

Title: McCarthy, Joseph R. Collection

Reference Code: Mss-1675

Inclusive Dates: 1945 – 1959

Quantity: 000.03 cu. ft.

Location: Sm Mss

Abstract: Joseph R. McCarthy was a controversial senator from Wisconsin who ignited a period of anti-Communist hysteria in the 1950s. He was born in Grand Chute, Wisconsin on November 14, 1908. He earned a law degree from Marquette University in 1935 and was admitted to the bar the same year. He practiced law in Waupaca and Shawano before he was elected circuit judge of the tenth judicial circuit of Wisconsin in 1939. During World War II, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. After the war, he won the election to the U.S. Senate in 1946, aided by some dubious claims about his military service. He did not garner much national attention until he delivered a speech in Wheeling, West Virginia in February 1950 claiming Communists had infiltrated the U.S. government. As chairman of the Committee on Government Operations and its Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, McCarthy launched controversial investigations to uncover Communist subversion and espionage. A 1954 confrontation with the army led to the nationally televised Army-McCarthy hearings, tarnishing McCarthy's public image and leading to his censure by the U.S. Senate. He passed away in May 1957.

Scope and Content: The collection consists of election campaign brochures (pro- and anti-McCarthy) and pamphlets, copies of McCarthy speeches, newsletters, and publications such as *McCarthyism: The Fight for America* and *Treason in Washington Exposed by Senator McCarthy*.

Access and Use: No restrictions

Language: English