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Guest (s): Senator Karl Mundt (R-SD)

Title: Freedom Academy

Note: Questions were paraphrased and/or shortened by the transcriber. For the exact question, please consult the audiotapes.

Morphew: Introduction...you have introduced a bill to create a freedom academy...what is this freedom academy?

Mundt: Yes, I'd be glad to do that, Dick. The bill is S-1689, in the event any of our viewers or listeners would care to get a copy of it from their local congressman or senator, write to their senator or to their congressman, I'm sure he'll send them a copy. What this does is to establish a freedom commission, and one of the functions of the freedom commission is to set up in turn a freedom academy. Now, basically, our reasoning on this, Dick, is this, that in this cold war, pretty much this has been a war which is being fought by professionals on the side of the communists who train their people before they turn them loose in the free world pretty carefully. And amateur Americans, who are good, loyal Americans and enthusiastic Americans but don't know enough about the communist conspiracy and how to counteract it to be effective when they're serving in some neutral country or even to do too good of job right here in the United States. And so, the purpose of this freedom academy is to provide a place where every citizen who is going to go abroad, if he chooses to, may take a six weeks or perhaps just a month, brief course to become equipped and trained in this field, or if he is going to be a government employee he might take as much as six months or a year, thoroughly to learn the nature of the communist conspiracy and what needs to be done, first of all, to undercover it, to detect its operatives, and most importantly, to offset it and to counteract it.

Morphew: So our people abroad don't know how to spot a communist when they come across one and don't know how to refute the communist argument.

Mundt: Yes. You see, the world being what it is, exchanges between the various countries of the world are increasing, and in the main I think that's a good thing because basically people are a good deal alike wherever you find them, and that goes for the people of Russia. We've gotta remember, Dick, that 90 percent of the people of Russia are not communists. They're not even permitted to join the ruling party. They're ordinary

human beings who react pretty much the way human beings do in this country. They don't like war, they love their families, they have a sense of humor, they're hard workers but they don't understand anything about America. Well, those aren't the folks that come over here. When they have an exchange from Russia, they send over agents. Too frequently, we send over tourists. Now, I'm glad that Americans are getting into Russia, but before they go, I think it'd be a wonderful thing if they could go through a brief training course and learn something about the conspiracy, something about the things to look for when they get there and something about what they can do as missionaries of freedom, trained missionaries, to help preserve our cause. I think it's tremendously important that we don't accept agents from the Iron Curtain countries and send over simply tourists. If we're going to continue these mutual exchanges, and we are because of this air age it's impossible to block out all kinds of travel, we should be certain that our people going abroad, some of them at least, are trained people understanding exactly what the communist conspiracy is and how best to offset it.

Morphew: Do you think this freedom academy would help take Americans off the defensive in this cold war?

Mundt: Precisely and that's the thing that we're interested in doing is to get on the offensive to a considerable degree and to an encouraging degree we're doing that now in field of publicity, through the Voice of America to the U.S. Information Agency, to the development of our foreign libraries, through the low-cost book program, through the utilization of the movies and television ships, we are beginning to get the story pretty well across to all the people in the neutral countries and in some of the Iron Curtain countries, but we must get on the offensive as far as psychological warfare is concerned. We must send over people who are as thoroughly endowed with knowledge about freedom and with what's wrong with the communist conspiracy as the people coming over here have been trained frequently in the Lenin Institute. They come as spies disguised as tourists and they're going to come because they'll come as diplomats if we don't let them come as visitors. So, we lose very little by letting a few extra Russians come over here, and we gain a great deal when Americans can go over there provided, and that's an important proviso, Dick, provided the people we send are trained and are professional and know what to look for and what to do when they find it and don't simply go there as untrained amateurs and as tourists.

Morphew: Do you think too many of our people abroad have a guilt complex about being Americans?

Mundt: Either that or the opposite. Some of them do have the guilt complex, some of them, I said to the nine American governors who left not long ago, who visited Russia, I said, when you get over there act like proud Americans confident in your cause, and speak out for it, that's what Russians do when they come here. Don't be ashamed of it. Now, we either are inclined to go with a guilt complex or else we go there swaggering around and boastful and making a lot of statements that other people are going to resent. Obviously, with our high standard of living, if we simply go over and say, well, you do have some automobiles up and down the streets but we've got five automobiles for every

one you have, that's no good. What we've got to get down to is basic human instincts and emotions like the desire for peace, like the acquisitive instincts which Russian peasants have no less than American farmers or other Americans.

Morphew: Show them how they can get one of those automobiles, too

Mundt: That is right, show them the benefits of private ownership, the advantages we have here because of our free enterprise system, how wonderful it is to be able to speak freely and to worship God according to the dictates of your own conscience because, don't forget that basically and fundamentally the Russian people as in contrast with the Russian officials, the Russian people are god-fearing folks who wish they had the same religious freedom we have in this country.

Morphew: You've always been against red tape in government and you've recently written a bill regarding passports and this issue...

Mundt: Yes, this is S-2095, Dick, and this is a bill which I have introduced which would set up within the state department a passport service which would elevate the passport division for the first time to the status that it should have in an era when tourism has become the big business that it has. There was a time when there weren't very many Americans visiting overseas and when they did go they went by steamer, by boat, and they could make their plans a long time in advance, and so a little ole passport division operated by a few people using a pot of ink and a quilled pen could pretty well write the passports and everything was alright. Now, in the first place, people are going frequently by plane on short notice. They've got to be able to give them quick service in the passport division and they've got to have a passport division which is staffed and adequately manned because next to the counterfeiting, I suppose, of a thousand dollar bill, if they make bills that big, I've never had one, but next to the counterfeiting of a thousand dollar bill, counterfeiting of an American passport would give the person who gets it, who desires something much more valuable even than a whole handful of thousand dollar bills, and so we need protecto-graph machines which will keep the passports in a form that they cannot be overridden and counterfeited and used in that form. There's something else, Dick, we need in the passport division that is a clear cut right on the part of the state department to deny passports to people not entitled to get them. Because of recent Supreme Court decisions, this authority has been fuzzed up a bit in the State Department, it's no longer clear, and it is tremendously important that we have legislation specifically providing the conditions under which a passport can be denied and providing due process in law by which the person seeking a passport and unable to get it can present his claim and have a passport if he is entitled to have one.

Morphew: I noticed that when the communist international met recently, American communists were able to get passports to go

Mundt: That is right, and of course, that's something which has got to be spelled out in the law. We should never permit a passport to be granted to an American citizen if the purpose is inimicable (sic) to the United States. If it's inimical to the interests of the free

people over here, no American citizen should be able to exercise his individual freedom to get a passport for the purpose of destroying the freedom of his friends and his neighbors and of his fellow Americans. Another thing this bill provides for the first time, it gives the state department the right to repossess a passport which it does not now have. If one is fraudulently granted and the man gets it, he keeps it. This provides the specific procedure and the law whereby the state department can repossess it and refusal to surrender a fraudulent passport would put a man in the federal penitentiary and subject him to a serious fine.

Morphew: So these two measures would both help in the cold war fight against communism.

Mundt: I think so, in these ways: the freedom academy is going to give us a trained cadre of American employees abroad and American visitors abroad who are well-equipped to become good missionaries of free government and our free enterprise way of life, and the passport mechanism will provide a better service for all Americans, loyal Americans who want to travel abroad and will give the state department an effective mechanism for protecting this right to get a passport for individuals who deserve it as Americans and who don't propose to use it to go abroad to destroy freedom for the rest of us. I think that both measures are urgent, I hope they are passed.