Sixth Draft - Communism and Freedom

To defend freedom, in short, is -- first of all -- to respect freedom. That respect demands another, quite simple kind of respect -- respect for the integrity of fellow citizens who enjoy their right to disagree. The right to question a man's judgment carries with it no automatic right to question his honor.

Here I have a case in mind. With respect to one case I shall be quite specific. I know that charges of disloyalty have in the past been levelled against General George C. Marshall. Any of his alleged errors in judgment while serving in capacities other than military, I am not here discussing. But I was privileged throughout the years of World War II to know General Marshall personally, as Chief of Staff of the Army. I know him, as a man and a soldier, to be dedicated with singular selflessness and the profoundest patriotism to the service of America. Here we have a sobering lesson of the way freedom must not defend itself.

Armed with this clear and uncompromising respect for freedom, how then shall we defend it?