sen. Joseph McCarthy

SECTION 8
Aug.–Oct. 1950
Communist infiltration of the State Department
Loyalty investigation of government employees
News article:
The Washington News (Jul. 1950)
“McCarthy has New Census of State Dept. Reds”
Pamphlet: “The Truth about the Subcommittee’s Investigation of the State Department”

FBI File: 121-35707 Sub-A
1950–1952
Numerous news articles include:
The Washington Post (Jan. 1951)
“McCarthy Reveals Review Board ‘Transcript’ Hitting State Dept.”
“Service, Appeal Denied by Loyalty Board”
“Loyalty Board Leaks to McCarthy Probed”
Uncredited newspaper article (Feb. 1952)
“Truman Blasts at McCarthy as ‘Liar’”
The Washington Post (Mar. 1952)
“Staff Reported Urging Action in 5 Cases Against McCarthy”
The Daily Worker (Apr. 1952)
“ACLU Asks Govt Hunt Aide Who Gave Data to McCarthy”
NY Herald Tribune (Oct. 1952)
“U.S. Ousts Woman in McCarthy Leak”
Washington Post (May 1950)
“Truman to Release Files on McCarthy’s 81 Cases”
“State Dept. Morale Hurt by McCarthy”
Times Herald (Jun. 1950)
“Fire Acheson for Aiding Reds, McCarthy Urges”

FBI File: 121-23278 Sub-A Roll 2, 0549-0660
Mar.–Apr. 1950
Numerous news articles include:
Washington Daily News (Feb. 1950)
“Lucas Demands ‘Red’ Names”
Washington Star (Mar. 1950)
“Tydings to Head Senate Probe of State Dept.”
Washington Post (Mar. 1950)
“Ex-Judge Hurls Lie at McCarthy’s ‘Red’ Charge”
NY Mirror (Mar. 1950)
“Sen. McCarthy Short on Evidence”
Times-Herald (Mar. 1950)
“FBI Files Subpoenaed by Tydings”

FBI File: 9-24556 Roll 2, 0661-0689
Mar. 1954
Investigation of death threat against Sen. McCarthy

FBI File: 9-25910 Roll 2, 0690-0728
Apr. 1954
Investigation of death threat against Sen. McCarthy

FBI File: 9-43378 Roll 2, 0729-0738
Jul. 1953
Investigation of death threat against Sen. McCarthy
FBI File: 9-31071

Oct. 1956
Investigation of obscene mail received by Sen. McCarthy

FBI File: 9-27383

Jan. 1955

FBI File: 121-41668

Section 1
Jul.–Oct. 1950
Investigation into source of Sen. McCarthy’s information regarding government employees
Removal of government property; loyalty of government employees

FBI File: 100-398328

Section 1
Oct. 1952–Mar. 1953
Internal Security
Correspondence received from Sen. McCarthy’s office
Copy of Committee on Un-American Activities House of Representatives, Eightieth Congress, Jun. 16, 1947

Section 2
Jan.–Apr. 1953
Correspondence received from Sen. McCarthy’s office
Affidavit of Mrs. Ann Avella seeking the deportation of her husband, Dr. Michael Avella, as an undesirable alien
News articles:
Attack (Mar. 1952), newspaper from St. Louis, MO
Young Socialist (Winter 1952)

Roll 2, 0739-0756
Roll 2, 0757-0763
Roll 2, 0764-0983
Roll 2, 0986-1137
Roll 2, 1138-1265
Extortion practices through the illegal use of the federal taxing powers
Reprint from: *Freedom & Union* (Sep. 1952)

**SECTION 3**  
Misc. material received from the office of Sen. McCarthy
News articles:
  *Washington Post* (Nov. 1953)  
  “McCarthy Set a ‘Heady Mixture’ ”
  “Wisc. Professor Assails McCarthy’s ‘Warped Theories’ ”

**FBI File: 65-62092**  
*Sep. 1953*
Alleged disclosure of classified information by Sen. McCarthy
News articles:
  *Washington Star* (Sep. 1953)  
  “McCarthy Bared Secrets, Army Charges”
  *NY Herald* (Sep. 1953)  
  “Army Asserts McCarthy Handed Out Secret Data”
  *Washington News* (Sep. 1953)  
  “Did McCarthy Break the Law”

**FBI File: 94-37708**  
*May 1947–Sep. 1953*
Information concerning Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy
Transcription of radio broadcast (Apr. 6, 1949), Sen. Joseph McCarthy with his guest J. Edgar Hoover
Reports of injury suffered by Jean Kerr, secretary to Sen. Joseph McCarthy, while in Honolulu
Pamphlet: “McCarthy, the Man and the Ism” by Joseph Morton (c.1953)
Book Review: “McCarthy, the Man, the Senator, the Ism” by Jack Anderson and Ronald W. May
FBI File: 94-37708

Section 2

Sep. 1953–Feb. 1971

Correspondence regarding comments by J. Edgar Hoover praising Sen. McCarthy

Contract Carrier Conference Ohio Trucking Association Service Bulletin (Sep. 1953)

News articles:

NY Herald Tribune (Sep. 1953)
“More McCarthyism”

The Yakima Daily Republic (Sep. 1953)
“The Revaluation”

