The hearing is scheduled to begin at 1:00 o'clock. It is now 2:30 p.m. Wechsler is pacing back and forth. At 3:00 p.m., Wechsler is taken to hearing room. (Press and public are barred from room.) Senator McCarthy is seated at head of table. Lawyer and colleague, Roy Cohn, is seated as his side. Nearby sits a reporter hand-picked by McCarthy, two more McCarthy supporters, and one friend, Senator Jackson.

**MCCARTHY:** *(standing)* How do you pronounce your name?  
**WECHSLER:** Wex-ler

**MCCARTHY:** Mr. Wex-ler, sorry to keep you waiting, but we needed to have permission for this hearing.

**WECHSLER:** I understand, sir.

**MCCARTHY:** *(very softly, almost inaudibly)* You are called here today as one of the authors of books that have been used in the Information Program in many libraries overseas. Mr. Cohn, here, will question you.

**COHN:** How many books have you written?

**WECHSLER:** Four books... two when I was a member of the YCL and two since then. The last two were vigorously anti-Communist, as the contents of the book clearly illustrate.

**COHN:** How about the content of the first two books?

**WECHSLER:** I have already stated that at the time I wrote them I was a member of the YCL, so they certainly are not anti-Communist.

**COHN:** Well, did they follow the Communist line?

**WECHSLER:** Obviously.

*Senator McCarthy interrupts and takes over.*

**MCCARTHY:** Do you have any other people who are members of the Young Communist League, who were or are members of the Young Communist League, working for you on your newspaper?

**WECHSLER:** I am going to answer that question because I believe it is a citizen's responsibility to testify before a Senate Committee whether he likes the committee or not.

**MCCARTHY:** *(loudly)* I know you do not like this committee.

**WECHSLER:** I want to say that I think you are now exploring a subject which the American Society of Newspaper Editors might want to consider at some length. I answer the question solely because I recognize your capacity for misinterpretation—for a failure to answer. To my knowledge, there are no Communists on the staff of *The New York Post*.

**MCCARTHY:** *(relentlessly)* The question was: "Do you have anyone working on *The New York Post* who were or are members of the Young Communist League or the Communist Party?"

**WECHSLER:** Yes, there are former members of the Young Communist League on *The New York Post*. *(Here Wechsler mentions their names since they themselves have already made this information known.)*

**MCCARTHY:** *(harassingly)* You see your books were paid for by the taxpayers' money. They are being used, allegedly, to fight Communism. You have fought every man who has ever tried to fight Communism. Your paper is next to and almost parallelling *The Daily Worker*. We want to know why your books were purchased. We want to know how many Communists, if any, you have working for you? Have you attacked Mr. Hoover and the F.B.I. in your paper?

**WECHSLER:** I believe, as you do, that any government agency, even the F.B.I., is not above criticism.

**MCCARTHY:** *(angrily)* Have you criticized the Chairman of the House Un-American Activities Committee? *

**WECHSLER:** Yes, I, as well as many other newspapers have been editorially critical of the chairman.

**MCCARTHY:** The principal villains in your book—are those men in Congress who have been exposing Communists?

**WECHSLER:** No, sir. *The Post* is as much against Stalin as it is to you and your tactics.
MCCARTHY: You are opposed also to the Chairman of the Senate Internal Security Sub-committee, are you not? Don't you think he is a dangerous man?

WECHSLER: Senator, I give you priority in this field.

MCCARTHY: (instructingly) Supposing one of us was a member of the Communist Party and we wished to perpetuate it, wouldn't an effective way to do this be to pretend we had deserted the Party and when we had control of a newspaper, try to slander anyone fighting against Communism? Without admitting it, don't you think that would make sense?

WECHSLER: I don't recall any case where the Party has ever done this. I doubt that if you have an ex-Communist on your staff, you and he are Communist agents.

MCCARTHY: (changing tactics) Do you believe you are being treated unfairly here?

WECHSLER: I believe that you are trying to intimidate any editor who does not believe that McCarthyism means patriotism.

MCCARTHY: (softly) You have not been intimidated, have you?

WECHSLER: I am aware, Senator, that you are trying to undermine the reputation of The New York Post. But I believe this is a free country, and I am going to fight to keep it that way.

MCCARTHY: (in a menacing tone) Well, Mr. Wechsler, we are going to ask you for a list of names of all your associates in the YCL. Remember, you are under oath.

WECHSLER: How absurd to think that I can remember the names of my associates in an organization I belonged to sixteen years ago.

MCCARTHY: Well, we are asking you for the list. You say you broke with the party?

WECHSLER: That has been on my record for sixteen years. I fought against Communism in my last two books and in my Post editorials. I— (MCCARTHY here breaks in on WECHSLER, pounding on the table.)

MCCARTHY: I don't know if that is true or not. I know that you never testified in a case against an ex-Communist. I know that the men you named here as anti-Communists never testified in a case against Communists. I know that they and you have been consistently and viciously attacking anyone who does testify against Communists, anyone who exposes Communists.

WECHSLER: That is not true, Senator. I would like to say that the only way I could prove my devotion to America and the validity of my break with Communism would be to support Senator McCarthy. This I do not plan to do.

It was clear to Mr. Wechsler that he had been interrogated, not because of the books he had written, but because he had written articles against Senator McCarthy².