

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) IN THE SENATE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE LATE SENATOR JOSEPH R. McCARTHY, AUGUST 14, 1957.

Mr. President, I want to join my colleagues in paying tribute to Senator McCarthy -- a man I considered to be a great American.

I did not know Joe McCarthy personally until I came to the Senate in 1955. He was friendly and cordial to me at all times and soon a bond of fellowship grew up between us. I felt a personal loss in his death.

Senator McCarthy was an advocate of Americanism and a foe of everything smacking of un-Americanism. Just as he served in the armed forces during World War II with courage and patriotism, so did he serve his country for more than 10 years in the United States Senate with ability and distinction.

He probably did more to call the dangers of Communism to the attention of the average American citizen than any other person in an official or unofficial capacity. He made Americans conscious of the fact that Communism was not only a foreign ideology but that it is also a real and present threat to our government and our way of life. He made them realize that subversion had been refined into a science of destruction by the Communists, and that eternal vigilance was the price Americans must continue to pay for the protection of this Nation.

Even while performing such a gigantic service on behalf of his country, Senator McCarthy was often subjected to attacks as vicious as ever launched against a public official in this country. But he was faithful to his duty as he visualized it. The attacks did not deter his efforts to arouse America to fight against the evil of Communism.

When I think of Senator McCarthy and the trials he endured to carry on the fight in which he believed, I cannot but recall the words of Christ which were recorded in the 11th and 12th verses of the 5th chapter of St. Matthew. In those verses, Christ said:

"Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

"Rejoice, and be exceeding glad; for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

Mr. President, Joe McCarthy was a young man when death ended his career in public life. But he will be long remembered, and the future will honor him more than he has been honored in the past or the present. History holds a place for dedicated public servants, and Joe McCarthy was devoted to a cause on behalf of the people of this Nation.

I cannot stop without saying a word of comfort to Senator McCarthy's lovely and devoted wife, Jean. I am sure that her love and devotion inspired him, and gave him comfort in his darkest moments which enabled him to continue to fight for his beliefs when things seemed worst.

Mrs. McCarthy should be comforted in her loss by the realization that her husband placed duty above all else. Joe McCarthy could have chosen other courses, but he chose the hard course of doing his duty as he saw it.

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