Information regarding Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy

Eulogies for the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy


Requests to the FBI for information regarding Sen. McCarthy

FBI File: 121-23278 Sub-A

Roll 3, 0333-0478

Numerous news articles include:

The Washington Star (no date)
“Truman May Order Loyalty Study to Beat New McCarthy Blast”

The Washington Post (no date)
“McCarthy May Name 26 Being Investigated”

The Washington Post (Jan. 1951)
“State Department Reply Defies McCarthy Threat to Name 29”

Excerpts from the Congressional Record (Aug. 1951)

Paper unknown (Jan. 1955)
“State Department Clears 80 Accused by McCarthy in ’50”

“The Herring is a Little Higher Now: The Report Nobody Believes”

The Washington Times-Herald (Sep. 1950)
“GOP Senators Will Seek New State Dept. Probe”
“Ferguson Raps Probe Report on McCarthy”
FBI File: 121-23278
Enclosure Behind File
Feb. 1950
Allegations by Sen. McCarthy

FBI File: 121-23278
Enclosure Behind File
Excerpt from the Congressional Record (Feb. 1950)
Report: Loyalty of Government Employees, Executive
Branch U.S. Government (Apr. 1950)

FBI File: 121-23278
Enclosure Behind File
Excerpts of testimony before the Subcommittee of the
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations (Mar. 1950)

FBI File: 62-96332
SECTION 4
Oct. 1954–
Information concerning Sen. Joseph McCarthy
Excerpts from the Daily Worker (Mar.–Oct. 1954), the
Communist Party newspaper
News article:
The Chicago Tribune (Nov. 1954)
"Prelate Tells of Big Pool to Oust McCarthy"

FBI File: 62-96332
SECTION 4 (continued)
Oct. 1954–Apr. 1958
Uncredited newspaper article:
"McCarthy Slap Near Treason Manion Warns"
Investigation of alleged Mail-Cover on Senator
McCarthy
Alleged Communist infiltration into the National Labor
Relations Board
Allegations concerning the death of Sen. McCarthy
Section 3
Information concerning Sen. McCarthy
Article: “Will Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy’s Methods Save or Destroy America?”
Assassination threat against Sen. McCarthy
News articles:
TIME OUT . . . with Jim Hogan
“Is McCarthy a Communist?”
Rave Magazine (Jun. 1954)
“Secret Lives of Joe McCarthy”
Transcript of a 7-part newspaper series on Sen. McCarthy as it appeared in the Las Vegas Sun, written by Hank Greenspun (Feb. 1954)
News article:
The Tidings, Los Angeles (Jul. 1959)
“Coffin-Kickers Reopen Joe McCarthy’s Grave”

FBI File: 121-23278
SECTION 9
Source of Sen. McCarthy’s information regarding government employees
Removal of government property; loyalty of government employees
Communist infiltration into the State Department
An address by Conrad E. Snow, Chairman of the Loyalty Security Board: “Communists in Government and the Loyalty Program”

FBI File: 157-35707
SECTION 1
Source of information re: McCarthy’s remarks about the Loyalty Review Board
News article:
*Times-Herald* (Jan. 1952)
"Loyalty Board Scores Laxity in State Dept."
Excerpt from the *Congressional Record* (Jan. 15, 1952)
Excerpt from *U.S. News & World Report* (Feb. 8, 1952)

**SECTION 2**

*Mar. 1954–Sep. 1960*

Misc. information concerning Alfred Kohlberg and
Miriam de Haas

Information concerning Lt. Gov. Philleo Nash (Wisc.)

**FBI File: 121-41668**

**SECTION 2**

*Oct. 1950–*

Source of Sen. McCarthy’s information regarding govern-
ment employees

Loyalty of government employees

News article:
*The Milwaukee Journal* (Nov. 1952)
"Ex-FBI Man Claims Senator Used False Document
on Floor"

**FBI File: 121-41668**

**SECTION 2 (continued)**

*Oct. 1950–Aug. 1956*

News articles:
*Milwaukee Sentinel* (Nov. 1952)
"No Reds Bared by McCarthy: Ex-FBI Man"
"McCarty Raps Ex-FBI Aid’s Talks as ‘New Low’ ”

Transcript from radio program, ex-FBI agent Ed Morgan
endorses senate candidate Tom Fairchild in a cam-
paign opposing Sen. Joseph McCarthy

Misc. information concerning Alfred Kohlberg and
Miriam Milliken de Haas
FBI File: 121-41668
73 Bulky Enclosure
Aug. 1950

Roll 4, 0372-0385

FBI File: "See" references
Dec. 1953–Aug. 1955
Name checks on 52 congressmen and senators submitted by G-2

Excerpt from Human Events (Apr. 21, 1954): "Good and Bad Aggressors" by Chesly Manly

Transcript of Fulton Lewis, Jr. radio broadcast (May 2, 1957) reporting on the death of Sen. Joseph McCarthy

Transcript: Hearings of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Government Operations, U.S. Senate (Jun. 1956)

News articles:
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (May 1954)
"Slip-Up in the FBI"

Las Vegas Sun (Jan. 1954)
"Where I Stand" by Hank Greenspun


News article:
Kansas City Star (Dec. 1953)
"McCarthy may be Overzealous" by Roy Roberts

Derogatory remarks concerning the director (J. Edgar Hoover)